



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.

SPARTA TOWNSHIP.

This township is about eight miles in width and about the same in length. It is bounded north by Hardyston, south by Byram, east by Morris county, and west by Andover and Lafayette. In the northern part of this township is a vein of zinc ore extending four miles. The Wallkill, which rises in the Northern part of Byram, flows directly through the centre of the township. A more beautiful valley is not to be found in the county than that through which the stream here flows. The surface of this township is mountainous. The great mineral wealth of this district attracts a large population of miners.

The villages are Sparta, Ogdensburg and Sussex Mills.

SPARTA.

Sparta is situated upon the Wallkill, a little south of the centre of the township, eight miles southeast of Newton, and three miles south of Ogdensburg. It is built on the highest land in the State. Within a short distance of this village the Paulinskill takes its rise. The place was settled in about the year 1770, but for many years its growth was slow. Its population, however, has increased within the past forty years, threefold. For many years there was a female academy in this place, but for the past few years it has not been opened.

At one time an immense amount of iron was forged in the village. Six forges were kept constantly employed; the ruins of five of these are to be found here at the present time. A large number of anchors were annually manufactured here; the Ogden mine supplied most of the ore.

There are now here two hotels, four or five general stores, two grist and one saw mill, an apothecary, two or three blacksmith shops, a wheelwright and a cooper's shop. It has a population of about 300.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPARTA.

This is one of the oldest churches in this section. The first building was erected in the year 1786. This church was the

first to avail itself of the act passed by the Legislature of the State in that year, which provided for the incorporation of religious bodies. Lord Rutherford, a Scotch nobleman, donated to this church fifty acres of land, upon a portion of which the present building stands.

Previous to the erection of the church, services are said to have been held here in a log hut.

The first pastor was the Rev. H. W. Hunt. The building has been repaired twice since it was first erected; once in 1837 at a cost of \$1,156, and in 1869 the ceiling was raised and beautifully frescoed; this, with other improvements and repairs cost over \$4,000. It has now 109 members. The present pastor is the Rev. Wm. B. McKee.

M. E. CHURCH.

The first building was put up in 1837; Rev. Sedgwick Russling was the pastor. This building stood near where a wheelwright shop now stands, on the main street.

In 1868 the present fine structure was completed; it is situated on the Newton road, a little west of the village. The Rev. W. B. Wigg is pastor.

OGDENSBURG

Robert Ogden, from whom the village takes its name, removed from Elizabethtown to this locality in the year 1765 or 66. He was the father of the noted Aaron Ogden, who commanded the famous Life Guards, of General Washington.

There were some persons living near the site of the village before the time of Ogden. Among them were the Hoaglands and Wades. The growth of the place has not been rapid, and the number of buildings is still quite small; outside of its mining operations little business is done.

But the Midland Railroad now passes through it, this, combined with the rapid increase of the work at the mines, with other attractions have given it an impulse never before known, and inspired its citizens with courage and hope. It now promises to take place among the most prosperous of our business towns.

SUSSEX MILLS.

Sussex Mill is situated in the western part of this township. It has only recently received its present name. About eight years since a rich vein of lead ore was supposed to have been discovered on the site of this place, then known as Howellsville. The property was bought by the Sussex Lead Company, and a considerable amount of money was spent in opening it up. But the vein being soon exhausted it was abandoned, and the place for five years remained unimproved. About two years since Mr. Benjamin H. Wright bought the property and changed the name to Sussex Mills. Since that time he has built a mill for grinding fertilizers, a saw mill and a grist mill. The latter was built the present summer, and will probably be in operation soon.

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP.

This township is contiguous to Warren County, which forms its southern border. It is wedge-shaped, its apex pointing due north towards Sandyston. The Blue mountains on the west separate it from Wallpack. It has Hampton and Green on the east and southeast. Its extreme length from north to south is ten miles, and its greatest width six and a half.

Originally it was included in Hardwick, but in the year 1824, when Warren County was erected, it was made a separate township and received its present name. Its surface is throughout uneven, and in some parts rough and mountainous but the land is fertile, and well suited for the raising of all kinds of grain and farm produce. *Swartswood Pond*, near the centre of the township is a beautiful sheet of water about three miles long by one wide. It was first called Swartwout's from a man of that name who had a farm near by. At the time of the French and Indian wars this man was brutally tortured to death by the Indians. Besides this large pond there are num-