

THE
HISTORICAL DIRECTORY

OF
SUSSEX COUNTY, N. J.

CONTAINING

A brief summary of events from its first Settlement, with
Descriptive and Historical Notices of each Town ;

ALSO,

The Name and Post-Office Address of each Freeholder.

EMBELLISHED WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

AND

A VALUABLE MAP OF THE COUNTY.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

EDWARD A. WEBB.

1872.

old grist-mill, and called the Columbian Foundry. This property was bought by Mr. G. Collver, in 1842, where he has continued ever since. At the time Mr. Collver came here, in December, 1842, the place was hardly known by any name. In the following year he erected a grist and saw-mill. The former has recently had an addition.

The store situated in this place is also kept by Mr. Collver. The mill property of Messrs. Collver & Huston is situated in what is known in the locality as

STATESVILLE.

It was so called from a man of that name who lived there, but the designation is not generally recognized.

There is here a blacksmith's and wheelwright's shop. The former is a very old stand, having been in constant operation for forty years.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP.

Montague Township is situated in the extreme northwest corner of the county, bounded north by New York State, south by Sandyston, east by Wantage, and west by the Delaware, which separates it from Pennsylvania.

It is eight and one-half miles long, and has an average width of six miles.

The eastern portion of the township is very thinly settled, being covered by the Blue Mountain range, which separates it from Wantage. It is very valuable as timber land.

The village of Montague is the only post-office in the township.

The Hon. Isaac Bunnell, a well-known citizen of this township, related to the writer the following interesting account of an incursion which the Indians made into this township during the Revolution: Early one morning a party of twenty-one Indians crossed the Delaware in canoes and attacked a dwelling occupied by a family named Jobs. (This house has been recently

torn down by Mr. Joseph Shimer, who is now erecting a dwelling on the same site.) There they killed three young men and took two women prisoners. They then crossed Shimer's Brook to Captain Abram Shimer's dwelling. The Captain had five or six negroes in the house at the time. Two Indians had entered before their presence was discovered. The negroes instantly rushed upon them and forced them out.

The Captain, who was in bed, aroused by the commotion, immediately ordered his slaves to barricade the windows and doors of the lower story, and to be prepared with axes to defend the house in case of an assault. While he, with the only gun they had, stationed himself at a window in the second story, after covering all but one pane with a feather bed for protection. Through this pane he fired at the Indians, who returned the fire. One ball passed through the open pane and grazed the Captain's face. One of the Indians also received a shot which broke his thigh, and he was borne off by his companions.

A small fort, situated a little above, was occupied by the militia, who had received tidings of the approach of the Indians, but thinking it false had paid no attention to it. But hearing the firing at Shimers' they hastened to the rescue. A skirmish ensued and the Indians were driven back. In their haste to recross the river they left the prisoners they had taken.

Great privation and suffering were often endured by prisoners taken by the Indians. On one occasion, shortly after the above incident, the same party of Indians captured a Mr. Patterson, when the party, who were returning to their country on the Niagara frontier, had nearly reached their destination. Being carelessly guarded one night, he escaped with two horses. After traveling two days without food he killed one of the horses. The other, becoming frightened at the scent of the blood, broke loose and ran off. In endeavoring to find him Patterson lost his way and was unable to find the spot where he killed the other animal. Thus, without horse or companion, he traveled five days guided by the sun, having nothing to eat but a snake and a toad, and such roots as he

could find that were eatable. In a few days he reached the head waters of the Susquehanna. Here he used a bent pin for a hook and twisted fibres of some slippery elm bark for a line, and caught five fish, which he devoured without cooking. He then managed to construct a raft on which he floated down to the Wyoming settlements, and from thence returned back to his home in Montague.

MONTAGUE, OR "THE BRICK HOUSE."

This village is situated in the southwestern part of the township, opposite Millford, Pa.

The time of its first organization is far back, and the statements regarding it are too uncertain to fix on the exact period. It is, however, one of our oldest towns, and was originally settled by the Dutch. The place is also known as the "Brick House." It takes its name from the hotel which is built of brick, and has been occupied as a public house for several generations.

There has been a post-office here for many years, as the old stage route from Newark crossed the Delaware at this point. Here the first bridge across the Delaware was built forty years ago. This bridge although of stone, was not a substantial structure, and becoming unsafe a new wooden one was put up. This was torn down about thirteen years ago, and the present beautiful suspension bridge was constructed. The length of this bridge is 525 feet, and cost \$12,500.

There are in Montague, besides the hotel, two stores and a blacksmith's shop.

MILLVILLE.

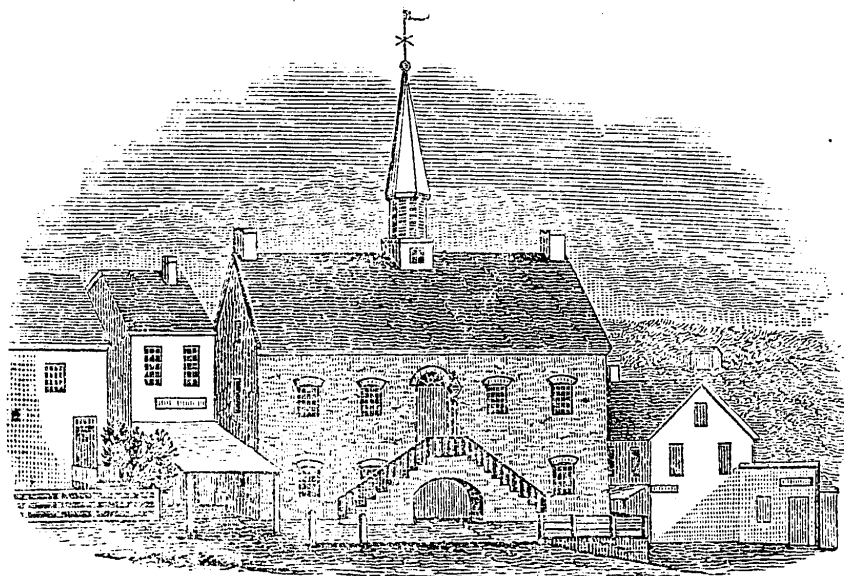
This place can hardly be called a village, it was named on account of the mills situated there. It is about a mile from Montague on the Port Jervis road, and was the scene of the Indian incursion just narrated.

The place contains one saw and two grist mills; a blacksmith's shop and a store are also here, but they are not now occupied.

REFORMED CHURCH OF MONTAGUE.

The early history of this church, known formerly as the "Minisink Church," is closely connected with the history of the "Mahacameck Church," now "Deerpark," at Port Jervis, until recently it was in the same pastoral charge, (a brief sketch of that church is given in another portion of this work.) The original building was situated in the village below the present site. The house in which the congregation now worships was built forty-three years ago; in 1868 it was renovated at a cost of \$800.

NEWTON.



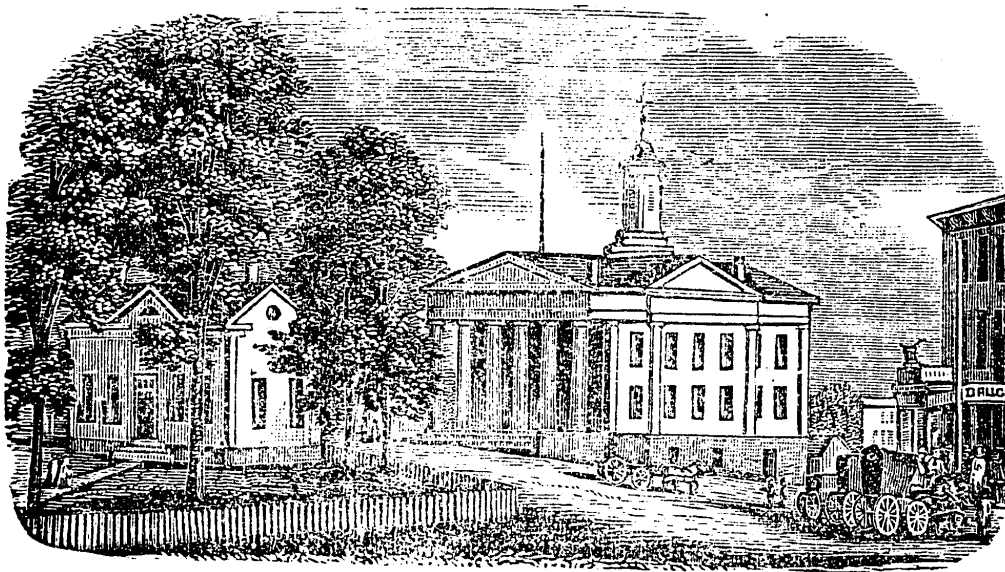
THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

By an order of the State government in the year 1765, directing a gaol and court-house to be erected on the plantation leased by Henry Hairlocker, and within half a mile of his dwelling house, the site of the present town of Newton (originally Newtown) was fixed. By this act it became the county seat.

Very shortly after, a number of dwelling houses were put up in the neighborhood of the court-house, and from that time forward there has been a steady growth in business, wealth and population.

The funds for the construction of the court-house were raised by the levying of a tax of £500 on the county in 1762, and by additional assessments in the three following years. The total cost of the building was about \$5,600. The cells for the confinement of prisoners were ready in the year 1763, but the business of the courts was not commenced in the new building until two years later. In May, 1765, it was furnished and delivered to the care of the Board of Justices.

For seventy-nine years this building remained unaltered. In 1844 it was enlarged and remodeled. On the 28th of January, 1847 it took fire and was nearly destroyed. Immediate measures were taken to reconstruct it, and the present building, which is a great improvement on the former, was erected.



THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

The land upon which it stands, with the Public Green in front, was donated by Jonathan Hampton of Essex County. This donation of land for public use was the last of Mr. Hampton's efforts to secure the erection of the county buildings in this place, and it was mainly through his exertions that Newton and not Stillwater was selected by the Assembly as the county seat.

The first newspaper published in the county was issued in Newton on the 8th of January, 1796. It was styled *The Farmer's Journal and Newton Advertiser*, by Messrs. Elliot

Hopkins and William Husten. It was sustained for about three years only.

In 1813, a second attempt was made to start a paper here by Judge John H. Hall, which resulted in the *Sussex Register*.

7 In 1829 the *New Jersey Herald* was established by Grant Fitch. *Sussex County Home Journal* was started in 1850 by Rev. J. L. Barlow, but within a few years was discontinued. In 1858 the first number of the *Sussex Democrat* was issued by George R. McCarter, but in 1861 it was consolidated with the *New Jersey Herald*; *Sussex True Democrat*, commenced in 1863 by G. D. Wallace, lived but one year, and in the fall of 1867 the first number of the *Sussex Record* appeared, edited by M. R. Hamilton. This also was sustained but a little more than a year.

The first tavern in Newton was kept by Henry Hairlocker.

The Cochran House was built in 1842 by Dennis Cochran. The Anderson House was converted into an hotel about nineteen years since. Its first proprietor was Newman E. Benjamin.

The Phillips Hotel, now a part of the Durling House, was first opened by Hezekiah Phillips and Brother about the year 1818. The Ward House was opened about the year 1820 by Janson King.

The first firm that was started in the mercantile business in this place was that of Holmes, Pemberton & Stevens. They kept a store on a lot now occupied by the upper part of the Anderson House, or the one immediately above. They commenced business in the latter part of the last century. This store was afterwards kept by David Ryerson and Garret Rosenkrans.

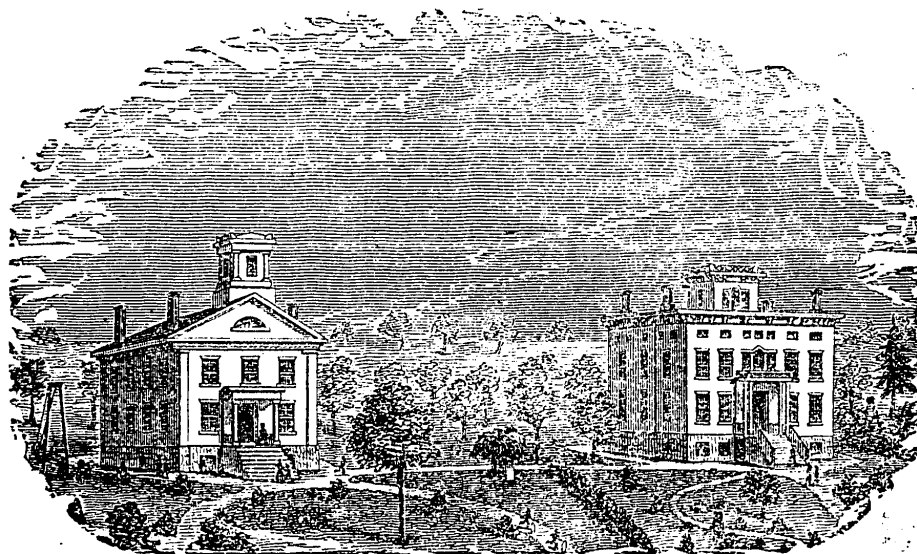
Fifty years ago the village contained but four hundred inhabitants and six stores.

In 1820 the principal manufactory carried on in the place was that of hats. There was a hat factory employing from ten to twenty-five hands, on Church street. It was owned by Pettit Brittin and David Kerr.

The Sussex Bank of Newton was chartered in 1818, and

for nearly fifty years David Ryerson was its President. In 1866 he was succeeded by David Thompson. At the era of the building of the Sussex Railroad, Newton took a start and grew very rapidly. The population is now about 2,300.

In the year 1870 a large public school building was erected in Newton at a cost of \$35,000. It is one of the largest public schools in the State. It has an attendance of over four hundred scholars.



NEWTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

The above engraving is a fair representation of this well known Institute. It was organized April 5, 1850, and incorporated February 12, 1852, as the "Presbyterial Academy at Newton," and placed under the control of the Presbytery at Newton. For four years it continued under the direction of the Presbytery, when in the spring of 1856 the name was changed by act of Legislature to "Newton Collegiate Institute," and a boarding-house was erected at a cost of over \$4,000. In the year previous to the erection of this building, the school had an attendance of 96 scholars. In 1865 the buildings were repaired. The present principal is Mr. Chester L. Teel.

THE NEWTON LIBRARY BUILDING.

This beautiful structure is built of pressed brick, 45 feet front by 75 deep, with front corners of blue limestone. It is

three stories high, and a basement. It is divided lengthwise by a brick wall extending from the basement to the top of the second floor.

In the basement, the side next towards Mr. Dennis Cochran's will contain a barber shop with a series of bath rooms, back of which there will be a store room. The other side will be divided into two equal parts—the front for a store room, and the back for the library and reading-room. The first story will contain two stores. In the second story one-half will contain the library, cabinet, and reading-rooms, and the other half a room for town meetings, elections, &c., with a committee-room, and in front a spacious office. The third story extends over the whole area of the building, and will be used as a public Hall. It will seat 500 people and will contain a fine large platform, ante-rooms, and a private entrance by a rear stair-case.

The public entrance to the Hall will be in front. Over the entrance will be a neat little orchestra balcony, to be entered from the second story.

It has a Mansard roof with an ornamental tower in front. It is a beautiful building and a very valuable addition to the public conveniences and privilege of the place. It was built by a munificent donation of \$25,000 from Mr. A. L. Dennis.

Its erection has been superintended by the assiduous and gratuitous care of Rev. M. Barret.

Newton also contains a foundry, a sash and blind factory, one establishment for the manufacture of agricultural implements, and two carriage manufactories, with about fifty stores. It gives employment to ten lawyers, six physicians, and as many clergymen. It contains five places of worship, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Catholic, and Baptist. The Baptist church of which the Rev. J. T. Craig is pastor, is a small frame building, situated on the corner of Main and Liberty streets. The Methodist church is of brick, with a tower and clock. It is situated on Park Place, the Rev. Mr. Wynans is the present pastor. The Presbyterian and Episcopal churches which have recently been completed are among the finest edifices in Newton.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWTON.

The first edifice was begun in the year 1786, and was four or five years building. Its dimensions were about 40 by 45 feet. It had square pews, high pulpit with sounding board. The first pastor of this church was Rev. Ira Condit. In 1827 this church was taken down and another was commenced. It was built partly on the site of the old one. It was 53 by 70 feet on the ground, and was capable of seating 600 persons. It was then the largest building in Sussex County. The minister at that time was Rev. J. L. Safer.

In the month of May, 1871, the present elegant and substantial structure was dedicated to the worship of God.

Its dimensions are 94 by 64, with a tower 20 feet square, and 54 feet high, surmounted by an elegant spire 124 feet, being a total height of 178 feet. The auditorium, with its gallery on three sides, is capable of seating one thousand persons. The present pastor is the Rev. T. L. Byington. The whole number of members is 369.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The organization of the Parish of Christ's Church, Newton, dates back to the reign of George the Third in the year 1769. The first pastor of this church was the Rev. Uzal Ogden who commenced his labors in 1770. At this time there was no bishop in this country, and Mr. Ogden was obliged to go to England to receive ordination. The first parsonage to this church was built by Jonathan Hampton, Newton's great benefactor. Mr. Ogden continued his pastoral relation to this church until 1784, when he removed to Trinity Church, Newark. For thirty-six years after his departure there was a vacancy in the parish. In 1823 a new church was built on the site of the present church edifice, corner of Academy and Church streets, which was large enough to seat 250 persons. This building continued to supply the demands of the people until the year 1867, when the church, increasing in numbers and wealth, determined on the erection of the present edifice,

Manuscript

which was built in the following year. The style is Gothic, built of the native blue limestone of this region. The spire is 108 feet high, surmounted by a cross 12 feet long. The cost of the building was about \$25,000, and in point of beauty and durability is in advance of many churches costing double this amount. *The Catholic church* is a fine brick building, it has only recently been completed.

SANDYSTON TOWNSHIP.

The township of Sandyston was erected by Royal Patent from Wallpack in the year 1762. It is bounded north by Montague, south by Wallpack, east by Frankford and west by the Delaware, having an average length of seven and a quarter miles and a width of six. The township is well watered throughout by the Little and Big Flat Brook flowing through the centre, and forming a junction about a mile southeast of Peter's Valley, uniting with the Delaware at the southern extremity of Wallpack. The post-offices of this township are Hainesville, Laytons, Bevans, and Tuttle's Corner.

HAINESVILLE.

Hainesville is situated in the northern part of the township, on the "Little Flatbrook." The village is about a mile in length, extending along the Stage Road to Port Jervis, N. Y. It has only recently received the name of Hainesville, which was given to it in honor of Ex-Gov. Haines of this county. The place was previously known by the name of Sandyston. It was made a post village in 1825, previous to that time a tavern and two or three houses were all that was here; but in that year Parshall Howell built the hotel now standing, also one or two other houses, a store was also built. The mail was then brought twice a week on a four-horse stage which ran from Newark to ~~Montrose~~, N. Y. It was run night and day, stopping in this county at White Hall, Newton, Augusta, Tuttle's Corner, Sandyston, and Brick House. Hainesville has

Orange