

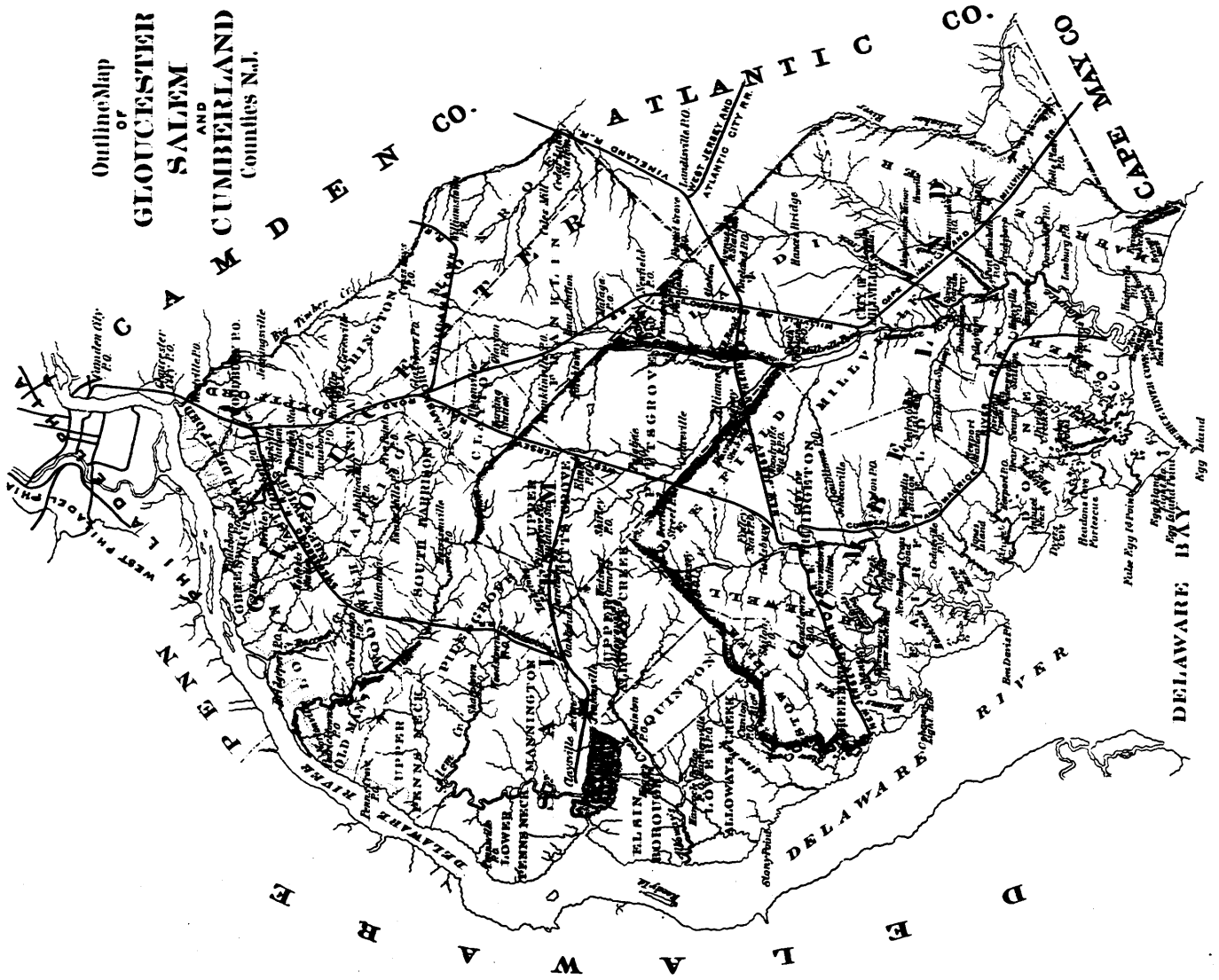
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTIES OF
GLOUCESTER, SALEM, AND CUMBERLAND
NEW JERSEY,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THEIR
PROMINENT CITIZENS.

BY
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PHILADELPHIA:
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Outline Map
of
GLoucester
SALEM
AND
CUMBERLAND
Counties N.J.



William Clark, the present preacher in charge. Jefferson is now connected with Ewansville.

The stewards for 1882 were George Walter, James Pennington, Jasper Scott. Trustees, Henry H. Tomlin, George Walter, Jasper Scott, William Jenkins, George Batten, Jeremiah C. Sweeten, William Dolan. Sunday-school Superintendent, Jasper Scott. Assistant Superintendent, Henry H. Tomlin.

Membership of church, thirty. Value of church property, two thousand dollars.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church.¹

—The preliminary meetings that led to the organization of this society were held in the school-house, about a mile west from what was then known as the old White Horse Tavern, prior to 1848, by the Methodist preachers who were then on the circuit that embraced this locality.

The first class-leader was William Mounce, in whose class were the following members: Mary Ann Mounce, Abigail Fidler, Frances A. Campbell, Abigail Campbell, Sophia Bartholomew, George Groff, Susan Groff, Abigail Simpkins, Elizabeth Simpkins, Thomas Jagard, Ann Jagard, Robert Carr, Francis A. Campbell, Jr., Sarah Jagard, Martha Ann Mounce, Levi Adkinson, Keziah Adkinson, Keziah Eastlack, Mary Eastlack, Ann Skinner, Sarah Skinner, Samuel Chester, Mary Chester, and Martha Abbott.

Soon after the class was formed the tavern-keeper at the "White Horse Tavern" became one of the advocates of religion, joined the class, gave up the tavern business, and became leader of the class. In a few years another school-house was built, for the better accommodation of the increased population. The new school-house stood on the site now occupied by the Mount Pleasant Academy, and in it another class was formed, with Richard Skinner, Sr., as leader. This was made a Sunday afternoon appointment, and in fair weather the services were held in the beautiful grove surrounding the school-house.

In 1860 a new Methodist Church edifice was built, on a site midway between the two school-houses, and near the site of the old White Horse Tavern, the corner-stone being laid by Rev. S. Y. Monroe, in 1860, and the church dedicated by Bishop Scott, in February, 1861. His text was the 137th Psalm, fifth and sixth verses.

The preachers who have served this people while occupying the school-houses were as follows: 1848-49, N. Edwards and B. Andrews; 1850, N. Edwards and A. Gearhart; 1851, A. Gearhart and D. Reed; 1852, James White and Levi Rhodes; 1853, C. W. Heisley and J. C. Summerill; 1858-59, H. S. Norris and J. P. Connelly; 1860, E. Waters and A. Atwood.

Since the building of the church the following have been pastors at this, in connection with other places: 1863, Samuel F. Wheeler; 1865, James Vansant; 1867, N. Edwards, James F. Morrell, Thomas Wilson,

Calvin Eastlack, Samuel Hudson, J. B. Stewart. For 1883 the society is supplied by Rev. William Tomlin, a local preacher. Membership in 1882, forty-one. Value of church property, three thousand dollars. Officer for 1882: Local Preacher, C. C. Souder; Exhorter, Charles Jenkins; Class-Leaders, William E. Heritage, Henry Jackson, and Charles Jenkins; Stewards, C. C. Souder, H. L. Jackson, and E. C. Heritage; Trustees, E. C. Heritage, Joseph D. Carr, N. J. Justice, Robert McKeighan, and William E. Heritage.

Ewansville Methodist Episcopal Church.—The Methodists occupied this field as early as 1825 as one of their outposts, and held the position as such until 1865, when a society was formed. At that time Josiah and Israel Ewan were the class-leaders, and soon after Jacob Dehart was appointed a class-leader.

The subject of a house of worship was discussed, which resulted, in 1866, in building the present meeting-house, a frame building, thirty by forty-two feet, which was dedicated the same year by Rev. John W. Hickman. The lot, building, sheds, and fence cost nearly four thousand dollars, and the property is at present valued at three thousand five hundred dollars.

In 1866 the preacher in charge of the circuit was Rev. Gardner H. Tullis. He was succeeded by Rev. Henry Belton, who was followed by Rev. Joseph Summerill, Rev. — Pierson, Rev. Joseph Ashbrook. In 1880, Ewansville was made a station, and in 1881, Rev. Lewis Clark was the pastor, and 1882, Rev. William P. Clark. For 1883 the society was supplied by Rev. William Tomlin, a local preacher.

The officers of the church for 1883 were as follows: Stewards, Thomas I. French, Henry Lacey, Israel Ewan, John Tozer, and Peter Scott; Trustees, Peter Scott, Israel Ewan, Samuel Moore, George Butterworth, and Peter Strang; Class-Leaders, Peter Scott and Thomas I. French.

The Sunday-school connected with this society was organized in 1866, and is at present under the supervision of Israel Ewan, with a school of eighty scholars.

CHAPTER XLIV.

TOWNSHIP OF LOGAN.²

Geography and Topography.—This is the northwest corner township of the county, and is bounded on the northeast by Greenwich township, on the southeast by Woolwich township, on the southwest by Salem County, and on the northwest by the Delaware River.

The surface is slightly undulating, sufficiently so to admit of good drainage in most parts of the township.

¹ By William E. Heritage.

² Data furnished by Peter Scott.

³ By W. H. Shaw.

The soil is mostly a dark sandy loam, susceptible of a very high state of cultivation, and most of the tillable land in the township is successfully occupied by truck-farmers. Repaupo Cedar Swamp occupies a small tract in the northeastern portion of the township.

The township is well supplied with public highways, also the Delaware River Railroad crosses lengthwise through the township from northeast to southwest, affording farmers and others ample railroad facilities, bringing the people in any part of the township within an hour's ride of Philadelphia.

The streams, aside from the Delaware River, are Oldman's Creek, forming the border adjoining Salem County; Raccoon Creek, running in a northerly direction across the centre of the township; Little Timber Creek, running northerly across the northeastern half of the township; and Repaupo, or, as it is sometimes called, Purgey Creek, forming the northeast border, adjoining Greenwich township.

The two first-named streams, Oldman's and Raccoon, are navigable for sloops and steam-tugs, and are made available for the transportation of farm produce to the Philadelphia markets.

Landing-Place of the Swedish Pilgrims.—To what is now the township of Logan must be accredited the honor of having within its borders the spot upon which the first permanent settlers of West Jersey landed, at the mouth of Raccoon Creek. Mickle, in his "Reminiscences of Old Gloucester," says, "The exact spot of their debarkation might, we imagine, be determined upon an examination of the place, and if so, it would possess to us quite as much interest as any point in our country." "This spot," it has been well said, "will ever be connected with recollections the most interesting to us, and which it becomes us to cherish. We labor with patient perseverance to trace the streams of the ancient world, and become familiar with every torrent and brook. We visit in fancy the borders of the Euphrates, and linger by the side of the golden Hermus. All this is well; but we must not suffer the scenes in our own story to be forgotten. Let every spot be noted, that it may not be said in aftertimes, 'An ungrateful generation permitted the memory of their fathers to perish.' Or, if we are prompted by no filial feelings towards the actors, we cannot be insensible of the movement here made.

"The advent of these pilgrims, small as was their number, was of more consequence to the interests of humanity than most of the brilliant achievements of martial hosts. Of the many battles that have been fought, of the many warriors who have figured upon the field of conquest, how few have left a lasting influence for good. The victory of to-day is lost on the morrow, and both victors and vanquished sink together into utter forgetfulness. But here a feeble band, without art or arms, with no standard but the olive branch, laid the foundation of a work which

we trust will stand forever; and not only ourselves, but our descendants through all generations shall look back to that spot and that hour with increasing feelings of gratitude and affection.¹ As yet no sculptured marble adorns our Delaware Plymouth, but to the source every true friend of man can exclaim, "*Circumspice!*"

Revolutionary War Incident.—James Talman came from Sweden previous to the Revolutionary war, and settled at the mouth of Oldman's Creek, where the brick house which he erected still stands. During the war Mr. Talman, who was a firm patriot, had his property destroyed by a party of British soldiers, who burned his hay and killed his stock. Among the animals killed were two valuable imported mares, named "Swallow" and "Lady of the Lake." These Mr. Talman sewed up in white blankets and carefully buried. At the time of this raid Mrs. Talman, who had just been confined, was lifted by the British officers from her bed, that they might search it for plunder.

Joseph Talman, the son, who was then an infant, died at Clarksboro in 1846. His son, Edward C. Talman, is now (1882) a resident of Swedesboro.

Early Settlers and Pioneer Incidents.—Among the pioneers seeking a better home in the then new and undeveloped country, where religious freedom would be tolerated to the furthest and fullest extent, were those brave men who faced the dangers of the storm-tossed ocean, and risked themselves in the then wilds of the miasmatic swamps in South Jersey, and finally made their homes along the tide-water creeks of Oldman and Raccoon.

In what is now Logan, formerly a part of old Woolwich township, quite a number of the sturdy pioneers from Sweden and Germany pitched their tents, and made old Gloucester County their homes.

Among the number of those who selected this locality we find the name of James Talman, who located at the mouth of Oldman's Creek some time previous to the Revolutionary war; also the names of Kelly, Black, Hurff, Thomas Ayres, Homan, Norton, and Dawson. Among the number who came previous to the war was Coonradt Shoemaker, who, like many others, sold himself for his passage,—that is, he bound himself to a Mr. Kelley to work a certain number of years after his arrival in this country if Kelley would pay the passage-money. After Mr. Shoemaker had served his time and earned his freedom, he located between the creeks named, about two miles from what is now Bridgeport. Here he became possessed of two hundred acres of land, and at his death, in 1790, he left his property to his five children, four sons and one daughter. They all lived to quite respectable ages. The first death among the children was that of his son, Samuel, who attained the age of eighty years, dying in 1838; Coonradt died in 1845, aged

¹ Mulford's Lectures, MS.

sixty-three; Jacob in 1858, aged eighty-two years; and George in 1863, at the advanced age of ninety-one years. Sarah, the daughter, was the mother of the venerable Nicholas Justus, of Bridgeport. George Shoemaker, a grandson of Coonradt, Sr., now a resident of Bridgeport, was born on the old homestead, July 22, 1811.

One of the peculiarities of the senior Shoemaker was his manner of dress. Not only the old leather breeches, but a leather jacket or vest was a part of his attire. The vest was cut quite long, with a large deep pocket in each side, and in one of these pockets he invariably carried a bottle of his favorite old "schnapps," and in the other a bottle of water.

Although Mr. Shoemaker was a man of ordinary size, yet the weight of none of his children was less than three hundred pounds when they arrived at the age of manhood and womanhood.

The grandfather of Nicholas Justus located between the two creeks named as early as 1700. His son, Isaac, father of the present Nicholas, died in 1834, on the old homestead, between the creeks.

Among the pioneers who located around what is now the town of Bridgeport, and on the same side of the creek, we find the name of John Woodoth, who migrated to this locality in the early part of the last century, and settled between "Raccoon Lower Bridge" and Swedesboro, where was born unto him his son, David Woodoth, also where his grandson, Oliver H. Woodoth, now a resident of Bridgeport, was also born, Oct. 1, 1817.

The Thomas family were also among the pioneers of that neighborhood. There was also Thomas Balingier, the Clayton family, and Samuel Cooper, who owned a large tract, at one time a part of what is now Bridgeport. Jacob Makin was another pioneer, and also Thomas Gaskill, up at what is known as Oak Grove. He was here prior to the advent of the present century, and owned a large plantation at that place.

The Clayton farm, previously mentioned, was subsequently purchased by Richard Springer, who became one of the several successful "truckers" of this township. John Kelly was also at one time an extensive land-owner at and near Bridgeport; and Joseph Clark owned a plantation that has since passed to the ownership of others not akin to the original proprietor.

The pioneer blacksmith of this section of the old township of Woolwich was Thomas Whitecar. His shop stood at the lower end of what is now known as Main Street, near the creek. With the well-known frugal habits of the pioneer farmers and truckers, and the nature of the soil, but little of his skilled labor was required, and between shoe settings his leisure hours were employed in farming on a small scale.

Pioneer Sports.—Whoever imagines that the old pioneers of this low, level, sandy country led a dull

and monotonous life, and spent their leisure hours in solitude, are letting their imaginations lead them in the wrong direction. Although they were the laborious Swede and sturdy German, with their well-known love for the home circle, yet they had their seasons of recreation and out-of-door sports. Horse-racing, wrestling, quoit-pitching, and occasionally a social game at cards were enjoyed by the pioneers. At those seasons of the year when their work was not pressing them, and upon rainy Saturday afternoons, they would congregate at the old hostelry of George Sheets, and after a few social salutations in liquid form the conversation would naturally point to some of their accustomed sports, of which horse-racing was the most exciting, as each owned, of course, the fastest horse. Fast trotting at that period was a gait unknown to horsemen or horse-owners, and running was all the fashion. Fortunes did not change hands in a day, as at present. The wagers were small, usually half a dollar or grog for the crowd, and in extreme cases a dollar and a few plugs of tobacco. When everything was ready, the scorer and judges appointed, the horses were put upon the track, now Main Street in Bridgeport. The scoring-point was a mark made across the road from in front of the gate of the house where Nicholas Justus now lives, and the other end of the course at another mark drawn across the road opposite the tavern, down by the creek. The now venerable George Shoemaker was sometimes scorer and sometimes rider. The riders were not the jockeys of the present day, for each boy was honest and rode his horse to win, whether it was his father's or a neighbor's. Each boy had an honest pride in winning the race, and did his best. The winning rider usually received a "sip" or two, which, with the honor of riding the fleetest horse, was glory enough for one day. "Uncle George" says that when he won a race, which was often, he felt, to use a modern phrase, as though he was a "bigger man than old Grant."

In their games of quoits or "keerds," as the name of the pasteboards was then pronounced, the wager was also small, consisting of two or four drinks of grog, as most kinds of liquors were then called. When four were engaged in a game of quoits, one of each of the opposing parties would stand at each hub and pitch back and forth. Sometimes an umpire, or judge, as he was then called, would keep tally, and the wager in such cases would be five drinks of grog. The same rule applied to cards, where the fifth man was required to "keep game."

Cadwalader's Island.—When this island was owned by Thomas Key, some time during the last century, there was a channel between it and the mainland of sufficient depth to admit the passage of a small steamer or sail-vessel. A man by the name of Shivas or Shover became possessed of one-half interest in the island, then known as Raccoon Island, as it is at the mouth of Raccoon Creek. They banked

or dyked around the island, cleared it of everything standing in the way of crops, and brought it to a state of cultivation. Key sold his interest to his partner, who subsequently sold to other parties, and it is now owned by the heirs of George Cadwalader. The channel between the island and mainland has been filled up by the action of the tide-waters.

Pioneer Trade and Commerce.—During the pioneer period of this township the early settlers had no way of conveying their surplus produce to market except by wagons or carts to the ferry, and so on up to Philadelphia, for the city had not then enlarged its borders to a point nearly or quite opposite this township.

After a few years small flat-bottomed boats, with a pole stuck up in the middle of each and a sheet fastened upon them, which served as sails, were brought into requisition, and produce, in very small quantities, was taken up to the then village of Philadelphia in that kind of craft.

New York market was out of the question till 1835, when George Shoemaker, now living at Bridgeport, embarked in his first potato speculation. He engaged a sloop, put on board one thousand bushels of potatoes, and set sail for New York by way of Cape May, reaching New York in three and a half days, where he disposed of his cargo. This was the first sloop-load of potatoes ever taken from Raccoon Creek to New York, and Uncle George is almost seasick yet whenever he tells the story of his first voyage to sea.

Pioneer Prison.—In ye olden time, when courts of justice were not as plenty as at the present day, and officers of the law were not often called upon to quell riots or preserve the peace, there would occasionally arise a case in which the peaceable, law-abiding citizens would be under the necessity of performing the duties of prosecutor, court, and jury. In pioneer days Raccoon Lower Bridge had no lock-up, as Bridgeport of the present day has.

There stood on Main Street an old buttonwood-tree, whose proportions were akin to the giant trees of California, and by some means the old buttonwood had become hollow near the ground. The tree being large, a hole or door was made in one side of the mammoth trunk and the inside cleaned out, leaving a cavity of sufficient dimensions to hold three or four persons, and for a time it was looked upon as a curiosity, and soon became of practical use. Upon a certain occasion a pair of social spirits found their way to Raccoon Lower Bridge, became hilarious under the influence of apple-jack, and for want of a better place were confined in the trunk of the old buttonwood. After this the old tree served as jail for several years.

Pioneer Weddings.—We were permitted by Mr. O. H. Woodoth, since deceased, to copy the following marriage certificates from the originals in his possession:

" March 2, 1815. Then married Samuel Craghead and Sarah Howey. By me, Daniel England, J. P."

" May 18, 1815. Then married David Woodoth and Elizabeth Fayette. By me, Daniel England, J. P."

" June 29, 1815. Then married James Harris and Mary Wallas, daughter of William Wallas. By me, Daniel England, J. P."

" May 2, 1816. Then married Jonas Mattson and Margrit Brance, both of Woolwich township. By me, Daniel England, J. P."

" April 24, 1817. Then married Isaac Davis, Jr., and Sarah Irvine, both of Woolwich township, county of Gloucester. Daniel England, J. P."

Sexagenarians.—The following-named persons now residents of the village of Bridgeport are over sixty years of age: John P. Sheats, 75; Edith Medara, 65; Ann Smith, 80; Mrs. Murphy, 65; Casper Schlagg, 65; James Platt, Mary White, John Graff, Maria Richards, Samuel Richards, Philip Bundance, 68 each; Susannah Bundance, 70; George Becket, 80; Nicholas Justus, 75; Henry Norcross, Margaret Sayres, Robert Simpkins, George Shoemaker, 72 each; Oliver H. Woodoth, 65; Andrew Heinsen-smith, Capt. H. S. Wright, Winslow Jackson, M.D., Martha Jackson, Robert Becket, Ann Lawrence, William Atkinson, 80; Elizabeth Atkinson, 80; Andrew Stineman, Maria Thompson, James Hunt, John Horner, 80; Elizabeth Morris, Martha Gaskill, 80; Capt. George Cooper, 80; Mary A. Tomlin, Samuel Stillman, George Sane, William Sane, James C. Kirby, and Ethan Middleton.

Civil Organization.—The township was organized in 1877 by a division of Woolwich, and named "West Woolwich," and in 1878 the name was changed to "Logan," as will be seen by the two following acts of the Legislature of New Jersey, defining the boundary lines:

" Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That all that portion of the township of Woolwich, in the county of Gloucester, lying and being within the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning in the centre of the road leading from Paulsboro to Swedesboro, at Purgys bridge; thence along said road to the direct road leading past the stone meeting-house, to its terminus in the Bridgeport road; thence across, in a direct line, to the High Hills, on the west side of Raccoon Creek; thence along the Avis new road to an angle in the old Ferry road; thence along the Homan road to the road leading from Harrisonville to Pedricktown; thence in a straight line to Oldman's Creek; thence along Oldman's Creek to the mouth thereof at Delaware River; thence at right angles with the shore, in a straight line, until it intersects the boundary line of New Jersey and the State of Pennsylvania; thence up said Delaware River to a point opposite the mouth of Purgys Creek; thence in a straight line to the mouth of said Purgys Creek; thence along the said creek, the several courses thereof, to the place of beginning, shall be, and hereby is, set off from the township of Woolwich, in the county of Gloucester, and made a separate township, to be known by the name of the township of West Woolwich."

Approved.

By the following act of the Legislature, approved March 6, 1878, the name of the township was changed from West Woolwich to that of Logan:

" Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That the name of the township of West Woolwich, in the county of Gloucester, be, and the same hereby is, changed to the name of 'Logan,' and that hereafter the township now called and known as the township of West Woolwich, in the county of Gloucester, shall be called the township of Logan."

First Annual Town-Meeting.—In pursuance of public notice, the first annual town-meeting of the

township of West Woolwich (now Logan) was held at the hotel of John P. Sheets, Jr., in Bridgeport, March 13, 1877. Peter F. Lock was chosen moderator, and Samuel B. Platt clerk.

The following appropriations were then ordered: For repairs of roads, \$600; for overseers of poor, \$100; for Charles Feather, for support of poor, \$50; for pay of township officers, \$400; for Cooper road in the village to railroad station, \$700; for B. F. McAllister, collector for 1875, \$50; for Peter Carey, constable (extra), \$50; for gravel on roads where private parties furnish the same, \$175.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the following officers for the ensuing year:

Town Clerk, F. D. Springer; *Assessor*, B. F. McAllister; *Collector*, John F. Truitt; *Chosen Freeholders*, Benjamin Shoemaker, Peter F. Lock; *Township Committee*, James C. Kirby, Caleb Kirby, Josiah B. Becket, William H. Feather, Samuel B. Gaskill; *Surveyors of Highways*, J. B. Becket, John B. Gray; *Overseers of Highways*, Joseph Capaley, Conrad Shoemaker; *Constable*, Peter Carey; *Overseers of Poor*, Joseph E. Norton, John F. Truitt; *Commissioners of Appeals*, Peter Torbert, Charles C. Davis, Peter C. Kille; *Justice of the Peace*, John F. Truitt; *Judge of Election*, S. L. Kille; *Inspectors of Election*, Caleb Kirby, B. F. McAllister; *Pound-Keepers*, Aaron Hewes, Davis B. Warrington, Freedom Hart.

The following is a list of town clerks, assessors, collectors, chosen freeholders, township committee, constables, and justices of the peace elected since 1877:

Clerks.—F. D. Springer, 1878-79, 1883; C. W. Barker, 1880-82.

Assessors.—B. F. McAllister, 1878-82; Samuel B. Platt, 1883.

Collectors.—John F. Truitt, 1878; Michael H. Featherer, 1879-72; H. S. Bright, 1883.

Chosen Freeholders.—Peter F. Lock, Benjamin Shoemaker, 1878; Peter F. Lock, J. B. Beckett, 1879-81; Peter F. Lock, W. H. Featherer, 1882-83.

Township Committee.—James C. Kirby, Caleb Kirby, J. B. Beckett, W. H. Featherer, S. B. Gaskill, 1878; S. B. Gaskill, Caleb Kirby, William H. Featherer, 1879-82; Caleb Kirby, Jacob V. Holdcraft, S. B. Gaskill, 1883.

Constables.—Peter Carey, 1878; Elwood Usinger, 1879-80; John B. Carey, 1881.

Justices of the Peace.—J. P. Sheets, Sr., 1878; Philip Schlag, 1879-82; Charles H. Featherer, 1883.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

Bridgeport.—This town was originally, and for many years, known as "Raccoon Lower Bridge," from the fact of the bridge crossing the creek at this point was the lower one on the stream. When it was deemed necessary, for the better accommodation of the public, that a post-office should be established at this point, a vote of the people was taken, which resulted in the choice of the name Bridgeport, and John Sweeten was appointed postmaster, with Oliver H. Woodoth as assistant, who subsequently became postmaster. This was in 1844, and the mail was received tri-weekly, and subsequently changed to once a week, by way of Swedesboro. The mail is now received and dispatched twice a day by F. D. Springer, postmaster.

The land upon which Bridgeport is situated was owned by John Pisant, who afterwards sold to Joseph Richards. Mr. Richards died at the ripe old age of

ninety-nine years. It is believed that Mr. Pisant located on this tract as early as 1700, and in 1833 it was still owned by the Pisant heirs. The property subsequently passed to the ownership of William R. Cooper and George Sheats.

Maj. John Pisant built the long stone house near the creek. He was an old German, and was engaged in butchering for the Philadelphia market. This stone house was built in the early part of the last century, probably about 1725. It was subsequently owned by Joseph Richards.

The old brick house standing a little back from Main Street was built by a Mr. Becket, who sold to Cooper. The Cooper plantation extended nearly a mile from the centre of the town up beyond the old stone school-house and graveyard.

The pioneer store in Bridgeport was kept in the old stone house next to the creek, by John Sweeten. His stock of goods was as primitive as could well be imagined, as five dollars would purchase all the goods he had to commence with. His business, however, was extensive enough to employ a clerk, and Oliver H. Woodoth, then a mere boy, was employed in the store. Mr. Woodoth remained in the employ of Mr. Sweeten for forty-five years, and had the pleasure of seeing the business grow from a few plugs of tobacco to an immense trade.

Lawrence Henholm also had a small store here as early as 1833.

The pioneer tavern at Lower Raccoon Bridge was kept by George Sheats, father of John Sheats, better known by the older inhabitants than by the present generation.

The enterprising man of the town, in the early part of this century, was William Sweeten. He was one of those men who rejoiced in the prosperity of the town, which in turn would bring prosperity to his door. He owned quite a tract of land, upon which he built several houses, and sold them to parties who wished to locate in the then young village, thus increasing the population, and turning an honest penny at the same time.

The Lawrence farm, now owned by Mr. Middleton, of Philadelphia, was originally the Tonkin plantation.

In 1883 there was within the limits of the village of Bridgeport two churches (Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Protestant), one two-story school-house, four stores (Charles G. Holdcraft, Dr. J. W. Jackson, Seigmund Schotten, and Elson T. Sweeten), two blacksmith-shops (C. Stetser and Samuel Gill), two wheelwrights (William Stanton and James Hewes), two physicians (E. Oliphant and J. W. Jackson), railroad station, and steamboat landing. The Bridgeport Hotel is kept by E. Usinger. F. D. Springer is the postmaster, with the office in the store of E. T. Sweeten. There was also the usual number of small shops found in a town of this size.

Repanpo is a small village in the eastern part of

the township, one and one-eighth miles south from Repaupo Station, on the Delaware River Railroad. Settlements were made in the immediate vicinity of what is now the village by the Lock family as early as 1748, the descendants of whom are still some of the prominent citizens in and near the town. The Locks owned all the land along the north side of the road running from Purgy Bridge, through the village of Asbury, to Little Timber Creek, and nearly as far north as the present line of the railroad. Peter F. Lock is the owner and occupant of the first brick house built in what is now Logan township, and the first house built in the immediate vicinity of Repaupo. It is on the road from Repaupo post-office to the railroad station, and was built by Charles Lock in or as early as 1740. A pear-tree set out near the house the year that it was built is still standing, and in 1883 it bore an abundance of fruit.

The farm adjoining that of P. F. Lock was warranted by Peter H. Lock, and another farm adjacent was warranted by John Lock as early as 1740. Others of the Lock family warranted all the land above mentioned except that of Charles, Peter H., and John Lock.

As soon as the roads were laid out, forming a crossing at what is now Asbury, that point very naturally became the centre of settlement, and as the pioneer plantations were divided and subdivided, the settlement began to centre nearer the crossing, forming the nucleus around which has grown a town of thirty-five dwellings, two stores, a church, and a school-house.

The pioneer merchant at this place was Michael C. Grant, who in 1841 built the house now owned and occupied by William B. Gleason. Here Mr. Grant kept store for several years.

The next store at this place was that of Daniel F. Groff, who in 1855 built the store-house now occupied by G. H. Wharton. Mr. Groff was succeeded by Aquilla Riggins, and he by several others, and in the spring of 1877 the property was purchased by George H. Wharton, the present merchant, on the corner. The store of Joseph and Lewis Myers was built by that firm in 1869, and they have been in business since that time.

The pioneer postmaster at this place was Joel Lock, who kept the office in the old Grant store. He was succeeded by Ann Cooper, when the office was removed to the old "Seven Stars Hotel," at the railroad station. In 1880, G. H. Wharton was appointed postmaster, when the office was returned to the village, where it is now kept.

There never has been a tavern within the limits of the village. The nearest was the old Seven Stars, at the railroad station. This is a frame house, and it was built prior to the Revolutionary war, and kept as a tavern during that eventful period, and for nearly a century subsequently. The last of the long line of "Bonifaces" that ministered to the wants of "man

and beast" at this old hostelry was Zachariah Cozens, who abandoned the business several years ago. The property is now owned by Samuel D. Cooper. The stone house across the way was built in 1807, by Lawrence Enholm. Here a store was kept for many years, and finally abandoned as a trading-point. The property is now owned by Mary Hendrickson.

There was in 1883 in the village of Repaupo two stores,—G. H. Wharton and J. & L. Myers; one general carriage-making and blacksmithing establishment, by George McIlvaine; the post-office, a school-house, and one Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1849.

CHURCHES.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Bridgeport.—The pioneer class, around which has grown the present large and prosperous society, was formed in the old Cooper school-house, a stone building still standing nearly half a mile northeast from the village of Bridgeport. The school-house was built in 1832, and no sooner was the building under roof than the eagle eye of the ever-alert itinerant caught a glimpse of it, and saw at once a good position for a gospel battery, and immediately occupied it, and soon gathered enough recruits to hold the position, and appointed as leader of the little band Mr. Jacob Carson. Among the pioneer members of this class are found the names of Rebecca A. Cooper, Mrs. J. C. Sheets, Mary Jones, Samuel Creghead and wife, and several others. A society was formed in 1838 by Rev. E. Stoud.

Ten years later, or when the society was yet in its infancy, differences of opinion arose as to church polity, which for a time seemed to overwhelm the few faithful soldiers of the cross, and the meetings were but slimly attended. During this time Rev. James Long was the pastor, and to his energy, perseverance, and faithfulness, no doubt, the society owes its life. At one time he came to the school-house to hold services and found the building closed, and found also two of his members standing guard at the door, awaiting the coming of the sexton to admit them; but he came not, and the trio knelt down in front of the house, while Mr. Long offered up a fervent prayer to Almighty God for the preservation and life of the little society, and dismissed his small congregation. Here was the beginning of a new era. People began to feel anxious about Sunday preaching, and as the work on this their new charge would not admit of a circuit preacher devoting any portion of his labor to this field on Sunday, the society made arrangements with Jonas Chew to preach for them every alternate Sunday morning for six months.

In 1849 this society agreed with the Methodist Protestant society to hold a series of meetings jointly, and to allow the converts, if any, to join whichever society they preferred, without solicitation on the part of the old members. This relation, like most others of the same nature, did not terminate as happily as desired by some, and the Methodist Episcopal

branch rented Clark's Hall for six months, and subsequently rented a hall of Gideon Beeson, on Main Street, where they worshiped about four years, during which time the little society prospered, and in 1854 commenced building a house of worship, and completed it in June, 1855. At this time Revs. William I. Brooks and J. I. Carson were the preachers on this charge, and a few extra meetings added quite a number of substantial members to the church. This circuit or charge then embraced Paulsboro, Asbury, Bridgeport, Centre Square, Purkintown, Sculltown, Hans' Neck, and Wright's School-House, the circuit preachers supplied the pulpits every alternate Sunday, and the other Sabbaths they were supplied by local talent. In 1856 Paulsboro was made a station, the balance of the circuit remaining intact till 1859 or 1860.

In 1865, Bridgeport and Asbury became a separate charge, with Rev. Levi Larew as pastor, who remained two years, and under whose labors the work prospered and the society increased in numbers.

From 1867 to 1869, Rev. John I. Carson was the pastor in charge, and during his pastorate the church was repaired and the parsonage built, and at the close of the Conference year, 1869, there were one hundred and one members in full connection, thirteen on probation, and a Sunday-school numbering ninety-seven scholars.

In 1882, under the administration of Rev. Mr. Diverty, a debt of sixteen hundred dollars remaining on the parsonage was paid by the society, and in 1883 the church and grounds were beautified at an expense of over two hundred dollars, without any debt remaining upon the church property. The membership of this society in 1883 was one hundred and seventy-five.

The following is a complete list of pastors from 1850 to the present time: 1850, A. K. Sheets and S. S. Post; 1851, A. K. Sheets and J. S. Heisler; 1852-53, — Mathis and — Andrews; 1854-55, William A. Brooks and J. I. Carson; 1856, — Pearson and — Walters; 1857, — Pearson and — Wheeler; 1858, — Laudenslager and — Wheeler; 1859, D. McKerdy and J. Vansant; 1860, D. McKerdy and — Wilcox; 1861-62, — Hudson and — Chatin; 1863, — Someral and — Tullis; 1864, — Someral and — Moore; 1865-66, Levi Larew; 1867-69, John I. Carson; 1870-71, Joseph Ashbrook; 1872, J. H. Stockton; 1873-75, E. C. Hancock; 1876-78, George C. Stanger; 1879-81, L. O. Manchester; 1882-83, James E. Diverty.

The present value of church property is five thousand five hundred dollars. Local Preacher, Jacob Holdcraft; Stewards, Jacob Holdcraft, William Kelly, Freedom Hurff, and Peter Torbert. The present class-leaders, aside from the pastor and local preachers, are James Sparks and Henry Lamb.

The Sunday-school connected with the church is under the superintendence of Lewis Kille, with forty teachers and two hundred and fifty pupils.

Methodist Protestant Church¹—Meetings from which originated the Methodist Protestant Church at Bridgeport were held in the old stone school-house, just out of the village, in 1836, '37, '38, and '39, by Rev. John S. Christine, who was assigned to this charge. In 1840 the society formed by the Rev. Christine had become strong and enthusiastic, and in that year built a frame meeting-house in front of what is now, and was then, the old graveyard. The ground on which the church stood is now included in the cemetery lot. The meeting-house was a frame structure, costing one thousand and fifty dollars, and was dedicated by Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, Dec. 29, 1840. The old stone school-house above mentioned was built in 1832, and the first teacher in it was David Holton, and James Clark, of Bridgeport, was one of the pupils.

Original Members.—The following were the members of the class and society up to and including the year 1842: Delilah Cooper, Achsa English, James Clark, Edward Foster, Joseph Richards, Mary Richards, Isaac Richards, Benjamin Salisbury, Ziba Steelman, William Strimple, Emeline Thompson, Eliza Reed, William B. Reed, Charles Wilkinson, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Mary Wilkinson, Hiram Wilkinson, Rebecca Griffin, John Jordan, Isaac Dilks, Elizabeth Dilks, Sarah Walton, John Headley, Hannah Headley, Sarah K. Stanton, John Steelman, Sarah E. Fox, Ellen B. Walton, Theresa Steelman, Eleanor Hendrickson, George Shields, Maria Murphy, Elijah Maccaffrey, John P. Sheets, Sr., Catherine Gray, Maria H. Thompson, Winslow Jackson, Benjamin D. Ayres, Emeline Caskey, James W. Platt, Eliza Elkinton, Charles Elkinton, Eliza Davenport, William Davenport, Elizabeth Sheets, Henry Dunk, Aaron Verbeeler, Ann M. Hendrickson, Margaret Sayres, Margaret J. Ayres, Henry Smith, Martha J. Ewing, Joseph Ewing, John R. Sparks, Mary A. Sparks, Elizabeth Richards, Isaac Fox, Leonard Streeter, W. Timmerman, Allen C. Clark, Amos E. Ayres, Amos Sack, Ella Smith, Alvah B. Timmerman, Aaron Pierson, A. F. Burnette, Ann E. Burke, Anna M. Mitchell, Ada Reed, Anna E. Steelman, Anna S. Justus, Ann E. Lamb, Anna J. Ewan, Ann Smith, William Treadway, John B. Gray, William Gray, Charles Steelman, Martha Steelman, Oliver H. Woodoth, John Sweeten, John Jones, John A. English, and Samuel Black.

The first trustees of this society were elected Dec. 1, 1842, and subscribed to an oath before John B. Hilyard, a justice of the peace, that they would bear true allegiance to the United States, the State of New Jersey, and perform the duties of their office to the best of their ability.

In 1853 the society moved their meeting-house from the old graveyard to its present location on Main Street, in the village of Bridgeport, and now it forms the rear of the present church edifice. In 1868

¹ From data furnished by James Clark.



James C. Kirby

the front of the church, twelve by thirty-four feet, as it now appears, with a steeple ninety-four feet high, was built, and the whole house thoroughly renovated and repaired at a cost of three thousand two hundred dollars, and rededicated Oct. 21, 1868, by Rev. T. G. Appleget, assisted by Revs. E. D. Stultz and Joseph Wilson, the pastor in charge.

The pastors have been Rev. Henry Bruce and J. S. Christine, previous to building the church; Rev. F. D. Schoch, 1842; James Moore, 1844; Edwin Hervey, 1845; Jacob H. Nichols, 1846; Henry D. Moore, Whitman R. Hervey, S. K. Fox, Bartine Twyford, 1847-48; J. Timberman, 1849; Samuel Budd, 1850; T. T. Heiss, 1851; E. D. Schoch, 1852; Thomas W. Smith, John J. Gray, 1853-54; T. K. Witzel, 1855; J. N. Timberman, 1856; Abraham Truitt, 1858; John R. Beck, 1859; T. T. Heiss, 1861; Jacob D. Wilson, 1862; T. K. Witzel, 1865; Ezra B. Lake, 1866-67; Joseph Wilson, 1868-69; William Stokes, William M. H. Smith, Lewis Neal, Thomas Clark, W. B. Vanleer, T. T. Heiss, 1875; — Shugard, 1876; — Sanson, — Barker, Isaac McDowel, 1877-78; Joseph Breckbank, 1879; James W. Laughlin, from 1880 to June, 1882, since which time the society has been supplied occasionally by preachers from other places.

The trustees in 1883 were James Clark, Peter Carey, Charles Jones, and Ethan Middleton; Stewards, James Clark, P. Carey, and E. Middleton. Value of church property, three thousand six hundred dollars. Present membership, thirty.

The Sunday-school connected with this society was organized in 1841, with Isaac Dilks as superintendent, and it is now under the supervision of James Clark, with thirty pupils and teachers.

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church of Repto.¹—The origin of this society was the outgrowth of a great revival at the old stone meeting-house, under the ministrations of Rev. John Walker and Rev. — Stephens, in 1833. Previous to this there had been meetings held occasionally under a big oak-tree near the school-house, by John Code and Felix Fisler, but up to this time no society was formed. "Father Walker," as he was called, organized a class at the school-house with the members of the neighborhood, consisting of Nathan Fawcett (leader), Lydia Fawcett, Thomas Derrickson, Louisa Derrickson, David Blizzard, Catharine Blizzard, Job Key, Ann Key, Ann Homan, Sarah Key, Sarah Helms, John Lock, Mary Lock. Soon after the class was formed, a number of persons who had neglected to seek pardon at the stone meeting-house expressed a desire to have another opportunity to do so, when the local preachers, Thomas Davidson, Jesse Mullen, and Samuel B. Derrickson, came over from Paulsboro and Clarksboro and started a meeting. There was a large increase in the membership as the result of the meet-

¹ By Isaac Derrickson.

ing, and this place then became a preaching appointment, the services of circuit ministers being had on Wednesday evening every two weeks, and local preachers every Sunday morning.

In 1842 a Sunday-school was organized, with Nathan Fawcett, superintendent.

In the spring of 1843 a great revival broke out, when the power of God was overwhelming, and some lay for days, at intervals praising Him.

In 1849 a church was built, during the pastorate of A. K. Street. It is a frame building, and it was dedicated by Rev. David W. Bartine. The money was all secured by previous subscriptions and subscriptions on dedication-day. There was preaching then at the church every alternate Sunday afternoon by circuit preachers, local preachers every other alternate Sunday. The circuit was broken up, and Asbury became a charge with Bridgeport, and preaching service was held every Sunday afternoon, and has remained so, with the exception of two years, 1873-74, when Asbury was supplied by the elder E. H. Stokes.

The membership is now sixty, with a Sunday-school of ninety scholars, teachers, and officers. James E. Diverty is the present pastor; Wm. Helms, superintendent. The church property is valued at two thousand dollars.

The society has had for preachers since it was organized John Walker, Thomas G. Stewart, J. K. Shaw, Robert Lutton, Edward Stout, Jos. Atwood, Noah Edwards, S. Y. Monroe, Mulford Day, James Long, Henry B. Beegle, Rev. Gaskill, Andrew Matthews, John I. Carson (two periods), Jacob Loudenslager, Samuel Wheeler, Jos. Chattin, Julius Wilcox, Dickerson Moore, Levi Larue, David McCurdy, James Vansant, Samuel Hudson, Rev. Pierson, Wm. Lillie, Wm. Barlow, Enoch Shinn, E. C. Hancock, George C. Stanger, Enoch Green, L. O. Manchester, and others.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JAMES C. KIRBY.

Caleb Kirby, the grandfather of James C., was a native of Salem County, and from thence removed to Gloucester County, where he purchased a farm in Woolwich (now Logan) township. His children were John, Martha, Meribee, Abigail, and Beulah. His only son, John, adopted the pursuits of his father, and, having located in Logan township, married Miss Beulah, daughter of James Clark, of Woolwich township, to whom were born children,—Caleb, John, Joseph, Loring, Elizabeth (Mrs. Richards), Beulah (Mrs. Ford), and two who are deceased, Charles and Sarah. The death of Mr. Kirby occurred in 1881, in his eighty-ninth year. His son, James C., was born Dec. 6, 1815, in Logan township. Such advantages as the common school of the neighbor-

hood afforded were supplemented by more thorough instruction at Swedesboro, after which a year or more was spent in teaching. He then turned his attention to farming, having for a period of years rented a farm. He was married in 1841 to Miss Sarah, daughter of John Pierson, of Battentown, in the same county. Their children are Anna Margaret, wife of Samuel B. Gaskell, of Logan township, and a son, John, who is associated with his father in the cultivation of his land. In 1868, Mr. Kirby purchased his present productive farm, and is principally engaged in the raising of produce for the Philadelphia market, his facilities of shipment being exceptionally convenient. His political principles were formerly in harmony with the platform of the Whig party, but a change of views later made him a pronounced Democrat. Though the recipient of one or more minor offices, he has invariably been indifferent to such honors. He is a director of the Swedesboro National Bank, and otherwise identified with the active business interests of the township. Mr. Kirby is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and one of the vestrymen of the church of that denomination at Swedesboro.

GEORGE S. SHARP.

The Sharp family from which George S. traces his descent are of English extraction. His grandfather was a successful landlord in Salem County, N. J. He was united in marriage to a Miss Christman, and had children,—Jacob, James, Thomas, Joseph, Sarah, and Mary Ann (Mrs. James Thompson). Jacob was born in Salem County, and married Rosanna, daughter of George Sheets, of Bridgeport, Gloucester Co. Their children were ten in number, as follows: Amanda (Mrs. Joseph Kidd), John, Eliza (Mrs. Samuel Stanger), Sarah (Mrs. Charles E. Lodge), Charles, George S., Hugh C., Thompson, Hannah Frances (Mrs. Charles Hendrickson), and Henry. Mr. Sharp during his active lifetime was both a carpenter and a farmer, but, having retired from these avocations, now resides in Bridgeport. His son, George S., was born March 6, 1836, in West Philadelphia, Pa., and when two years of age removed to Logan township, Gloucester Co., where he has since resided. He early engaged in active labor, meanwhile improving such opportunities for education as occurred during the winter months until his majority was attained, when he embarked in the raising of produce on shares, and continued thus employed for seven years. He was in the fall of 1860 married to Miss Beulah L., daughter of Jonathan Bennett and Hannah Lippincott, of Asbury, N. J. Mr. Bennett had been previously married to Miss Mary Davis, and was the parent of fourteen children, three of whom were by the first marriage. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Sharp are Charles Edward, Ellen B. (who has been since her eighteenth year

engaged in teaching), Katie H., Howard R., and one, Franklin B., who died in infancy. During the year 1867, Mr. Sharp purchased his present home in Logan township, and has since been actively interested in the raising of general produce and other farm labor. By discretion and close application to business he has in a comparatively few years acquired a competency, and enjoys a deservedly high reputation as a successful grower of sweet potatoes, which he makes a specialty. The market for his produce is principally found in Philadelphia. In local politics Mr. Sharp has been somewhat active as a Republican, but has invariably refused to accept office. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bridgeport, as is also Mrs. Sharp.

CHAPTER XLV.

TOWNSHIP OF MANTUA.¹

Geographical and Descriptive.—Mantua was taken from Greenwich and organized into a separate township in 1853, and took its name from the creek which forms its northeastern boundary. It contains an area of ten thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven acres, among which is some of the best land in the county. It is very productive in market garden-truck, and being centrally located on the West Jersey Railroad, enjoys good facilities for shipping vegetables and small fruits.

The township is bounded on the northeast by West Deptford, Deptford, and Washington townships, on the southeast by Clayton township, on the south and southeast by Harrison township, and on the northwest by East Greenwich township.

Mantua is watered by the numerous branches and small lakes of the head-waters of Mantua Creek. The West Jersey Railroad crosses the east part of the township, running near Barnsboro and near the grounds of the "Pitman Grove Camp-Meeting Association."

Pioneer Settlers.—Just who was the pioneer settler of what is now Mantua township is not definitely known. However, the territory embraced quite a number of settlers previous to the middle of the last century, among whom was John Driver, who took up what was for a long time known as the "Driver tract," and which is still spoken of as such.

This tract was taken up in 1740, and lies on the northeast side of the village of Barnsboro. After Driver's death the plantation was sold to Samuel P. Tice. Tice sold a portion of the plantation to West Jessup, reserving the Driver homestead for himself. At the death of Tice his property was left to his widow, his son, and John T. Ogden, an adopted son.

¹ By W. H. Shaw.