

A HISTORY
OF THE
VILLAGE OF HAMILTON SQUARE,
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY;

BEING ALSO A HISTORY OF THE SECTION NOW INCLUDED IN MERCER AND BURLINGTON COUNTIES;
NAMES OF FIRST SETTLERS AND ACRES OWNED;
NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP; CHURCHES AND
BURYING GROUNDS, WITH AN INTRODUCTORY SKETCH OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF NEW JERSEY.

*Written to be read on the occasion of the Celebration at
Hamilton Square, on July 4th, 1876,*

BY

JOSEPH H. WEST.

CONTAINING ALSO THE SPEECHES OF DR. G. R. ROBBINS AND REV. W.
W. CASE, DELIVERED AT THE CELEBRATION, WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY.

A KEEPSAKE FOR EVERY FAMILY.

TRENTON, N. J.:
JOHN L. MURPHY, STATE GAZETTE PRINTING HOUSE.

—
1876.

PREFACE.

At a meeting of the citizens of the Square, held June 5, 1876, to devise a plan for celebrating the Fourth in a becoming manner, I was chosen Historian, Dr. Elmer Barwis to read the Declaration of Independence, and G. R. Robbins and Rev. W. W. Case as the orators of the day.

I have endeavored to present a good and complete history of the first settlement of these parts; of the rise and progress of our village, and of the rise and progress of all the churches, trades, organizations and business places.

In making up this history, I have used good authorities, among which may be mentioned Smith's New Jersey, 1765; Gordon's, 1834; Minutes of Nottingham Township; Life of David Brainerd, an Indian Missionary; Raum's History of Trenton; a few well known traditions, and from church records and the memory of our old residents. Of those who have furnished me with records, may be mentioned R. F. West, Wm. C. Vannest and others; and of those who have assisted me with their memory may be mentioned the following: W. W. Nelson, Simeon Reed, John C. Cubberly, A. R. Hutchinson, the late Joseph West, and in times past, some who have been gathered to the fathers for many years.

I have also used my own memory in matters of a recent date. I am indebted to John C. Cubberly for the old Minute book of Nottingham, from 1692 to 1710, which is a rare old affair. I am also partly indebted to the former pastor of the Baptist Church, Rev. W. E. Watkinson, for part of the history of the Baptist Church. There are a very few conjectures in this work, and these are where circumstances seemed to point to the conclusion arrived at.

To all who have given me the least information, I return my thanks.

I do not pretend that everything is correct, or that I have presented everything that has happened in this place, or all that have carried on business in this village, but what I have gathered I have tried to arrange in an agreeable manner.

JOSEPH H. WEST.

Hamilton Square, 1876.

This village was called "Nottingham Square" as long as our oldest residents can remember, and until Hamilton township was formed, when the name was gradually changed to "Hamilton Square."

INTRODUCTION.

PART FIRST.

The first settlement in what is known as New Jersey was made at Bergen in 1620. The Swedes, in the reign of Gustavus Adolphus, founded a settlement on the west bank of the Delaware, in what is now the State of Delaware, about 1627. They called the river "New Swedeland Stream," but it had already received its name of "Delaware" of Thomas West (Lord Delaware), who was governor of the colony at Jamestown in Virginia, and died on shipboard near the mouth of the river which bears his title, about the year 1617.

The Swedes claimed to have purchased of some Indians (but whether of such as had the right to sell), the land on both sides of the Delaware from Cape Henlopen to the falls of the river at Trenton.

A few years after the Swedes settled in Delaware, a settlement was made in Jersey along the Delaware bay, but this was soon abandoned, and as late as 1634 there was not a solitary European in Jersey, south of the 40th degree of latitude, and very few above that degree.

Charles the II., King of England, had granted to his brother, James, Duke of York, a tract which included nearly all of the present New England and Middle States. It was stipulated in the grant, that James should render yearly and every year forty beaver skins, should they be demanded.

On the 24th day of June, 1664, James, Duke of York, released to Lord John Berkley and Sir George Carteret, in consideration of a sum of money, all the tract now known as New Jersey. It was stipulated in the grant that it should be known as Nova Cesarea, or New Jersey, but was probably so named in honor of Carteret, who had been governor of the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel.

They were to render to James, his heirs or assigns yearly, the sum of twenty nobles if the same should be demanded, at or in the Inner Temple Hall, London, at the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, yearly.

Philip Carteret was appointed the first governor.

On the first day of July, 1676, New Jersey was divided into two sections called East and West Jersey; Carteret receiving East Jersey, and Berkley having sold his share to Edward Billinge, who had made an assignment to Wm. Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, they received West Jersey in trust for Edward Billinge. This agreement, with four additional articles relating to the partition, was signed also by Penn, Lawrie, Lucas, Billinge, John Eldridge and Edmond Warner.

The line of division, called the Province Line, runs from Little Egg Harbor to the northwestern corner of the state.

It was not actually surveyed at first, but in 1687, George Keith surveyed it from Egg Harbor to the south branch of the Raritan, where getting into a dispute, he stopped. About fifty years afterwards it was surveyed over the entire route, and marked with the usual field stones used by surveyors. This line runs very close to our village, and is the eastern boundary of the township. In old deeds for lands in this locality, the Province Line is often mentioned.

In 1682, Wm. Penn, Robert West, and ten others, purchased East Jersey of the devisees of Sir George Carteret, and they then associated with them twelve others, and to these twenty-four proprietors the Duke of York executed his last grant of lands in Jersey.

Under these rulers Jersey was free from religious intolerance, and hundreds of excellent families of English and Scotch came to East Jersey. At the time of this purchase there were about 5,000 people in East Jersey.

In 1702, the proprietors of the Jerseys surrendered to Queen Anne, and from this time the governors were appointed by the Crown.

PART SECOND.

Quite a number of Quakers and others had settled in West Jersey previous to the division.

In the year 1676 a few had settled at the mouth of the Assanpink creek, (Trenton), and a few at Chygoes Island, (Burlington).

The Assanpink creek is called in the old public records by the following names: Derwent, Sunpink, St. Pink, Assunpink, and the present name Assanpink, all meaning a gravelly creek.

In 1677 two companies of Quakers, one in Yorkshire and the other in London, made a purchase of some of the West Jersey lands, and they sent over the following commissioners to purchase the lands of the Indians: Thomas Olive, Daniel Wills, John Kinsey, John Penford, Joseph Helmsley, Robert Stacy, Benjamin Scott and Richard Guy.

They bought of the Indians in three separate purchases, all the lands in West Jersey from Oldman's creek to the Assanpink creek. They finally bought all of the lands in West Jersey that they thought worth buying, except a few plantations which were reserved by the Indians.

Here it will not be out of place to state that none of the lands in West Jersey were ever taken from the Indians without a fair purchase, the Indians receiving what they considered a fair equivalent for their lands.

By reciting what was paid to the Indians for one of the purchases above mentioned, a judgment may be formed of the rest. It consisted of 30 matchcoats, 20 guns, 30 kettles and one large one, 30 pairs of hose, 20 fathoms of duffelds, 30 petticoats, 30 narrow hoes, 30 bars of lead, 15 small barrels of powder, 70 knives, 3 Indian axes, 70 combs, 60 pairs of tobacco tongs, 60 scissors, 60 tinshaw looking glasses, 120 awl blades, 120 fish hooks, 2 grasps of red paint, 120 needles, 60 tobacco boxes, 120 pipes, 200 bells, 100 jewsharps, and 6 anchors of rum. The deed for this purchase bears date 27th September, 1677. Not one-thousandth part of this land could now be bought for this price.

Wherever the Quakers settled their policy was peace, and it is due to them to say that the greater part of Jersey and part of Pennsylvania was settled by them without the usual troubles with the Indians. The treaty of Penn. with the Indians was never broken, and no Indian war-whoop ever disturbed the rest of the Quaker pioneer.

In writing this sketch of this locality, I have no bloody battles with the Indians to record, for none ever happened.

True enough, we have plowed up tomahawks and arrowheads, but these they used in wars among themselves, and in bringing down their game, long before the advent of the whites.

The minutes of Nottingham township for 1695, contain resolutions for the continuance of amity and concord with the Indians.

The Indians who were scattered through this locality when the whites came, had their chief settlements at Cranbury and Crosswicks, the Falls of the Delaware and at Burlington. They were scattered along the various streams.

In 1745 there were quite a number of them about Cranbury and Crosswicks. David Brainerd, a young Presbyterian missionary, preached to them at Cranbury and at Crosswicks in 1745. In 1758 the Indians residing along the Crosswick creek and in the Pines, complained to the legislature that their rights had been encroached upon, and the legislature appointed commissioners to treat with them. They met the Indians at Crosswicks in 1758. The Indians claimed, among many others, a piece of land near Allentown and a small piece on Robert Pearson's place near the White Horse.

They were satisfied in some manner by the commissioners.

By the year 1750 the Indians had become so well civilized that they wore the European dress partly, and their names were part English and part Indian, which when spelled sounded queer. By the year 1800 the Indians were all gone from this locality, except, perhaps, a few in the Pines.

The first name given to the section which was bounded on the north by the Assanpink creek, on the south by the Rancocas creek, on the east by the Province Line and on the west by the Delaware, was "Yorkshire Tenth." This name was given to it by the purchasers, they having divided their purchases into tenths. This was the first name for the locality in which our village is situated.

In November, 1677, two ships arrived with passengers, the "Willing Mind," from London, and the "Fly boat Martha," from Hull, with 114 passengers who settled in Yorkshire Tenth.

On the 10th of December, 1678, the ship "Shield" arrived from Hull. This ship anchored where Burlington was afterwards

built, and the morning after their arrival the passengers went ashore on the ice.

On this ship came the most of the first inhabitants of the section soon afterwards known as Nottingham township.

Among the names were those of Mahlon Stacy, who built the first mill at Trenton on the Assanpink, Thomas Lambert, from whom Lambertown was named, Thomas Potts, Thomas Newell, Thomas Wood, with their families; also, Godfrey Newbold, John Newbold, Richard Green, John Hyers, a merchant from Hull named Barnes, and many others. About this time came also Isaac Watson, Robert Pearson, and others.

In the year 1692, the township of Nottingham was formed of part of Yorkshire Tenth. It then included all of the present Hamilton township, and all of Trenton south of the Assanpink creek. In 1694 the Provincial Legislature enacted, that all who resided above this creek in the Province should belong to Burlington county, and it was known as Hopewell township as early as 1695. It has been surmised by some that the Stout family gave the name of Hopewell to that locality; but the Stouts did not move to Hopewell till 1704. The Hutchinson family who are so numerous at present, are most all descended from Thomas Hutchinson, who settled in what is now Ewing township in 1687-89. His plantation consisted of 5,000 acres. When Hunterdon county was formed, some years later, all above the Assanpink creek, west of the Province Line, was in Hunterdon.

Princeton, being in East Jersey, was settled by some families from Woodbridge and Perth Amboy about the year 1688. Among these families may be mentioned the Clarkes, Coddingtons and others. X

The name of Nottingham was given to this township by Isaac Watson, who was from Nottingham in Old England.

The township bore the name of Nottingham from 1692 to 1842. In 1838, the county of Mercer was formed of parts of Burlington, Hunterdon and Middlesex, and in 1842 the township of Hamilton was formed of the greater part of Nottingham, leaving as Nottingham all south of the Assanpink creek west of the canal. South Trenton was annexed to Trenton proper in 1851, and the balance of Nottingham to Hamilton, and thus the name of Nottingham which this locality bore for more than 150 years, is lost entirely.

X *The Stocktons claim to have been the first. — Author*

The old Minute book of the proceedings of Nottingham township from 1692 to 1710, in possession of our citizen Mr. John C. Cubberly, in whose family it has been for a great many years, contains very many interesting things relating to this locality. It is the oldest paper in existence relating to Nottingham.

The minutes of 1695 contain all the names of the taxable persons in the township at that date, and they are as follows:

Mahlon Stacy, Thomas Lambert, Wm. Embly, Ann Pharo, John Lambert, Jr., Robert Pearson, Samuel Overton, Thomas Gillenthorp, Wm. Quicksall, Wm. Watson, Sarah Scholey, Wm. Biddle, Matthew Clayton, Nathaniel Petit, Moses Petit, Jonathan Davis, Ralph Hunt, Theophilus Phillips, John Lambert, Sr., Joshua Wright, Martin Scott, John Rogers, John Abbat, Ann Warson, Wm. Hixson, Anthony Woodward, Thomas Tindall, Isaac Watson, Benjamin Maxle, Joshua Ely, John Lees, John Brearley, Richard Ridgway, Thos. Green, Samuel Hunt, Chas. Biles, Thomas Smith, Thomas Coleman and John Richardson.

The minutes for the year 1703, contains the names of the taxable persons and the number of acres they possessed. In addition to the names already mentioned are the names of Caleb Wheatley, John Tantum, Wm. Warson, Matthew Grange, Wm. Stevens, Gervas Hall, Thomas Silverthorp, Sylvanus King, Henry Scott, Abraham Marshall, Francis Davenport, and Matthew Watson.

These were all the taxable persons in Nottingham at the date of 1703, and they were the forefathers of many, yes, very many of our present inhabitants. The acres they possessed ranged from 1350 to 30 acres; but the most of them had from 250 to 600 acres. The two largest land owners were Robert Pearson and Wm. Stevens, each having 1350 acres. The whole number of acres these men possessed in 1703, amounted to 11,010, which shows that the most of the land was taken up at that date. It was probably all taken up except, perhaps, some not considered worth owning. Two or three of the names given above may be a little different from what I have given them, as the writing in the old book, though very good, is in old style, and some of it difficult to read.

Many names that are familiar to us now are not found in the old minute book, as they came in later from other parts. From the year 1703 and on, there came many to Nottingham

and Hopewell townships from Long Island and East Jersey. Among these may be mentioned the names of Stout, Cubberly, Howell, Mount, Burroughs, Clark, Scudder, Lanning, Reed and Appleton; and later there came from East Jersey the Wests, Hammells, and many others whose names are familiar to us now.

The Hutchinsons came from Ewing township (then Hopewell), where they had first settled. There came also to this township from Burlington and other places the families of Eldridge, Nelson, Butcher and Hughes. The families of Vannest, Dey, Flock, &c., came in from Middlesex county. The most of the first inhabitants of this section were English, probably nine tenths of them; but there were some Scotch, some Irish and some Hollanders. I am of the opinion that there were a few Swedes from the settlements in Delaware, and some of other nations not mentioned above.

Many of the first inhabitants were Episcopalians, but there were many Quakers and Presbyterians. The Baptists came in later from East Jersey, where they had first come from Long Island and the New England States. The first Baptist Church ever built in this locality was built at Hopewell, first called Columbia, by Jonathan Stout and a few others, who had moved from Middletown, East Jersey, about the year 1704. This Church was founded in 1715. The Stouts stated that when they first moved to Hopewell, "that it was a wilderness and full of Indians."

The Hutchinsons were at first Episcopalians, as were the Pearsons. In 1703 John Hutchinson gave a lot of land in what is now Ewing, on which was built the first Episcopalian Church in this section. This was the first house of worship ever built in Mercer county. They used this until they built their church in Trenton. The site of this church is a short distance north of the Asylum. The first church ever built by the Presbyterians in this section, was the Ewing church, which was built about 1712. The Quaker Church in Trenton was built in 1739, and the one at Princeton a few years afterwards. The Quaker Church at Crosswicks, Burlington county, was built, probably, about 1750, or shortly after. ‡

The first charter of the borough and town of Trenton, granted by King George II. in 1746, included the site of the village of Hamilton Square, and indeed nearly the whole of the present

* First built in 1710; next in 1760.

‡ Claimed to have been built first in 1684.
Present one about 1750. — Author

county. Many of the citizens of Nottingham were burgesses of the borough. This charter was surrendered in 1750, the people not experiencing the benefits they had expected. The next charter of Trenton included nothing south of the creek. It was not until 1851 that Trenton proper included anything south of the Assanpink.

PART THIRD.

Having now followed the history of the entire neighborhood, I must proceed with the history of the village of Hamilton Square.

From what I have been able to learn I am satisfied that some of the land about our village was taken up, and some of it cleared and farmed as early as 1695. The titles for lands in this part of Jersey were obtained from the proprietors of the Province. Some who had settled at first, that is, as early as 1676, got their titles, if they had any, from the Indians. This was before the commissioners had purchased the lands of the Indians. At first there was considerable difficulty experienced among the owners, caused by titles covering lands claimed by others.

The first thing necessary to start a village is a "cross roads." The roads at first were nothing more than paths through the woods, marked out by common consent, and twisting in various directions so as to come as near as possible to each house.

The houses at first were nothing but cabins, generally made of logs, but there were some quite substantial buildings put up by the wealthier class as early as 1700, and some few are yet standing. There are a few brick buildings yet standing in the township which must have been considered very handsome in the middle of the last century.

The road which runs east and west through our village, was one of these crooked paths leading from Trenton to Allentown, or in that direction, and was probably used as early as 1725. The road through the village is this same original road, but on leaving the village at each end it veered to the south.

At the east end it passed to the south of R. F. West's shop, and continued this direction until near George S. Cubberley's, when it veered to the north, coming into Newtown where the

present road is. On leaving the west end of the village it passed south of Hooper's and Pryor's, and south of John S. West's, when it twisted up to Sandtown, and continued on to Trenton in a crooked manner on the line of the present Hamilton avenue. This was the only road to Trenton from this village until about 1808, when the present straight road was laid four rods wide, and forking to the west of Sandtown made two roads to Trenton known as the "Millham" and "Millhill" roads. I believe the road was laid out four rods as far as Allentown at that time; at any rate it was laid to Newtown.

I was told by an eye-witness, that when the surveyors came to the west end of the Square, they found so many houses in the way that they could not lay the road straight, or even crooked, four rods wide; so after a consultation they stopped at the west end, and passing through the village, commenced again at the east end, and so continued. This accounts for our present narrow main thoroughfare.

In 1808 there were about twenty buildings in the Square.

This road will hardly measure four rods anywhere now on account of being fenced in from time to time.

The road which runs north and south through the village, was blazed through the woods by the Quakers in going to and from their churches at Princeton and Crosswicks. This was used probably as early as 1725, or thereabouts, and with a very few changes, remains as it was first laid. The road to the White Horse was laid out about 1815. In 1872 S. R. Reed laid out the new streets which he named "Maple Shade avenue" and "Pine street." The other streets we call Main street and Mercer street. "Main," because it is the main thoroughfare, and "Mercer," because it runs by the Mercer Rubber Company's works. These names were only recently applied to the roads. Mercer street was called "Piano avenue" by the boys, because it used to contain more pianos or organs than the other street.

As early as 1750 there was probably not more than three or four farm houses where this village is now built. Among the very oldest houses now standing may be mentioned the buildings on the farm of C. L. Rogers, which were built about 1764, the barn bearing that date on a beam; also the old Nelson house, the one recently torn down by Jacob Snediker; the old Ivins house, torn down some years ago; the house on the southeast

corner of Main and Mercer streets, and the Wainwright farm house. From what I have been able to learn I am satisfied that there were six or eight houses and a blacksmith shop in the village at the time of the Revolutionary war. The Presbyterian church was also built at that time. I am not certain that there was a tavern or a store here at that time, though there may have been. In 1805 there was about fifteen buildings in the Square besides the two churches. According to Gordon's Gazetteer (1834), there were at that time two churches, a tavern, store and eight or ten dwellings. This is near enough for a Gazetteer, but there was twice that number of houses, and besides the churches and tavern and *two* stores, there should have been mentioned the chair manufactory, the cabinet makers and undertakers, and the brick makers; for the Square was quite noted for its brick makers for many years.

In 1848 there were about 25 houses and about 90 inhabitants, and in this Centennial year of 1876, there are 71 dwellings and 297 inhabitants. (The double houses are counted as two).

One might suppose from the number of graveyards here that there had been graveyards here for more than a century, but the first person ever buried in this place was a daughter of Amos Hutchinson named Betsey Hutchinson, who was buried in the year 1786. The stone is in the Presbyterian yard, and is marked as being the first person ever buried in that yard. The church was built ten years before. The Baptist church was not built until 1785, and the lot was not used for a burying place until the church was built, and there are no stones in it bearing date earlier than 1793. All the numerous graves in this village have been made since 1786. Previous to that time the dead in this vicinity were buried at Crosswicks in the Friends church yard, in the Pearson burial lot at the White Horse, and in a graveyard near Sandtown on the road to Edinburg, and on land now owned by Samuel Hughes. This had become neglected and over fifty years ago it was desecrated by being plowed over, and now all traces of it are lost; yet beneath that sod lie the bones of many of the pioneers of New Jersey, among whom may be mentioned the Rossels. This graveyard was very little used after the churches were built at the Square, and no one living now ever remembers seeing an interment made there. The monuments in it were but field stones. There has probably been no

interment made there since the year 1800. The Pearson graveyard at the White Horse was set apart for that purpose probably as early as 1700, by the Pearsons. The oldest monument in it bearing a date is one dated 1722, and is the grave of the wife of Robert Pearson. There are many buried there besides the Pearsons, among whom are the Cubberleys, Douglasses, Quigleys and others. There are many headstones in good style and in a good state of preservation. It has been supposed by some that this had been an Indian burying ground long before the advent of the whites, but I have no good authority for that. However, in digging for gravel recently, bones have been found outside of the present enclosure. I am of the opinion, however, that the original lot was much larger than the present enclosure, which may account for bones being found outside the fence now standing. There was never a church there until about 1858.

The stone in this yard dated 1722, and one or two stones in the Ewing graveyard, dated 1717 and 1718, are the oldest monuments bearing dates in Mercer county. ~~X~~ Some few of the early settlers had private burial lots on their own plantations. One John Rogers had one of this description on his farm, and was on land now owned by Ralph Rogers of West Windsor township.

From about 1820 to 1858, Nottingham township had a burial lot west of Sandtown, just to the left of the forks of the road, and very many were buried here. During the cholera in Trenton in 1835, or about that time, large numbers were brought here from Trenton to be buried. There were a few marble monuments, which were removed by the friends of the deceased when the lot was sold by the township of Hamilton to Enos Bowne in 1858. I merely mention this fact to have it recorded, as it is even now partly forgotten.

The village of Hamilton Square bore no important part during the struggle for independence, as it was situated a little way off the main track of the armies. However, during the dark days of 1776 and '77, when the British were encamped at Trenton, at Princeton and at Bordentown, these parts were sometimes overrun with foraging and scouting and plundering parties of troops. Quite a number of non-combatants of the section north of us took refuge on Holly Island in the Bear swamp, with their effects, to escape being plundered by these parties. A Mr. John

X One in Riverview cemetery, Trenton, is dated 1712. Author

Flock of Quaker Bridge was captured by a Hessian, and was being driven to camp, the soldier pricking him with his bayonet occasionally to help him along. This so enraged Flock that he turned quickly, knocked the Hessian down and dispatched him, throwing his body in the creek and *pinning it down with a stake* to prevent it rising as a witness against him. William West, the grandfather of the writer, was impressed into the British service in 1776, but escaped from them at New Brunswick, running his horses to Trenton in the night.

There are many anecdotes we could relate of the days of 1776, but space will hardly permit.

The night before the battle at Princeton, Washington and his troops passed through our neighboring village of Sandtown on his way to Princeton, and there are yet living some who have heard their parents tell of being awakened on the morning of January 3d, 1777, by the booming of the cannon at Princeton. It is only about ten years ago that an old lady named Lanning died at this place aged 96, who lived near Princeton at the time of the battle, and who stated that her father sent her with the rest of the family in the cellar during the action. It was then that the brave Mercer fell, from whom our county is named. I was informed by James C. Robbins, of near this village, that the old barn in the centre of his farm, which, with the house that was recently torn down, was the homestead of Abram Eldridge, was struck by a cannon ball in the Revolution. This was done most likely by a prowling party of the enemy with a field piece. The British officers did not allow this firing at buildings, but it was done occasionally by the troops. There were some royalists in this township, however. Some of these were so of choice, perhaps, and some were made to confess King George III. on account of the dark outlook of the American cause, for these were the times that "tried men's souls."

In the list of names of New Jersey soldiers, who served in the Revolution, published by the State a few years ago, I find the names of quite a number from this part of the State, and our village graveyards hold the bones of many who in their youth had fought for the liberties we now enjoy, in the dark days of '76.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This church was first built during the Revolutionary war.

The second building, which was torn down in 1867, had a tablet in the front of it which bore the following inscription: "Built 1776. Re-built 1837." The first building stood in that part of the graveyard which lies to the east of the line between Simeon Reed and the lower part of the present graveyard. It was painted yellow, and as it began to grow old, it was designated as the "Old Yellow Meeting House." In 1837 this was torn down and a new brick building was erected to the west of the old one, and on land deeded to the church by the late Wm. C. Sinclair, Esq. The lower part of the graveyard has been added at different times by the late John Clarke.

This building was considerably improved in 1862, but in 1867 it was torn down and the present beautiful structure built on the north side of the road at a cost of about \$15,000.

The Rev. Henry Perkins delivered the sermon at the laying of the corner stone, and a box made of copper was placed in the southwest corner of the foundation.

This box contained many curious records, and was fixed up by the Rev. R. S. Manning. The boys of the village put bottles containing various things in the walls at different points in the building.

The first sermon ever preached in this building was in the basement before the main part was finished, and was preached by the Rev. R. S. Manning. It was the funeral sermon of Mrs. Nancy Holmes.

The first pastor for this body was the Rev. George Faitout, who was called in 1779, he giving one-third of his time to this church.

He remained about two years. The next called was the Rev. Joseph Clark, who, I have heard, had been a chaplain in the army, and at one time an aid to Washington. He came in 1784. The articles were signed by the following persons from this place: Jonathan, Thomas, John, Amos and Isaac Hutchinson, Jacob Richardson, Wm. Wilgus, Robert Phares, Wm. Mount, David Cubberly and David Chambers.

In the year 1800 the Rev. John Cornell, of the Dutch Reformed Church, was called and continued until February, 1820, when his connection with this church was dissolved.

The Presbytery supplied the church for some months, among whom may be mentioned the names of Miller, Alexander, Woodhull, Comfort and Howe.

The Rev. Henry Perkins was called and ordained on December 5th, 1820. He preached here and at Allentown alternately. The following were the elders from this church and the one at Allentown at this time: David Cubberley, Jacob Fisher, Robert Vanderbeek, Cornelius Vanderbeek, James Hughes, Amos Hutchinson, Theophilis Furman, David W. Rue and Ebenezer Smith. In 1827 the following persons may be mentioned as among the active members of the church: David Cubberley, James Hughes, Christopher Vannest, Matthias Mount, Captain Amos Hutchinson and Joseph Appleton.

In 1840 the Rev. George Ely took the charge in connection with the church at Dutch Neck. In 1844 the present parsonage was built.

In 1856 Rev. Mr. Ely requested a release on account of his afflictions, and a call was extended to Rev. R. S. Manning and was accepted by him. In 1868 Mr. Manning resigned and the present pastor, Rev. I. V. W. Schenck, was called and accepted.

Number of communicants, 204.

Value of church property, \$18,000.

Lately Mr. Wm. Tindall, of Newtown, has deeded a lot at that place to this church, on which a chapel will probably be erected soon.

This church was robbed in March, 1871, of the best carpets, Bible, Sunday School books, and other things. When the thief was caught some months later part of the goods were returned.

It was said that he had the Sunday School card, "Thou shalt not steal," in his bed-room.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first building was built in 1785. It was a frame building and stood to the west of the present one. The grave of the Rev. Searing Stites is on the spot over which the old church pulpit stood.

It is impossible to tell now who were the prime movers in the building of this church.

The lot was given for the purpose by Abram Eldridge, and the building was put up in 1785. We may conclude that there

were a few in this vicinity who held to the Baptist persuasion, that built the church thinking of having an organization, which thoughts were not realized until some years later.

In 1788 Abram Eldridge and wife, and Wm. Nutt deeded the property to the Hightstown church for the sum of 17 pounds and 18 shillings.

We may conclude that they done this to have it held by a corporate body. Abram Eldridge died soon after this and Wm. Nutt also died before the church was constituted. These were, doubtless, the prime movers in the building of this church, but there were some others whose names are lost to us. The church records previous to 1830, except what have been copied into another book, are lost.

The first church was a frame building, in pretty good style and quite roomy, having a gallery, a high pulpit with "sounding board," &c.

The present building was built in 1851. The original lot deeded to the church by Abram Eldridge, whose farm at that time reached to the village, was about two-thirds of the present land owned by the church; for about 1851 a piece of land to the east of the original lot, was bought of the Cubberley tract, and is now in the tie yard; and about 1864 the church bought the lot known as the Reed property, next to Hooper's, which is now in the graveyard. Thirty years ago the lower part of the graveyard was quite full of forest trees, and was known as the "Meeting House woods." Some of the old graves were among these trees. Some years ago some of the Eldridge family claimed the right to bury in this yard free of any charge, as the land had been given by their father.

When the present church was built in 1851 a bottle or box containing various records of the church, names of members, &c., was placed in the southwest corner of the building. The church at that time cost about \$2,200.

In 1866 the present recess was constructed and the Baptistry put in. Previous to this the rite of Baptism was administered at J. I. Hutchinson's mill pond.

Among those who preached here before the church was constituted, was the Rev. Peter Wilson. He preached through this section and at Trenton as early as 1787, and administered Baptism in the Delaware for the first time on the 4th of March,

1788. The church at this place was used as a preaching station until 1812.

On the 25th of April, 1812, the church was regularly constituted with thirty-one members. They were chiefly from the Hightstown church. There were present at its recognition the Reverends John Boggs, Wm. Boswell, and Peter Wilson. The first pastor for this body was the Rev. Peter Wilson, who divided his time between this and the church at Hightstown. He resigned about 1816. The first deacons were Daniel Hutchinson, John Flock and William Appleton. The first trustees were Wm. Tindall, John James, John Tindall, Wm. S. Cubberley and Ashur Quigley. On December 29th, 1812, the property which had been held in trust by the trustees of the Hightstown church, was deeded to the trustees of this church.

The second pastor was Rev. Wm. Boswell, who preached here and at the church in South Trenton alternately. He held principles at variance with the regular Baptists, and he discontinued preaching here about 1820.

In 1820 the Rev. John Seger was chosen pastor. He preached here and at Hightstown alternately for about twelve years.

After being without a pastor for about three years, they called, in 1835, the Rev. Wm. D. Hires. He remained but a short time—less than a year.

The next called was the Rev. Searing Stites, who came in 1837. From this time the pastors gave their whole time to this church.

In 1839 the first parsonage was built.

The Rev. Mr. Stites left this church in 1852. The Rev. Wm. Paulin was next chosen, who preached here from 1853 to 1859.

The Rev. A. H. Bliss was the next from 1859 to 1862. In 1863 Rev. W. E. Watkinson took the charge.

He resigned in 1870, and the present pastor, Rev. W. W. Case was called and took the charge in October, 1871.

In 1874 fifty members of this church withdrew to form the Baptist church at Allentown.

Present number of members, 343.

Value of church property, \$8,000.

The present trustees are James C. Robbins, David S. Hutchinson, Samuel Flock, Enoch South, Ed. P. Tindall, Samuel M. Smith and Alfred Fagans. Clerk, R. F. West.

The church has had two from among its members who have studied for the ministry. The first, George Robbins, is now through a complete course, and has taken a charge, while the other, James Cubberley, is yet in his studies.

THE M. E. CHURCH.

The doctrines of Wesley were first taught in this vicinity, at Trenton in 1766, by Thomas Webb, captain of a British man of war. He preached in a stable near the corner of Greene and Academy streets, and in 1768 a frame chapel was built in Trenton.

The M. E. Church at Hamilton Square was built in 1844. A box containing various records was placed in the walls. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. J. B. Wakely, who also delivered the discourse at the laying of the corner stone.

Among the prominent members at the formation of this church may be mentioned the following: Enoch Knowles and wife, Jeremiah Reed, Sr., Jeremiah Reed, Jr., Elijah Wall, Chas. D. Cubberley and Ashur S. Cubberley.

The following were the first trustees: Enoch Knowles, Chas. D. Cubberley, Joseph Appleton, Jeremiah Reed, Jr., Ashur S. Cubberley, Elijah Wall and Simeon Reed.

This church was considerably enlarged and improved in 1874, and when it was re-dedicated, the Rev. T. Hanlon preached in the morning, Rev. C. H. Whitecar in the afternoon, and Rev. Mr. Wilson in the evening.

This church was in a circuit until 1870, and owing to the frequent changes in the M. E. Church I have been unable to get the names of all who have preached here, but among the recent ones may be mentioned the following: Reverends J. J. Graw, J. L. Souder, Jos. Atwood, G. H. Neal, E. F. Moore, J. Wilson, J. Hill, J. O'Hara and the present Mr. Miller. Among the early locals, the Rev. Enoch Knowles, Wm. Lutes and others.

Number of communicants 60. Value of church property \$4,500.

"HARVEST HOMES."

About the year 1850 or '52, the churches began holding Harvest Homes for their financial benefit, and are continued yet, proving a successful way of raising money. The Baptist Church has had two excursions to Long Branch within the past five years, the first proving very successful.

MORMONS.

About 1842 or '43, the Mormons held camp meetings in the orchard back of the present residence of Major Voorhees, but they made but few converts in this township, and none in this village. Some few, however, went to Utah from this township and below.

HOTEL.

The present hotel was built about 1790, by Wm. Nutt. It was not used as a tavern at first, nor until about 1805.

There may have been a tavern kept here during the Revolution, and there probably was, but we have no account of any before 1800. About 1800, the tavern was kept in the old Nelson house on the northeast corner of Main and Mercer streets, and the present house began to be used as a tavern pretty soon after this. I was told by a descendant of Wm. Nutt, that when he sold this property he bound his successor to entertain the preachers who came here to preach, gratis. Among those who have kept tavern in the present house and in the Nelson house since 1800, may be mentioned the following: Samuel Gordon, William Napton, William Nutt, David Gordon, Benj. South, Isaac Barber, Sylvanus Hutchinson, Thos. Butcher, Sr., Hannah Jackson, Wm. Butcher, Thomas Butcher, Jr., (1828), Wm. Ogborn, Aaron Eldridge, Wm. Gingen, David Gingen, George Vanness, John Anderson, 1848; Joseph West, 1849; F. M. Hall, 1852; Mary Hall, 1854; Elijah Hughes, 1856; Israel Pearson, 1866; R. W. Taylor, 1868; Wm. Hall, 1870.

STORES.

I have no account of a store being kept here before about 1800, but there may have been.

Christopher Harrer kept a store here as early as 1800 and for many years afterwards. He first kept in the old house recently torn down by Jacob Snediker, and afterwards in various other places about the village. The next was John R. Combs, about 1832, in the old house on the corner of the White Horse road. The next was Simeon Reed, first in a building where Hooper's store now is, and then on the southeast corner of Main and Mercer streets. Mr. Reed kept store until 1849. In 1834 Marmaduke Earle kept a store on the corner of the White Horse road, and there were two stores here for some time.

In 1849 Amos Lee kept store on the southeast corner of Main and Mercer streets, and in 1850 G. W. Norton built the store on the corner east of the hotel. This he kept for some time. James Lee next kept this store, and then came Lee & Brock; then Chas. H. Hughes. In 1855, H. I. Smith bought this place and kept store there until 1864, during which time it was considerably enlarged.

S. R. Reed and Azariah Cubberly under the firm name of "Reed & Cubberly," kept this store from 1864 to 1866, when S. R. Reed and H. I. Smith took it under the firm name of "Smith & Reed." In 1868 they built the present brick store on the southwest corner of Main and Mercer streets. In 1873 S. R. Reed retired from the firm of Smith & Reed, and entered into the clothing business with James Smyth, under the firm name of "Reed & Smyth." The store is at present conducted by H. I. Smith.

About 1854, Moses A. Hooper started a store in this village, which he has from time to time enlarged until it has reached its present large dimensions, being 174 by 32 and 20 feet, having a complete stock of almost everything. Associated with his son, the business is conducted under the firm name of "Hooper & Son."

In 1869 J. T. Reed started a tobacco store in the old store east of the hotel, and in the summer kept ice cream and fruits. This place was closed in 1872.

In 1865 E. R. Good started the ice cream business in this village, which has developed into a first class establishment, using a steam engine, and sending cream to various parts. He has in connection with this, a confection and variety store.

TAILORS.

About twenty five years ago, a tailor started business here, but not finding it a paying business, he did not remain long. In 1867 James Smyth, employed by Smith & Reed, started the business here, which was continued by them until 1873, when the business was opened by S. R. Reed and James Smyth, under name of "Reed & Smyth." They do a large business and employ a great many hands in and out of their place of business.

Shortly after the tailoring business was commenced by Smith & Reed, Hooper & Son started the tailoring business, which,

excepting an intermission of one year, they have kept up ever since. They employ many hands and turn out a large amount of work. In concluding our remarks on the stores and tailors of Hamilton Square, we may safely say that our village has the largest and best stores and tailoring establishments of any village of its size in the state.

MILITARY.

When the Rebellion broke out some from this neighborhood enlisted under the call for three months' men.

In 1862 a company of nine months' men were raised almost entirely in this neighborhood and was commanded by Joseph S. Mount. They served in the army of the Potomac, and at the battle of Fredericksburg some of this company were killed, a number wounded, and several taken prisoners. These were soon exchanged. The battle was only a few days before the expiration of their term.

Quite a number from this neighborhood and village enlisted under the call for two and three years' men, and our village graveyards hold the bones of many who were killed in battle, died of malaria on the Southern plains, or had languished in prisons, having strength enough only to get home to die. Some of these graves are appropriately marked, but others are not.

In 1861 a company of Home Guards were organized, with G. W. Cubberly as Captain; J. W. Bowers, First Lieut.; John Vannest, Second Lieut.; and R. F. West, Sergeant.

They numbered about sixty men and were well uniformed and quite well drilled and equipped. They were named the "Robbins Mercer Guards," in honor of Dr. G. R. Robbins, who presented them with a handsome silk flag.

They disbanded at the close of the war.

When all able bodied men between 18 and 45 were required to drill, John H. Coleman was appointed commander, but at an election held soon after, M. A. Hooper was chosen Captain. The drilling of the militia was not continued long.

THE TRADES.

WHEELWRIGHTS.

The following persons have carried on this business in the village since 1812: Elijah Ridgeway, Jonathan Appleton, Wm.

I. Robbins, John Hutchinson, George Middleton, John Anderson, Cornelius Voorhies, John Scudder, William Walton, A. A. Campbell, and R. F. West.

The business was carried on in various places about the village; first on the corner east of the hotel, and in the old building on the corner of the White Horse road.

Cornelius Voorhies built the shop now used by C. L. Rogers as a slaughter house, which has been moved to the rear. In 1861 A. A. Campbell and R. F. West both erected shops. Campbell was burned out in 1865, but rebuilt. In 1874 he quit the business, and the business is at present conducted by R. F. West. Campbell's shop is now a dwelling.

BLACKSMITHS.

This business was carried on in this village during the Revolution and long afterwards by David Cubberley, Sr. The next was Jesse Hutchinson, and then James Danser, Samuel Danser, Theodore Hill, Israel Taylor, Isaiah Silvers, John Hutchinson, David Cubberley, Jr., Major Hooper, Chas. D. Cubberley, Wm. H. Forman, John Lewis and Thomas Wood.

SHOEMAKERS.

For the last thirty years: Wm. Hughes, Wm. Nelson, Joseph Hughes, Aaron Prevo, and as a journeyman, D. C. Wilgus.

THE RUBBER MILL.

In 1866, C. V. Mead, associated with the Rev. R. S. Manning, built the Rubber Mill at this place. G. W. Norton and R. L. Hutchinson went into the business soon afterwards, and the firm bore the name of "C. V. Mead & Co." They done a flourishing business, but not enjoying the railroad facilities they wished, they removed to Trenton in 1870.

The mill at this place remained closed for some months, when the "Mercer Rubber Co." took charge of it with T. E. McDonald, Judge Campbell and Edward Scudder as *charges de affaires*. In 1872, T. E. McDonald retired and in 1873 the east wing was built. Edward Scudder dying suddenly, the business was continued under charge of Judge Campbell and Chas. H. Sloan. Judge Campbell retired in 1874, and the business is now conducted by Chas. H. Sloan and John Clancy, with Wm. Sloan bookkeeper. The company is known as the Mercer Rubber Co.,

Trenton, N. J. Chas. Brearley, President; Chas. H. Sloan, Secretary and Treasurer. Capital \$75,000. Average sales during the past three years, \$100,000.

The number of hands employed are from fifteen to twenty-five according to the work at hand.

The articles manufactured are belting, packing, hose and mechanical rubber goods.

CHAIR MAKERS.

This business has been carried on in this place 60 years or more, by Joseph Appleton first, and at present by John Appleton.

CARPENTERS.

The following are the names of the master carpenters and masons of this village, past and present: Thomas Butcher, Sr., Abram Suydam, Samuel C. Appleton, John H. Cubberley, George Howell, Clark T. Forman, Wm. Anderson and Charles E. Barlow. Masons: Ashur S. Cubberley, James G. West, John Vannest and Jacob Snediker.

CABINET MAKERS AND UNDERTAKERS.

Thomas Butcher, Sr., was, I believe, the first person who ever carried on this business in the village. He was in this and in the carpentering business from 1800, or previous, until he became too feeble to continue it. He died about 1853. His grandson, Thomas, carried on the cabinet business for some time. A. R. Hutchinson commenced the business in 1830, and is yet engaged at it. R. F. West commenced the undertaking business in 1873.

PHYSICIANS.

Previous to about 1812 or '15, the people of this vicinity depended on other places for physicians, among whom may be mentioned Dr. Clark, of Clarksville, Bellville, of Trenton, and others.

I believe the first who located here was Dr. Ezekiel Wilson, and then Dr. Job Wilson. Neither of these were here long. About 1815 Dr. Fred. Piper located here, and afterwards with his son, Tobias Piper. The next was Dr. Applegate, and about 1830 Dr. Selah Gulick located here. In 1835 Dr. Isaac Hutchinson commenced to practice here. He remained but two years. In 1837 Dr. G. R. Robbins located here, and continued in practice until his death on February 22d, 1875, except during

his congressional terms from 1854 to 1858, when Dr. Thomas Belange took his place and practice. In 1867 Dr. Cloud, (Homœopathic), was here for a few months.

In 1868 Dr. Wycoff, of Hornerstown, located here, but in 1869 he sold out to Dr. A. T. Applegate, who left in 1870. In 1870 Dr. G. R. Robbins, Jr., commenced practicing here and continues in practice.

At the death of G. R. Robbins, Sr., in 1875, Dr. Elmer Barwis took his place and continues in practice.

Dr. McMellin was here, I believe, a short time, many years ago.

THE BAND.

The "Hamilton Cornet Band" was organized in 1872, but the name of "Hamilton" was soon changed to the "Mead Cornet Band," on account of the generosity of C. V. Mead, who gave the Band at different times some large sums of money.

They have played for the public on many occasions, the principal one being at the firemen's parade at Trenton, in October, 1875, when they were employed by the Liberty Hose Co., of Chambersburg. The following are the members at present: Wm. H. Hughes, Clarence Smith, Elijah Vanness, Wm. Hall, John M. Howell, Joseph H. West, Howard Danser, Wm. Vanness, Edward Applegate, Wm. L. Pearson, E. M. Carlin, Jasper Cubberley, Clarence Hughes, and Dr. George R. Robbins, President. They are not in good working condition at present.

I. O. O. F.

Hamilton Lodge, No. 97, I. O. O. F., was instituted September 1st, 1849.

The lot on which the building is built was given for the purpose by Joseph West, and the building was erected the same year.

The following were the first officers: G. R. Robbins, N. G.; Israel C. Voorhies, V. G.; Richard R. Rogers, Sec'y, and Elijah Mount, Treasurer.

The Lodge was in a good condition until the Rebellion broke out, when not much interest was taken until 1870, although meetings were held at stated periods which were slimly attended, and the membership dwindled down to a few. In 1870 the Lodge revived and has grown steadily ever since. The present

officers are: R. F. West, N. G.; W. W. Case, V. G.; Joseph H. West, Sec'y, and James C. Robbins, Treasurer.

Number of members, 60.

Value of property, real estate and revenue, \$1,300.

P. OF H.

Hamilton Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, No. 79, was organized August 10th, 1874, and they continue in a prosperous condition.

The present officers are: James C. Robbins, Master; Wm. Clarke, O.; Theo. Cubberley, Lecturer; Wm. Sharp, Steward; Timothy Scobey, Assistant Steward; David Lee, Chap.; Wm. H. Hughes, T.; Azariah Cubberley, Sec'y; Samuel H. Labaw, G. K.; Mrs. Emily Clarke, Ceres; Mrs. Annie Dye, Pomona; Mrs. J. Labaw, Flora; Mrs. E. Sharp, Lady Assistant Steward. Number of members, 50.

TEMPERANCE.

About 25 years ago a strong temperance movement was made in this vicinity. Quite a number of our citizens were engaged in winning the people over to temperance, and they met with some success. In 1869, Hamilton Lodge, Independent Order of Good Templars, was organized and continued in a prosperous condition for some three years, when the interest began to abate. They met in Odd Fellows Hall. The charter is still held in the place, but no meetings have been held for some time.

In 1874 the Temperance Alliance was organized. This is not a secret society, but meets occasionally in the churches with open doors. It has among its members some of the most influential persons in the vicinity.

HARNESS MAKERS.

In 1875 John C. Bennett started this business. He removed in 1876, and the business is now conducted by A. Madden.

HOUSE PAINTERS.

The following named persons have worked at this business in the village during the last thirty years: Edward Guernsey, M. A. Hooper, Randal Hughes, Joel T. Reed, Theophilus Hunt and A. A. Campbell.

SCHOOLS.

The first school building that I have any account of stood as early as 1800, to the west of the village along the old road, and on land now belonging to Jeremiah Reed. This stood there for many years. The next stood on the corner now occupied by the brick store. This was moved afterwards to the Baptist tie yard in front, and finally to the rear of the tie yard. This was used until 1851, when the building now used by Judge Hammell as a tenant house was built. In a few years this was sold, and school was kept for a while in the lower room of Odd Fellows Hall. In 1857 the present school house was built, and this is to be moved a short distance on a larger lot and enlarged considerably. Among the first teachers, who taught our grandparents the elements of an education, may be mentioned Thomas Wood and Jeremiah Reed, Sr. The present teacher is Joseph L. Watson.

FIRES.

In the early part of the present century the house where Simeon Reed now lives was partly burned, and on Thanksgiving day, 1865, the carriage shop of A. A. Campbell, on the White Horse road, was burned to the ground. These, with a slight fire in Hooper's store in 1875, are all that have happened to our knowledge in the village. Still we feel that we should have some apparatus which we could use successfully in case of a fire, having as yet never had anything of the kind.

HAY SCALES.

The hay scales were first erected about 1852. These were sold in 1867 to the Rubber Co., and the present scales were erected on the same spot in 1870.

BAKERY.

About 1852 the Rev. Searing Stites built an oven in the building now occupied by his widow, and his son, Ellis Stites, carried on the baking business for about one year. This place was not used again, except for a few days in preparing for a Harvest Home, until 1861, when Wm. H. Nelson started the business in this place. He quit the business in about one year. In 1870 Wm. H. Cubberley started in this place and continued for a few months, since which time it has been closed.

CANDY MANUFACTORY.

About the year 1850 John Viot started this business in the house nearly opposite the school house. He did not remain but a few years, when he removed to Yardville.

THE POST OFFICE.

Concerning the early history of the post office in this place I have been unable to learn much; but from what I have been able to learn I am satisfied that there was no post office here by 1840. and perhaps not for some years later.

The mail was at first brought out from Trenton by the market folks, and some one was selected to distribute it when called for. At one time the citizens hired a man to carry it twice a week. When Dr. G. R. Robbins was in Congress, he was instrumental in getting the regular route established. He also got the post office established at Robbinsville. (So named after him). The mail was then carried from Trenton through the Square, Robbinsville, Windsor, Edinburg and Dutch Neck to Princeton, and back the next day. It now comes from Dutch Neck in the morning and from Trenton at noon.

Among the postmasters before the regular route was established may be mentioned Wm. Tindall, Simeon Reed, Rev. Searing Stites, James Lee and others. After the regular route was established the following have been postmasters: M. A. Hooper, from 1854 to 1861; Howard I. Smith, from 1861 to 1872, and the present incumbent, Wm. C. Vannest, since 1872. A large amount of mail matter comes through this office.

DIRECTORY FOR HAMILTON SQUARE FOR 1876.

Stores—H. I. Smith, Hooper & Son, E. R. Good.

Clothiers—Reed & Smyth, Hooper & Son.

Hotel—Wm. Hall.

Carriage Maker—R. F. West.

Undertakers—A. R. Hutchinson, R. F. West.

Physicians—G. R. Robbins, Elmer Barwis.

Surveyor and Conveyancer—Joseph L. Watson.

Insurance Agents—Isaac W. Reed, Joseph L. Watson.

Millinery—Hooper & Son.

Dress Makers—Amanda Fowler, Amanda McCabe, Laura Appleton, Annie Reed, Sarah Hutchinson.

Township Clerk—Joseph H. West.

Master Carpenters—C. T. Forman, John H. Cubberley, Wm. Anderson, Charles E. Barlow.
 Mason—Jacob Snediker.
 Painter—J. T. Reed.
 Blacksmiths—Charles D. Cubberley, Thomas Wood.
 Harness Maker—A. Madden.
 Boot and Shoe Makers—Joseph Hughes, W. W. Nelson.
 Mercer Rubber Company's Agent—Wm. Sloan.
 Ice Cream—E. R. Good.
 Justices of the Peace—E. R. Good, D. Wainwright, Sr.
 Clergymen—Baptist Church, W. W. Case; Presbyterian Church, I. V. W. Schenck; Methodist Episcopal Church, F. Miller.
 Agricultural Implements—J. S. Blackwell.
 Postmaster—Wm. C. Vannest.
 Brick Maker—D. C. Wilgus.
 Butcher—Charles L. Rogers.
 Chair Maker—John Appleton.

A SHORT SKETCH OF THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE 4TH OF JULY,
 1876, AT HAMILTON SQUARE.

Early in the morning a parade of grotesquely attired young fellows took place. They were known as "Horribles." A stand was erected fronting Maple Shade avenue, at its junction with Pine street.

About 5 o'clock, P. M., the procession consisting of the Sunday Schools and their teachers, part of the members of Hamilton Lodge, I. O. O. F., carriages, &c., headed by the Mead Cornet Band, was formed in front of the Baptist Church. The marshal of the day was James C. Robbins, assisted by Theodore Cubberley and Solomon Rogers.

After marching through the village the procession reached the stand erected for the speakers. The ceremonies opened with Prayer by the Rev. I. V. W. Schenck, followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Dr. Elmer Barwis. Part of this history was then read by Joseph H. West, followed by the speeches of Dr. G. R. Robbins and Rev. W. W. Case. The whole being interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. In the evening the display of fireworks took place, on which some sixty dollars had been expended. Mr. William Sloan presided

at the meeting, and the affair was a success, although it was very warm and dusty.

In conclusion I may say that I have spent somewhat of time and labor in getting up this history, and in giving, minutely, almost everything that has happened.

I have made it much longer than I first expected, but having entered into it with all my heart, I determined to get up a history that would interest everyone in this vicinity, and be of some use in the future.

JOSEPH H. WEST.

ORATION OF DR. G. R. ROBBINS.

Friends and Fellow Citizens.—We are met to-day to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of this nation. We are assembled on this spot over which both friends and foe marched, fought, bled and died; the one to uphold tyranny, injustice and wrong, the other to establish, plant, and perpetuate freedom, equality and right. We have come together here to worthily commemorate both the memory of brave and patriotic men, and the memory of their deeds. As the people of this entire nation have to-day gathered to give expression of their joyous feelings, it is right and proper that we also as a part of that people gather and give vent to our feelings of joy and patriotism. As I look around I see before me the faces of those whose grandsires and friends shouldered the musket to drive out the insolent foe from our houses and borders. Surrounding us and within earshot of this place two of the most important battles of the Revolution were fought, and two signal victories were achieved. The soil of New Jersey has been the thoroughfare of contending armies and in its bosom sleep the patriots and heroes of that conflict. The very name of this county is a perpetual reminder of one of the noble and valiant heroes of that wonderful struggle, and of the blood it cost to cement together this grand structure of the nation, under whose shade and shelter we stand to-day "free men." The name of Hugh Mercer will forever be associated with momentous events in the history of the war of the Revolution. When a grateful posterity shall bid the trophied memorial rise to the martyrs who sealed with their blood the charter of an empire's liberties, there will not be wanting a monument to him whom Washington mourned as the worthy and brave General Mercer. It is well that we should remember this, as it is one of the means of keeping fresh our love for this our common country, and her grand destiny among the nations of the earth. The Jerseys, though one of the smallest of the original sisterhood of

States, have stood behind none of them in giving her sons and treasure for the establishment and maintenance of that Republic of free men. Her soldiers in the late war waited to be tried, and they proved themselves firm and true—at that time and since their names have been heralded from the slopes of the Atlantic to the banks of the Pacific by the title of Jersey Blues. The final success of the causes was also no less due to her sufferings, losses and endurance in order that this grand achievement would become a fact; hers it was to share the honor to make for all time “A land of the free and a home of the brave.” But to-day we stand here to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the natal day of this Nation. As we cast back our eyes to that almost hopeless beginning and now see the mighty strides our country has made within that time, it should thrill every heart with pride and patriotism, that we are citizens of that great commonwealth. Though as States and as a Nation we have had to endure trials from without and conflicts from within, still we stand as the Union “one and inseparable.” The celebration of this day is not so much to herald to the world the prowess or power of this country for warlike aggressions, though as regards that we can well keep our position in the front rank of nations, but it is rather to celebrate the triumph of the principles and the arts of peace. It was the conservative wisdom of our forefathers that founded and handed down to us this noble heritage. It was the memory of their losses, persecutions and sufferings that makes the gift dear to us. To-day as the hosts of people shall assemble in the celebrating city of Philadelphia, and by their presence renew the pledge of fidelity to this their natal and adopted home, it will give the representatives of foreign despotic monarchical and republican lands an eloquent expression of our full appreciation of freedom of conscience, liberty of speech and thought, and an equal chance for even the humblest citizen in our border to make and increase a maintenance, and to obtain even the highest offices of people.

We stand to-day on the dividing line of two centuries; in a few hours one will be among that were, and the other century will have begun. In 1776 there were only thirteen States, weak and undeveloped, having as yet no political power or recognition. Now there are thirty-eight States and eleven Territories. Then there was a population of a little over three millions of people.

Now there are upwards of forty-five millions. Then there was not a foot of railroad on this continent, now there over seventy-three thousand miles in actual running order. Then there were but few cities of numerical or commercial importance, now they are numbered by the hundreds, and their trade and manufactures are extended to all the known parts of the world. We to-day send locomotives and grain to Prussia. We rival and supersede England in the arts of textile and hardware manufactures. We compete with the known world in the developed resources and riches of this country. We are behind no nation as regards educational facilities, by which we expect to produce the future statesmen, legislators, lawyers and honest men of both higher and lower callings and pursuits. And now we have thrown open our doors, and invited the visitors from far and near to come and behold our thrift, progress and prosperity. And we permit them to carry home the impression that a government by the people, of the people and for the people, pays. We can with proper pride, point them to the triumph of patient toil and the inventive genius of our people. As we compare products of mind or main, of brain or brawn, we can see much wherein we are behind, we may even be considerably humiliated, when we see the appliances for domestic comfort of other nations, and behold the evidence of their internal stability and superiority; it is right that we should learn this lesson, for therefore we have invited these strangers to our shores. But there is more cause for pride and gratitude, than for shame, when we look at the wonderful power of this nation, to take in the people of the earth, and by a process of absorption and assimilation, make good, industrious, sober and patriotic citizens out of them. And when we see that this process is but recently begun, and it has worked so well for the good of all, we can rest assured that the name, prestige and prosperity, of this wonderful country are not yet at an end. And what shall we say of the yet unfathomed and untold riches and resources, slumbering beneath the earth, waiting only for the hammer, drill and genius of the hardy explorer, to bring the lustre to the light? We stand, as it were, on an eminence to-day, like a man who, after a long, toilsome, upward ascent, has at last reached one of the many summits which rise towering above him. As he looks back, he can see the steep and rugged sides, the streams deep and treacherous, that he

passed, and now for the first time, he realizes the many dangers that threatened destruction safely past. But as he pauses to take breath, he is made conscious that there are yet other cliffs to climb, other foes to face and obstacles to surmount. So we as a nation, I trust good citizens and true, have arrived at the first summit of the century's end. It is not time lost to look out into the dim and uncertain future, and try to decipher its unwritten and unrealized mysteries. It becomes us as citizens, as individuals of this grand republic, to ask ourselves how much and what can I contribute to make the coming century and history of this nation better than the past. It is just where you leave off your work and will that your children will take it up. What then shall we transmit to our posterity and to the nation as worthy of our life and the perpetuation and glory of this glorious country? I will not attempt to answer for you. There are many things that might be said and that rise readily to my mind, but I forbear. But let us, however we may differ in many things, agree that we, individually, will build up a character that, for rectitude, honesty, and a love of this our country, will bear the test and scrutiny of even the most critical. Let us in the coming century once more put our shoulders to the wheel, and not only assist to keep the car of state in its present advanced position, but, if possible, push it still more forward until it shall be the guiding star to many a benighted nation that looks for deliverance and counsel to our enlightened shores. Let honesty characterize us as a nation, and let us bear in mind the purpose of the founders—liberty and union—a union one and inseparable, and its perpetuity will be as assured as is the stability of Plymouth Rock. And may our flag ever be the emblem of the free, and invite the coming stranger to our shore; may it evidence to him and all, that for all time, for all men, this shall be as it was in the past, "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

GEORGE R. ROBBINS, M. D.,
Hamilton Square, N. J.

July 4th, 1876.

ORATION OF REV. W. W. CASE,

OF HAMILTON SQUARE, N. J.

The first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, in September, 1774. All the thirteen colonies were represented except Georgia. Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, was elected President, and George Thompson, of Pennsylvania, Secretary.

The second Continental Congress met in the same place; in May, 1776. John Hancock was President. On the 7th of June, Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, introduced a resolution that "these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states—that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved." He made a very eloquent speech in favor of the passage of the resolution. The subject came up for discussion on the 11th of June, and again on the 1st of July.

On the 2d of July, the day on which New Jersey declared her independence, a committee, consisting of Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, John Adams, of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin, of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, and Robert R. Livingston, of New York, was elected to draft a declaration in accordance with the spirit of Mr. Lee's resolution. They reported the declaration, and on the 4th day of July it was adopted and ordered to be handsomely engrossed on parchment, in order to be signed. It was signed at a later period. From this document, Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, a lineal descendant of the other Richard Henry Lee, has read to-day, in the shadow of Independence Hall, the words which were reported by the committee. The noble fifty-six, whose names are attached, have long since passed to their eternal homes, but the document is still with us. When we make our pilgrimages to the Centennial city, we must not forget to look at this in Independence Hall.

A hundred years ago! What thronging memories come upon us. We think of the battle of Lexington, April 19th, 1775, when Major Pitcairn, at the head of the British troops, insolently demanded of the "minute men," "Disperse you rebels, lay down your arms and disperse." But they did not disperse, and he was glad enough to get back to Boston. An incident transpired at old Hopewell, in this county, shortly after this battle, that is worth remembering. A messenger from Lexington arrived at Hopewell on the Sabbath, while the congregation were engaged in worship. Col. Joab Houghton was among the worshippers. Stilling the breathless messenger, he waited until the services were over; then he stood on a stone in front of the house and addressed the people. He told them how their brothers had been murdered at Lexington, and how the British were behaving at Boston. Then he exclaimed, "Who will follow me to Boston?" A unanimous "I" was the response. There was not a coward or traitor in that old meeting house that day.

We think of the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17th, 1775, when the British marched boldly up to the fortification. Gen. Putman had told his men not to fire until they saw the whites of their enemies' eyes; then there issued a volley from that heretofore silent fort as caused the enemy to retreat in great disorder. Again the British charged, and again were repulsed. It was only when the ammunition of the Americans gave out that they were compelled to fall back.

We think of Valley Forge, with its winter quarters, with its half-starved and half-clad soldiers, and Washington on his knees in prayer for his country.

We think of Washington crossing the Delaware on the morning of December 26th, 1776, and successfully surprising the Hessians at Trenton, taking many prisoners, besides implements of war. This battle was the turning point of the Revolution. It helped greatly to encourage a despondent army and country.

We think of the battle of Princeton, fought January 3d, 1777, where again our arms were victorious. It was here the brave Gen. Mercer, after whom this county is named, fell. Virginia at first raised two regiments. When it was determined to raise a third, there were many applications from persons of fortune and influence for commissions; scarcely any were for a rank less

than field officer. While the House of Burgesses were discussing an important motion, a plain and soldierly looking man handed to the speaker a piece of paper with these words, "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of liberty in any rank or station to which he may be appointed." Coming as this did from a veteran European soldier—the friend of Washington in the war of 1755—it created great enthusiasm. His appointment to the command of the third Virginia regiment was carried instantly.

We think of the eight long years of weary strife, which finally ended by the proclamation of peace by Washington, on the 19th of April, 1783, just eight years after the battle of Lexington.

Our country has been a participant in a number of wars since the war of the Revolution.

In 1812-1814 we had another war with Great Britain, and again were victorious. John Bull, after this, very wisely concluded to let Brother Jonathan have his own way, as he would have it any rate. The British lion has growled since then, but nothing more.

From 1846 to 1848 we had a war with Mexico, the war closing with the triumphal march of our troops into the capital.

The most terrible conflict was the one which is very fresh in the memory of some of us, and in which a number here were participants. The other wars sink into insignificance in comparison with this, as regards the number engaged, the great loss of life, and the far reaching results. There were times when we did not know but that the "Stars and Bars" would float over a portion of our country. After four years of strife, we emerged from this terrible civil war, and to-day the flag, with thirteen stripes and thirty-eight stars, floats over every part of the Union. Our fathers and brothers are sleeping at Bull Run, Andersonville and Gettysburg. If the men of the Revolution who fought, bled and died to *establish* this government should be honored, so should also the men who fought, bled and died to *perpetuate* it.

We have no unkind words to say of our Southern brethren who were on the other side. Many of them were conscientious, and we know that the soldiers of the Confederate army fought bravely. But we can not obliterate history. We can not forget that our country has been saved from disintegration.

There was a time when one sentiment of the song "Star Spangled Banner" was not true, I refer to the chorus, "the land of the free and home of the brave." This was the "home of the brave" but not always the "land of the free."

It was not "the land of the free" when the crack of the slave driver's whip was heard—when the auction block was an established institution—when husbands and wives were rudely separated, and when parents and children were torn from each other, perhaps never to meet again. The prayer of the black man for the coming of the day of jubilee has been heard.

Slavery has been burnt up amid the flames of civil war, There will be no resurrection from its ashes. To-day this is "the land of the free and home of the brave." Cowper once wrote :

"Slaves can not breathe in England,
If their lungs receive our air,
That moment they are free,
They touch our country and their shackles fall."

This poetry is now applicable to our country.

Good results have no doubt come from the wars in which the nation has been engaged. God can make the wrath of man to praise him. But what christian heart can love to think of burning buildings, pillaged farms, battle-fields, with the dead and wounded and the country filled with widows and fatherless children. Would to God that in the centuries to come, the people of our Republic might not know anything about wars.

The question of the hour is, how shall we perpetuate our country with its free institutions?

Let the nation remember that there is a God who rules the universe. Blind, indeed, must be the man who cannot recognize the guiding hand of a good God in all the century past. If it had not been for His goodness, we would not to-day be celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Independence.

The Sabbath day must be respected. We must discourage the wicked attempt to make it a day of sport. I thank God for the noble stand taken by the Centennial Commissioners in favor of closing the gates of the great exposition on the Sabbath. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

The public school system must be maintained inviolate. It is the duty of the State to educate her children. Any movement

which would attempt its destruction, must be met with the sternest disapproval of the American people.

Church and State must be kept separate, and every one must have the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

The adage, "To the victors belong the spoils," which was adopted in Gen. Jackson's time, must be abandoned as unworthy of a civilized age. A great part of the corruption in the country is owing to the fact, that this adage is a part of the political faith of each party. If a Republican administration comes in power, it turns out all the Democratic office holders, no matter how competent they may be. The same is true of the Democratic party. The men who are appointed to offices are appointed because of political services rendered, and not because of qualifications for the positions. Knowing that their term of office is slight, instead of laboring to qualify themselves for their positions, they labor to get their hands very deep in the public purse. We want pure-minded men in the positions of trust and responsibility in our country—men who fear God and practice morality—men who do not seek offices, but who are sought by the people for the offices. That corruption which exists in high places, and so works downward, is the most fearful corruption. If the politicians of any ward in Trenton are corrupt, their corruption will not affect the country at large; but if the public men at Washington are corrupt, the country at large will be affected. How important then that our prominent public men should be good men.

Worcester defines politics as "the science or art of government, or the administration of national or public affairs—that part of ethics which consists in the knowledge or the practice of conducting the various affairs of a state or nation." Politics now means ballot-box stuffing, fraudulent naturalization papers, bribery and public plunder. It ought to be honorable to be a politician. We cannot exist if corruption is the order of the day. Instead of this Republic standing at the end of another hundred years, it will become as Babylon or the Roman Empire.

I have thus mentioned some things that will perpetuate our country with its free institutions. They are worthy of our careful consideration.

The visitor to Washington is struck at the majestic capitol building. There it stands, buttress upon buttress, pillar upon pillar, story upon story. On the top of the great dome stands a figure of Columbia. It looks as if that great building was made on purpose to sustain that fair figure. So we have the great structure of this Republic. It stands buttress upon buttress, pillar upon pillar, story upon story. On the top is the figure of liberty. The Republic is built on purpose to sustain liberty—liberty to breathe the air of freedom—liberty of conscience—liberty to have the proceeds of our own labor, and liberty to vote as we please without the dictation of masters. Long may this Republic exist for the purpose of upholding liberty.

I close with the repetition of an old song, which I think will awaken tender sentiments in our bosoms. We have been looking backward somewhat. This song will help us to look forward.

Where, where will be the birds that sing

A hundred years to come ?

The flowers that now in beauty spring,

A hundred years to come ?

The rosy lip, the lofty brow,

The heart that beats so gayly now ;

Oh ! where will be love's beaming eyes,

Joy's pleasant smiles and sorrow's sighs,

A hundred years to come ?

Who'll press for gold the crowded street

A hundred years to come ?

Who'll tread the church with willing feet

A hundred years to come ?

Pale, trembling age or fiery youth,

And childhood with its brow of truth,

The rich, the poor, on land and sea,

Where will the mighty millions be

A hundred years to come ?

We all within our graves shall sleep

A hundred years to come.

No living soul for us will weep

A hundred years to come.

But other men our lands will till,

And others then our streets will fill,

While other birds will sing as gay,

And bright the sun be as to-day,

A hundred years to come.