

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY;

CONTAINING  
A GENERAL COLLECTION OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS, TRADITIONS,  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, ANECDOTES, Etc.

RELATING TO ITS  
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES,  
WITH  
GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF EVERY TOWNSHIP IN THE STATE.

Illustrated by 120 Engravings.

BY JOHN W. BARBER,  
AUTHOR OF CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS, ETC.  
AND  
HENRY HOWE,  
AUTHOR OF "THE MEMOIRS OF EMINENT AMERICAN MECHANICS," ETC.

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built of logs, and destroyed about 35 years since. After the Indians left, it was used by the whites for public worship.

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### WILLINGBORO.

This township is about 5 m. long, 3 wide ; and is bounded NE. by Burlington, E. by Northampton, SW. by Chester, and NW. by the Delaware river. Its surface is level ; soil fertile, and, in the eastern part, productive in grain and grass, and in the western, in vegetables. The railroad between New York and Philadelphia passes through the W. part of Willingboro. The township was early settled by Friends. It contains 4 stores ; cap. in manufac. \$3,100 ; 2 schools, 73 scholars. Pop. 900.

Cooperstown is on the Camden and Burlington road, 3 m. from the latter place. It contains a Methodist and a Free church, and a few dwellings. Dunks Ferry, a noted crossing-place on the Delaware in the war of the revolution, contains a few dwellings and an Episcopal church. Rancocus, 4 m. W. of Mt. Holly, on the line of this and Northampton township, is a new and handsome village, grown up within a few years, and containing a Friends meeting and about 30 dwellings.

On the site of the Franklin Park Academy, on the bank of the Rancocus, formerly stood the mansion of William Franklin, the last of the colonial governors of New Jersey. It was destroyed by fire a few years since. "Within sight of the academy was the first Rancocus meeting-house of Friends—now down. An ancient tree near there, of *imported* and *unknown* character, now shows the graveyard, close to the tumulus formed by the graves of the Indians. There they used to be brought on wickers, on men's shoulders, and were interred in sitting postures, surrounded and defended by upright wickers."

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### CAPE MAY COUNTY.

CAPE MAY COUNTY is bounded N. by Atlantic co., E. and S. by the ocean, and W. by Delaware bay and Cumberland co. : length, 30 miles ; greatest breadth, 14 miles. This county is level, and its formation alluvial. Along on the seaside, several beaches, known as "Two-mile Beach," "Five-mile," "Leaming's," "Ludlam's," and "Peck's," unitedly extend the whole length of the county. They are covered with grass, and afford excellent pasturage. West of this is a marsh, from 2 to 3 miles wide, broken by many small salt-water lakes, communicating by inlets with the ocean. There is a similar marsh, though not interspersed with lakes, on the western, and one on the northern boundary of the county. The soil of the

soil of the county is composed generally of sand, loam, and gravel, which in many places is covered with oak, and in the northern part pine is found. The inhabitants are mostly engaged in agriculture; wheat, rye, oats, and Indian corn being the principal crops. Large quantities of timber are annually exported to market. Nearly all the hay is obtained from the salt-marshes.

This county derives its name from Cornelius Jacobse Mey, who, in 1621, was sent out by the Dutch West India Company, with a number of settlers; and explored the coast, from Cape Cod to the Delaware, and gave his own name to its northern cape.\* In 1729, the Dutch Company sent out three ships, with agents to purchase lands of the natives; one of which entered the Delaware, and bought, the succeeding year, of nine Indian chiefs, for Goodwin and Bloemart, 16 square miles, on the peninsula of Cape May. Nothing definite can be gathered of its first settlement, previous to 1691; yet it is not improbable it was settled as early as 1640. A large proportion of the original settlers came from Long Island, the whale-fishery then holding out strong inducements for them to visit its shores. Cape May was first made a county by a proprietary law, in 1692; by another, in 1694, it had its bounds better ascertained; and by the act of 1710 they were definitely fixed.

Cape May co. is divided into 4 townships, viz :

Dennis,	Lower,	Middle,	Upper.
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Its population, in 1726, was 668; in 1738, was 1,004; in 1790, was 2,571, (of whom 141 were slaves;) in 1810, was 3,632; in 1830, was 4,936, (slaves 3;) in 1840, was 5,324.

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## DENNIS.

This township was formed in 1826. It is 13 miles long, with an average width of about 6. It is bounded N. by Upper Township, E. by the ocean, S. by Middle Township, and W. by Maurice river, Cumberland co. Dennis creek runs through an extensive cedar swamp. The whole township, except that part cultivated, or meadow, is covered with oaks, pines, and cedars. There are in the township 7 stores, 2 grist-mills, 6 saw-mills; 4 schools, 205 scholars. Pop. 1,350.

Dennisville is a post-village, extending on both sides of the creek for a mile. It is 8 miles north of the courthouse, 8 south of Tuckahoe, and 28 from Bridgeton. It contains 5 stores, about 70 dwellings, a neat academy—the upper story of which is used for a lyceum, and for religious meetings. Ship-building and the lumber-trade are carried on here. The Methodist church, at this place,

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\* Mey must have possessed a due share of egotism, as he named the bay of New York "Port Mey;" the Delaware, "New Port Mey;" its north cape, "Cape Mey;" and its south cape, "Cape Cornelius." Only one of his designations has been handed down to posterity, and that has undergone some change in its orthography; the *e* being changed to *a*.

was the first erected in the county. It was finished in 1803. The trustees were Constantine Smith, James Ludlam, Christopher Ludlam, Nathan Cresse, J. Tomlen. John Goff is believed to have preached the first sermon. The members of the class were Nathan Cresse and wife, R. Woodruff, William and John Mitchell, John Townsend, jr. and wife, Jeremiah Sayre and wife, Sarah Wintzell, Mrs. Enoch Smith, and David Heldreth, who was a local preacher. The number of members of the Methodist denomination in the county is now upwards of 1,100. There is a Baptist church in the eastern part of the township. West Creek, 4 miles NW. of Dennisville, is a thickly-settled agricultural neighborhood.

The following is from a manuscript of Thomas Leaming, who died in 1723, aged 49 years; and was buried in the old burying-ground on the place of Humphrey Leaming, on the sea-shore. A rough head-stone marks the spot.

"In July, 1674, I was born in Southampton, Long Island. When I was 18 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 until his death. The winter following I went a *whaling*, and we got eight whales, and five of them we drove to the Hoarkills, (Lewistown, Delaware;) and we went there to cut them up, and staid a month. The first day of May we came home to Cape May, and my father was very sick; and the 3d 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 Crafford, and on my own land; and that fall had a sore fit of sickness, at Henry Stites's—and in the year 1700 I lived at my own plantation, and worked for Peter Corson. I was married in 1701; and in 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. [Leaming was a strict Quaker at this time.] In 1707 we made the county road."

It has been supposed by many, that the number of *aborigines* in this state, when first visited by Europeans, was inconsiderable. That they were very numerous in this county, there cannot be any doubt, from the great quantities of shells found contiguous to the seaboard. Many hundreds of bushels are to be seen, in numerous places, in one mass: and the soil in many places abounds with them, and is enriched thereby. There is a singular and, perhaps, unaccountable fact, respecting these deposits: the shells are, universally, so broken that seldom a piece is found larger than a shilling. Many Indian relics have been discovered, such as isinglass, medals, stone-hatchets, arrow-heads, earthen-ware of a rough description, beads, javelin-heads, &c.

Annexed is a copy of the oath of allegiance taken and signed, by those friendly to the revolution, with the names of all the signers in this county:

*Oath of Allegiance.*—"I do sincerely profess and swear, I do not hold myself bound by allegiance to the King of Great Britain—so help me God. I do sincerely profess and swear, that I do and will bear true faith and allegiance to the government established in this state, under the authority of the people—so help me God. May 27th, 1778."

John Taylor,	Humphrey Stites,	David Corson,	James Hildreth, Jr.,
Ellis Hughes,	John Stites,	Elijah Ganetson,	Abner Corson,
Elijah Shaw,	Silas Swain,	Rem. Corson,	David Hildreth,
Levi Hand,	Constantine Foster,	Joseph Ludlam,	Jacob Crowell,
Aaron Swain,	Daniel Hewitt,	Jonathan Townsend,	Jeremiah Richardson,
Reuben Swain,	William Schellenger,	Ezra Hand,	William Shaw,
Daniel Cressee,	Memucan Hughes,	John Goof,	Henry Schellinger,
Aaron Eldredge,	Ellis Hughes, Jr.,	David Cressee,	Nathan Hand,
Constant Hughes,	Benjamin Ballenger,	Jesse Corson,	Josiah Crowell,
Henry Stevens,	Richard Stevenson,	James Godfrey, Jr.,	Daniel Johnson,
Matthew Whillden,	Uriah Gandy,	Zebulon Cressee,	Richard Matthews,
Levi Eldredge,	Thomas Gandy,	Nezer Swain,	Isaac Matthews,
David Johnson,	Thomas Hand,	Lewis Cressee,	Samuel Peterson,
George Campbell,	Stephen Foster,	George Taylor,	George Norton,
Jacob Richardson,	John Nickleson,	Philip Godfrey,	Arthur Cressee,
Daniel Crowell,	David Townsend,	Israel Stites,	John Foster,
Ezekiel Eldredge,	Joshua Ganetson,	Christopher Leaming,	Richard Edmonds,
Jonathan Eldredge,	Samuel Townsend,	William Yates,	Absalom Hand,
Abner Periman,	John Goldin,	John Izard,	Jacob Stites,
Simeon Izard,	Peter Corson,	Daniel Ganetson,	Jesse Hughes,
Gideon Kent,	John Baker,	John Holmes,	Jonathan Leaming."
George Hollingshead,	Jacob Smith,	Jonathan Hildreth,	

The aged people of the county can recollect, in the dark days of the revolution, when the army was barefoot, and provisions so exceedingly scarce, that their people boiled out, dried, and strung large quantities of clams, and transported them to the army. No doubt they were esteemed a luxury by the half-starved soldiery, and substituted, in some measure, beef and pork. Salt was then manufactured, in considerable quantities, by the inhabitants. The remains of a large establishment are yet apparent, near Townsend's sound, on the James Townsend place. It was owned by a Dr. Harris, who was odious to the British, because he sold gunpowder. They offered a reward for him, and threatened the destruction of his works; but never dared put their threat in execution.

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## LOWER.

This, the most southern township in New Jersey, was incorporated in 1798. Its length, N. and S., is 8 m.; width, E. and W., the same. It is bounded N. by Middle Township, E. and S. by the Atlantic ocean, and W. by Delaware bay. A great portion of its surface is covered with a salt marsh and sea-beach. On the ocean shore the soil is loamy; the bay shore is sandy, and the central part sandy loam. There is much young timber in the township. The inhabitants are mostly engaged in agriculture, or maritime pursuits. There are in the township 6 stores, 3 saw-m.; 6 schools, 240 scholars. Pop. 1,133.

Among the early settlers of this township, who came here about

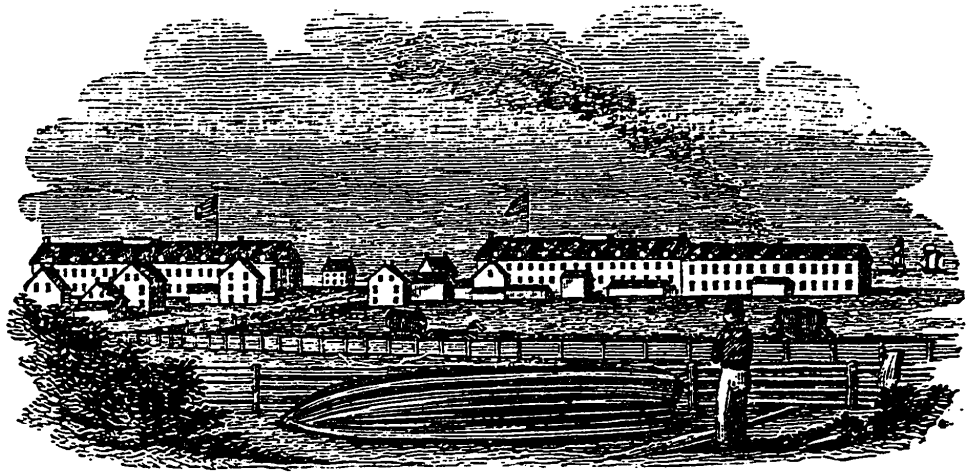
1691, principally from Long Island, were Christopher Leaming and his son Thomas, Cesar Hoskins, Samuel Matthews, Jonathan Osborne, Nathaniel Short, Cornelius Skellinks, (now Schellinger,) Henry Stites, Thomas Hand and his sons John and George, John and Caleb Carman, John Shaw, Thomas Miller, William Stillwell, Humphrey Hewes, William Mason, and John Richardson. Very soon, quite a business was done here ; as a town called *Cape May Town* sprang up at Bay shore, for the accommodation of whalers, which was probably the first town built in the county. From the Journal of Aaron Leaming, Esq., who was born in 1715, we extract the following : "In 1691, Cape May was a new country, and, beginning to settle very fast, seemed to hold out good advantages to the adventurer. I never saw any East India tea till 1735. It was at the Presbyterian parson's, the followers of Whitefield, that brought it into use at Cape May about 1744-5-6 ; and now it impoverisheth the country. . . . Christopher Leaming's remains were interred at the place called Cape May Town, which was situated above New England Town creek, and contained about 13 houses ; but on the failure of the whale-fishery in Delaware bay, it dwindled into common farms, and the graveyard is on the plantation now owned by Ebenezer Newton. At the first settlement of this county, the chief whaling was in Delaware bay ; and that occasioned the town to be built there. But there has not been one home in that town since my remembrance. In 1734 I saw the graves. Samuel Eldredge showed them to me. They were then about 50 rods from the bay, and the sand was blown up to them. The town was between them and the water. There were then some signs of the ruins of the houses."

Below is a copy of the inventory of John Story, who died in this township in 1687. It is an interesting relic, showing the prices of various articles at that time. The original spelling is preserved :

	£	s.	d.
" A chest, and small things,	0	16	0
A gon,	0	10	0
2 bras cicles an on frying-pan,	0	10	0
2 axes an on shobel,	0	5	6
On sadell,	0	10	0
On blanket,	0	2	6
On hous an improvments,	10	0	0
On stier, 4 yer ould,	5	0	0
2 stiers goin to yer ould,	4	0	0
On bull,	2	10	0
On helfer whit calfe,	3	10	0

Prased by us, { JOHN BRIGGS,  
ALEXANDER HUMPHRIES."}

The village of Cape Island is a favorite watering-place in the southern part of this township, 13 m. S. of the courthouse. It began to grow into notice as a watering-place in 1812, at which time there were but a few houses there. It now contains 2 large hotels, 3 stories high and 150 feet long,—and a third lately erected, 4 stories high and 100 feet in length ; besides numerous other houses



*Cape May Island.*

for the entertainment of visitors. The whole number of dwellings is about 50. In the summer months the island is thronged with visitors, principally from Philadelphia, with which there is then a daily steamboat communication. It is estimated that 3,000 strangers annually visit the place. The village is separated by a small creek from the mainland; but its area is fast wearing away by the encroachments of the sea. Watson, the antiquarian, in a MS. journal of a trip to Cape Island in 1835, on this point says: "Since my former visit to Cape Island in 1822, the house in which I then stopped, (Capt. Aaron Bennett's.) then *nearest* the surf, has been actually reached by the invading waters! . . . . The distance from Bennett's house to the sea bank in 1822, was 165 feet; and in 1804, as it was then measured and cut upon the house by Commodore Decatur, it was 334 feet. It had been as much as 300 ft. further off, as remembered by some old men who told me so in 1822." A large portion of the inhabitants of the village are Delaware pilots, a hardy and industrious race. About 2 m. W. of the boarding-houses is the Cape May lighthouse.

In the late war, when the British fleet were blockading Delaware bay, a boat was sent ashore from the 74-gun-ship *Poictiers*, with a flag of truce to Cape Island, with the request to Capt. Hughes, commander of a small body of men stationed there, to allow them to obtain a supply of water. On his refusal, the boat returned; and shortly after, another was sent ashore, with the threat that unless allowed peaceably to get water, they would bombard the place. Capt. Hughes, with the advice of his officers, discreetly acceded to their demand. He was, however, arrested on a charge of treason, for giving supplies to the enemy, and narrowly escaped severe punishment.

Cold Spring, 10 m. S. of the courthouse, is a thickly-settled agricultural neighborhood, containing about 40 houses within the circle of a mile. It derives its name from an excellent spring of cold water flowing up from the salt marsh, which is much frequented by

sojourners at Cape Island. It contains an academy, a Methodist church, (the second built in the county,) erected about 30 years since, and a Presbyterian church, erected in 1823 on the site of an old one. The history of this church is thus given by Johnson, in his history of Salem :

“ It is to be regretted that the records relating to the Presbyterian church in the county of Cape May were lost, and we have to begin their date from the year 1754, when the Rev. Daniel Lawrance officiated there, and lived on the parsonage which had been purchased of the Rev. John Bradnor, (in 1721,) who was a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and resided there, preaching for the people in that part of the county. The Rev. Samuel Finley, (who some years after became the president of Princeton college,) resided there, and officiated for the Cape May people. He, no doubt, was made instrumental in producing that extraordinary revival which was had among the Presbyterian and Baptist churches, from the year 1740 to about 1743.

The parsonage was purchased by the following named constituents :

Humphrey Hughes,	Barnabas Crowell,	Nathaniel Rex,
George Hand,	Jehu Richardson,	Yelverson Crowell,
John Parsons,	George Crawford,	Josiah Crowell,
Col. Jacob Spicer,	Benjamin Stites,	William Mulford,
Shamgar Hand,	Jeremiah Hand,	William Matthews,
Joshua Gulicksen,	Samuel Eldridge,	Samuel Bancroft,
Samuel Johnston,	Recompence Jonathan Furman,	Eleazer Nocault,
Constant Hughes,	Ezekiel Eldridge,	Joshua Crofferd,
Cornelius Schellenger,	Eleazer Newton,	Samuel Foster,
Jehu Hand,	Joseph Wilden,	John Matthews.
Nathaniel Hand,	Nathaniel Norton,	

The present supporters of the Presbyterian church are principally the descendants of the above-named persons. . . . . The Rev. James Watt succeeded Mr. Lawrance. Abijah Davis was succeeded by David Edwards, who had removed from Salem county, and became the pastor in 1804—continued until his death in 1813. Mr. Ogden succeeded Edwards, and resigned his charge in 1825, and was succeeded by Rev. Alvin H. Parker, who was succeeded by the present incumbent, Rev. Moses Williamson.

The following inscriptions are copied from monuments in an old graveyard, now overgrown with timber, at Cold Spring. They commemorate a father and a son who occupied prominent stations in society in their day :—

In memory of Col. Jacob Spicer, who died April 17th, 1741, aged 73 years—

Death, thou hast conquered me,  
I, by thy darts am slain,  
But Christ shall conquer thee,  
And I shall rise again.

Jacob Spicer, Esq., departed this life, Sept. 17th, 1765, in the 49th year of his age—

If aught that's good or great could save,  
Spicer had never seen the grave.

His wife, who lies by his side, has upon her monument—

Judith Spicer departed this life, Sept. 7th, 1747, in the 33d year of her age.

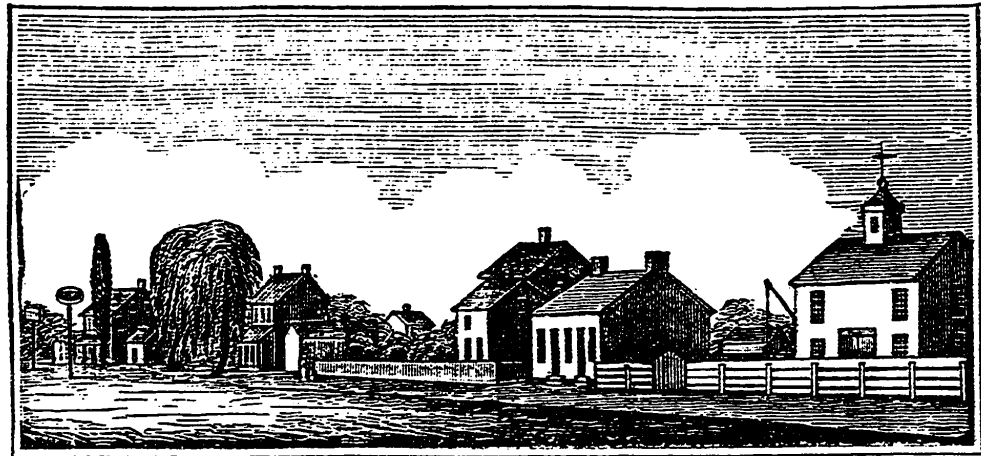
Virtue and piety give way to death,  
Or else the entombed had ne'er resigned her breath.

Fishing Creek, on the bay shore, 6 miles SW. of the courthouse, is an agricultural vicinage similar to Cold Spring. A survey has been made for a breakwater, at Crow's shoal in this township, near the mouth of Delaware bay. When the wind is NE., a good harbor is afforded at this place ; and sometimes as many as 100 ves-

sels are anchored off here. On a sudden change to the NW. vessels are frequently driven ashore. The breakwater will be an effectual protection against winds from this direction.

### MIDDLE.

Middle Township was incorporated in 1798. It is 12 miles long and 10 broad; and is bounded N. by Dennis, E. by the ocean, S. by Lower Township, and W. by Delaware bay. About half the township is salt marsh or sea-beach; the remaining portion is mostly sandy loam. The township contains 12 stores, 2 grist-m., 2 saw-m.; 5 schools, 328 scholars. Pop. 1,624. Goshen, 5 miles NW. of the courthouse, has a handsome Methodist church and about 20 dwellings. The village of Cape May Courthouse is in the central part of the township, 110 miles from Trenton, and 36 SE. of Bridgeton, and contains a courthouse, a jail, and the county offices, (shown in the accompanying view,) a Methodist and a Bap-



*View in the Village of Cape May Courthouse.*

tist church, and 30 or 40 dwellings in the vicinity. The Methodist church at this place is of recent origin, but the Baptist is very ancient.

“The Baptist church at Cape May took its origin from a vessel which put in there from England, in the year 1675. Two persons, to wit, George Taylor and Philip Hill, though not ministers, officiated as such in private families, until the Rev. Elias Keach ordained one Ashton to be a deacon. After him, the Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins took the oversight, and a church was constituted by Rev. Timothy Brooks, of Cohansey, in 1712. The elders were Dickison Sheppard and Jeremiah Bacon. The names of the male constituents were, Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins, Arthur Cressec, Seth Brooks, Abraham Smith, William Seagreaves, Jonathan Swain, John Stillwell, Henry Stites, Benjamin Hand, Richard Bowns, Ebenezer Swain, William Smith, John Taylor, Abraham Hand, Christopher Church, Charles Robinson, and their wives. In 1714, the settlement had well-nigh been depopulated by a grievous sickness, which swept off a vast number of their people. Jenkins had by his wife, whose name was Esther Jones, nine children, viz: Hannah, Phebe, Nathaniel, (his successor,) Tabitha, David, Jonathan, Esther, Abinadab, and Jonadab; these married into the families of the Shaws, Serleys, Downeys, Harrises, Pooles, Lakes, and Taylors. Nathaniel Jenkins succeeded his father in the ministry, and died in 1769, and was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Heaton, and he by the Rev. John Sutton, and he by Rev. Peter Peterson Vanhorn, and he by Rev. David Smith, and he

by Rev. Artis Seagrave, who took the oversight of the church in 1785, and resigned in 1788."—*Johnson's Hist. of Salem*. In 1789, John Stancliff came and remained until his death in 1802. That year came Jonathan Germain, who died in 1808; then Jenkins David, and continued until 1822; then Mr. Robinson, till 1831; Samuel Smith, until 1838; and Peter Powell, until 1843. The present brick Baptist church was erected on the site of that built in 1719.

The following, relating to land titles, &c., in this county, was communicated by Dr. Maurice Beesley, of Dennisville, to whose industrious researches the compilers are indebted for most of the materials introduced respecting the county.

In 1688, the 95,000 acre tract was granted to Dr. Daniel Coxe, of London, one of the West Jersey proprietors. The line commences at the hammocks below Goshen creek, on the bay shore, and in its passage across the county comes between Joseph Falkenburge's and John M'Crea's, and thence on a direct line NE. by N. over the head of Dennis creek to Tuckahoe river, including in the tract all the lands SE. of this line. In 1691, Dr. Coxe conveyed this tract and all his other lands in the state, to the West Jersey Society, from whom the land titles of the county have mostly emanated. This line, called the "Society's line," was first run in 1691.

Between 1740 and 1750, the cedar swamps of the county, then very extensive, were mostly located; previously they were not considered of sufficient value to survey. In 1756, Jacob Spicer the second, bought the interest of the West Jersey Society in all the lands of the county, constituting what is called the "vacant right," now owned by Jacob Leaming, John Moore White, Esq., and heirs of Spicer Leaming. Aaron Leaming and Jacob Spicer were competitors in this purchase of the right of the society; but the latter overreached the former. Although these personages, perhaps two of the most popular men of that time, were opposed to each other at home in consequence of their land speculations, yet when at Trenton, as representatives of their county, where they served for about 30 years, they united their energies, and were faithful and efficient public servants. The fact that the legislature intrusted them to make a collection of state papers, termed "*Leaming and Spicer's Collections*," which must have been an arduous duty, is proof of the high estimation in which they stood.

The first-named of these gentlemen was buried in the old Leaming burying-ground, two miles above the courthouse. The following is the inscription on his monument:—

In memory of Aaron Leaming, Esq., who represented this county in assembly, 30 years. Died Aug. 23th, 1780, age of 65 years, 1 mo., 11 days.

Beneath this stone, here lies a name  
That once had titles, honor, wealth, and fame:  
How loved, how honored, now avails thee not,  
To whom related, or by whom begot;  
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,  
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE COUNTY RECORDS

The first meeting for public business in the county was held at the house of Benjamin Godfrey, in the year 1692.

In the second suit on record, "George Taylor accuseth John Jarvis for 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 him; the said Jarvis refusing to clear himself, was convicted."

1693. "The grand jury upon complaint made by Elizabeth Crafford, and we have taken it into consideration, and we find that no *fariner* ought to rate ale or other strong drink to ye inhabitants of Cape May, except they have a *lysence* for so doing. So the court 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.'"

1698. "We the grand jury order that if any person will hang a gate anywhere between Joshua Carmans and old Elizabeth Carmans, and clear the old road to the gate, and from the gate to the mill, they may do it, and that shall be the road; and if that wont do, let *them* hang a gate in the old road." Same court presents John Coston for being drunk, and Henry Stites for breach of Sabbath in driving cattle and slaughtering a steer. Joseph Ludlam admonished in court, "that for time to come he be careful in taking an oath, and to *mind to what it doth relate to.*"

The following is a specimen of the manner of tying the matrimonial knot in olden time:—

"These may certify that on the 15th day of February, 1693, then and there came before me, Henry Stites and Hannah Garlick, and did each take the other to be man and wife, according to the law of this province, being lawfully published according to order, as witness their hands the day and year abovesaid.

SAMUEL CROWELL, Justice.

HENRY STITES,  
HANNAH GARLICK.

"Witnesses—John Carman, Jonathan Pine, John Shaw, Jonathan Osborne, Caleb Carman, Shamgar Hand, Ruth Dayton, William Harwood, Jacob Spicer, Ezekiel Eldredge, Timothy Brandith."

1705. "The grand jury agree to have a prison built 13 feet by 8, and 7 feet high in the first story, upon the Queen's highway, eastwardly of Gravelly run." Stocks and whipping-posts were ordered at the same time.

A license was granted this year, from Gov. Cornbury to Capt. Jacob Spicer, of the sloop Adventure, owned by John and Richard Townsend; burden 16 tons. She traded from Cape May to Philadelphia and Burlington, and no doubt was considered a vessel of some magnitude in those days.

1706. This year Shamgar Hand and Wm. Golden, commissioners for the purpose, laid out the road from Egg Harbor to Cold Spring, and thence to Town Bank, as follows, viz: "Beginning at a bush near the water's edge on Great Egg Harbor river, and from said bush along Wm. Golden's fence to the gate-post; from thence along the fence to the corner thereof; thence by a line of marked trees to the first run; thence to the head of John Coston's branch; thence to the head of dry swamp; thence to the head of Joseph Ludlam's branch; thence around the head of John Townsend's branch, to the going over the branch between Abraham Hand's and Thomas Leonard's; thence to the bridge over Leonard's branch; thence to the bridge over the branch towards the head of Wm. Johnson's land, so on to the bridge over the fork branch; thence to the bridge over John Cressee's creek; thence to the bridge over crooked creek, so by a line of marked trees to the bridge over Gravelly run; thence to the bridge over Cressee's creek; thence to the *old going over* at John Shaws; thence to the *old going over* at Wm. Shaw's branch; thence to the head of John Taylor's branch; thence to the *turning-out of Cold Spring path*, so on by a line of marked trees, partly along the old road down to the bay side, between George Crawford's and the hollow."

Fifteen shillings a head bid by the court for wolves and panthers, and half price for young ones.

1707. "John Townsend and Shamgar Hand, commissioners, laid out the road from the head of John Townsend's creek to the cedar swamp; so through the same to a place called Ludley's bridge, and towards Maurice river as far as the county goeth." Thus, after 14 years hard talking, for it appears nothing else had been done until now, the road through the cedar swamp, lying between the head-waters of Cedar Swamp creek and Dennis creek, (then called Cedar creek, Sluice creek being named Dennis,) was laid out, and according to records of the first Thomas Leaming, completed this year. It is a question by what route the inhabitants had communication with the other parts of the colony, as they appear to have been completely isolated until this road was made.

1716. The old county road from Long bridge to the head of Tuckahoe, and from thence to Gloucester Point, was made this year.

1740. This year Jacob Ludlam, jr., took license, and opened a house of entertainment on the sea-shore. In 1750, Nicholas Stillwell at Egg Harbor. Both of these were in Upper Township. In 1752, Jacob Spicer at Cold Spring. In 1761, Aaron Leaming on the sea-shore, two miles above the courthouse. In 1763, Christopher Leaming where Humphrey Leaming and Nathaniel Foster now live. In 1764, Daniel Hand at the courthouse. In 1768, Memucan Hughes and James Whillden at and near Cape Island. In 1790 a law was passed to build a bridge over the N. and S. branches of Dennis creek, and to lay out a public road from Thomas Leaming's ship-yard, on the S. branch, to the road leading from the Long bridge to Johnson's mill. Daniel Townsend, Christopher Smith, Henry Ludlam, and Jacoks Swain, were the surveyors.

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## UPPER.

This township was incorporated in 1798. It is 10 miles long, with an average width of 7; and is bounded N. by Great Egg Harbor bay and Tuckahoe river, separating it from Atlantic co., E. by the ocean, S. by Dennis, and W. by Maurice river, Cumberland co. Pop. 1,217. Its surface is level; soil sand and loam, and well timbered with cedar, oak, and pine. It contains 4 stores, 1 grist-m., 4 saw-m.; 5 schools, 219 scholars.

The village of Tuckahoe is situated on both sides of Tuckahoe river, on the county line, 18 miles from the courthouse, 11 from the sea, 28 from Bridgeton, and 13 from May's Landing. It contains 3 taverns, several stores, about 60 dwellings, and a Methodist church. There are besides, in the township, 1 Baptist and 1 Methodist church, and a Friends meeting-house. Wood, lumber, and ship-building, constitute the business of the village. As early as 1692 a ferry was established at Beesley's Point, over Great Egg Harbor river; a proof there must have been inhabitants upon both sides of the river at that early period. The *rates* were 1s. for passengers, 2*d.* a bushel for grain, 4*d.* each for sheep or hogs, and 1s. for cattle per head. The toll-bridge over Cedar Swamp creek was not built until 1762. Joseph Corson, James Willets, Isaac Banner, and John

Mackey, were petitioners for it. Wagons were charged 6*d.*, passengers 1*d.* John Townsend, ancestor of all in the county of that name, and of many in Philadelphia and elsewhere, emigrated with three brothers to Long Island previous to 1680. They were members of the Society of Friends. One settled in New England, one in New York, John and the other came to Leeds Point, near Little Egg Harbor. About or previous to 1690, John (the other brother having gone to Pennsylvania) travelled to Somers' Point, crossed the Egg Harbor river, and followed the seaboard down about ten miles, until he came to a stream of water that he thought would do for a mill. He returned to Egg Harbor, bought a yoke of oxen, got them across the river, took the yoke on his back, as there was not room for the timber to drive his oxen abreast, and drove them before him down an Indian path to the place of his future residence. His wife's name was Phebe. They cleared land, built a cabin and a mill on the site of Thomas Vangilders. He died in 1722, and left three sons, Richard, Robert, and Sylvanus. John and Peter Corson were the first of the name that came to the county, and were here as early as 1692. The second generation was Peter, jr., John, jr., Christian, and Jacob. This family became numerous. There were 52 families, in 1840, of that name in this township.

All the Townsends in the county descended from the John Townsend above mentioned ;

All the Corsons	from	Peter and John Corson
" Leamings	"	Christopher Leaming
" Ludlams	"	Joseph Ludlam
" Schellingens	"	Cornelius Skellinks
" Hughes	"	Humphrey Hughes
" Whilldens	"	Joseph Whillden
" Hewitts	"	Randal Hewitt
" Stites	"	Henry Stites
" Cresses	"	Arthur Cresse
" Willets	"	John Willets
" Goffs	"	John Goff
" Youngs	"	Henry Young
" Eldredges	"	Ezekiel Eldredge
" Godfreys	"	Benjamin Godfrey
" Matthews	"	Samuel Matthews.

Henry Young was a man of some note in the county about a century ago. He was impressed in England, his native country, when very young, on board of a man-of-war, from which he made his escape to a vessel bound to Philadelphia. Here, to elude pursuit, he was secreted in a hogshead, in the hold of the vessel ; and as soon as they put to sea he was relieved ; but not until nearly exhausted for want of fresh air. He was justice of the peace from 1722 till his death in 1767, and member of the legislature for 8 sessions.

There was an Indian killed on Foxborough Hill, at Beesley's Point, in 1736, by old Joseph Golden, who got into a quarrel and probably unintentionally killed his opponent. It is said the Indians were so enraged against Golden, that he was for a long time obliged to secrete himself to avoid their vengeance. A suit was instituted against him in this county, which was removed to Burlington, where he was tried and acquitted ; but its great cost

obliged him to dispose of that part of his place NW. of the main road to the Point, to Nicholas Stillwell.

In the American revolution the inhabitants of Cape May, to protect themselves from the incursions of the British and refugees, armed and manned a number of boats and privateers. They manifested great bravery and address, and were successful in taking prizes. They had the most to fear from the refugees—as their names were synonymous with burglary, arson, treachery, and murder. Only two, as far as is known, were from this county. They were finally taken prisoners. The following, chiefly extracts from the New Jersey State Gazette, relate to incidents of the war, principally off this coast:

“June 23d, 1779. An *open boat*, called “*The Skunk*,” mounting 2 guns, and 12 men belonging to Egg Harbor, sent in there, on Wednesday last, a vessel with a valuable cargo—which makes her *nineteenth* prize since she was fitted out.”

Upon one occasion this boat had quite an adventure, when commanded by Capt. Snell and John Goldin. They thought they had discovered a fine prize, off Egg Harbor, in a large ship wearing the appearance of a Merchantman. The boat approached cautiously, and, after getting quite near, the little Skunk was put in a retreating position, stern to the enemy, and then gave him a gun. A momentary pause ensued. All at once, the merchantman was transformed into a British 74, and in another moment she gave the Skunk such a broadside that, as Goldin expressed it, “the water flew around them like ten thousand whale-spouts.” She was cut some in her sails and rigging, but by hard rowing made good her escape,—with Goldin to give the word, “*Lay low, boys! lay low for your lives!*”

“June 2d, 1779. The brigantine *Delight*, Capt. Dawson, on the 20th ultimo, from Tortula to New York, mounting 12 guns, with 29 hands, came ashore on Peck’s beach, in a fog, at Cape May. Her cargo consisted of 80 hhds. of rum, some sugar, &c. Soon after she came ashore, our militia took possession of both vessel and cargo, and sent off the crew under guard to Philadelphia.”

A few years since, the tide being very low, one of the cannon thrown overboard in the attempt of the British to get her off, was found by Mr. Uriah Smith, and placed at the corner of his yard for a fender. There were 3 balls in it.

“Oct. 6, 1779. On Friday last, Capt. Taylor, of Cape May, sent into Little Egg Harbor a transport from New York to Halifax, with a quantity of drygoods, and 214 Hessians, including a colonel, who are properly taken care of.”

“Aug. 7, 1782. John Badcock took the *Hawk*, when commanding the *Rainbow*: her cargo consisted of spirits, tar, flour, coal, and iron,—which was sold at James Willet’s, (who kept tavern where Capt. John S. Chattin now does,) for the benefit of those concerned.”

“Capt. Hand, of the *Enterprise*, and Capt. Willets, of another boat, on the 5th of May, 1782, chased ashore, near Egg Harbor, the refugee boat *Old Ranger*, mounting 7 swivels and 1 three-pounder, commanded by one Fryan, with 25 men, bound to the capes of the Delaware, and up the same as far as Christiana, *with orders to take prisoners whom they pleased*. They afterward fell in with a schooner laden with corn, and another with lumber, which they took.”

“Jan. 3, 1782. William Treen and Joseph Edwards, commanders of the whale-boat *Unity*, captured the *Betsey*, which lately sailed from Jones’s creek, Delaware, loaded with wheat, Indian corn, and flour,—which was taken in the Delaware by a British cruiser, and retaken by said Treen and Edwards.”

“Feb. 7, 1781. The brig *Fame*, Capt. William Treen, of Egg Harbor, about 10 days ago took the privateer schooner *Cock*, Capt. Brooks, bound from New York to Chesapeake bay, and sent her into a port in New Jersey.” “On the night of the 22d of the same month, the brig *Fame*, while at the anchoring-point near Egg Harbor inlet, in a heavy gale from the NW. with some snow squalls, on the flood tide, was tripped and upset—by which sad mishap some 20 lives were lost.”

Capt. Treen, Wm. Lacke, and three others, were on shore. Thomas Adams, Eleazer Crawford, Jacob Corson, and Steelman,

succeeded in landing on the point of the beach. The cold was intense. Steelman, who was most active in cheering his companions and freeing the boat, perished when near land. Four only of the crew left on board were rescued in the morning, the rest having perished by the cold; these kept alive only by constant and unremitting exertion—that being the only method of shaking off the sleep of death.

Capt. Wm. Treen (above mentioned) was bold and fearless, and very successful in taking prizes. He was, however, run down on one occasion by two frigates, for not immediately answering their summons to surrender. Both frigates passed quite over his vessel. Treen and a boy, only, caught to the rigging of one of the frigates, and were saved. Others made the attempt, but had their fingers and arms cut off by cutlasses. Treen implored for the lives of his crew—among whom was a brother of Jesse Somers, now (1842) living at Somers Point. This being refused, he boldly upbraided them for their cruelty. They could not but admire his heroic bearing, and, while with them, he was well treated; but on their arrival in New York he was placed in that den of horrors, the New Jersey prison-ship, and was one of the few that escaped with life. In 1806 he went to the west. Nathaniel Holmes, who lived at the courthouse, (a highly respectable man, who died about 9 years since,) was, at one time, also confined on board this prison-ship.

In the latter part of December, 1815, the brig *Perseverance*, Capt. Snow, bound from Havre to New York, with ten passengers, and a crew of seven men, was wrecked on Peck's beach, opposite the residence of Thomas Beesley, in this township.\*

“On Friday, the day before she was cast away, a ship from New York was spoken, which deceived them, by stating they were 200 miles east of Sandy Hook. It was with great gratification that the passengers received this joyous news; and, elated with the hope of soon resting on ‘terra firma,’ gave themselves up to hilarity and merriment—whilst the captain, under the same impulse, spread all sail to a heavy northeaster, with high expectations of a safe arrival on the morrow. Delusive hope! To-morrow too many of them were destined never to see.

“Thus she continued on her course until three o'clock, Saturday morning; when the mate, whose watch it was on deck, was heard to give the dreadful cry, ‘*Breakers ahead!*’ The brig, by the instant efforts of her steersman, obeyed her helm; but as she came around, ahead off shore, her stern striking knocked off her false keel, deadened her headway, and she backed on the beach stern foremost. In less than fifteen minutes, the sea made a clean breach over her. The scene, in the mean time, ‘beggars description:’ the passengers rushed out of the cabin, some of them in their night-clothes; six of whom, and two of the crew, got in the long-boat. One of these was a young French lady, of

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\* The gentleman from whom the account of this shipwreck is derived says: “The *Perseverance* had a very valuable cargo on board, of rich goods, china, glass, silks, &c., which were strewn for miles along the beach. The people of Cape May were charged, upon this as upon some other occasions, of having converted some small portion of the goods, thus washed upon our shores, to their own use. I would ask, is there a spot upon the Atlantic coast, from Maine to Florida, where there would not be as much danger of depredation as at Cape May? I will go further: what would be the fate of a ship of merchandise, scattered in the streets of our principal cities, without a guard, for twenty-four hours? I do not intend to defend the person that will take that which does not belong to him: far from it; but I do contend that the innocent should not suffer for the guilty, and that there is as much honesty and integrity among the people of Cape May as in any other community, on the seaboard or elsewhere.”

great beauty. The remainder of the crew and passengers succeeded in reaching the round-top, excepting a Mr. Cologne, whose great weight and corpulency of person compelled him to remain in the shrouds. Soon the sea carried the long-boat and its passengers clear of the wreck, when it was too late discovered she was firmly attached to it by a hawser, which it was impossible to separate. Had it not been for this unfortunate circumstance, they might possibly have reached the shore. Their cries were heart-rending, but were soon silenced in the sleep of death: the boat swamped, and they were all consigned to one common grave. The body of the lady floated on shore.

"The sea ran so high that it wet those in the round-top; and although many efforts were made, on Saturday, to rescue them, it was found impossible, as the boats would upset by 'turning head over stern,' subjecting those in them to great danger. Capt. Snow lost his life, in attempting to swim ashore. On Sunday the sea fell a little, and those on the wreck were made to understand they would have to build a raft of the spars, and get on it, or they could not be saved. The mate had fortunately secured a hatchet, with which one was constructed; by which the survivors, (except a negro who was washed overboard, and reached the shore in safety, whilst making the raft,) were rescued by the boats. There were but four saved, out of the seventeen souls on board, viz: one passenger, who was badly frozen, the mate, and two of the crew, including the negro. Three perished in the round-top, and were thrown over.

"Mr. Cologne, who was in the rigging, and unable to descend from the shrouds, let go and fell into the water, and was caught, as he came up, by his hair, and thus towed ashore. He lived only three days after, although every possible attention was paid him. He and his niece, the young French lady, were buried side by side, in the Golden burying-ground, at Beesley's Point. An eye-witness, Dr. Maurice Beesley, from whom the above account is derived, says: 'I saw this young and beautiful female after she had been transferred from the beach to the main. Her features were perfectly natural; her cheeks bore the crimson tinge of life; and it was scarcely possible to realize that, instead of a concentration of all the graces of the female form, animated by the fervor of life, I was gazing upon a cold and lifeless corpse.'"

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## CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY is bounded SSW. by Delaware bay, NW. by Salem co., NE. by Gloucester and Atlantic co., and SE. by Cape May co. It is about 30 m. long, E. and W., and its extreme breadth, N. and S., is 28 miles. It was included in Fenwick's tenth, and was part of his colony. It formed a portion of Salem county until 1747, when it was erected into a separate county, and named by Gov. Belcher in honor of the Duke of Cumberland. The county was, at its formation, divided into six townships, viz., Greenwich, Hopewell, Stow Creek, Fairfield, Deerfield, and Maurice River,—to which Millville and Downe have since been added. Along on its SW. boundary, on the Delaware bay, is a tract of marshy land, varying from one to six miles in breadth. This marsh extends up the principal streams, Maurice river and Cohansey creek, for several miles. The surface of the county is level—its soil of alluvial formation, and generally a sandy loam, with some clay. A large portion of the NE. part is covered with a pine forest. Cumberland county is divided into eight townships, viz:

Deerfield,	Fairfield,	Hopewell,	Millville,
Downe,	Greenwich,	Maurice River,	Stow Creek.