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EARLY HISTORY

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CAPE MAY COUNTY,

TO ACCOMPANY THE

Geological Report of the State of New-Jersey

FOR SAID COUNTY.

BY MAURICE BEESLEY, M. D.

TRENTON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRUE AMERICAN. $1\,8\,5\,7\,.$

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COUNTY OF CAPE MAY.

BY MAURICE BEESLEY, M. D.

THE difficulties to be encountered in making a historical sketch of the County of Cape May, are perhaps as great, if not greater, than will be found in any other county of our State. Isolated as it was in early times from the upper districts of the Province, and with a sparse population, we find no material to consult, except a meagre court record; hence the inquirer is compelled to seek from musty manuscripts and books in other places, a goodly portion of the little that has escaped oblivion, in the vista of years gone by, and that little must necessarily be made up of scraps and fragments which owe their interest, if any they have, more to their intrinsic worth, than to the skill bestowed upon their arrangement.

Order cannot come out of chaos; and any attempt to make a connected history, with the resources at hand, would end in disappointment. Being partially surrounded by water, without a roadstead or harbor to invite the hardy pioneers who first visited the Delaware, to sojourn and rest upon her shores, she was passed by to more inviting regions, on its waters above, where ships could find refuge from winds and storms; and man, in his inherent thirst for dominion and power, could secure the virgin soil of the country, in extent

and proportions, and upon terms so inconsiderable, as to fill up the full measure of his desires, and gratify his ambitious and venturesome propensities.

After the most careful investigation and patient research in the State and County archives, and the early as well as the more recent chronicles of our past history, we find no data to prove that Cape May was positively inhabited until the year 1685, when Caleb Carman was appointed, by the Legislature, a justice of the peace, and Jonathan Pine, constable.*

These were independent appointments, as Cape May was not under the jurisdiction of the Salem Tenth. This simple fact, however, that the appointment of a justice and constable for the place, was necessary, goes to prove that there were inhabitants here at this time; yet whence they came, in what number, or how long they had sojourned, are inquiries that will most probably ever remain in mystery and doubt. Fenwick made his entry into "New Salem," in 1675, and soon after extinguished the Indian title from the Delaware to Prince Maurice River. † He made no claim and exercised no dominion over Cape May; and we have nothing to show at the time of his arrival, that the country from Salem to the sea-shore was other than one primeval and unbroken forest, with ample natural productions by sea and land, to make it the happy home of the red man, where he could roam, free and unmolested, in the enjoyment of privileges and blessings, which the strong arm of destiny soon usurped and converted to ulterior purposes.

Gordon, in his history of New Jersey, says: "Emigrants from New Haven settled on the left shores of the Delaware so early as 1640, some of whose descendants may probably be found in Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May counties."

As far as regards Cape May, we have no tradition of any such settlement. History tells us that Hudson, in the Half-Moon, entered the Delaware Bay, the 28th August, 1609, "but finding the

^{*} Leaming & Spicer's collection.

water shoal, and the channel impeded by bars of sand, he did not venture to explore it."

On the 5th of May, 1630, "a purchase of sixteen miles square, was made at Cape-May, for Samuel Godyn and Samuel Bloemart, of nine resident Chiefs. This tract was purchased by Peter Heyser, Skipper of the ship Whale, and Giles Coster, commissary. It was probably the first purchase of the natives within the limits of New Jersey; at least it is the first upon record, and was made for and in behalf of the Dutch West India Company."*

The renowned Capt. Cornelius Jacobese Mey, visited our shores, and explored Delaware Bay in 1623, and to him the County of Cape May is indebted for a name. He built Fort Nassau, at Timber Creek, the site of which is now unknown.†

David Pieterson de Vries was the next pioneer to the New World. He entered Delaware Bay in 1631, and first landed at Hoorekill, near Cape Henlopen. He left a colony there; but on his return the succeeding year, found they had been massacred by the savages. "Finding the whale fishery unsuccessful, he hastened his departure, and, with the other colonists, proceeded to Holland by the way of Fort Amsterdam," (New York). Thus, says Gordon, "at the expiration of twenty years from the discovery of the Delaware by Hudson, not a single European remained upon its shores." De Vries, in his journal, says, "March 29th, 1633, found that our people has caught seven whales; we could have done more if we had good harpoons, for they had struck seventeen fish and only saved seven."

"An immense flight of wild pigeons in April, obscuring the sky. The 14th, sailed over to Cape May, where the coast trended E. N. E. and S. W. Came at evening to the mouth of Egg Harbor; found between Cape May and Egg Harbor a slight sand beach, full of small, low sand hills. Egg Harbor is a little river or kill, and inside the land is broken, and within the bay are several small is-

[•] Mulford's N. J. p. 58; & Gordon.

lands. Somewhere further up, in the same direction, is a beautiful high wood." This was probably Somer's or Beesley's Point, clothed in its primitive growth of timber.

About 1641, Cape May was again purchased by Swedish agents, a short time before the arrival of the Swedish governor, Printz, at Tinicum. This conveyance included all lands from Cape May to Narriticon, or Raccoon Creek.*

Campanius, a Swedish minister, who resided in New Sweden, on the banks of the Delaware, from the year 1642 to 48, says, page 46, "Cape May lies in latitude 38° 30'. To the south of it, there are three sand banks, parallel to each other, and it is not safe to sail between them. The safest course is to steer between them and Cape May, between Cape May and Cape Henlopen." But for this account, these sand-banks could only have existed in the imagination, as there have been none there within the memory of man.

Johnson in his sketch of Salem, says: "The Baptist church at Cape May took its origin from a vessel which put in there from England, in 1675." He evidently obtained this from "Benedict's History of the Baptists," who makes the same assertion, viz: "The foundation of this church was laid in the year 1675, when a company of emigrants arrived from England, some of whom settled at Cape May. Amongst these were two Baptists, George Taylor and Philip Hill."

It is most likely, as Mr. Benedict gives us no references for the above statements, that an error has been made in the date, as no record of the church here is to be found prior to 1711; and, as before stated, no fact to prove that our county was inhabited until 1685.

The first will and inventory on file in the Secretary's office, at Trenton, from Cape May, is that of John Story, dated the 28th of the ninth month, 1687. He was a Friend, and left his personal estate, amounting to £110, to his wife, having no heirs. The next

were those of Abraham Weston, November 24th, 1687, and John Briggs, in 1690. In April, May, and June, 1691, John Worlidge and John Budd, from Burlington, came down the bay in a vessel,* and laid a number of proprietary rights, commencing at Cohansey, and so on to Cape May. They set off the larger proportion of this county, consisting of 95,000 acres, to Dr. Daniel Coxe, of London, who had large proprietary rights in West Jersey. This was the first actual proprietary survey made in the county. In the copy of the original draft of these surveys, and of the county of Cape May, made by David Jameison, in 1713, from another made by Lewis Morris, in 1706, (which draft is now in my possession, and was presented by William Griffith, Esq., of Burlington, to Thomas Beesley, of Cape May, in 1812,) Egg Island, near the mouth of Maurice River, is laid off to Thomas Budd, for three hundred acres. Since this survey was made, the attrition of the waters has destroyed almost every vestige of it-scarcely enough remaining to mark the spot of its former magnitude. Upon this map likewise is laid down Cape May Town, at Town Bank on the Bay shore, the residence of the whalers, consisting of a number of dwellings; and a short distance above it we find Dr. Coxe's Hall, with a spire, on Coxehall Creek, a name yet retained by the inhabitants. As no other buildings or improvements are noted upon this map, than those above mentioned, it is to be presumed there were but few, if any, existing except them, at this day. The only attraction then was the whale fishery; and the small town of fifteen or twenty houses marked upon this map, upon the shore of Town Bank in close contiguity, would lead us to infer that those adventurous spirits, who came for that purpose, preferred in the way of their profession to be near each other, and to make common stock in their operations of harpooning, in which, according to Thomas and others, they seemed to be eminently successful.

"Dr. Coxe, in his capacity as proprietor, continued to be ac-

tively concerned in the management of business anterior to the surrender; extensive purchases of land were made by him of the natives, and these agreements were assented to by the Council of · Proprietors. These several purchases of the natives were made and dated, respectively, on the 30th March, 30th April, and 16th May, 1688. They were laid in the southern part of the province, including part of the present counties of Cumberland and Cape May. Either disheartened by the difficulties he had experienced, or tempted by an offer that would cover the disbursements he had made, Coxe resolved upon a sale of the whole of his interest in this province. He accordingly made an agreement, in the year 1691, with a body composed of forty-eight persons, designated by the name of the 'West Jersey Society.' To this company, on the 20th January, 1692, the whole of the claim of Dr. Coxe, both as to government and property, was conveyed, he receiving therefor the sum of £9000."* This sale opened a new era to the people of Cape May. As no land titles had been obtained under the old regime of the proprietors, except five conveyances from George Taylor,† as agent for Dr. Coxe, the West Jersey Society became a medium through which they could select and locate the choice of the lands, at prices corresponding with the means and wishes of the purchaser.

The society, through their agents appointed in the county, continued to make sales of land during a period of sixty-four years of their having possession; at the end of which time, in 1756, having conveyed a large proportion of their interest, they sold the balance to Jacob Spicer the second, for £300. The title is now nearly extinct.

It has been handed down, that Spicer obtained the grant for the proprietary right in Cape May, of Dr. Johnson, agent of the Society at Perth Amboy, at a time when the influence of the wine bottle had usurped the place of reason, or he could not have obtained it for so inconsiderable a sum as three hundred pounds; and

that the Doctor, sensible he had betrayed the trust reposed in him, left the society at his death a thousand pounds as a salvo.

As history throws no light on the original occupiers of the soil, conjecture only can be consulted on the subject. It would seem probable, in as much as many of the old Swedish names, as recorded in Campanius, from Rudman, are still to be found in Cumberland and Cape May, that some of the veritable Swedes of Tinicum or Christiana might have strayed, or have been driven to our shores. When the Dutch governor, Stuyvesant, ascended the Delaware in 1654, with his seven ships and seven hundred men, and subjected the Swedes to his dominion, it would be easy to imagine, in their mortification and chagrin at a defeat so bloodless and unexpected, that many of them should fly from the arbitrary sway of their rulers, and seek an asylum where they could be free to act for themselves, without restraint or coercion from the stubbornness of mynheer, whose victory, though easily obtained, was permanent, as the provincial power of New Sweden had perished for ever.

Master Evelin's letter in Plantagenet's New Albion,* dated 1648, says: "I thought good to write unto you my knowledge, and first to describe to you the north side of Delaware unto Hudson's River, in Sir Edmund's patent called New Albion, which lieth between New England and Maryland, and that ocean sea. I take it to be about 160 miles. I find some broken land, isles and inlets, and many small isles at Eg Bay; but going to Delaware Bay by Cape May, which is twenty-four miles at most, and is, I understand, very well set out and printed in Captain Powell's map of New England, done as is told me by a draft I gave to Mr. Daniel, the plotmaster, which he Edmund saith you have at home: on that north side (of Cape May) about five miles within is a port or rode for any ships, called the Nook, and within liveth the king of Kechemeches, having, as I suppose, about fifty men. I do account all these Indians to be eight hundred, and are in several factions and war against the Sar-

quehanncoks, and are all extreame fearful of a gun, naked and unarmed against our shot, swords and pikes. I had some bickering with some of them, and they are of so little esteem that I durst with fifteen men sit down or trade in despite of them. I saw there an infinite quantity of bustards, swans, geese and fowl, covering the shores, as within the like multitude of pigeons and store of turkeys, of which I tried one to weigh forty and six pounds. There is much variety and plenty of delicate fresh and sea fish and shell-fish, and whales and grampus, elks, deere that bring three young at a time."

He further says, "Twelve hundred Indians under the Raritan kings, on the south side next to Hudson's River, and those come down to the ocean about Little Eg Bay, and Sandy Barnegate, and about the South Cape two small Kings of forty men a piece called Tirans and Tiascons."

It would seem from the above description given by Master Evelin, that he actually visited this part of the country at that early day, and made the circuit of Cape May.

The name of Egg Bay has been perpetuated with but little variation, and the many small isles that he speaks of, yet stand there in testimony of his having seen them as stated, in propria persona.

Now where it was the king of Kechemeches with his fifty men held forth, it would be difficult to ascertain: it might have been at Town Bank, or Fishing Creek, or further up the cove or "nook," as he was pleased to call it. Master Evelin must certainly have the credit of being the first white man that explored the interior, as far as the seaboard, and his name should be perpetuated as the king of pioneers. . . His account of the great abundance and variety of fowl and fish seems within the range of probability, and the story of the turkey that weighed forty-six pounds, would have less of the "couleur de rose" were it not qualified in the same paragraph, with "deere that bring forth three young at a time." And what a sight it must have been to see the woods and plains teeming

with wild animals, the shores and waters with fowl in every variety, where they had existed unharmed and unmolested through an unknown period of years; and the magnificent forest, the stately and towering cedar swamp, untouched by the axe of the despoiler, all reveling in the beauties of Nature in her pristine state, the realities of which the imagination, only, can convey an impression, or give a foretaste of the charms and novelties of those primeval times.

Gabriel Thomas, in his history of West Jersey in 1698, gives us the following particulars, viz: "Prince Maurice River is where the Swedes used to kill the geese in great numbers for their feathers (only), leaving their carcasses behind them. Cohansey River, by which they send great store of cedar to Philadelphia city. Great Egg Harbor (up which a ship of two or three hundred tons may sail), which runs by the back part of the country into the main sea; I call it back, because the first improvements made by the Christians was Delaware river-side. This place is noted for good store of corn, horses, cows, sheep, hogs; the lands thereabouts being much improved and built upon. Little Egg Harbor Creek, which takes their names from the great abundance of Eggs which the swans, geese, ducks, and other wild fowls of those rivers lay thereabouts. The commodities of Cape May County are oyl and whalebone, of which they make prodigious quantities every year; having mightily advanced that great fishery, taking great numbers of whales yearly. This county, for the general part of it, is extraordinary good and proper for the raising of all sorts of cattell, very plentiful here, as cows, horses, sheep, and hogs, &c. Likewise, it is well stored with fruits which make very good and pleasant liquors, such as neighbouring country before mentioned affords."

Oldmixon, 1708, says: "The tract of land between this (Cape May) and Little Egg Harbor, which divides East and West New Jersey, goes by the name of Cape May County. Here are several stragling houses on this neck of land, the chief of which is Cox's

Hall; but there's yet no Town. Most of the inhabitants are fishermen, there being a whalery at the mouth of the Bay, on this as well as the opposite shore."

Cape May County, by an Act of Assembly on the 12th day of November, 1692, was instituted as follows, viz: "Whereas, this Province hath formerly been divided into three counties for the better regulation thereof; and whereas Cape May (being a place well situated for trade) begins to increase to a considerable number of families; and there being no greater encouragement to the settlement of a place than that there be established therein an order by government, and justice duly administered: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in this present Assembly met and assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from henceforth Cape May shall be, and is hereby appointed a County, the bounds whereof to begin at the utmost flowing of the tide in Prince Maurice River, being about twenty miles from the mouth of said river, and then by a line running easterly to the most northerly point of Great Egg Harbor, and from thence southerly along by the sea to the point of Cape May; thence around Cape May, and up Maurice River to the first point mentioned; and that there be nominated and appointed such and so many justices and other officers, as at present may be necessary for keeping the peace, and trying of small causes under forty shillings. In which circumstance the same county shall remain until it shall appear they are capable of being erected into a County Court; and in case of any action, whether civil or criminal, the same to be heard and determined at the quarterly sessions in Salem County, with liberty for the Justices of the County of Cape May, in conjunction with the Justices of Salem County, in every such action in judgment to sit, and with them to determine the same."

The time and place of holding the county elections were likewise directed, and the number of representatives that each was entitled to: Burlington to have 20, Gloucester 20, Salem 10, and Cape

May 5 members. Cape May continued to have five members until the time of the surrender in 1702, except in the year 1697, when she was reduced to one representative. No record, however, of the names of the members previous to 1702 has come to light.

Act of Oct. 3d, 1693: "Whereas it has been found expedient to erect Cape May into a County, the bounds whereof at the last session of this Assembly have been ascertained; and conceiving it also reasonable the inhabitants thereof shall partake of what privilidges (under their circumstances) they are capable of, with the rest of the counties in this Province, and having (upon enquiry) received satisfaction that there is a sufficient number of inhabitants within the said county to keep and hold a County Court, in smaller matters relating to civil causes: Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in Assembly met and assembled, and by authority thereof, that the inhabitants of the County of Cape May shall and may keep and hold four county courts yearly, viz: on the third Tuesday of December, 3d March, 3d June, and 3d of September; all which courts the Justices commissioned, and to be commissioned in the said county, shall and may hear and try, according to law, all civil actions within the said county under the sum of £20." All above the sum of £20 were still to be tried at Salem.

The same Assembly passed the following, viz:

"Whereas the whaling in Delaware Bay has been in so great a measure invaded by strangers and foreigners, that the greatest part of oyl and bone received and got by that employ, hath been exported out of the Province to the great detriment thereof: Be it enacted, that any one killing a whale or whales in Delaware Bay, or on its shores, to pay the value of $\frac{1}{10}$ of the oyl to the governor of the Province."

In 1697 all restriction was removed from the courts in civil cases, and the same immunities and privileges were granted as were enjoyed by the courts within the several counties of the Province.

In the same year, May 12, 1697, "An Act for a road to and from Cape May" was passed.

"Whereas the inhabitants of Cape May County do represent themselves as under extreme hardship for want of a road from Cape May, through their county to Cohansey, in order to their repair to Burlington to attend the public service; Be it enacted by the Governor, &c., that George Taylor and John Crafford, be commissioners appointed to lay out a road from Cape May the most convenient to lead to Burlington, between this and the 10th day of September next."

It was ordered likewise that the expense be borne by the inhabitants of Cape May until such time as those lands through which the road goes are settled. This road, so important to the convenience and travel of the people of the county, was not finished till 1707. Prior to this the county was completely isolated from the upper districts of the State by the extensive bed of cedar swamps and marshes stretching from the head-waters of Cedar Swamp Creek to the head-waters of Dennis Creek, and no communication could have been held with Cohansey or Burlington except by the waters of the Delaware, or by horse-paths through the swamps that constituted the harrier.

By the Act of the 21st January, 1710,* the county of Cape May was reduced to its present bounds, viz: "Beginning at the mouth of a small creek on the west side of Stipson's Island, called Jecak's Creek; thence up the same as high as the tide floweth; thence along the bounds of Salem County to the southernmost main branch of Great Egg Harbor River; thence down the said river to the sea; thence along the sea-coast to Delaware Bay, and so up the said Bay to the place of beginning."

It seems the inhabitants on the western side of Maurice River, the Cape May boundary, were without any legal control until 1707,† when an act was passed annexing the inhabitants between the river Tweed, now Back Creek (being the lower bounds of Salem County), and the bounds of Cape May County to Salem County.

putting them under its jurisdiction. The act of 1710 extends Salem County, and curtails Cape May County, to Stipson's Island, or West Creek.

The first town meeting for public business was held at the house of Benjamin Godfrey, on the 7th of February, 1692.* "The commissions for Justices and Sheriff were proclaimed, and George Taylor was appointed clerk." The first suit on record is for assault and battery; "Oliver Johnson against John Carman." The second, John Jarvis is accused by George Taylor of helping the Indians to rum. "William Johnson deposeth and saith, that he came into the house of the said Jarvis, and he found Indians drinking rum, and one of the said Indians gave of the said rum to the said Johnson, and he drank of it with them. The said Jarvis refusing to clear himself, was convicted."

As early as 1692,† a ferry was established by law, over Great Egg Harbor River, at the place now called Beesley's Point, a proof there must have been inhabitants upon both sides of the river, and contiguous to it at that period.

The original settlers, or those who were here previous to the year 1700, were principally attracted (as the authors heretofore quoted sufficiently corroborate) by the inducements held out by the whale fishery; and Long Island supplied the principal proportion of those who came prior to that time. The names of those who were known to be whalers,‡ were Christopher Leamyeng and his son Thomas, Casar Hoskins, Samuel Matthews, Jonathan Osborne, Nathaniel Short, Cornelius Skellinks, Henry Stites, Thomas Hand and his sons John and George, John and Caleb Carman, John Shaw, Thomas Miller, William Stillwell, Humphrey Hewes, William Mason, John Richardson, Ebenezer Swain, Henry Young; and no doubt many others.

The jaw-bone of a whale, ten feet long, was recently found a few rods from the shore at Town Bank, by Thomas P. Hughes, the pro-

^{*} Cape May Records. † Learning & Spicer's Collection.

[#] Secretary's office, Trenton & Cape May records.

prietor, partly imbedded in the sand, which has probably lain there since the time of the whalers.

First Court.

At a Court held at Portsmouth (supposed to be Town Bank or Cape May Town) on the 20th March, 1693, which is the first of which we have any record, the following officers were present, viz:—Justices—John Wolredge, Jeremiah Bass,* John Jervis, Joseph Houlden, and Samuel Crowel. Sheriff—Timothy Brandreth. Clerk—George Taylor. Grand Jury—Shamgar Hand, Thomas Hand, William Goulden, Samuel Matthews, John Townsend, William Whitlock, Jacob Dayton, Oliver Johnson, Christopher Leayeman, Arthur Cresse, Ezekiel Eldredge, William Jacocks, John Carman, Jonathan Pine, Caleb Carman, John Reeves, and Jonathan Foreman.

"A rule of Court passed, the grand jury shall have their dinner allowed them at the county charge;" a rule that would seem reasonable at the present day, when grand jurors have to pay their own bills and serve the county gratis.

"Their charge being given them, the grand jury find it necessary that a road be laid out, most convenient for the king and county, and so far as one county goeth, we are willing to clear a road for travelers to pass." "John Townsend and Arthur Cresse appointed Assessors; Timothy Brandreth, Collector; Shamgar Hand, Treasurer; Samuel Matthews and William Johnson, Supervisors of the Road; and John Somers for Egg Harbor. At same Court, John Somers was appointed Constable for Great Egg Harbor." "The Court likewise orders that no person shall sell liquor without a license, and that £40 be raised by tax to defray expenses, with a proviso that produce should be taken at 'money price' in payment." The above appointment by the Court of John Somers for Supervisor

This is supposed to be the same Jeremiah Bass who was agent for the West Jersey Society in 1694 and 5, for Cape May, at which time he resided at Cohansey, and next year at Burlington; was appointed governor of the State in 1698, and departed for England in 1699. [Mulford, 261.] A Jeremiah Bass figured at Salem from 1710 to 1716, as an attorney; and a member of the Legislature from Cape May, from 1717 to 1723: but whether the same, or a relative, is uncertain.

of the roads and Constable for Great Egg Harbor, confirms the opinion advanced by Mickle (page 38) that the County of Gloucester did not originally reach to the ocean, and that the inhabitants of the seaboard, or Great Egg Harbor, were under the jurisdiction of Cape May. The act of 1694, however, made them dependent upon Gloucester, and that of 1710 extended the County of Gloucester to the ocean. A passage from Oldmixon, 1708, heretofore quoted, that Cape May County extended to Little Egg Harbor at that time, is evidently incorrect.

The following named persons purchased of the Agents of Dr. Cox and the West Jersey Society, mostly previous to 1696, some few as early as 1689, the number of acres attached to their respective names, viz:—*

112.	•
Acres. Christopher Leamyeng,204	William Mason 150
William Jacoks,340	Henry Stites, 200
Abigail Pine,200	Cornelius Skellinks, 134
Humphrey Hughes,206	John Richardson, 124
Samuel Matthews,175	Arthur Cresse, 350
Jonathan Osborne,110	Peter Causon, 400
Nathaniel Short,200	John Causon, 300
Cæsar Hoskins,250	John Townsend, 640
Shamgar Hand,700	Wm. Golden & Rem Garretson, 1016
Joseph Weldon, (Whilldin),150	William Johnson, 436
Joseph Houlding,200	John Page, 125
Dorothy Hewit,340	John Parsons, 315
Thomas Hand,400	William Smith, 130
John Taylor,	George Taylor, 175
John Curwith, 55	Dennis Lynch, 300
John Shaw, 2 surveys,315	William Whitlock, 500
Timothy Brandreth,110	Jacob Spicer, 2 surveys,1000
John Crawford,380	Benjamin Godfrey, 210
Ezekiel Eldridge, 90	Randal Hewit, 140
Oliver Russel,170	Elizabeth Carman, 300
Samuel Crowell,226	John Reeves, 100
John Carman,250	Benjamin Hand, 373
Thomas Gandy, 50	James Stanfield, 100
Caleb Carman,	
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^{*} Trenton & Cape May Records.

Some few of the above locations were made on the sea-shore; but the larger proportion of them in the lower part of the county. In addition to those who located land previous to 1700, on the foregoing page, the following-named persons had resided, and were then residing in the county, many of whom possessed land by secondary purchase.**

> Thomas Leamyeng Thomas Hand Alexander Humphries Joseph Ludlam, Sen. John Briggs Anthony Ludlam Abraham Hand Jonathan Pine Shamgar Hand, Jr. John Wolredge Benjamin Hand, Jr. John Jervis Daniel Johnson Jonathan Foreman Oliver Johnson Thomas Goodwin William Harwood Jonathan High Edward Howell Jacob Dayton Richard Haron George Crawford Jonathan Crossle Joseph Badcock William Lake William Dean Richard Jones Theirs Raynor Thomas Matthews John Howell William Stillwell Thomas Stanford John Cresse George Noble Morris Raynor John Wolly Joshua Howell Peter Cartwright Arthur Cresse, Jr. Abraham Smith John Hubard William Blackburry Thomas Miller Daniel Carman Joseph Knight Robert Crosby John Stillwell John Fish Lubbart Gilberson John Else Edward Marshall John Steele

^{*} State and County Records.

James Cresse
William Simpkins
Thomas Goodwin
Thomas Clifton
Joshua Carman
William Duboldy
James Marshall
John Baily
William Richardson

Thomas Foster
Thomas Hewit
George Taylor, Jr.
John Dennis
Isaac Hand

Daniel Hand Jeremiah Hand Joseph Hand Thomas Bancroft
Edward Summis
Henry Gray
Abraham Weston
Thomas Going
Jonathan Edmunds
Nicholas Martineau
John Garlick

Samuel Matthews, Jr.

William Shaw Robert French Jeremiah Miller Zebulon Sharp William Sharwood John Story

Richard Townsend Robert Townsend

The following is from the manuscript of Thomas Leaming, one of the early pioneers, who died in 1723, aged 49 years.

"In July, 1674, I was born in Southampton on Long Island. When I was eighteen years of age (1692) I came to Cape May, and that winter had a sore fit of the fever and flux. The next summer I went to Philadelphia with my father Christopher, who was lame with a withered hand, which held him till his death. The winter following, I went a whaling, and we got eight whales; and five of them we drove to the Hoarkills, and we went there to cut them up, and staid a month. The 1st day of May we came home to Cape May, and my father was very sick, and the third day, 1695, departed this life at the house of Shamgar Hand. Then I went to Long Island, staid that summer, and in the winter I went a whaling again, and got an old cow and a calf. In 1696, I went to whaling again, and made a great voyage; and in 1697, I worked for John Reeves all summer, and in the winter, went to whaling again. In

1698, worked for John Crawford and on my own land; and that winter had a sore fit of sickness at Henry Stites'; and in the year 1700, I lived at my own plantation and worked for Peter Corson. I was married in 1701; and 1703 I went to Cohansie, and fetched brother Aaron. In 1706, I built my house. Samuel Matthews took a horse from me worth £7, because I could not train. In 1707, we made the county road."

According to the same author, in the winter of 1713-14, the county came near being depopulated "by a grievous sickness," which carried off between forty and fifty of the inhabitants. "The disease came on with pain in the side, breast, and sometimes in the back, navel, tooth, eye, hand, feet, legs, or ear." Amongst the victims were Nicholas Stillwell, Arthur Cresses, Sen. and Jr., Reuben Swain, Richard Smith, Samuel Garretson, Cornelius Hand, Joseph Hewit, William Shaw,* John Reeves, Richard Fortesque, John Stillwell, James Garretson, Return Hand, John Foreman, Jedediah Hughes, John Matthews, Daniel Wells, and over twenty others." It can scarcely be conjectured from the above recital of symptoms, what the true character of the disease could have been. It was a severe retribution in a population of some two or three hundred; and Providence alone, who saw proper to afflict, can solve the mystery.

From second Aaron Leaming's manuscript:-

"My father's father, Christopher Leaming, was an Englishman, and came to America in 1670, and landed near or at Boston; thence to East Hampton. There he lived till about the year 1691, and then leaving his family at Long Island, he came himself to Cape May, which, at that time, was a new county, and beginning to settle very fast, and seemed to promise good advantages to the adventurers. Here he went to whaling in the proper season, and at other times worked at the cooper's trade, which was his occupation, and good at the time by reason of the great number of whales caught in

^{*} Aaron Learning first, afterward married his widow.

those days, made the demand and pay for casks certain. He died of a pleurisie in 1696. His remains were interred at the place called Cape May Town, was situated next above now New England Town Creek, and contained about thirteen houses; but, on the failure of the whale fishery in Delaware Bay, it dwindled into common farms, and the grave-yard is on the plantation now owned by Ebenezer Newton. At the first settlement of the county, the chief whaling was in Delaware Bay, and that occasioned the town to be built there; but there has not been one house in that town since my remembrance. In 1734 I saw the graves; Samuel Eldredge showed them to me. They were then about fifty rods from the Bay, and the sand was blown to them. The town was between them and the water. There were then some signs of the ruin of the houses. I never saw any East India tea till 1735. It was the Presbyterian parsons, the followers of Whitefield, that brought it into use at Cape May, about the year 1744-5-6; and now it impoverisheth the country."

"Aaron Leaming (the first), of the County of Cape May, departed this life at Philadelphia, of a pleurisie, on the 20th June, 1746, about five o'clock in the afternoon. He was born at Sag, near Easthampton, on Long Island, Oct. 12th, 1687, being the son of Christopher Leamyeng (as he spelt his name), an Englishman, and Hester his wife, whose maiden name was Burnet, and was born in New England. Christopher Leamyeng owned a lot at Easthampton, but he came to Cape May, being a cooper, and stayed several years and worked at his trade; and about 1695-6 he died at Cape May, and his land fell to Thomas Leamyeng, his eldest son; the rest was left poor."

Aaron Leaming was bound to Collins, a shoemaker in Connecticut, but did not serve his time out, and came into the Jerseys at about sixteen years of age, very poor, helpless, and friendless: embraced the Quaker religion, lived a time at Salem, came to Cape May while yet a boy (in 1703), settled at Goshen, raised cattle, bought a

shallop and went by water, gathered a considerable estate, but more knowledge than money. The 12th day of October, 1714, married Lydia Shaw, widow of William Shaw,* and daughter of John Parsons. By her he had four children, Aaron, Jeremiah, Matthias, and Elizabeth. He was first a justice of the peace at Cape May. In 1723 he was made Clerk of Cape May; and in October, 1727, he was chosen assemblyman, and served in that post till July, 1744. He was universally confessed to have had a superior knowledge; he amassed large possessions, and did more for his children than any Cape May man has ever done. He left a clear estate, and was buried in the church-yard in Philadelphia. At Salem and Alloway's Creek he became acquainted with Sarah Hall, an aged Quaker lady, mother of Clement Hall. She herself was an eminent lawyer for those times, and had a large collection of books, and very rich, and took delight in my father on account of his sprightly wit and genius, and his uncommon fondness for the law, which he read in her library, though a boy, and very small of his age (for he was a little man), and could not write; for the Presbyterians of New England had taken no other care of his education than to send him to meeting."

Aaron Leaming, the author of the foregoing manuscript relating to his father and grandfather, was one of the most prominent and influential men the county ever produced. The family lost nothing in caste through him. He was a heavy land operator, and a member of the Legislature for thirty years. From the manuscript he left behind him, which is quite voluminous, it would appear he was a man of great industry and much natural good sense, well educated for the times, and withal a little tinged with aristocracy; a trait of character not exceptionable under the royal prerogative. No man ever received greater honors from the county, and none, perhaps, better deserved them. The Legislature selected him, and Jacob Spicer second of our county, to compile the laws of the State,

known as "Learning and Spicer's Collection," a trust they executed to the satisfaction of the State and the people. He was born in 1716, and died in 1780.

Another of the early settlers was William Golden. He emigrated to Cape May in or about 1691. He was an Irishman, and espoused the cause of James against William and Mary, and fought as an officer in the battle of the Boyne, in 1690. As he soon after came to America, he was most likely one of those stubborn Jacobite Catholics that William, in his clemency, gave permission to flee the country, or abide the just indignation of the Protestant authority for the part he took in said battle to promote its downfall. with Rem Garretson, located 1,016 acres of land at Egg Harbor, now Beesley's Point. He was one of the justices of the Court, and occupied other prominent stations. He died about 1715, leaving but few descendants; one of whom, his great grandson, Rem G. Golding, now past eighty years old, lives near the first and original location, and has in his possession at the present time the sword with which his ancestor fought, and the epaulette which he wore at the battle of the Boyne.

Benedict, in his history of the Baptists, says of Nathaniel Jenkins, who was a Baptist minister, and a member of the Legislature from 1723 to 1733, he "became the pastor of the church in Cape May in 1712. Mr. Jenkins was a Welchman, born in Cardiganshire in 1678, arrived in America in 1710, and two years after settled at Cape May. He was a man of good parts, and tolerable education, and quitted himself with honor in the Loan office whereof he was trustee, and also in the Assembly, particularly in 1721 (3?), when a bill was brought in to punish such as denied the doctrine of the Trinity, the Divinity of Christ, the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, &c. In opposition to which Mr. Jenkins stood up, and with the warmth and accent of a Welchman said: 'I believe the doctrines in question as much as the promoter of that ill-designed bill, but will never consent to oppose the opposers with law, or with

any weapon save that of argument.' Accordingly the bill was suppressed, to the great mortification of those who wanted to raise in New Jersey the spirit which so raged in New England."

Col. Jacob Spicer was in the county as early as 1691. He was a member of the Legislature fourteen years, from 1709 to 1723, and Surrogate from 1723 to 1741; and for many years a justice of the Court. It is believed he came over with William Penn, and settled in the upper part of Gloucester a while previous to coming here.* Born in 1668; died, 1741.

His son, Jacob Spicer, deserves a more particular notice. He was born in 1716. We have nothing to guide us in relation to his early days, or until he became a member of the Legislature in 1744, which station he occupied for a period of twenty-one years; the first in connection with Henry Young, Esq., and afterwards, until his demise, with Aaron Leaming (second) Esq.; being almost a moiety of the time he lived. He bore a prominent part in the proceedings and business of the House, as the journals of those days fully prove, and received the appointment in connection with Aaron Leaming second to revise the laws of the State; and "Leaming and Spicer's Collection," the result of their labor, is well known at this day as a faithful exposition of the statutes.† He was a man of exemplary habits, strong and vigorous imagination, and strictly faithful in his business relations with his fellow-men, being punctilious to the uttermost farthing, as his diary and accounts fully attest. He carried system into all the ramifications of business; nothing too small to escape the scrutiny of his active mind, nothing so large that it did not intuitively embrace. He married Judith Hughes, daughter of Humphrey Hughes, Esq., who died in 1747; and in 1751 he married Deborah Leaming, widow of Christopher

J. Townsend's manuscript.

[†] I am more particular to reiterate the fact of his being concerned with Aaron Leaming in the work of compiling the laws, as Mickle, in his Reminiscences, claims the credit of it for Jacob Spicer, of Mullica Hill; which is no doubt an error, as I have the most indubitable evidence to the contrary.

Learning. The written marriage agreement which he entered into with the said Deborah Leaming, before consummating matrimony, is indicative of much sound sense and discriminating judgment. 1756 he purchased the interest of the "West Jersey Society" in the County of Cape May, constituting what has since been known as the Vacant Right. In 1762 he made his will of thirty-nine pages, the most lengthy and elaborate testamentary document on record in this or perhaps any other State. He left four children, Sarah, Sylvia, Judith, and Jacob; and it would be curious and interesting to trace their descendants down to the present day, whose goodly numbers, on the side of the daughter, are still mostly in the home and county of their ancestor; yet, upon the male side, the name of Spicer has nearly run out, and will soon, in this county, be among the things that were. He died in 1765, aged about fortynine years, and was buried by the side of his father, in his family ground at Cold Spring; a spot now overgrown with large forest timber.

Henry Stites, ancestor of all in the county of that name, came to the county about or in the year 1691. He located two hundred acres of land, including the place now belonging to the heirs of Eli Townsend. He made his mark, yet he afterwards acquired the art of writing, and was justice of the court for a long series of years, being noted such in 1746. He left a son Richard, who resided at Cape Island, and he a son John, from whom the Lower Township Stites' have descended. His son Isaiah, who died in 1767, and from whom the Stites' of the Upper, and part of the Middle Township have descended, lived on the places now occupied by his grandsons John and Townsend Stites, at Beesley's Point. The Middle Township Stites', below the Court House, are descendants of Benjamin Stites, who was probably a brother of Henry, and was in the county in 1705.

Nicholas Stillwell, who was a member of the Legislature from 1769 to 1771, was a son of John Stillwell, of Town Bank. He

purchased, in 1748, of Joseph Golden, the plantation at Beesley's Point, now owned by Capt. John S. Chattin. After his death, in 1772, the place fell to his son, Capt. Nicholas Stillwell, who afterwards sold to Thomas Borden, who sold, in 1803, to Thomas Beesley, who resided on the premises until 1816, and on an adjoining property until his death in 1849.

Capt. Nicholas Stillwell, son of the above, was an efficient officer of the Revolution. Capt. Moses Griffing, who married Sarah, a sister of Capt. Stillwell, was taken prisoner by the British towards the close of the war, and placed in the famous, or rather infamous New Jersey prison ship; that undying stigma upon the name and fame of Britain, where the dying, the dead, the famished and famishing, were promiscuously huddled together. A truthful, yet romantic story could be told of his young wife, who, upon hearing of his unfortunate imprisonment, true to her plighted vows, and actuated by a heroism which woman's love only can inspire, resolved to visit him and solicit his release, though one hundred miles distant through woods and wilds, marauders and tories, or die in the attempt. She made the camp of Washington in her route, who put under her charge a British officer of equal rank with her husband. reached New York in safety, and after a long and painful suspense Sir Henry Clinton yielded to her importunities; her husband was exchanged, and both made happy.*

John Willets was the son of Hope Willets, and was born here in 1688, married Martha Corson in 1716, left three sons, Isaac, James, and Jacob. He was Judge of the Court many years, a member of the Legislature in 1743, and was living in 1763.

Among those who deserve a passing notice as one of Cape May's favorite sons, was Nicholas Willets, a grandson of John. In 1802 he took up the profession of surveying, which he practiced with great success, and obtained the confidence and respect of all who knew him, by the sprightly and urbane deportment which he ever

manifested, together with stern integrity and strict impartiality in his various business relations with his fellow man. It will be seen he was a member of the Legislature nine years, and closed a life of general usefulness in the year 1825, aged about fifty-six years.

These biographical sketches of the pioneers of Cape May, might be extended much further, if the space allotted to the purpose would permit. I must therefore close with the following notices:—

Joseph Ludlam was here in 1692, and made purchases of land on the sea-side, at Ludlam's Run, upon which he afterwards resided; and likewise purchased, in 1720, of Jacob Spicer, a large tract in Dennis's Neck. He left four sons: Anthony (who settled upon the South Dennis property, which is yet owned in part by his descendants), Joseph, Isaac, and Samuel, from whom all the Ludlams of the county have descended. He died in 1761, aged eighty-six years.*

John and Peter Corson came about the same time, 1692. The second generation was Peter, Jr., John, Jr., Christian, and Jacob. Peter represented the county in the Assembly in 1707. This family, all of whom are descendants of Peter and John, numbered in the county, at the census of 1850, 295 souls; 253 of whom belong to the Upper Township, 6 to Dennis, 26 to the Middle, and 10 to the Lower Township.

The Hand family was well represented amongst the early settlers, there being eleven persons of that name previous to 1700.

John Townsend, the ancestor of all of that name now in the county, and of many in Philadelphia and elsewhere, came from Long Island by way of Egg Harbor, in or previous to 1691. He traveled down the sea-shore until he found a spot to suit him, where he cleared land, built a cabin and a grist-mill, and in 1696 located six hundred and fifty acres of land. Capt. Thompson Vangilder now owns the mill site, and a part of the adjacent property, formerly John Townsend's, upon which he resides. He left three sons, Richard, Robert, and Sylvanus. He was sheriff of the county five

years, and departed this life in 1722. It will be seen by the county records and list of officers, that his descendants have acted a prominent part in the county, through the several generations that have passed away since 1691.

Henry Young came about the year 1713. He served the county as Judge of the Court for many years, and was a member of the Legislature ten years. Judge Young was an extensive landholder, Deputy Surveyor, and was Judge of the Court from 1722 till his death in 1767. He was Surrogate from 1743 to 1768. He was a surveyor and scrivener; and no one, of those times, was more highly respected, or acted a more prominent and useful part. All of the name now in the county have descended from him.

Jonathan Swain and Richard Swain, of Long Island, were here in 1706, and soon after their father, Ebenezer Swain, came to Cape May, and followed whaling; Jonathan being a cooper for them. Their immediate descendants were Zebulon, 1721; Elemuel, 1724; Reuben, who died in the epidemic of 1713; and Silas, 1733. There was a Capt. Silas Swain in 1778, from whom has descended Joshua Swain, recently deceased, who held many important trusts in the county, as sheriff, member of the Legislature nine years, and a member of the convention to draft the new Constitution in 1844.

Cape May has never had the honor of but one representative in Congress, and he was the Hon. Thomas H. Hughes, from 1829 to 1833. He was likewise a member of the Legislature nine years.

In the Upper Township, William Goldens, Sen. and Jr., Rem Garretson, John and Peter Corson, John Willets, John Hubbard, and soon after Henry Young, were the pioneers, and at a later day John Mackey at Tuckahoe, and Abraham and John Vangilder at Petersburgh. In Dennis, being a part of the old Upper precinct, we find on the seaboard Joseph Ludlam, John Townsend, Robert Richards and Sylvanus Townsend, sons of John, Benjamin Godfrey, and John Reeves, who were among the earliest settlers.

Dennisville was settled upon the south side of the creek, in or about 1726, by Anthony Ludlam, and some few years afterwards the north side by his brother Joseph, both being sons of Joseph Ludlam, of Ludlam's Run, sea-side. David Johnson was here in 1765, and owned at the time of his death, in 1805, a large scope of land on the north side of Dennis Creek. James Stephenson purchased of Jacob Spicer, in the year 1748, the property now owned and occupied by his grandson Enoch, now aged over eighty-five years. East and West Creek were settled by Joseph Savage and John Goff, the last of whom was here as early as 1710. He had a son John, and his numerous descendants now occupy that portion of the county.

In the Middle Township, we may name on the seaboard, in the order in which they resided, Thomas Leaming, John Reeves, Henry Stites, Shamgar Hand, Samuel Matthews, and John Parsons. William and Benjamin Johnson, Yelverson Crowell, and Aaron Leaming, first, were first at Goshen, the latter with the ostensible object of raising stock.

Cape May Court House has been the county seat since 1745. Daniel Hand presented the county with an acre of land, as a site for the county buildings erected at that time. But little improvement was made until within the present century, the last twenty-five years having concentrated a sufficiency of inhabitants to build up a village of its present extent and proportions, embellished by the county, with a new and commodious Court House, and by the people, with two beautiful new churches, one for the Baptist and another for the Methodist persuasion.

In the Lower Township, the greater proportion of those who located land (see list) were congregated, some at New England, some at Town Bank, and others at Cold Spring, and on the sea-shore above and below.

Cape Island was owned previous to 1700 by Thomas Hand, (who bought of William Jacocks,) Randal Hewit, and Humphrey Hughes.

Few settlements, and but little alteration occurred with Cape Island until recently.

Thomas H. Hughes, Jonas Miller, R. S. Ludlam, and the Messrs. McMakin, were among the first to venture the experiment of erecting large and commodious boarding-houses, who were followed by a host of others, and an impetus was given to the enterprise, that has built up a city where a few years ago corn grew and verdure flourished.

As a watering-place it stands among the most favored on the coast, and the shore and bathing grounds are perhaps unrivaled.

In 1689, as noted in deeds to William Jacocks and Humphrey Hughes, the distance from the sea across the island to the creek was 265 perches. As the deed calls for a line of marked trees, it must have been on the upland, at which place the distance has been greatly reduced by the inroads of the sea since that time.

In 1756 Jacob Spicer advertised to barter goods for all kinds of produce and commodities, and among the rest particularly designated wampum. He offered a reward of £5 to the person that should manufacture the most wampum; and advertised, "I design to give all due encouragement to the people's industry, not only by accepting cattle, sheep, and staple commodities in a course of barter, but also a large quantity of mittens will be taken, and indeed a clam shell formed in wampum, a yarn-thrum, a goose-quill, a horse hair, a hog's bristle, or a grain of mustard seed, if tendered, shall not escape my reward, being greatly desirous to encourage industry, as it is one of the most principal expedients under the favor of Heaven, that can revive our drooping circumstances at this time of uncommon, but great and general burden."

In another place he advertises for a thousand pairs of woolen stockings, to supply the army then in war with the French. He succeeded in procuring a quantity of the wampum, and before sending it off to Albany and a market, weighed a shot-bag full of silver coin and the same shot-bag full of wampum, and found the latter

most valuable by ten per cent. The black wampum was most esteemed by the Indians, the white being of little value.

Thompson, in his history of Long Island, page 60, says: "The immense quantity which was manufactured here may account for the fact, that in the most extensive shell banks left by the Indians, it is rare to find a whole shell; having all been broken in the process of making the wampum." This curious fact applies especially to Cape May, where large deposits of shells are to be seen, mostly contiguous to the bays and sounds; yet it is rare to see a piece larger than a shilling, and those mostly the white part of the shell, the black having been selected for wampum.

Of the aborigines of Cape May little seems to be known. It has been argued they were very inconsiderable at the advent of the Europeans.* Plantagenet in 1648,† speaks of a tribe of Indians near Cape May, called Kechemeches, who mustered about fifty men. The same author estimates the whole number in West Jersey at eight hundred; and Oldmixon, in 1708, computes that "they had been reduced to one quarter of that number." It cannot be denied by any one who will view the seaboard of our county, that they were very numerous at one time here, which is evidenced by town plats, extensive and numberless shell banks, arrow heads, stone hatchets, burying grounds, and other remains existing with us. One of those burying grounds is on the farm formerly Joshua Garretson's, near Becsley's Point, which was first discovered by the plowman. The bones (1826) were much decomposed, and some of the tibia or leg bones bore unmistakable evidences of syphilis, one of the fruits presented them by their Christian civilizers. A skull was exhumed which must have belonged to one of great age, as the sutures were entirely obliterated, and the tables firmly cemented together. From the superciliary ridges, which were well developed, the frontal bone receded almost on a direct line to the place of the occipital and parietal sutures, leaving no forehead, and had the appearance of having been done by artificial means, as practiced at present on the Columbia among the Flat Heads. A jaw-bone of huge dimensions was likewise found, which was coveted by the observer; but the superstitions of the owner of the soil believing it was sacrilegious, and that he would be visited by the just indignation of Heaven if he suffered any of the teeth to be removed, prevailed on us to return it again to its mother earth.

In 1630, when sixteen miles square was purchased of nine Indian chiefs, it would infer their numbers must have been considerable, or so numerous a list of chiefs could not have been found on a spot so limited. Yet, in 1692, we find them reduced to fractional parts, and besotted with rum.*

A tradition is related by some of the oldest inhabitants, that in the early part of the eighteenth century, the remnant of Indians remaining in the county, feeling themselves aggrieved in various ways by the presence of the whites, held a council in the evening in the woods back of Gravelly Run, at which they decided to emigrate; which determination they carried into effect the same night. Whither they went no one knew, nor were they heard from afterwards. In less than fifty years from the first settlement of the county, the aborigines had bid a final adieu to their ocean haunts and fishing grounds.

Less than two centuries ago Cape May, as well as most other parts of our State, was a wilderness; her fields and lawns were dense and forbidding forests; the stately Indian roved over her domain in his native dignity and grandeur, lord of the soil, and master of himself and actions, with few wants and numberless facilities for supplying them. Civilization, his bane and dire enemy, smote him in a vital part; he dwindled before it as the reed before the flame; and was soon destroyed by its influences, or compelled to emigrate to other regions to prolong for a while the doom affixed to his name and nation.

^{*} Court Records and Proud's Pennsylvania.

The following (synopsis of an) Indian deed, and believed to be the only one that has been handed down, was found among the papers of Jacob Spicer, and is now in the possession of Charles Ludlam, Esq., of Dennisville.

It was given January 1st, 1687, by Panktoe to John Dennis, for a tract of land near Cape Island, viz.: "Beginning from the creek and so running up into the woodland, along by Carman's line to a white oak tree, at the head of the swamp, and running with marked trees to a white oak by a pond joining to Jonathan Pine's bounds. All the land and marsh lying and between the bounds above mentioned and Cape Island."

The witnesses were Abiah Edwards and John Carman. Panktoe's mark bore a striking resemblance to a Chinese character.

In 1758, the commissioners appointed by the legislature, of whom Jacob Spicer of our county was one, for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title in the State, by special treaty, met at Crosswicks, and afterwards at Easton, and among the lists of land claimed by the Indians were the following tracts in Cape May and Egg Harbor. "One claimed by Isaac Still, from the mouth of the Great Egg Harbor River to the head branches thereof, on the east side, so to the road that leads to Great Egg Harbor; so along the road to the seaside, except Tuckahoe, and the Somers, Steelman, and Scull places."

"Jacob Mullis claims the pine lands on Edge Pillock Branch and Goshen Neck Branch, where Benjamin Springer and George Marpole's mill stands, and all the land between the head branches of those creeks, to where the waters join or meet."

"Abraham Logues claims the cedar swamp on the east side of Tuckahoe Branch, which John Champion and Peter Campbell have or had in possession."

"Also, Stuypson's island, near Delaware River."*

^{*} Smith's New Jersey.

- "At a court of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden at the house of Robert Townsend, on the 2d day of April, 1723:
- "Justices Present.—Jacob Spicer, (first), Humphrey Hughes, Robert Townsend, John Hand, Henry Young, William Smith.
- "The county divided into precincts, excepting the Cedar Swamp; the Lower precinct, being from John Taylor's branch to the middle main branch of Fishing Creek, and so down ye said branch and creek to the mouth thereof."
- "Middle precinct, to be from the aforesaid John Taylor's branch to Thomas Leaming's, and from thence to a creek called Dennis Creek, and so down the said creek to the bay shore, along the bay to Fishing Creek."
- "The Upper precinct, to be the residue of the said county, excepting the Cedar Swamp,* which is to be at the general charge of the county."

In the year 1826, Dennis township was set off from the Upper township by a line from Ludlam's Run to the county line, near Ludlam's Bridge.

Previous to the year 1745, the courts were held for the most part in private dwellings. At this date, however, a new house had been constructed upon the lot still occupied for the purpose, and the first Court held in it; "On the third Tuesday of May, 1745, the following officers and jurors were present:

- "Justices Present.—Henry Young, Henry Stites, Ebenezer Swain, Nathaniel Foster—Jacob Hughes, Sheriff; Elijah Hughes, Clerk.
- "Grand Jurors.—John Leonard, John Scull, Noah Garrison, Peter Corson, Joseph Corson, George Hollingshead, Clement Daniels, Benjamin Johnson, Jeremiah Hand, Thomas Buck, Joseph Badcock, Isaiah Stites, Joseph Edwards, James Godfrey, Thomas
- * Meaning the Long Bridge road over the Cedar Swamp, so essential to the people at that time as the only road off the Cape, and was always a county road until 1790, when the road over Dennis Creek, which is likewise a county road, was made where it now exists.

The toll-bridge over Cedar Swamp Creek, at Petersburgh, was built in 1762, which opened a more direct communication with the upper part of the county.

Smith, Isaac Townsend, Ananias Osborne, Robert Cresse, and Thomas Hewitt."

From Thomas Chalkley's journal, a traveling Friend from England, dated 2nd month, 1726, it appeared to have been a wilderness between Cohansey and Cape May.

"From Cohansey I went through the wilderness over Maurice River, accompanied by James Daniel, through a miry, boggy way, in which we saw no house for about forty miles, except at the ferry; and that night we got to Richard Townsend's, at Cape May, where we were kindly received. Next day we had a meeting at Rebecca Garretson's, and the day after a pretty large one at Richard Townsend's, and then went down to the Cape, and had a meeting at John Page's; and next day another at Aaron Leaming's; and several expressed their satisfaction with those meetings. I lodged two nights at Jacob Spicer's, my wife's brother. From Cape May, we traveled along the sea-coast to Egg Harbor. We swam our horses over Egg Harbor River, and went over ourselves in canoes; and afterward had a meeting at Richard Sumers, which was a large one as could be expected, considering the people live at such distance from each other."

Jacob Spicer, in his Diary, gives us the following estimate of the resources and consumption of the county, in the year 1758.

"And as my family consists of twelve in number, including my-self, it amounts to each individual £7 3s. 81d. annual consumption of foreign produce and manufacture. But perhaps the populace in general may not live at a proportionate expense with my family, I'll only suppose their foreign consumption may stand at £4 to an individual, as the county consisted of 1100 souls in the year 1746, since which time it has increased; then the consumption of this county of foreign manufacture and produce, will stand at £4400 annually, near one half of which will be linens.

"The Stock article of the county is about	£1200			
There is at least ten boats belonging to the county which carry oysters;				
and admit they make three trips fall and three trips spring, each, and				
carry 100 bushels each trip, that makes 6000 bushels at what they				
neat 2s. per bushel,	600			
There is 14 pilots, which at £30 per annum,	420			
Mitten article for the present year,	500			
Cedar posts,	300			
White Cedar lumbar,	500			
Add for boards,	200			
Pork and gammons,	200			
Deer skins and venison hams,	120			
Furs and feathers,	100			
Hides and tallow,	120			
Flax seed, neats' tongues, bees' wax, and myrtle,	80			
Tar,	60			
Coal.	30			
	64400			
	£4430			
Annual consumption of county,£4400				
Add public taxes,				
For a Presbyterian minister,				
For a Baptist minister, 40				
Education of youth,				
Doctor for man and heast,				
4850				

In arear £420, to be paid by some uncertain fund, or left as a debt."

It appears by the above statement, the mitten article of trade in 1758 amounted to the sum of £500, which was quite a reward to the female industry of the county. The manner in which the mitten trade was first established, is related in a letter from Dr. Franklin to Benjamin Vaughan, dated Passy, July 26th, 1748, "on the benefits and evils of luxury."

£420

"The skipper of the shallop employed between Cape May and Philadelphia, had done us some service, for which he refused to be paid. My wife, understanding he had a daughter, sent her a present of a new-fashioned cap. Three years afterward, this skipper being at my house with an old farmer of Cape May, his passenger, he mentioned the cap and how much his daughter had been pleased with it; but, said he, 'it proved a dear cap to our congregation.' How so? 'When my daughter appeared with it at meeting, it was so much admired, that all the girls resolved to get such caps from Philadelphia; and my wife and I computed that the whole would not have cost less than one hundred pounds.' 'True,' said the farmer, 'but you do not tell all the story. I think the cap was nevertheless an advantage to us; for it was the first thing that put our girls upon knitting worsted mittens for sale at Philadelphia, that they might have wherewithal to buy caps and ribbons there; and you know that that industry has continued, and is likely to continue and increase to a much greater value, and answer better purposes.' Upon the whole, I was more reconciled to this little piece of luxury, since not only the girls were made happier by having fine caps, but Philadelphians by the supply of warm mittens."*

"March 13th, 1761.—The election of Representatives began; and on the 14th, it was ended, when the poll was:—

"Jacob Spicer, 72; Aaron Leaming, 112; Joseph Corson, 41. Whole amount of votes polled, 225. Spicer and Leaming elected."

In the year 1752, an association of a large number of persons was formed for the purpose of purchasing of the West Jersey Society their interest in the county, having particular regard to the Natural Privileges. These privileges, consisting of fishing and fowling and all the articles of luxury and use obtained from the bays and sounds, were held in high estimation; and it was difficult to name a valuation upon a right so endeared to the people as this. This association being slow and cautious in its movements was no doubt astounded, in the year 1756, to find that Jacob Spicer, upon his own responsibility, had superceded them, and had purchased

Franklin's Works, 2nd Vol., page 577.

the right of the Society, through their acknowledged agent, Dr. Johnson, of Perth Amboy, not only in the Natural Privileges, but in the unlocated land in the whole county. Spicer, although he did not attempt or desire to prevent the people from using and occupying these privileges as they had heretofore done, received for his share in the transaction a large amount of obloquy and hostile feeling, which required all the energy and moral courage he possessed to encounter. He was publicly arraigned by the people; the following account being from his own pen.

"Went to hear myself arraigned by Mr. Aaron Leaming and others before the Public, at the Presbyterian Meeting-house, for buying the Society's Estate at Cape May, and at same time desired to know whether I would sell or not. I said not. He then threatened me with a suit in chancery to compel me to abide by the first association, though the people had declined it, and many of the original subscribers had dashed out their names. I proposed to abide the suit, and told him he might commence it. If I should see a bargain to my advantage, then I told the people I should be inclined to sell them the natural privileges, if I should advance myself equally otherwise; but upon no other footing whatever, of which I would be the judge."*

The following is Aaron Leaming's version of the affair.

"March 26th, 1761.—About forty people met at the Presbyterian Meeting-house to ask Mr. Spicer if he purchased the Society's reversions at Cape May for himself or for the people. He answers he bought it for himself; and upon asking him whether he will release to the people, he refuses, and openly sets up his claim to the oysters, to Basses' titles, and other deficient titles, and to a resurvey, whereupon the people broke up in great confusion, as they have been for some considerable time past."†

Jacob Spicer, at his death in 1765, left these privileges which seemed to be so exciting to the people, to his son Jacob, who, about

the year 1795, conveyed by deed to a company or association of persons, his entire right to the natural privileges, which were used and viewed as a bona fide estate, and the Legislature passed acts of incorporation, giving them plenary powers to defend themselves from foreign and domestic aggression, thus virtually acknowledging the validity of their title. Previous to the year 1840, a suit was instituted in East Jersey, the result of which was favorable to the proprietors; but on an appeal to the United States' Supreme Court from the Circuit below, the decision was reversed, confirming the right of the State to all the immunities and privileges of the water thereof, barring out the proprietary claims altogether, and establishing the principle that the State possessed the right as the guardian and for the use of the whole people, in opposition to the claims of individuals or associations, however instituted or empowered.

In June following he offered them his whole landed estate and the natural privileges in the county, excepting his farm in Cold Spring Neck, and a right for his family in the privileges, for £7000, which offer was declined.*

He further states: "Mr. James Godfrey, in behalf of the Upper Precinct, applied to me to purchase the natural privileges in that precinct. I told him I should be glad to gratify that precinct, and please myself also; and could I see a prospect of making a good foreign purchase, and thereby exchange a storm for a calm to equal advantage to my posterity, I should think it advisable; and in that case, if I sold, I should by all means give the public a preference, but at present did not incline to sell. I remarked to him this was a delicate affair, that I did not know well how to conduct myself, for I was willing to please the people, and at the same time to do my posterity justice, and steer clear of reflection. Recollecting that old Mr. George Taylor, to the best of my memory, obtained a grant for the Five-Mile Beach and the Two-Mile Beach, and, if I mistake not, the cedar-swamps and pines for his own use,

and his son John Taylor reconveyed it for about £9, to buy his wife Margery a calico gown, for which he was derided for his simplicity."

In the contest of our forefathers for independence, nothing praiseworthy can be said of the other counties of the State, that would not apply to Cape May. She was ever ready to meet the demands made upon her by the Legislature and the necessities of the times whether that demand was for money or men. Being exposed, in having a lengthened water frontier, to the attacks and incursions of the enemy, it was necessary to keep in readiness a flotilla of boats and privateers, which were owned, manned, and armed by the people, and were successful in defending the coast against the British as well as refugees. Many prizes and prisoners were taken, which stand announced in the papers of the day as creditable to the parties concerned.* Acts of valor and daring might be related of this band of boatmen, which would not discredit the name of a Somers, or brush a laurel from the brow of their compatriots in arms. The women were formed into committees, for the purpose of preparing clothing for the army; and acts of chivalry and fortitude were performed by them, which were equally worthy of their fame and the cause they served. To record a single deserving act, would do injustice to a part; and to give a place to all who signalized themselves, would swell this sketch beyond its prescribed limits.

Of those who served in a civil capacity, no one perhaps deserved better of his country than Jesse Hand. He was a member of the Provincial Congress of 1775 and 1776, which, on the 21st of June, in the latter year, at Burlington, resolved a new State government should be formed. He was likewise a member of Council in '79, '80, '82 and '83. He was selected by the county in conjunction with Jacob Eldridge and Matthew Whillden, to meet the convention at Trenton, on the second Tuesday of December, 1787,

^{*} Collins' Gazette, State Library.

to ratify the Constitution of the United States, which was unanimously adopted on the 19th, when the members went in solemn procession to the Court House, where the ratification was publicly read to the people, New Jersey being the third State to ratify. He was entrusted by the Legislature with another important trust, viz: that of a member of the Committee of Public Safety from '77 to '81. The duties of this committee were arduous and responsible.*

He created great astonishment with the people, when he presented to their wondering eyes the first top-carriage (an old-fashioned chair) that was ever brought into the county. The horsecart was the favorite vehicle in those times, whether for family visiting, or going-to-meeting purposes; and any innovation upon these usages, or those of their ancestors, was looked upon with jealousy and distrust.

Elijah Hughes was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1776, and was one of the committee of ten, appointed on the 24th of June, to prepare a Constitution, which was adopted and confirmed on the 2d day of July, two days before the Declaration of Independence.†

Those who first located lands in the county, were particular to select such portions as were contiguous to the waters of the bay or ocean; hence the sea-shore and bay-shore were first settled upon, evidently for the purpose of being within reach of the oysters, fish, and clams, abounding in our waters. Thus we find the whole sea-shore from Beesley's Point to Cape Island, a continuous line of farms and settlements, regardless of the quality of the soil; whilst the interior portion, and considered by some much the better part, remains to this day unimproved and uncultivated.

Between the years of 1740 and '50, the cedar-swamps of the county were mostly located; and the amount of lumber since taken from them is incalculable, not only as an article of trade, but to supply the home demand for fencing and building materials in the county. Large portions of these swamps have been worked a second, and

some a third time, since located. At the present time, there is not an acre of original growth of swamp standing, having all passed away before the resistless sway of the speculator or the consumer. The annual growth is sufficient to fill our wharves yearly with many thousands of rails and sawed lumber.

It was not until recently, within the present century, that cordwood became a staple article of trade. Many thousand cords are annually shipped from the county, in return for goods and produce of various descriptions, of which flour and corn were formerly the most heavy articles.

The failure in some measure of wood and lumber, and the improvements progressing in all parts of our State in agricultural pursuits, have prompted our farmers to keep pace with the era of progression, so much so that the corn and wheat now raised in the county, fall but little short of a supply; and when the grand desideratum shall have been achieved, of supplying our own wants in the great staple of corn and flour, it will be a proud day for Cape May, and her people will be stimulated to greater exertions, from which corresponding rewards and benefits may arise.

Being partially surrounded by water, inducements were extended to her sons at an early day to engage in maritime pursuits. As early as 1698, Richard Harvo owned a sloop; and in 1705, Gov. Cornbury granted a license to Capt. Jacob Spicer, of the sloop Adventure, owned by John and Richard Townsend, burden sixteen tons. The license privileged her to run between Cape May, Philadelphia, and Burlington; and in 1706, Dennis Lynch built and owned the sloop Necessity. About the year 1760, there were numerous boats trading from the county to Oyster Bay, L. I., and Rhode Island and Connecticut, carrying cedar lumber mostly; and others to Philadelphia, with oysters and produce of various kinds. Spicer shipped considerable quantities of corn, which he purchased of the people in the way of trade and cash, and forwarded to a

market. He owned a vessel which he occasionally sent to the West Indies.*

It is supposed at the present time, that about one-fifth of the entire male population are engaged in this pursuit; and a more hardy and adventurous band never sailed from any port; no sea or ocean where commerce floats a sail, they do not visit if duty calls.

The Pilots of Cape Island are likewise renowned for their skill and enterprise in the way of their profession. They brave the tempest and the storm to relieve the mariner in distress, or to conduct the steamer, the ship, or the barque to the haven of her destination. There were fourteen pilots at the Cape in 175S: at the present time their numbers are about trebled, being thirty-five in 1850.

The population* of Cape May, at different periods since the year 1726, was as follows, viz.:

Years.	Population.	Slaves.	Free Colored.	Quakers.
1726 1738 1745	668 1004 1188	42		54
1790 1800	2571 3066	141 98		V 1
1810 1820 1830	3632 4265 4936	\$1 28 3	205 225	
1840 1850 1855	5324 6433 6935		218 247 297	

The population meets with an unceasing annual drain in the way of emigration. Numerous families, every spring and fall, sell off their lands and effects to seek a home in the far West. Illinois has heretofore been the State that has held out most inducements to the emigrant, and there are at present located in the favored county of Sangamon, in that State, some sixty or seventy families, which have removed from this county within a few years past, most of

^{*} Spicer's Diary.

[†] Manuscript proceedings of Assembly, State Library, and Census Reports.

whom, be it said, are blessed with prosperity and happiness. Many of her people are to be found in the other free States of the West.

Peter Fretwell, the first member from the county after the surrender, and the first on record that ever represented her, belonged to Burlington. He was a Friend and a cotemporary of Samuel Jennings, as the record of the monthly meeting there attests, and came over in the ship Shield, in 1678,* with Mahlon Stacy, Thomas Revel, and others. It is curious that he, a non-resident, should have been selected to represent the county in the Assembly for a period of twelve years; yet such is the fact, and I cannot find that Jacob Huling, who was a member in 1716, or Jeremiah Bass, from 1717 to 1723, ever resided permanently here. The balance of the list of representatives were all legitimately Cape May men, and taken in a body were the bone and sinew of the county. Of some of those ancient worthies in the list we know but little, except that they held important offices of trust and responsibility. Others among them seemed to live more for posterity than themselves, by inditing almost daily the passing events of the times, and they are consequently better known and appreciated. Their writings at that day might have seemed to possess but little attraction, yet they have become interesting through age, and valuable as links in the chain which connects our early history with the reminiscences and associations of times more recent; and to carry out this connection, it will be the duty of some faithful chronicler to unite the history of those times and the present, which is so rapidly giving place to the succeeding generation, by a descriptive and truthful account, more full and complete, as the data and material incident to later times are more abundant and illustrative. The troubles, perplexities, and trials the members of Assembly endured previous to the Revolution, in visiting the seat of government at Amboy and Burlington, to attend the public service, cannot in this age of railroads and steam be appreciated or realized. A single illustration

will suffice for all. Aaron Leaming gives an account of his journey to Amboy in 1759, on horseback, as follows:*

"March 3d. Set out from home; lodged at Tarkil; arrived at Philadelphia on the 5th. On the 6th, rid to Burlington. 7th. Extreme cold; rid to Crosswicks, and joined company with Mr. Miller; rid to Cranberry, where we overtook Messrs. Hancock, Smith, and Clement, (of Salem) who had laid up all day by reason of the cold. 8th. Got to Amboy. 17th. Had the honor to dine with his excellency governor Bernard, with more of the members of the house. It was a plentiful table, but nothing very extraordinary. The cheese he said was a Gloucestershire cheese; was a present to him, and said that it weighed 105 pounds when he first had it. He says its the collected milk of a whole village that makes these cheeses, each one measuring in their milk, and taking its value in cheese.

"19th. Left Amboy for home. 20th. Rid to Cranberry, and lodged at Dr. Stites'. 25th. Arrived home."

In July, 1761, he attended the Assembly at Burlington on the 6th, and broke up on the 8th, and says: "July 9th. I set out homeward. 11th. Got home, having been extremely unwell, occasioned by the excessive heat. Almost ever since I went away, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, were the hottest days by abundance that ever I was acquainted with."

"Sept. 3d. A rain fell five inches on a level. The lower end of Cape May has been so dry that there will not be but one-third of a crop of corn—here it is wet enough the whole season."

"14th. Went a fishing, and caught thirty-nine sheepshead."

It has not been necessary to enter into any disquisition of the soil, productions, geological aspect of the county, or the general statistics thereof, which are so ably set forth in the report, to which this is but an accompaniment.

In justice to this sketch of Cape May, in which an attempt has

been made to elucidate her early history, by collecting a few relies and incidents of men and things, from the scattered fragments that have survived oblivion since her first settlement, it will be proper to state, the space allotted for the purpose is insufficient to enter into a more extended detail, or to embody but a small portion of the material that years of inquiry and research have accumulated. A history of the rise and progress of the different religious denominations, and the numerous new and beautiful churches they have erected in later years, would of itself form an interesting sketch, yet it is necessarily postponed. The author has, therefore, sought to give such portions of it, for the most part, as relate to the earlier times, believing they would be of more particular interest, and more gratifying to the generality of readers than those of a more recent date.

As no system, as said before, could be observed in the arrangement, except in the way of chronology, it is submitted in a form imperfect and diversified, which will be better described in the language of the poet:

"Various; that the mind
Of desultory man, studious of change,
And pleased with novelty, may be indulged."

Cowper.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

A List of the Members of the Legislature, from the first record of them after the surrender of the Government in Queen Anne's reign in 1702 to the present time.

COUNCIL.	DATE.	Assembly.		
	1702 to 1707	Peter Fretwell.		
	1707 to 1708	Peter Corson.		
1	1708 to 1709	Ezekiel Eldredge.		
	1709 to 1716			
	1716 to 1717	Jacob Spicer, Jacob Huling.		
	1717 to 1723			
	1723 to 1733	Humphrey Hughes, Nathaniel Jenkins.		
	1733 to 1740	Aaron Leaming 1st, Henry Young.		
	1740 to 1743	Aaron Leaming, Aaron Leaming, Jun.		
	1743 to 1744	Aaron Leaming, John Willets.		
	1744 to 1745	Henry Young, Jacob Spicer 2d.		
	1745 to 1769	Aaron Leaming 2d, Jacob Spicer 2d.		
	1769 to 1771	Aaron Leaming 2d, Nicholas Stillweil.		
	1771 to 1773	Aaron Leaming 2d, Jonathan Hand.		
	1773 to 1776	Eli Eldredge, Jonathan Hand.		
Jonathan Hand,	1776 to 1778	Eli Eldredge, Joseph Savage, Hugh Hay-		
oonathan Irana,	2110 10 1110	thorn.		
Jonathan Jenkins,	1778 to 1779	Eli Eldredge, Richard Townsend.		
Jesse Hand,	1779 to 1780	Henry Y. Townsend, James Whillden,		
Jesse Hitlu,	2110 10 1130	Jonathan Leaming.		
Jesse Hand.	1780 to 1781	Joseph Hildreth, Jeremish Eldredge, Mat-		
Desse Alana,	2,00 10 1,01	thew Whillden.		
Elijah Hughes.	1781 to 1782	Richard Townsend.		
Jesse Hand,	1782 to 1783	Matthew Whillden, John Baker, Elijah		
Desse Mana,	1102 10 1100	Townsend.		
Jesse Hand,	1783 to 1784	John Baker, Joseph Hildreth.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1784 to 1785	Elijah Townsend, Levi Eldredge.		
Elijah Hughes,	1785 to 1786	Elijah Townsend, John Baker, Nezer Swain.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1786 to 1787	Matthew Whillden, John Baker, Elijah		
beremian ziareage,	1100 10 1101	Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1787 to 1788			
octomian Diateage,	2.00 10 1100	Elijah Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge.	1788 to 1789	Matthew Whillden, Richard Townsend,		
001011111111111111111111111111111111111	1 2105 10 2105	Elijah Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1789 to 1790	Eli Townsend, Nezer Swain, Elijah Town-		
Coremina Diarcage,	1100 00 1700	send.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1790 to 1791	Richard Townsend, Nezer Swain, Elijah		
veremmin ziareage,	2,00 00 1.01	Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1791 to 1792	Richard Townsend, Matthew Whillden.		
ociciana ziarcage,	1102 00 1703	Elijah Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1792 to 1793	Richard Townsend, Matthew Whillden,		
ocicanian sinicago,	2702 00 1750	Elijah Townsend.		
Jeremiah Eldredge,	1793 to 1794	Richard Townsend, Matthew Whillden.		
outmin Burdge,	1,00 10 1,01	Ebenezer Newton.		
Matthew Whillden	1794 to 1795	David Johnson, Richard Townsend.		
ALLGOLING IT INITIATEDS	, 2,01 00 1100	warm common, mentin townsend.		

COUNCIL.	DATE,	ASSEMBLY.
Matthew Whillden,	1795 to 1796	Richard Townsend, Reuben Townsend, Eleazer Hand.
Parmenas Corson,	1796 to 1797	Abijah Smith, Elijah and Richard Town- send,
Parmenas Corson,	1797 to 1798	
Parmenas Corson,	1798 to 1799	Elijah Townsend.
John Townsend,	1799 to 1801	Abijah Smith.
Parmenas Corson,	1801 to 1803	Persons Leaming.
Ebenezer Newton,	1803 to 1804	Joseph Falkenburge
Parmenas Corson,	1804 to 1805	Matthew Whilldin.
William Eldredge,	1805 to 1806	Thomas Hughes.
Matthew Whillden,	1806 to 1807	Nicholas Willets.
Ebenezer Newton,	1807 to 1808	Thomas H. Hughes.
Joseph Falkenburge,		Nicholas Willets.
Matthew Whillden,	1809 to 1810	Thomas H. Hughes.
Matthew Whillden,	1810 to 1811	Joseph Falkenburge.
Nathaniel Holmes,		Nicholas Willets.
Joseph Falkenburge,		Thomas II. Hughes.
Joseph Falkenburge,		Joshua Swain.
Furman Leaming,		Robert H. Holmes.
Joshua Swain,		Nicholas Willets.
Thomas H. Hughes,		Joshua Townsend.
Thomas H. Hughes,		Nicholas Willets.
Thomas H. Hughes,		Joshua Townsend.
Joshua Swain,		Israel Townsend.
Thomas H. Hughes,		Israel Townsend.
Joshua Swain,		Israel Townsend.
Israel Townsend,		Joshua Townsend.
Israel Townsend,		Jeremiah Leaming.
Joshua Townsend,		Jeremiah Leaming.
Jeremiah Leming,		Richard Thompson.
Richard Thompson,		Amos Corson.
Amos Corson,		Thomas P. Hughes.
Thomas P. Hughes,	1840 to 1842	Maurice Beesley.
Maurice Beesley,	1842 to 1844	Reuben Willets.
James-LSmith, -	1846 to 1847	Richard-SLudlam.
James L. Smith.	1847-to-1849	Nathaniel-Holmes.
Enoch Edmunds,		Mackey-Williams.
SENATE.		
Reuben Willets,	1844 to 1845	John Stites.
Reuben Willets,		Samuel Townsend.
James L. Smith,		Richard S. Ludlam.
James L. Smith,		Nathaniel Holmes, Jr.
Enoch Edmunds,		Mackey Williams.
Enoch Edmunds,		Joshua Swain, Jr.
Joshua Swain, Jr.,		Waters B. Miller.
Joshua Swain, Jr.,		Jesse H. Diverty.
Joshua Swain, Jr.,		Jesse H. Diverty.

SHERIFFS.

A List of the Sheriffs from 1693 to the present time.

CLERKS.

A List of the Clerks from 1693 to the present time.

	-	-	-
George Taylor	1693 to	1697	Jeremiah Hand1802 to 1804
Timothy Brandre	th1697 to	1705	Abijah Smith1804 to 1824
John Taylor	1705 to	1730	Richard Thompson1824 to 1829
Aaron Leaming.	lst1730 to	1740	Levy Foster1829 to 1831
Elijah Hughes, Se	nr1740 to	1762	Jonathan Hand, Senr 1831 to 1834
Elijah Hughes, J.	r1762 to	1768	Jacob G. Smith 1834 to 1835
Jeromiah Eldredg	e1768 to	1777	Swain Townsend 1835 to 1840
Jonathan Jenkins	1777 to	1779	Jonathan Hand, Jr 1840 to 1860
Eli Eldredge	1779 to	1802	

SURROGATES.

A List of the Surrogates from the first appointment, in 1723, to the present time. Previous to this, all business in the Prerogative Court was transacted at Burlington.

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Jacob Spicer, 1st1723 to 1741	Ebenezer Newton1796 to 1802
Henry Young	Aaron Eldredge1802 to 1803
Elijah Hughes, Jr1768 to 1787	Jehu Townsend1803 to 1831
Jesse Hand	Humphrey Leaming1831 to 1852
Jeremiah Eldredge1693 to 1796	Elijah Townsend, Jr1852 to 1857