



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.**

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COMPILED AND EDITED BY

**EDWARD A. WEBB.**

1872.

## 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-

erous smaller ones. These together with the Paulinskill river and its tributaries abundantly water this township.

The villages are Stillwater, Fredon, Middleville, Swartswood, and a cluster of houses in the southwestern corner of the township named Gratitude.

#### STILLWATER.

The site of the present village of Stillwater was bought and first settled by John P. Burnhardt and Casper Shafer, in the year 1742; after them came the Wintermutes, Mains, Staleys and others, principally Germans, who settled in the valley of the Paulinskill, some of whom afterwards moved off into other sections of the country. Mr. Shafer erected the first mill at this place, and as it was the only mill for many miles around, it was resorted to from far and near.

The difficulties which attended the getting of their grain to mill were very great, as the roads were simply paths through a continuous forest. Wagons were not then used. The grain was brought on horses led over the mountains, for many miles; and the flour carried back in the same way. This mill was at first very simple in its construction, and could only grind four or five bushels a day. As the business increased a large one was erected, after which flour ground here was shipped down the Paulinskill to the Delaware, and thence to Philadelphia. But the construction of other mills below on the Paulinskill soon cut it off from this source of trade.

A German church was erected here in 1771 on ground set apart for it, and for a cemetery, a number of years before, by Mr. Burnhardt one of the first persons buried in this cemetery. In 1775 a fulling mill was erected here by Peter Wintermute, about a half a mile below the village.

At one time Stillwater was seriously talked of as the most suitable place for the county seat and for the erection of the county buildings, but Newton was finally decided upon, at the present time there is in the place a large grist mill, one or two stores, an hotel, a Presbyterian church, a Methodist church, and fifteen or twenty dwellings. Stillwater wants the facilities of a railroad to make it a thriving village.

## STILLWATER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The first church erected in what is now Stillwater Township, was a stone building about 35 by 40 feet with galleries on three sides, bearing date 1771. It was a Union enterprise. One branch was of German Lutherans, and the other of German Calvinists. These constituted the church. They do not appear ever to have had a pastor, but were supplied with occasional preaching until 1816, when they were taken under the care of the Classis of New Brunswick, and supplied till 1823, when they were transferred to the Presbytery of Newton. The present church edifice was erected in the year 1838. Size, 36 by 45 feet; with 20 feet front pillars, and a gallery on three sides, at a cost of \$2,200. The parsonage, one and a half stories high, twenty-six feet front, by some fifty deep, cost about \$2,000. The present pastor Rev. T. B. Condit, after about two years labor was installed in June, 1839.

## FREDON

Is a post village situated in the southeastern corner of the township. The short low range of hills which separates this township from Green, lies just to the east of this village. It is on the stage road from Newton to Blainstown in Warren County, about four miles from the former place. The stage and mail route from Newton to Flatbrookville also passes through Fredon.

The "Fountain House" here is a fine, large, well-furnished hotel.

The church is used during the week for a school. The attendance on the Sabbath is always very large.

The population of Fredon is about 150.

## MIDDLEVILLE.

This place, about two miles north of Stillwater, is a small post village of about twenty or thirty inhabitants. It contains an hotel and store, and a good-sized building which

has been leased at various times for different mechanical purposes.

It is situated on a branch of the Paulinskill, half a mile from Swartswood Pond.

#### SWARTSWOOD.

Swartswood or Pater'son, as it *was* called, is on the northwest boundary of Swartswood Pond, near the line which separates this township from Hampton. It contains a store, a cooper and two blacksmith shops, an hotel and a saw-mill. There are also here two churches—Methodist and Presbyterian.

During the summer months pleasure and fishing boats are in constant demand on the pond by parties visiting the place.

#### SWARTSWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In the year 1833 a house was dedicated and a congregation organized known as the Second Presbyterian Church of Stillwater. It was placed two and a half miles northwest of the present building. Owing to the unfavorable locality the building has been abandoned and the congregation dissolved. The present church edifice was erected in 1855, size 32x42 at a cost of \$2,250. It was organized in December, 1853, by a committee from Newton Presbytery. It has had no pastor but has been chiefly supplied by Rev. T. B. Condit.

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#### VERNON TOWNSHIP.

This township is situated in the northeast of the county bounded north by Orange County, N. Y., south by Hardyston, east by Passaic County, and west by Wantage. The surface is mountainous. The Wawayanda range on the east, with the Wallkill and Pochunk Mountains cover the greater portion of the township. The Wallkill river with its tributary streams,