

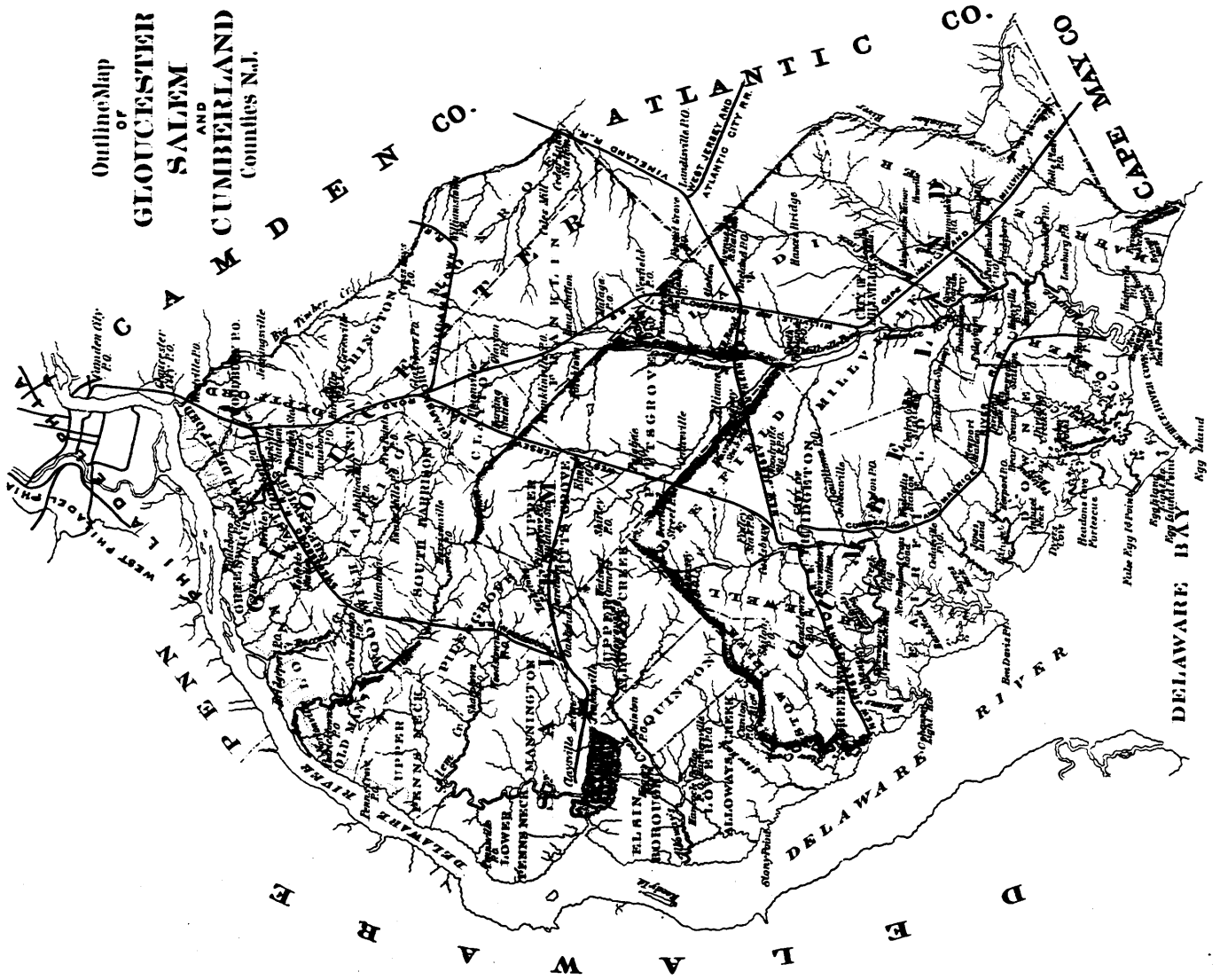
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTIES OF
GLOUCESTER, SALEM, AND CUMBERLAND
NEW JERSEY,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THEIR
PROMINENT CITIZENS.

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PRESS OF J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

Outline Map
of
**GLoucester
SALEM
AND
CUMBERLAND**
Counties N.J.



of the district. On the 12th of October, 1854, he married Lizzie T., daughter of Taylor and Ann Haines, who resided on a farm near Swedesboro, now the property of the subject of this sketch. Their two children are Luella H., who is married to Henry M. Ridgeway, and has one daughter, Bessie T.; and Carlton E., married to Lizzie A. Batton.

Mr. Rulon has been identified with the Republican party since its organization. He has been especially active in matters connected with his township, as well as in the interests of the county, and has enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors and fellow-townsmen to such an extent as to have been frequently made the custodian of estates and of similar trusts. His parents were Friends, and educated their son in the same faith, which he still maintains. Mr. Rulon possesses the qualities of thrift, energy, and determination, which have combined to make his life one of success, and his position in the township one of extended influence. He has been since the organization of the Grange movement in the State associated with it as treasurer of the State Grange, and was also its fifth Master.

CHAPTER LI.

TOWNSHIP OF CLAYTON.¹

Erection, Boundary, Population, and Valuation.—By an act of the Legislature, approved Feb. 5, A. D. 1858, Clayton township was organized. Up to this date it had been part of Franklin township. In the year 1878 the town of Glassboro was struck off from Clayton township, so that the township is now bounded as follows, viz.: north by Glassboro township; east in part by Monroe and in part by Franklin township; south by Franklin township and Upper Pittsgrove township, Salem Co.; and west by Harrison township. According to the State census, compiled in 1880, Clayton township has a population of nineteen hundred and eighty-one, being one of the most populous townships in Gloucester County. The assessed value of real estate, as returned by Elwood S. Costill, the township assessor, for the year 1883, was \$666,130; assessed value of personal property, \$297,060; total amount of the assessed value of both real and personal property, \$945,190.

Topography, Soil, and Industries.—The surface of the land is level; the soil light, and very easily cultivated by the use of fertilizing substances. The substances mostly used are those of marl, lime, guano, and manure. It contains some of the best farm-land to be found in Gloucester County, especially that owned by Judge John M. Moore, the Iszard family, and the Fisler family. The farming soil throughout the township, however, is in a well-cultivated state.

Next to agriculture, the principal industries of the township are the manufacture of glass, general store business, manufacture of cigars, and carriage-building.

In appearance and importance Clayton township is second to none in Gloucester County.

VILLAGES.

The chief village within its boundaries is Clayton, which is pleasantly situated along the line of the West Jersey Railroad, about twenty-one miles south of Philadelphia, and about thirteen miles south of Woodbury, the county-seat of Gloucester County. The village was first settled by Felix Fisler and his family, which consisted of himself, wife, two sons, and two daughters. Jacob Fisler, one of the sons of Felix, just before the Revolution, bought from the government a tract of land containing about two thousand eight hundred acres, for which he paid sixty-two and a half cents per acre, and made a permanent settlement thereon. From this time till 1850 the place was called *Fislerstown*. It contained very few dwellings, being hardly anything more than a "cross-roads."

In 1850 the name was changed to *Fislerville*, and the village received a fresh start by the introduction of the glass business. In 1867, by an act of the Legislature, the name was again changed to *Clayton*, it receiving this name from the name of the township. From the year 1850, when the town consisted of only five dwellings, up to the present time its prosperity has been very rapid. It now contains a population of eighteen hundred people, and is laid out in numerous neatly-arranged streets, all running at right angles with the public roads. Its streets and roads for the most part are well graded and beautifully shaded. The dwellings are first-class; even those occupied by the employes of the glass-works are roomy and comfortable, being of a better class than in many other manufacturing villages in the State.

BUSINESS OF CLAYTON VILLAGE.—The business interests of the village consist of three general stores, one drug-store and post-office, two wheelwright- and two blacksmith-shops, one meat-market, one iron foundry, one bakery, one clothing-store, two livery stables, two hotels (one a temperance hotel), railroad depot, express- and telegraph-offices, two cigar-factories, one attorney-at-law, one jeweler, one barber, four physicians, one undertaker, one tailor, two millinery-stores, one shirt-factory, two glass-works, and other business representatives that help make up a thriving town. The glass business deserves more than a passing notice; there being two firms conducting the business, we shall give a brief sketch of each.

MOORE BROTHERS' GLASS-WORKS were started in the year 1850 by Jacob P. Fisler and Benjamin Beckett, the first-named being a great-grandson of Felix Fisler. These two purchased about seventy-five acres of land on the east side of what is now known as the Glassboro and Malaga turnpike, and

¹ By George H. Hewitt.

after laying the same out in four squares, erected the necessary buildings for the establishment of the glass business and began operations under the firm-name of Beckett & Fisler. They built a store, a few dwelling-houses, and a barn, besides the buildings for the business, and these constituted the beginning of what is now a large glass-making concern. In 1851, after conducting the works less than a year, the firm dissolved by Benjamin Beckett withdrawing. Mr. Fisler then associated with himself a Mr. Edward Bacon, the new firm assuming the name of Fisler & Bacon. From 1851 till 1856 this firm continued in business, when, by the death of Mr. Bacon, who was killed by a railroad accident at Burlington, N. J., in that year, it was dissolved, and Mr. Fisler, the surviving partner, sold the business to Mr. John M. Moore, who rented the factory.

In a short time Mr. Moore purchased the real estate, and conducted the business until April, 1859, when he associated with him George C. Hewitt, the present manager of the works, and Jeremiah D. Hogate, under the firm-name of John M. Moore & Co.; Mr. Moore and Mr. Hewitt managing the making and selling of the glass, and Mr. Hogate running the store. The firm continued thus until 1863, when Mr. Hewitt sold his interest in the business to D. Wilson Moore, a brother to John M., and the firm-name was changed to Moore Brothers & Co. The following year, viz., 1864, Mr. Hogate sold his interest to the other two members of the firm, and the firm of Moore Brothers was established. The two brothers conducted successfully the business from 1864 until 1880, when they associated with them three young men, viz., Francis M. Pierce, Harry Steelman, and Charles F. Fisler, and the firm took the name of Moore Brothers & Co. In the latter part of 1880, Mr. Fisler withdrew, and the present firm of Moore Brothers was formed. Their works cover an area of about twenty acres, and include four large factories for making bottles and one small one for making either bottles or stoppers, steam saw- and grist-mill, machine-shop, blacksmith-shop, warehouses and sheds, elevated coal-track and bins, and a number of other necessary buildings, including a large three-story store building with offices attached. A railroad track runs entirely through the yards and connects with the West Jersey Railroad track, about one-quarter of a mile distant from their works. When in full operation they employ about five hundred hands.

The other glass firm is

FISLER & MORGAN COMPANY.—In 1880, Mr. Charles F. Fisler, having withdrawn from the firm of Moore Brothers, associated with him Mr. Albert S. Fisler, Mr. Henry Morgan, and Mr. Walter Morgan, under the firm-name of Fisler & Morgan Company, and began operations in the north end of the town. They built a large factory, office, steam-mill, blacksmith-shop, packing-house, and other buildings, costing about twenty thousand dollars. After conducting

the business for some months, Mr. Walter Morgan withdrew. They have in connection with the glass business a large store. Their works cover about ten acres of land, and when in full operation they employ about one hundred hands.

CIGAR MANUFACTORY.—Cigar-making is carried on by John F. Iszard, and although the business is comparatively new, he employs five hands, and during the year 1883 manufactured one hundred and twenty thousand cigars.

CHURCHES.

There are two churches, one each of the Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian denominations.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized about the year 1812, when a division occurred among the Methodist people in the vicinity by some deciding to build a church at Union, a small town three miles west of Clayton. In said year, there being no Methodist Church in Clayton, Dr. Jacob Fisler and wife deeded a lot of ground for the purpose of building what was called the "useful school-house," for meeting and school purposes. A Methodist organization was then formed, with Gabriel Iszard, Joseph Fisler, James Abbott, Leonard Fisler, and Thomas Strang as trustees. For a long time after this school-house was built no regular minister was stationed at Clayton, the meetings being conducted by local preachers and exhorters. The "useful school-house" was used for a meeting-house until 1850, when it was deemed expedient to build a church. Amid much opposition the project was carried through, and on Dec. 8, 1850, the church was dedicated by Rev. D. W. Bartine and Rev. W. E. Perry. Its size was thirty-six by fifty-five feet, two stories high, twenty-nine-foot posts, with a steeple and bell, the whole costing about five thousand dollars, the amount of cash and amount pledged at the time being four thousand three hundred dollars. It was a heavy undertaking, considering all the circumstances, and required a vast amount of energy and liberality on the part of the few. The trustees at the time were Michael Turner, Benjamin Turner, Samuel L. Iszard, Henry S. Brown, and Dr. Jacob Fisler. Of these, Samuel L. Iszard is the only one now living. At this time, however, Clayton was still on what was called a circuit, in connection with two or three other places. In 1860 it was set off as a station, with Rev. Firman Robbins as pastor. The congregation increased from this time, so that in 1867 it was decided to build a parsonage. The necessary ground was obtained, and a house costing five thousand dollars was built, Rev. G. Hitchens being its first occupant. The church membership at this time was about two hundred. As the population increased the membership increased, so that there is now a membership of four hundred.

In 1883, the old church building becoming too small, it was by a vote of the trustees sold and moved off the church lot, and a new church, costing about

fifteen thousand dollars, was erected in its place. This church is one of the most handsome dwellings in South Jersey. It was planned by Lawrence B. Valk, of New York City, and built by Messrs. Dorman & White, contractors, of Camden, N. J., under the supervision of Rev. G. S. Sykes, John F. Izard, Charles F. Fidler, Harry Steelman, Benjamin F. Du Bois, Dr. C. L. Duffell, John Dooling, John S. Izard, and William Izard, as building committee.

It is of Gothic style, one story high, and so arranged that all the rooms can be thrown into one. The main audience-room seats six hundred and fifty, and the vestry and the class-rooms together about six hundred and fifty more, thus giving, when desired, a room seating about thirteen hundred persons. It was dedicated by Bishop Simpson, assisted by Rev. Dr. Buckley, of the *Christian Advocate*, and Rev. Dr. Hanlon, president of Pennington Seminary. The following are the names of the official board by whose vote it was decided to build the church, viz.: Pastor, Rev. George S. Sykes; Stewards, George C. Hewitt, S. S. Turner, Thomas Spencer, John S. Izard, John H. Long, Albert S. Fidler, Martin Madden, Dr. C. L. Duffell, and Thomas P. Smith; Leaders, George C. Hewitt, S. S. Turner, John H. Long, Thomas Boogar, T. S. Turner, and pastor; Trustees, Daniel Westcoat, Benjamin F. Du Bois, John F. Izard, Charles F. Fidler, John Dooling, Harry Steelman, William Izard, T. Smith Turner, and George H. Hewitt.

The Presbyterian Church was organized Aug. 18, 1853, with a membership of six. In 1853 a church was erected, with Rev. Charles E. Ford as pastor. In 1870 a new church was built, the old one becoming too small. The lower room was dedicated July 28, 1870; upper room completed and dedicated Nov. 1, 1878. The membership at this time was ninety, with Rev. Alexander Proudfit, pastor. The new church building is forty by sixty-five feet, two stories high, with a steeple and bell, the whole costing about seventeen thousand dollars. In 1868 a parsonage was built, costing six thousand dollars. This church, as well as the Methodist, is in a flourishing condition.

Schools.—The public schools are divided into six divisions, and taught by a principal and five assistants. Three buildings are used to provide accommodations, each room seating about one hundred scholars.

Old Settlers and Families.—The oldest inhabitant is Thomas R. Hewitt, who is now in his eighty-eighth year. He has lived in Clayton and vicinity nearly all his life. He has two sons and two daughters living, his oldest son being George C. Hewitt, manager of Moore Brothers' glass-factories, and the younger being Rev. Edmund Hewitt, a member of the New Jersey Methodist Episcopal Conference. One daughter, Sarah, married Richard Sooy, and the other, Hannah, married R. W. Austin. George, the oldest son, married Abbie Long, and has four children; of these, the three sons were married to Martha

Davis, of Clayton; Amanda Dilks, of Bridgeton; and Josie Izard, of Clayton. Lewis, the oldest son, is a salesman; John, the next, a clerk; and George, the youngest, a lawyer. The daughter, Mary Jane, married Samuel Izard, of Clayton.

THE ISZARD FAMILY is an old family in the town, and consists of three branches,—one with Joseph Izard as its head, one with Gabriel Izard as its head, and another with Samuel L. Izard as its head. The family settled in Clayton when you could almost count the number of inhabitants on your fingers, the younger members of the family thus growing up with the town.

Union is the name of another town in Clayton township, and is about three miles west from Clayton, and numbers about two hundred inhabitants. It has one general store, with which is connected a coal-yard. Its chief industry, however, is the manufacturing of hay-forks by the "Fork and Elevator Manufacturing Company." Mr. J. R. Fitzhugh is the manager and president of the company. The only church in the town is the Methodist Episcopal. The public schools are divided into two divisions, with Mr. John Tonkins as principal.

The principal officers of Clayton township are: Town Clerk, John Gandy; Assessor, Elwood S. Costill; Collector, George H. Hewitt; Township Committee, Dr. S. F. Fidler, Christopher Knisell, and F. M. Pierce.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

JACOB R. FITZHUGH.

The name of Fitzhugh was originally Fitzhons. John D., the grandfather of the subject of this biography, was of German ancestry, having resided in Wittenberg, Germany. His children were nine in number, of whom John D., the father of Jacob R., was born in 1801, and emigrated to America in 1812. He first settled in Philadelphia, but later removed to Bordentown, and subsequently located in Somerset County, Pa., where he began the manufacture of wagons and coaches, having previously learned the trade in his former places of residence. He married, in 1833, Miss Charlotte Hook, of Somerset County, Pa., whose father still survives in his eighty-ninth year, and had children,—Christiann (Mrs. Henry Conrad), Elizabeth (Mrs. George Shrader), David, Daniel, Frederick, Jacob R., Charlotte (Mrs. Fred. Ridmiller), John, George, and Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh both survive, and reside in Covington, Ohio. Their son, Jacob R., who is essentially a self-made man, was born March 28, 1848, in Indiana County, Pa., and remained at the parental home until twenty-three years of age. Such advantages of education as were at hand were improved, the nearest school having



J. R. Fitzhugh

been in session but four months of the year, and located three miles distant. He was married Nov. 25, 1869, in his twenty-first year, to Mary E., daughter of John King, of Clearfield County, Pa., and has children.—William B., George Franklin, Oliver J., and Laura May. At the age of twenty-three Mr. Fitzhugh removed to Indiana and engaged in the business of butchering, and in 1872 embarked in the patent right business, handling principally a hay elevator patented by himself. This he continued until 1875, and meanwhile exercising his inventive genius, secured three patents on hay elevators. During the latter year he removed to Philadelphia, and two years later made Unionville, N. J., his home, where he purchased ten acres of land, and has since resided. During his residence in Philadelphia, he devoted six months to exhibiting his patents at the Centennial Exhibition, and also patented a coal bucket and return spool. The hay elevator before mentioned met

with general favor, and received the first premium for excellence. He remained for two years in Philadelphia, busily engaged in manufacturing his valuable inventions. Mr. Fitzhugh, in 1879, invented a hay-fork, which has rapidly gained popularity and an extended sale. In 1882 he invented and patented a coal elevator, which is now being manufactured. He has in all secured ten patents on inventions, all of which implements are manufactured by him, and are of practical value. This serves to illustrate the inventive faculty of the subject of this sketch, and his successful career from boyhood to the present time. In politics Mr. Fitzhugh is independent, though educated in the principles of the Republican party. He was reared in the faith of the Lutheran Church, but is now a worshiper with the Methodist Episcopal congregation of Unionville. He is a member of the Philadelphia Lodge of Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, and of the Glassboro Lodge of Knights of Pythias.