

A Brief Early History of
Hopewell Township
to Celebrate the
275th Anniversary
of its Formation as a Precinct
of Cumberland County
January 19, 1748

Hopewell Township

A Brief Early History to

Celebrate the 275TH ANNIVERSARY

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INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land that has become Hopewell Township began as sea bottom. Indeed, as one digs deeply today, sandy soil and even occasional sea shells may be found. As the waters gradually receded, leaving behind a sandy soil, animal life began to follow. Gradually, plant life grew and the animals began to grow in size to match the beginning trees. Over the thousands of years, many varieties of plants thrived and occasional prehistoric man made his way through our land.

Many plants flourished and died, contributing through their death to create the fertile soil that supports our farm industry. As the land grew more and more similar to the land as we know it today, the native people inhabiting the land lived well. Hunting and fishing provided ample food for the people. The early people were believed to be transient, leaving camp sites when the sites became too used, or the surroundings became unable to support the group. Some say that the Native Americans who followed migrated to the shore to fish and trap in the summer, retreating to the inland camp sites in the winter where there was wood to burn and game to trap throughout the winter months. Evidences of prehistoric camps and hunters in Hopewell Township exist today. Many specimens of early arrowheads, spear points, and stones sharpened to use as cutting tools have been found.

As time passed, the people in Europe began to explore the seas, looking for riches to return to their countries and at the same time political situations arose that led people to consider moving to the new worlds being discovered. America was discovered and the returning explorers described the New World in glowing terms. At the same time that speculators were forming land companies to exploit the virgin land, religious and political persecution became oppressive, leading many who were unsuited to be settlers of a land with many hardships to eagerly apply to be taken to the New World.

TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL (From Cushing and Sheppard 1883)

Boundaries and Description:

Hopewell Township is one of the original townships created by the act setting off the county. It is bounded north by Upper Alloway Creek Township, Salem County; east by the Cohansey River, separating it from Deerfield and Fairfield, and by the third Ward of Bridgeton; south by the Cohansey, separating it from Fairfield on this side also; and west by Greenwich and Stow Creek. Its original limits included the Third Ward of Bridgeton, which was set off from it in 1848 as the township of Cohansey, and has been since incorporated into the city of Bridgeton. Its surface is slightly rolling, and is a fine agricultural soil, covered with well-tilled farms and neat and commodious residences. Nearly its entire surface is under cultivation. Lying adjacent to the city of Bridgeton, a good market is offered for the sale of produce and grain. Corn, wheat, hay, and oats are extensively grown in the township, while tomatoes, market produce, and fruits constitute no small items in the yearly returns. Along the southern end of the township, bordering on the Cohansey, the meadows have been reclaimed by banking out the tide, and large crops of hay and grain are produced on some of them, while others of them are used for grazing purposes only. The villages of Shiloh and Roadstown lie partly in this township and partly in Stow Creek, and the neighborhood called Bowentown and the post-office of Cohansey lie wholly within it. The population of the township in 1880 was seventeen hundred and sixty-four.

VILLAGES

Shiloh - The village of Shiloh lies in both Hopewell and Stow Creek townships, the road from Greenwich through Roadstown to Philadelphia passing directly through it. It is about four miles northwest of Bridgeton, in the center of a rich agricultural community, and in 1880 had a population of two hundred and sixty-five, one hundred and forty-three of whom resided on the Hopewell side and one hundred and twenty-two in Stow Creek. It is situated on that part of Dr. James Wass' survey which he sold to Robert Ayers, Nov. 21, 1705, containing two thousand two

hundred acres. A company of Baptists came from Swansea, Mass., to this region with Rev. Timothy Brooks in 1687, and settled in the neighborhood of Bowentown, as is related in the sketch of the Cohansey Baptist Church. They were followed by the above Robert Ayers, who first settled in Back Neck, on six hundred acres of land which he bought of Restore Lippincott, of Burlington County, but soon removed to the land he purchased of James Wass. He was probably a Seventh-Day Baptist when he came to this county in 1705, and sold off his tract to those of his own faith, who naturally settled in the same neighborhood, the better to carry out their belief and to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath. The establishment of a church of the Sabbatarian order at what was then called Cohansey Comers in 1737, but which name was soon changed to the more melodious one of Shiloh, made a nucleus about which the settlers of this faith gathered, and ever since has caused a slow but steady growth of the village. The history of the village is the history of the church, very few except the adherents of this faith residing within its limits. The surrounding country for a distance of from one to one and a half miles in all directions is filled with highly-cultivated farms, nearly all belonging to those of this faith. To one unaccustomed to the sight it seems out of place to find the people at work on their farms and in their shops and houses on the first day of the week, but if such a person will look in upon this community on the seventh day, and observe the scrupulous regard they show for the Sabbath as they view it, he must feel that only a conscientious conviction of the truth of their belief can inspire them in upholding the banner of Sabbatarianism in the midst of surroundings which ever tend to change their adherents, especially the younger portion of them, to advocates of the keeping of the first day as the Sabbath.

The first settlers of Shiloh were an intelligent people, and Shiloh became noted for its schools. In 1848 an academy was opened under the charge of Professor E. P. Larkin, AM., who gave it its first impetus. In 1849 it

was chartered as Union Academy. In 1850 the old church edifice was given to them, and was fitted up for their purposes. In 1866 a new two-story handsome brick building, about fifty feet square, was erected at an expense of ten thousand dollars, the first floor for recitation rooms and laboratory, and the second being a large and excellent hall. For many years it was very successful, and hundreds of the youth of this section of the State enjoyed its facilities under the principalship of Professor Larkin, Professor George S. M. Cottrell, and others. But it was allowed to go down, and after standing idle for some time the building was bought by the public school district during the last year, and it is now used for public school purposes.

This community is almost purely agricultural. A canning establishment, started a year ago, is prosperous. A post-office was established here July 24, 1841, Isaac D. Titsworth being the first incumbent; the present officer is Theodore F. Davis, appointed June 11, 1883.

Roadstown is likewise situated partly in Hopewell and partly in Stow Creek, divided by the road above mentioned. It is surrounded by a fertile region, and it was early settled by the descendants of the first settlers. Its former importance was much greater than at present. Up to the Revolution it ranked next to Greenwich, New England Town, and Cohansey Bridge in importance, and would have been the equal of the last but for the county buildings located there. It was once called Kingstown, but that name was never generally used. During the Revolution and for some time previous and afterward, it was generally known as Sayre's Cross-Roads, from Ananias Sayre, the leading citizen of the place, who had been sheriff of the county two different terms. Since the beginning of this century, it has been known by its present name. The post office was established January 1, 1803, with Thomas Harris as postmaster, and it is now held by Isaac H. Swing, appointed March 21, 1873. It contains a Baptist and a Methodist Church. The

population is about two hundred.

Bowentown is the cross-roads of the old road from Bridgeton to Roadstown and the road from Lower Hopewell northward towards Philadelphia. It has been called by that name ever since the settlement of the Bowens at this place about 1687. It is also a station on the New Jersey Southern Railroad. There are fifteen or twenty houses within a half-mile of the place, but only a half-dozen within one or two hundred yards.

Cohansey, formerly called New Boston, is the name of a post-office in the extreme northern portion of the township, established March 3, 1870, with Jonathan B. Evans as postmaster. The present incumbent, James D. Evans, was appointed March 3, 1877.

Cumberland County Register of Historic Structures and Sites

The County lists four sites in its' register. Detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Planning. They are listed as follows:

COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH AT ROADSTOWN - Located on Roadstown Rd. in the Village of Roadstown. Present structure built in 1801. Remodeled in 1851. Parsonage completed in 1862. This is the third oldest Baptist church in New Jersey..

OLD BAPTIST GRAVEYARD - SITE OF COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH - Cemetery Road. Site of the second Baptist church in this area. Revolutionary soldiers and officers are buried here. The tombstone of Deborah Swinney, the first white child born in Cohansey, is here.

BOWEN HOUSE - The Cowen, Brooks, and Barrett families came from Swansea, Mass in 1687 and founded a small settlement and Baptist Church at this crossroads. The high part of this house was built by Jonathan Bowen about 1760.

REMINGTON HOUSE - Located in Roadstown, this 1728 brick house was built by a very early settler of the County, a Mr. Remington. It is the only house left in the county which has a diamond pattern end design (west end).

There are many other homes deserving of this honor which may be found near the early centers.

EARLY AMERICANS

HISTORY OF NANTICOKE LENNI-LENAPE TRIBE

The Lenni-Lenape Indians are known by the Algonquin Tribes as the "Original People", "Grandfather", or "Men of Men" while the Nanticoke Indians are known as the "Tidewater People". The descendants of these two tribes are still in existence and living in New Jersey, Delaware and throughout the United States. Native Americans live in the suburban areas, and in all counties of southern New Jersey.

When the first European explorers reached North American shores, the Delaware Indians were living in the area which is now Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Southeastern New York. By the early 1700s, Indians were forced from their homes by Europeans. Their removal was from Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas and their final settlement in Oklahoma as well as Canada. There were never any mass movements of the Delaware Indians. They mostly migrated in small family groups or bands of families. As a result of this migration, some of the Nanticoke people united with the Lenni-Lenape Indians already living in New Jersey.

The Native Americans, along with other minority groups, have been needing representation and equal rights in this land for many decades. Since Native Americans were non-white, they were classified as colored. School authorities and census takers would look at the individual and label them according to the color of their skin or the texture of their hair or whoever they associated with. In many cases, brothers and sisters with the same parents were labeled with different identities.

Native Americans were not able to own property of any kind because they were not considered citizens of this land. It was not until 1924 that Congress recognized Native Americans as citizens. Therefore, anyone who identified as Indian was placed on a reservation out west. Because of this reason many Native Americans hid their identity to keep their cultural heritage a secret.

A lot of the culture was lost, such as the religion. It was not until August 13, 1978, that Congress signed into law the "American Indian Religious Freedom Act". This law gave the Native Americans the right to practice their religious beliefs.

In the Fall of 1982, the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians of New Jersey received State recognition. That was a very proud day and one giant step for the Indian Tribe. This meant they now had the right to their own identity and would not have to let people label them.

The Elwell Farm Archaeological Site

The plates below were listed in a report by the State Office of Historic Preservation prior to a road widening and culvert replacement on Route 49 near Barretts Run in 1978. Prehistoric artifacts were identified, including the Cohansey quartzite which is unique to the Cohansey region. There are many fine displays in The George J. Woodruff Museum of Indian Artifacts located in the Bridgeton Public Library and also the Alan E. Cannan collection located in the new Cumberland County Prehistorical Museum on Greenwich Rd. at the corner of Ye Greate Street, Greenwich. All demonstrate the extensive Native-American civilization in this area.

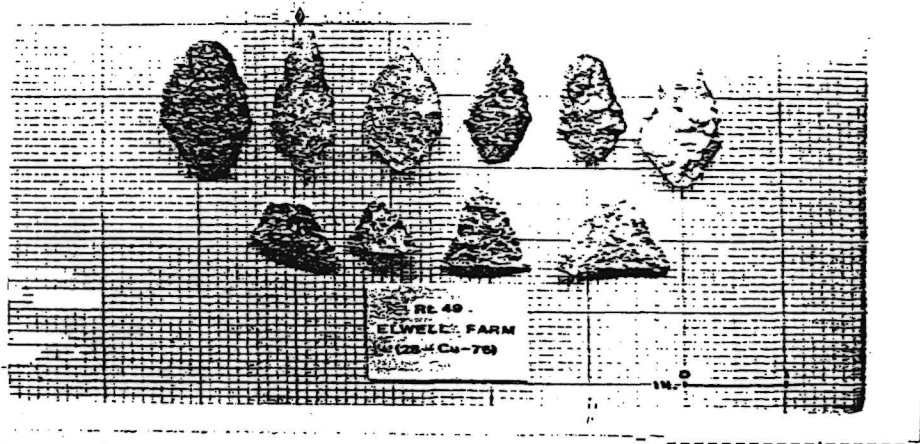


Plate 5 - Prehistoric projectile points and bifacial tool fragments from the Elwell Farm Site (28-CU-76): contracting stem (Poplar Island-like) tools of quartz, quartzite, jasper and grey chert; and trianguloid and partial bifaces of Cohansey quartzite.

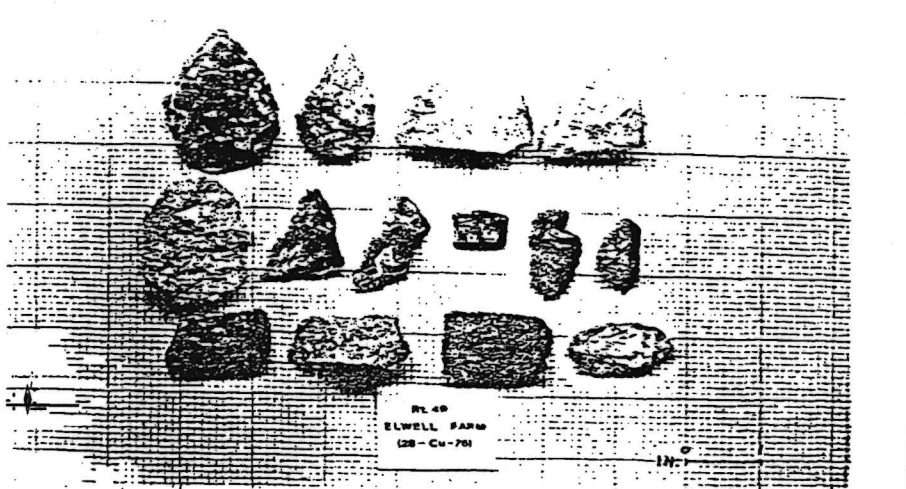


Plate 6 - Prehistoric bifacial tools and bifacial tool fragments from the Elwell Farm Site (28-CU-76);: miscellaneous partial bifacial tools and complete bifacial tools.

The Departure of the Unalachtigo

Within 150 years after their first real contact with the white man, there were almost no Indians left in Cumberland County. In 1638 the Swedes established hunting camps along the Wahatquenak (Maurice) River where it has been recorded they killed thousands of geese for their feathers. In the first year of Swedish trading with the Unalachtigo of Cumberland County 30,000 pelts were shipped to the fur markets of Europe.

As game became increasingly scarce many of the Unalachtigo moved to Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland where the heavily wooded land offered better opportunities for hunting.

With the arrival of the colonists came many changes to the Indian way of life. Stone axes were replaced with the much more efficient iron axe and adze. A canoe could be made in a fraction of the time formerly required to laboriously chip away the charred bits of wood to fashion the dugout used by the Unalachtigo. Guns for hunting were greatly sought after, but because the powder was expensive and difficult to obtain, triangular arrowheads were made from bits of sheet metal. These were more easily worked than the stone formerly used.

Women gladly gave up the chore of making their fragile pottery in favor of using the sturdy iron pots in which they might cook their food without danger of breakage. The durable, comfortable clothing made from deer hide was replaced by the women who coveted the long skirts and blouses worn by their white neighbors. Soon after contact with the colonists, Indian mothers abandoned the cradleboard, in spite of its convenience. Men in turn, adopted trousers and hats like those worn by the traders.

With the arrival of the pioneers came the introduction of sicknesses that were fatal to the Indian. Later, one of them bitterly said that for every white man who settled in this area six Indians died. Hundreds of adult Indians died from illnesses we call "childhood diseases" such as measles, chickenpox and mumps. They were especially susceptible to smallpox and tuberculosis. The most powerful herbs and incantations of their medicine men were ineffective in the treatment of these diseases.

Another problem that caused equal difficulty was the introduction of rum and other alcoholic beverages. To the Indian anything that produced hallucination was considered to be of a spiritual nature and eagerly sought after. The intent was to get as drunk as possible, as quickly as possible and for as long as possible, in order to experience a continued sense of exaltation. Many Indians believed it to be desirable to die while under the influence of alcohol. Even though the colonial government restricted the sale of rum to the Indians, the old women of the tribe soon learned to make wine and hard cider for which they found a ready market among their people.

In their relationship with the white man, the Lenni Lenape relied upon debate and the settlement of differences in their councils. The Indian people were represented by orators who had spent long periods in training for this work. William Penn is credited with the statement: "he will deserve the name of a wise man that can outwit them." In a letter dated 1683 William Penn wrote that no tongue spoken in Europe could surpass the language of the Lenni

Lenape in melody or in grandeur of accent and emphasis.

In 1758 an act was passed by the government of New Jersey guaranteeing the Indians the perpetual right to hunt on any unfenced land and to fish in the rivers and bays. The Indians were at this time compensated for lands they had once occupied.

Here in Cumberland County the following was recorded in 1869 by Judge Lucius Q. C. Elmer in his "History of Cumberland County". "At a conference held by the commissioners appointed by the legislature with the Indians in 1758, one Robert Kecot (an Indian) claimed the township of Deerfield where the Presbyterian meeting house stands, and also the tracts of James Wasse, Joseph Peck, and Stephen Chesup. After this, all the Indian claims were fully paid for and relinquished. A few of these original inhabitants lingered within the county until after the Revolution, earning their subsistence principally by making baskets."

As a part of the negotiations with the Lenni Lenape in 1758, a tract of 3,284 acres of land in southeastern Burlington County, known as Edgepilloc, was purchased for use as an Indian reservation. With high hopes for its success, Governor Bernard named the community which was to be established, "Brotherton".

The Reverend John Brainerd, a Presbyterian who had been commissioned as a missionary by "The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge" was appointed superintendent of the reservation and worked among the Indians until 1777. In failing health and as the result of the destruction of

his church and home in Mt. Holly by the Tories, John Brainerd came to the village of Deerfield Street where he served as pastor until his death in 1781. While at Deerfield Street he continued his oversight of the reservation in Brotherton, which is now known as Indian Mills.

Although comfortable homes, a meeting house and a mill had been provided for the Indians at Brotherton, as well as attempts made to teach them useful crafts. The colony was not a particularly successful venture. In 1801 the remaining sixty-seven adult Lenni Lenape decided to accept the invitation of the Mahicans to join them on their reservation at Oneida Lake in New York state. Thereafter, the land at Brotherton was sold and a portion of the proceeds used to transport the tribe to Stockbridge Reservation. The balance was invested for their later use.

After several years at Stockbridge the Lenni Lenape, now reduced to forty members, decided to move west to Wisconsin. The balance of the funds remaining from the sale of Brotherton were used by the New Jersey government to move them to this new location.

After moving to Wisconsin, the tribe sent one of their people, known as Bartholomew S. Calvin, son of the native schoolmaster who had served in Brotherton during the days of John Brainerd, to negotiate for the sale of the hunting and fishing rights guaranteed them in 1758. In his presentation of the request, "Wilted Grass"

prefaced his plea with these words, so reminiscent of the beauty of phrasing for which the language of the Lenni Lenape was known: "I am old and weak and poor and therefore a fit representative of my people. You are young and strong and rich, and therefore fit representatives of your people." It is to the eternal credit of the legislators of our state that the request was heard with both sympathy and consideration.

When the desired payment for the hunting and fishing rights had been granted, Bartholomew S. Calvin, expressing appreciation in behalf of his people, made the following statement which should be cherished and known by the people of New Jersey:

*"Not a drop of our blood
have you spilled in battle;
not an acre of our land
have you taken but by
our consent. These facts
speak for themselves and
need no comment. They
place the character of
New Jersey in bold relief,
a bright example to those
states within whose limits
our brethren still remain.
Nothing save benisons
can fall upon her from the
lips of a Lenni Lenape."*

Upon the completion of this transaction which occurred in 1832, the pages of the history of the Lenni Lenape in New Jersey came to a close. All too little tangible evidence remains of the presence of the Unalachtigo in Cumberland County other than the exhibits of

artifacts such as those contained in the collection made by George J. Woodruff.

To the Unalachtigo the land he knew by the name of Shayakbee (a long strip of land extending into the water) could provide ample space for coexistence with the fair people who came in their great canoes from Europe. He had no way of visualizing a way of life other than that which he had always known, so he gladly shared his land with the white man who had no land. But, as each ship arrived with more white settlers, more land cleared and more fences built, there was simply less and less of his world remaining. At no time did he resort to violence to regain what had once been his own.

The presence of the Lenni Lenape in Cumberland County was so peaceful and unobtrusive there is little or no mention made of him in the records of the newcomers who made their homes in this area. Today the memory of the Indians who once roamed the quiet forests and streams of the land conveyed to John Fenwick in 1676 is primarily retained in the form of a few place names. However, there remains much to be learned of the nature of the original people of Cumberland County from a study of those specimens of their handiwork which have endured to the present as well as those artifacts which are yet to be discovered by both amateur and professional archeologists.

GLIMPSES OF OLD COHANSEY

1690 to 1951

By Alice Ayars Elwell

The Cohansey Baptist Church of Roadstown had its beginning during the early days of the colonization of our land. Then practically all travel was by boats so settlements were made along bays, inlets or rivers. In about 1683 some Baptists from Tipperary County, Ireland made their homes along the Cohansey Creek. This whole region was then known as Cohansey Precinct.

The early records name David Sheppard, Thomas Abbot, and William Button. They banded together for worship, following the teachings of their mother church in Cleagh Keating (variously spelled Cloughkatier and Cloughketin). This church in Ireland was in existence for many years, but recent records indicate that it has been disbanded. In 1838 the Cohansey Church received a letter inquiring into the rise and progress of the Cohansey Church. With this letter came a hymn book, possibly as a love token from the mother overseas to her American daughter.

In 1685 Obediah Holmes and John Cornelius from the Colony of Rhode Island settled in New Jersey. We think of our forefathers as coming to these shores for religious freedom; however, in 1651 the Rev. Obediah Holmes, father of the above-mentioned Obediah Holmes, was publicly whipped in Boston by the Puritans for his adherence to the principles and practices of the Baptists. Following that, he went to Rhode Island where he died in 1682 at seventy-seven years of age. His two sons, Obediah, and Jonathan, were constituent members of the Middletown Baptist Church in 1688, the oldest Baptist church in the state of New Jersey. Obediah then moved to Fenwick's Colony and settled in Cohansey Precinct.

The first recorded baptism was in 1688 when the Rev. Elias Keach, of Pennepek (now Pennypack), Pennsylvania, performed the ordinance for three individuals: Rinear Van Hyst, John Childe, and Thomas Lambson. They were probably converts of Obediah Holmes, who lacking authority to baptize, called on the Rev. Keach. Just following this, the Rev. Thomas Killingsworth came to the Cohansey country from Middletown and Piscataway where he had assisted in the organization of those churches.

His coming "increased the number of Baptists to nine souls, and probably to near as many more, including the sisters." These nine souls (plus, it is presumed, the sisters) constituted a regular Baptist church, the first of this denomination in South Jersey, with the assistance of the Rev. Killingsworth in the spring of 1690. This church was the third in New Jersey, predated only by the Middletown Church, 1688 and the Piscataway (Stelton) Church in 1689. The Rev. Killingsworth became the first pastor. Without much doubt, the first meetings were held in private homes.

The first meeting house was built of logs on the land of David Sheppard in Back Neck on the south side of the Cohansey. The Rev. Killingsworth extended his field throughout the Cohansey Precinct and into Chester County in Pennsylvania where were Baptists under his charge. He was a judge in Salem County and lived near Salem on property later sold to the Keasbey family. There he died in 1709 in the nineteenth year of his pastorate. He left no descendants. In 1707, under his leadership, the Cohansey Church united with four others and formed the old Philadelphia Association, believed to be the first Baptist Association in the Colonies.

Two Churches Unite

Simultaneously with this beginning, in 1687 a group of Welsh Baptists, who had come from Swansea, Wales, in 1663 and settled at Swansea, Plymouth Colony (now Massachusetts), emigrated to what is now known as Bowentown where they built a log meeting house and had a separate organization because the two churches differed regarding predestination, singing of psalms, laying on of hands, and the like. The Rev. Timothy Brooks, their pastor, came with them from the Plymouth Colony. The Bowens, Brooks, Barretts, Swinneys, Wheatons, and others were among this group. Through the efforts of the Rev. Valentine Wightman of Groton County, Connecticut, they united with the Cohansey Church in 1710 on the principle of "bearance and

forbearance." Probably as a compromise a new lot of ground was obtained from Roger Maulin December 1713 at Mount's Run (now Sheppard's Mill). This was an intermediate choice between the Cohansey site on the south side of the river and Bowentown. The members from the south side crossed the river in boats and landed at what was known as Baptist Landing. At this time all traveling was done by horseback or by boat. Wheeled vehicles for private use were unknown in the colonies previous to 1760.

A church was erected soon after the deed was obtained. The Rev. Brooks took charge of the united churches in 1710 and served until 1716 when he passed away at the age of fifty-five, leaving many descendants. Quite a number of the Brooks company became Sabbatarians, broke away from the rest, and were among those who organized the Shiloh Seventh-Day Baptist Church in 1737.

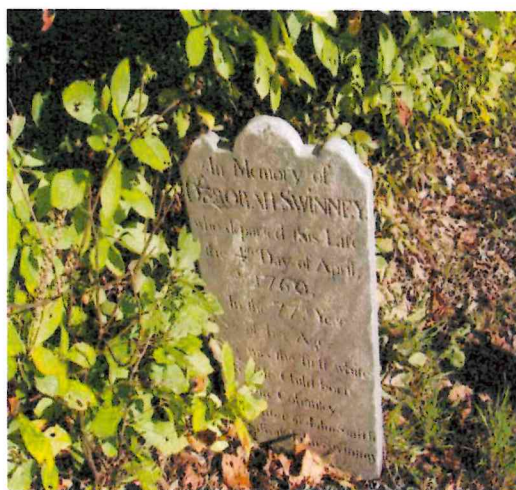
For a period of five years the young church was without a regular pastor, during which time the church was supplied by the Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins, pastor of the Cape May Church.

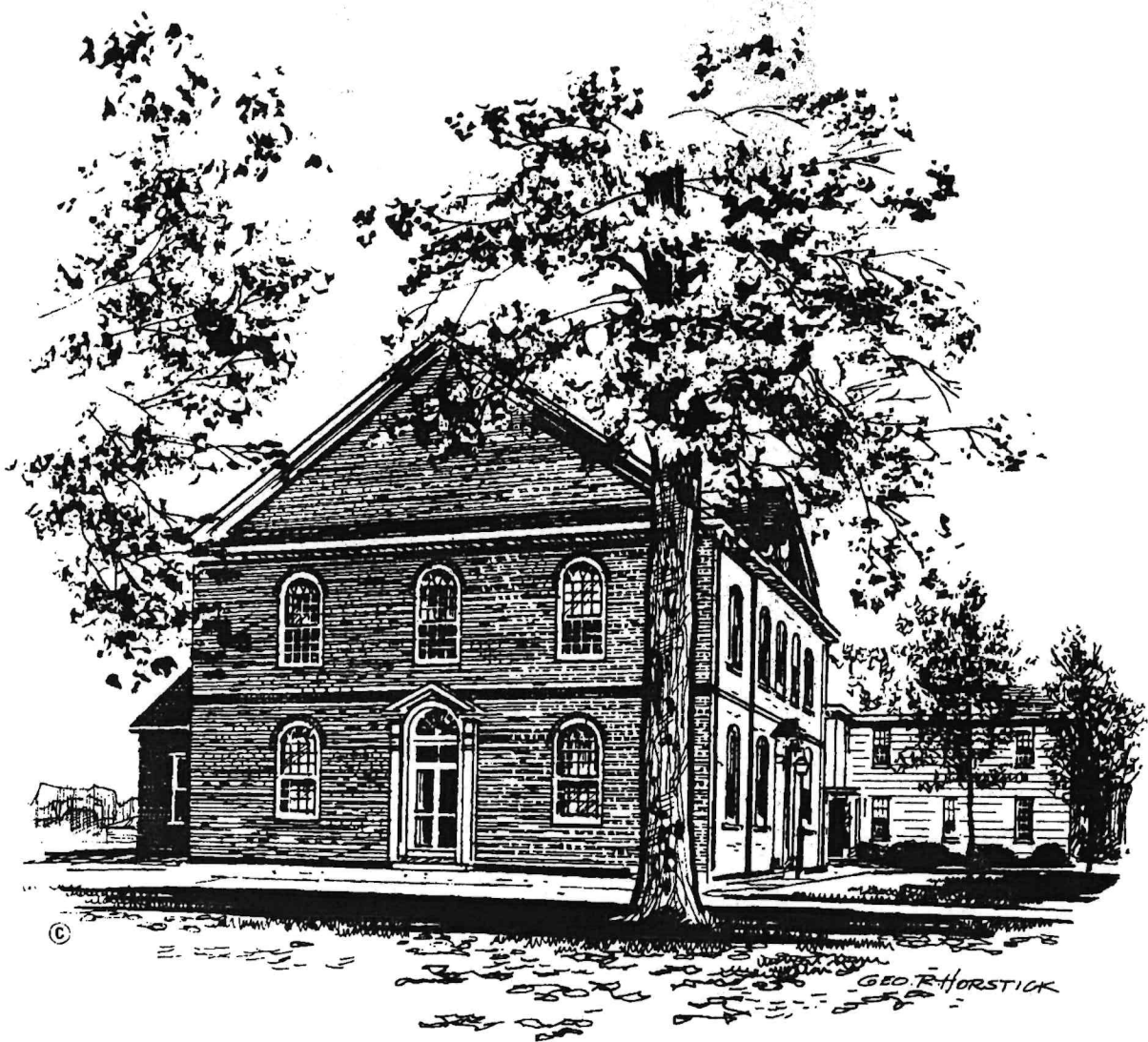
The Rev. William Butcher from Chester County, Pennsylvania, was the next pastor, being ordained as such in 1721. His work ended with his death in 1724 at the age of twenty-seven.

Again the Rev. Jenkins of Cape May supplied the church once a month. A call was extended to him in 1730 and he moved to the Cohansey site but continued to visit and preach at the Cape May church. The Rev. Jenkins was a man of talents and education and while at Cape May was a member of the Council of Parliament as the State Legislature was then called. In 1721 a bill was introduced to "punish such as denied the doctrine of the Trinity, the divinity of Christ and the inspiration of the Scriptures." Mr. Jenkins stood boldly forth as the champion of "soul liberty," declaring that, although he believed those doctrines as firmly as the warmest advocates of the ill-designed bill, he would never consent to oppose those who rejected them with law or with any weapon other than argument. As a result, the bill was squashed to the great disappointment of those who would have had the scenes of persucution which raged in New England repeated in New Jersey.

On the same site as the second church (Sheppard's Mill), a third meeting house was erected in 1741. It was a frame building, thirty-six by thirty-two. Years later, in 1804, after the present brick edifice was built, this frame building was taken down, removed to Greenwich, and converted into a barn. The communion table used in this frame building has been preserved and is a prized possession in the present church.

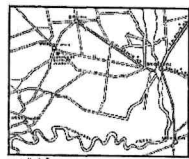
The old graveyard at Sheppard's Mill is still kept up. There is buried Deborah Swinney. Her tombstone reads: "In Memory of Deborah Swinney who departed this life the 4th Day of April, 1760, in the 77th year of her age. She was the first white female child born in Cohansey, daughter of John Smith and wife of John Swinney." Daniel Mulford, lieutenant of the Greenwich Militia, who fell in the skirmish with the Hessians near Haddonfield, New Jersey, during the Revolutionary War also was interred in this cemetery in 1777. The Rev. Robert Kelsey, a pastor for thirty-three years, was buried in the yard in 1789.





THE COHANSEY BAPTIST CHURCH

• ROADSTOWN • CUMBERLAND COUNTY • NEW JERSEY •



ERECTED 1801

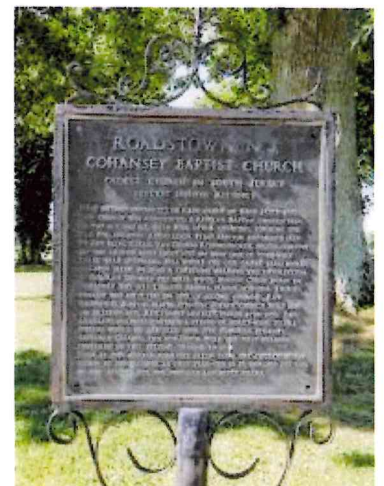
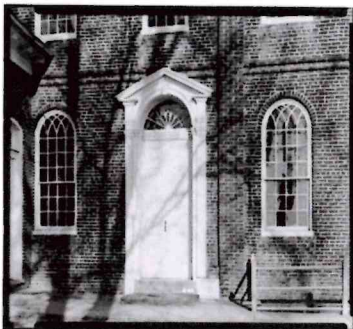
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF PARK AND MONUMENTS	NATIONAL MONUMENT ROADSTOWN CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEW JERSEY	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF PARK AND MONUMENTS	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF PARK AND MONUMENTS	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF PARK AND MONUMENTS	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIVISION OF PARK AND MONUMENTS
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Historic American Buildings
Survey, C. (1933) *Cohansey
Baptist Church, Roadstown,
Cumberland County, NJ.* New
Jersey Roadstown
Cumberland County, 1933.
Documentation Compiled
After. [Photograph]
Retrieved from the Library
of Congress

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES



Cohansey Baptist Church is nestled in the historic community of Roadstown, Cumberland County, New Jersey.



OTHER EARLY CHURCHES OF HOPEWELL

from Cushing & Sheppard – 1881

The Seventh-Day Baptist Church of Shiloh

In the year 1668 a large number of Welsh Baptist emigrants, known as the "Rev. John Miles' company," settled in Massachusetts and named their location Swansea after their native place in Wales. Meeting with persecution, a large number of their children and grandchildren, with some Baptists from Scotland, moved to South Jersey in the year 1687, and settled at Barratt's Run, Bowentown, and Shiloh. This colony from New England was known as the "Rev. Timothy Brooks" or the "Bowen Company," and kept up a separate society until 1710 when they united with the Old Cohansey Baptist Church. From 1695 to 1700, and subsequently, Jonathan Davis, a Seventh-Day Baptist, of Miles' Company, son of the Rev. Jonathan Davis, having married Elizabeth Bowen, one of the "Miles Company," visited his Welsh cousins at Bowentown and vicinity and gained many converts to his persuasion. Their numbers were also increased by additions from Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and from Trenton, Bonhamtown, and Piscataway, New Jersey. In or about the year 1700 Jonathan Davis moved from Long Island and settled at Trenton with his brother, Elnathan Davis, a noted land surveyor, and from there made frequent visits to his brethren at Shiloh.

Jonathan Davis, son of Elnathan Davis, the surveyor, married Esther, daughter of Isaac Ayars, Sr., of Shiloh, and located nearby, and became a prominent preacher of the gospel. His uncle,

Jonathan, of Trenton, however, was from the first recognized as the actual founder of the church.

On the 27th day of March, 1737, the Seventh-Day Baptist Church of Shiloh was organized with articles of faith and agreement.

The following were the constituent members: John Swinney, Dr. Elijah Bowen, John Jarman, Caleb Barratt, Hugh Dunn, Jonathan Davis, Jr., Caleb Ayars, Jr., Joseph Swinney, Samuel Davis. Jaen Philips, of Newton Square, Pa., Deborah Swinney, Deborah Bowen, Abigail Barratt, Amy Dunn, Esther Dunn, Deborah Swinney, Jr., Ann Davis, Anna Swinney. Some of the constituent members had burial lots in other societies and were not interred at Shiloh.

At the constitution of the church, Jonathan Davis, Jr. was the chosen pastor. Ruling elders and deacons were also elected officers of the church. About the year 1830 the office of ruling elder was discontinued.

On the 24th of March, 1738, Caleb Ayars, Sr. deeded to the church one acre of land near the village of Shiloh for a meeting house lot and burying ground and a frame house for worship, thirty by forty feet, was erected the same year. The younger Jonathan Davis continued his labors till his death on February 2, 1769 at the age of 60.

His successor was Rev. Jonathan Davis, son of David Davis, of Welsh Tract, near Newark, Delaware. He married Margaret Bond of Delaware, a descendant of the Sharpless family. Before settling in Shiloh he founded the Newark Academy which has since

grown into Delaware College. This elder Davis was born on July 7, 1734 and ordained in Shiloh Church on November 18, 1768 where he continued his labors until his death on July 23, 1785. It was this man, so eminent for learning and piety, that gave to the village the name of Shiloh in imitation "of the ark of God resting at Shiloh." Previous to that time the place was called Cohansey Corners. In 1771, during his pastorate, a brick meeting house, thirty-six and a half by forty feet, was erected, and in 1824 a large gallery was added.

Rev. William M. Jones was called to take charge in the fall of 1850. During his ministry the present brick meeting house, forty by sixty feet in size, was completed and dedicated, the old building donated to Union Academy and fitted up especially for the wants of that institution, then so prosperous under the principalship of Professor E.P. Larkin. In 1853, Mr. Jones resigned his charge and was succeeded by Rev. Walter B. Gillette. After a very successful pastorate of nearly twenty years, during which the present academic building was erected, he resigned the pastorate.

In 1811 the Marlboro Church, just over the line in Salem County, was organized from members of the Shiloh Church. Other small colonies have gone west and helped to organize churches of the denomination.

Harmony Methodist Episcopal Church

In the winter of 1857-58 the Methodist Church at Allowaystown, Salem County, under the charge of Rev. John W. McDougall, were having extra meetings and nine persons from this neighborhood went up to attend them, became interested and were converted. A class was formed at Harmony and Mr. McDougall, assisted by Mr. Nelson, a local preacher from Allowaystown, preached in the Harmony school-house once a week. Measures were at once taken to build a meeting house, and on September 14, 1858, a contract was made with Walter S. Goff to build a house, thirty-six by fifty feet, before December 25th next for the sum \$2,250. It became an appointment of Salem Circuit, composed of Allowaystown and Nazareth (Watson's Comer) Churches in Salem County along with Roadstown and this church in Cumberland Cumberland. The ministers on this circuit were John I. Carson and Willis Reeves (in 1950), Carson and William Barnhart (in 1960) and then in 1861 it became a station. This church has always been connected with another church in the services of a pastor, the most of the time with Roadstown.

This church is situated in the country, there being no village within several miles and therefore has no chance to make a rapid growth. But it did well with the work it found to do and gave the preaching of the word to those who otherwise would seldom hear it.

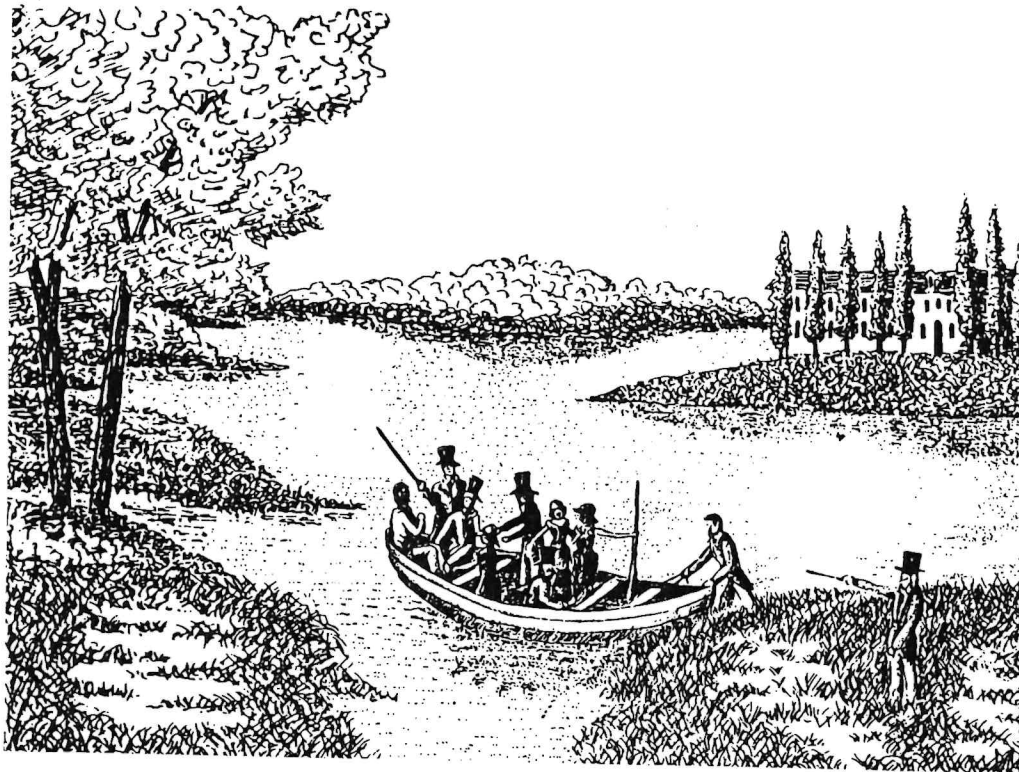
Memorial to Early Settlers



Rulon D. Brooks, Sr. erected this monument on the site of a log meeting house constructed by the Bowen Company in the late 17th century. Brooks, an avid researcher and family historian, says the monument is “a memorial to not only my family but also the early settlers in genera.” The market stands on Greenwich Road near the intersection of Barretts Run Road.

BAPTIST'S LANDING

An original of this print is in the Cohansey Baptist Church



“BAPTIST LANDING” On the North side of the Cohansey River with the RED HOUSE FARM in the background on the South side of the river. This ink sketch was done by Alan Carman from an original watercolor made by a member of the Isaac Wheaton family in approximately 1800. For 90 years Baptists crossed the Cohansey River here to attend Sunday meeting. Time has erased any trace of this land. A visit to the site takes one to marsh land, muskrat houses and mudbanks covered by fiddler crabs.

The Early Schools

(from a History of Hopewell Township Schools,
PM Barber, Rowan Collage, April, 1997)

.... Hopewell's first settlers were Baptists, Methodists and Seventh Day Adventists. Any early education would probably have been done at home. Survival skills were the first and most emphasized lessons to be taught in the harsh wilderness of the 1700s (Rippa). Reading was most probably utilized to perpetuate religious doctrines. There are no historical records of paid teachers or elementary tuition schools in Cumberland County. Church was the social organization of the time. Being a rural area, not of puritanical influence, education probably remained basic, home-based and occupationally oriented.

The History of Cumberland County notes that Shiloh was known for its schools by the 1800s. Seventh Day Adventists settled in that area and were known as "an intelligent people." In 1848, an academy was opened under Professor E. Larkin, A.M. It was chartered as Union Academy in 1849. It is not noted where the Academy was located for the first two years, however, in 1850, the Old Church of Shiloh was remodeled for use by the Union Academy. In 1866, a new two-story building was constructed of brick for the sum of ten thousand dollars. The first floor was used for recitation rooms and a laboratory. The second floor was described as "a large and excellent hall." Although a successful school for many years, the decline of the school is not recorded. The History of Cumberland County notes "It was allowed to go down and the building was idle for some time." The public school system purchased the building

in the 1880s for use as a public school.

1851 marks the first year of property assessed local taxes in Cumberland County (Elmer). Not surprisingly, the first record of township school houses is noted in the 1850s. The Roadstown School, established in 1852, was the first public school in Hopewell Township.

In 1896 Hopewell Township spent \$4,444.39 on the eight school houses. There were 441 students enrolled and ten teachers employed. Only one teacher had a State Certificate in Teaching. All other teachers were County Certified. Of the eight original school houses, seven were heated by stoves and it is not mentioned if they were wood or coal burning stoves. The Shiloh School was to have been heated by hot air and ventilated by gravity. The other seven school houses were ventilated by windows. All these schools had outhouses and no electric. All were constructed of wood except for the Shiloh School which was constructed of brick. In 1902, the Township spent \$5,091.00 on educational expenses for the school year. The total number of students enrolled was 485. A male teacher earned \$40.70 per month and a female teacher earned \$36.27 per month. By 1906, the township was spending \$5,799.34 annually on education, for less students. The total number of students enrolled was 468. Primary students numbered 239. Grammar students numbered 166 and there were 63 students at the high school level (Annual Report 1906).

By 1911 the Township was spending \$11,887.83 annually in education. There were no children enrolled in kindergarten. The

schools were divided in distinct grades:

Grades	Boys	Girls	Total
1-4	124	114	238
5-8	99	99	198
9-12	29	33	62

In 1918 the Beebe Run Road School was closed, leaving seven school houses. By 1922 five school houses remained for 553 students (Annual Report 1922). A small sample of textbooks from 1905 and 1908 were found at the Hopewell Crest School. There is no curriculum information available from the 1880s or 1900s. However, I interviewed Mr. George Brooks who attended the Dutch Neck School in 1924. He remembers that most of the lessons were taught on the blackboard. The school did have supplies of books, pencils, paper and crayons. Dutch Neck School was a two-room school house with four grades in each classroom. Each row of desks represented a different grade. Mr. Brooks recalls the school was in satisfactory condition. He remembers the floors looking especially new in September after being heavily oiled during the summer. By the following spring the floor would be scuffed, but when he attended the small school, it was not in a bad condition. Mr. Brooks remembers two outhouses and a hand pump that stood in the yard before the front doors.

The Roadstown School-1852

This school closed in the early 1920s. The bell is mounted on the chapel of the Cohansey Baptist Church and is still in use. A desk from the school is also in the chapel.

There is some similarity among mid to late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century schools. The Lower Hopewell Township School (1859), for instance, is a rectangular form with a typical gable end doorway and another on the long side facade; two small windows flank each side of the door, which also features a braced gable roof. Built approximately a half-century later, the one-story Downe Township Primary School and the brick bungalow-styled school near Delmont are not dissimilar. The former is a side-facing rectangular form that features a double-door entrance and flanking windows, although the facade is overshadowed by the steeply pitched hip roof and exposed rafters. The latter is a purer building type that may have been a patternbook derivation.



THE HISTORY OF BEEBE RUN SCHOOL HOUSE

By: Andrew Glendon, Jr.

(according to Historical Book of School Houses compiled and edited December 6, 1994)

Located on a road connecting Bridgeton with Seeley Road and the tiny communities of Mary Elmer Lake and Harmony and Cohansey, a school house serving Hopewell Township District #7 stood during the early decades of the nineteenth century. It was known as Beebe School House or Beebe Run School House, the name acquired from the road upon which it was located which got its name from the small stream which flows along and directs the road to the south towards Bridgeton. This was a region of farmers in the early 1800s. As our nation was expanding, our cities thriving and our population was swelling with the tens of thousands of newly-arrived immigrants, small farmers, many of them tenants with little job security needed to produce the food which the nation demanded. Even remote areas like southern New Jersey were aware of the changing character of America and valued its schools as the key to a better future.

The origin of a Beebe Run School is found in an obscure deed dated February 7, 1816 in which Daniel Moore deeded a small parcel of land to the Hopewell Township school district. How much land is unclear and the issue reappeared several times over the next half century, finally determined in an 1869 survey to be one acre. It was originally thought to be a larger tract.

In an 1842 deed mention was made of "a piece of ground set aside for the schoolhouse". The same deed refers to "the road to Bridgeton passing the Beebe School House...". This means to me that a school house was there prior to November 28, 1842.

This schoolhouse was moved across the street to the Rushenberger property for use as a farm storage building and a larger school building was erected on the original site in 1857. The new structure measured 24' by 26' (later enlarged 12' in 1880), a single story one-room wooden building. It was heated by a coal stove and had a 56-student capacity. It cost the township \$925 to build. The structure still stands today, the home of my mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Glendon, Sr.

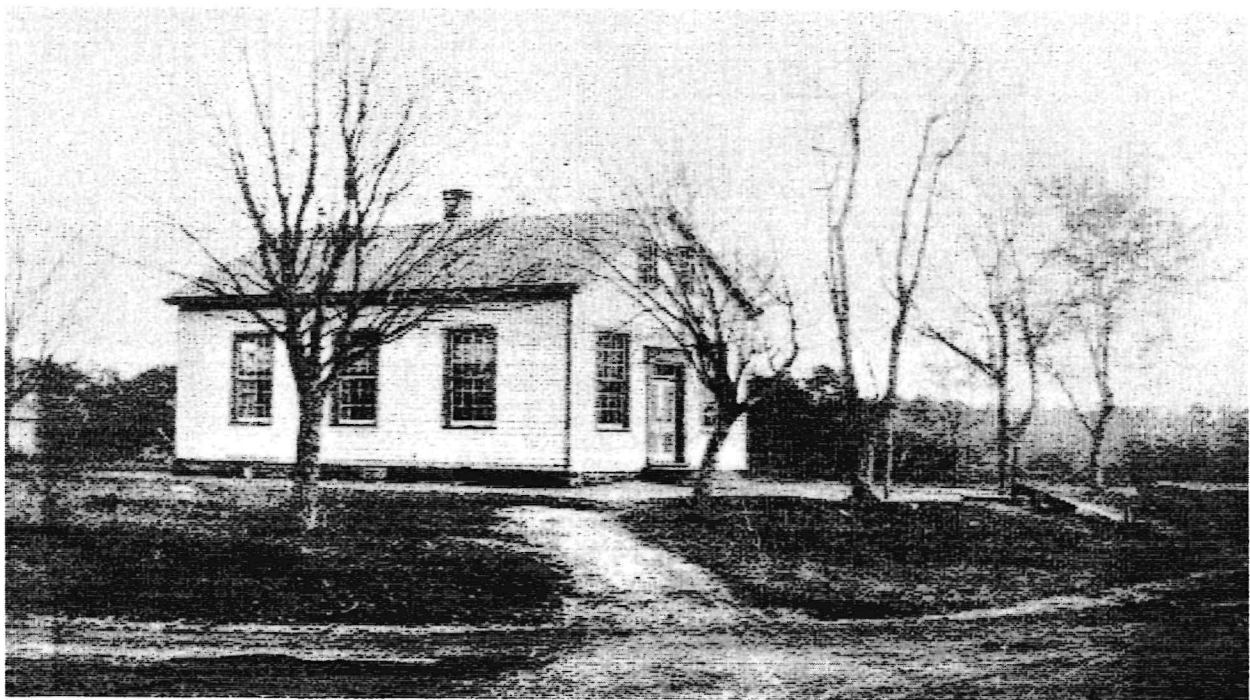
Following some repairs to the building in 1870 totaling \$120, an inventory of the Hopewell District #36 Beebe Run School revealed that, while the desks were "not modern" and the school house did not have a library, fenced-in grounds or separate out-houses, it did have 164 feet of blackboard space, which was painted, plus a U.S. map, a dictionary and a gazetteer. The district did not provide textbooks so the teacher was left to his or her own devices, frequently teaching the entire student body of all age groups using one or two of his own books plus the fairly up-to-date gazetteer. This 1871 inventory concludes that Beebe Run School House was in "good" condition. The building could accommodate 56 children though there were but 50 in the district at that time. Overcrowding, apparently, was not a problem.

One of those children soon to be educated in the Beebe Run School House was

my grandfather William, born in 1877. He lived on the Perry farm at the end of Shoemaker Lane up the road towards Bridgeton. He attended the school between 1883 and 1890.

My mother Lavica attended the Beebe Run School when she was six or seven, in 1912-13. The family then lived on the Mixner farm on the corner of Beebe Run Road and Seeley Road. At that time there were four children: Leona, 12; George, 10; Hazel, 8 and Lavica, 6. They walked to school, of course, except in bad weather when their father William hitched up the horses to a wagon, sleigh or sled and took them. They stopped on the way to meet the Vanderbeck children: Whilden, Charles and Glendon, who walked (or rode) with them. The teacher was Mrs. Doan who boarded across the road from the school.

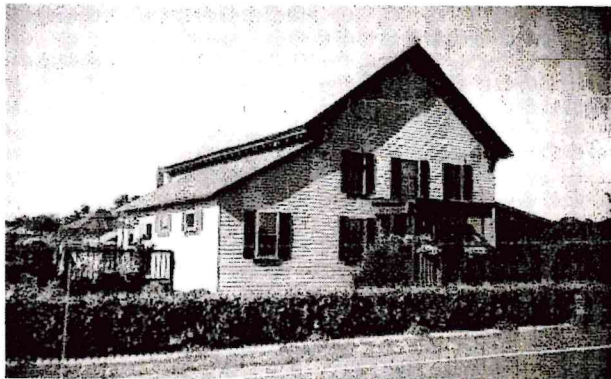
Large families were normal (my mother's grandmother had fifteen children, nine who lived to maturity). When young people married, they would rent a farm and set up housekeeping. For one reason or another, bad weather or unfair landlords, they would often have to move to another farm and try again. Thus it was common for children to attend numerous schools as the family's fortunes changed, though the fact that they went at all testifies to the value they placed on education during those difficult times. My mother remembers very well living on six different farms during her childhood and, of course, attending the nearest schools: Harmony, Deerfield, Beebe Run, Roadstown and Shiloh Academy.



(Original photo taken November 3, 1904)

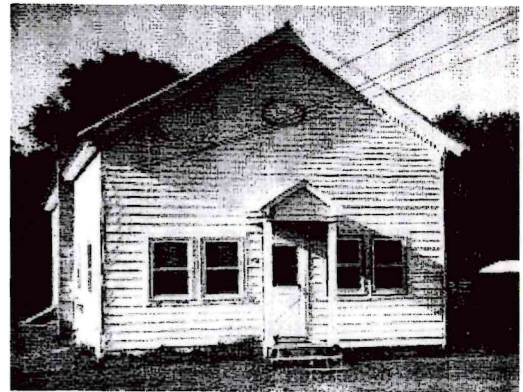
The Dutch Neck School – 1877

1998 photo – Now Fralinger's Cider Mill

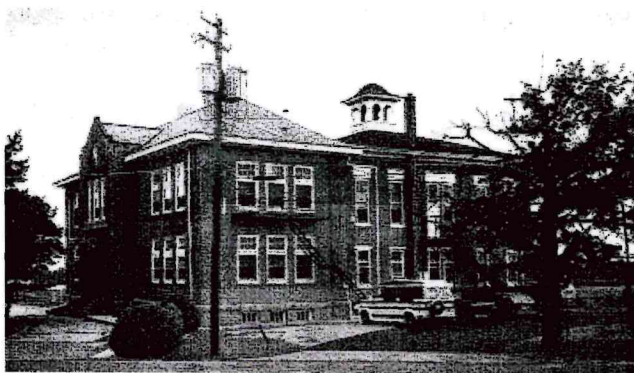


The Lower Hopewell School - 1859

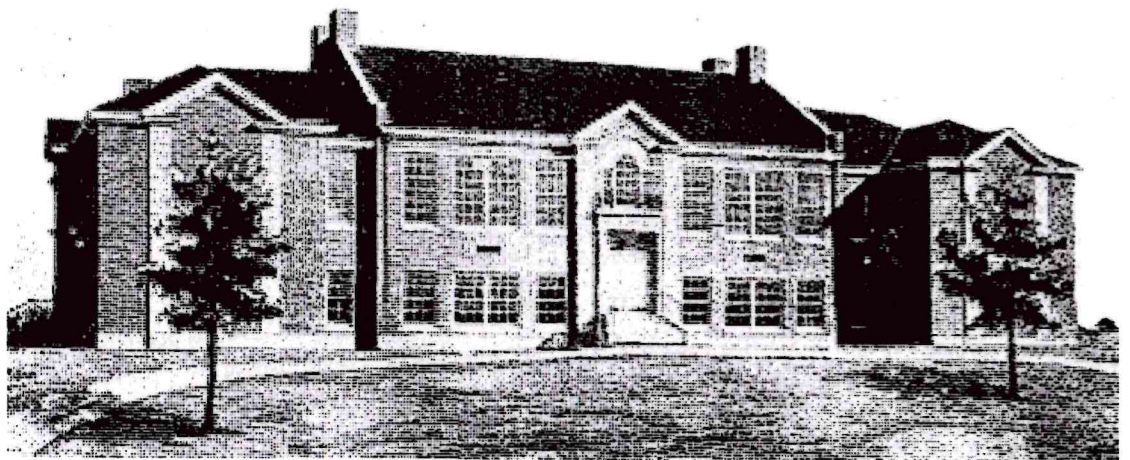
Sheppards Mill Road – 1998 photo



The Former Hopewell Township High School
(now the Shiloh School)



Hopewell Township Consolidated School



DEDICATORY EXERCISES

Friday evening, March Seventh, Nineteen Hundred Third

7:30 o'clock

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM 1901

Commencement Exercises

...SHILOH HIGH SCHOOL...

Tuesday Evening, May 21st, 1901.

PROGRAM

MUSIC,	CHORUS
PRAYER,	REV. E. B. SAUNDERS
ORATION—"Famous Men,"	ALBERT F. WHEATON
ESSAY—"The Moral World,"	IRENE DAVIS
ESSAY—"Natural Selection,"	EMMA BOWEN
MUSIC—"Voices of the Night,"	QUARTETTE
ESSAY—"New Sciences,"	EDNA WHEATON
ORATION—"The United States and Cuba,"	GEORGE DAVIS
RECITATION,	MARGARET HUMMEL
MUSIC—Violin Solo,	JOHN BONHAM
ORATION—"Modern Advantages of the Farmer,"	WINFRED HARRIS
ESSAY—"Books,"	FRANCES DAVIS
ADDRESS,	PRINCIPAL W. W. SHEPPARD
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.	
MUSIC—"The Land of Flowers,"	QUARTETTE

The Value of an Agricultural Education

Written by Charles Van Der Beck & Klaas De Wilde

One of the most important decisions in the life of every person is the choice of an occupation. One should carefully consider the advice of his parents and friends, but the final decision must be made by each individual for himself. It is not at all necessary that every boy follow his father's occupation.

Each person should choose the occupation in which he will be of most use in the world. Even from the selfish standpoint this is usually best. The ultimate rewards in money and in pleasure are usually largest when one is doing the work that he can do best.

The high salaries paid in cities are misleading. They sound much larger than they really are when cost of living is considered.

If one is sure he prefers some other occupation and that he has a fair chance for success in it, he should certainly not be a farmer. But in many instances, the dislike of farming is nearly always a "case of the blues." Periods of discouragement come to every one regardless of his occupation, a change of occupation will not prevent them. There is no occupation that looks good when one is considering all the disadvantages. Unfortunately, human nature is such that we are likely to see the bright side of other men's work and the dull side of our own. If one is to succeed in any occupation, he must learn to work when he had rather not, and to keep at it if he is tired.

Farming is not an easy task. It is worthwhile. It is worthy of a man. It combines physical labor with thought so that it calls for an all-around development.

If one is to be a farmer, he should prepare for the business. An agricultural education is desirable today. A young man is preparing, not only for today but for forty years from now, when such an education will be more necessary.

The agricultural course will help during every one of these forty years. We never see a man who regrets having gone to school too long; everyone regrets stopping so soon.

It is not advised that any young man be a farmer. It may be very much better for him to leave the farm, but before leaving the farm, he should consider both sides of the question.

The agricultural education helps the farmer in many ways. It teaches him to keep farm records which is one of the most important things in farming. It not only shows the

farmer how, but also why certain things have to be done. Altogether the farmer who has an agricultural education is surer of his work.

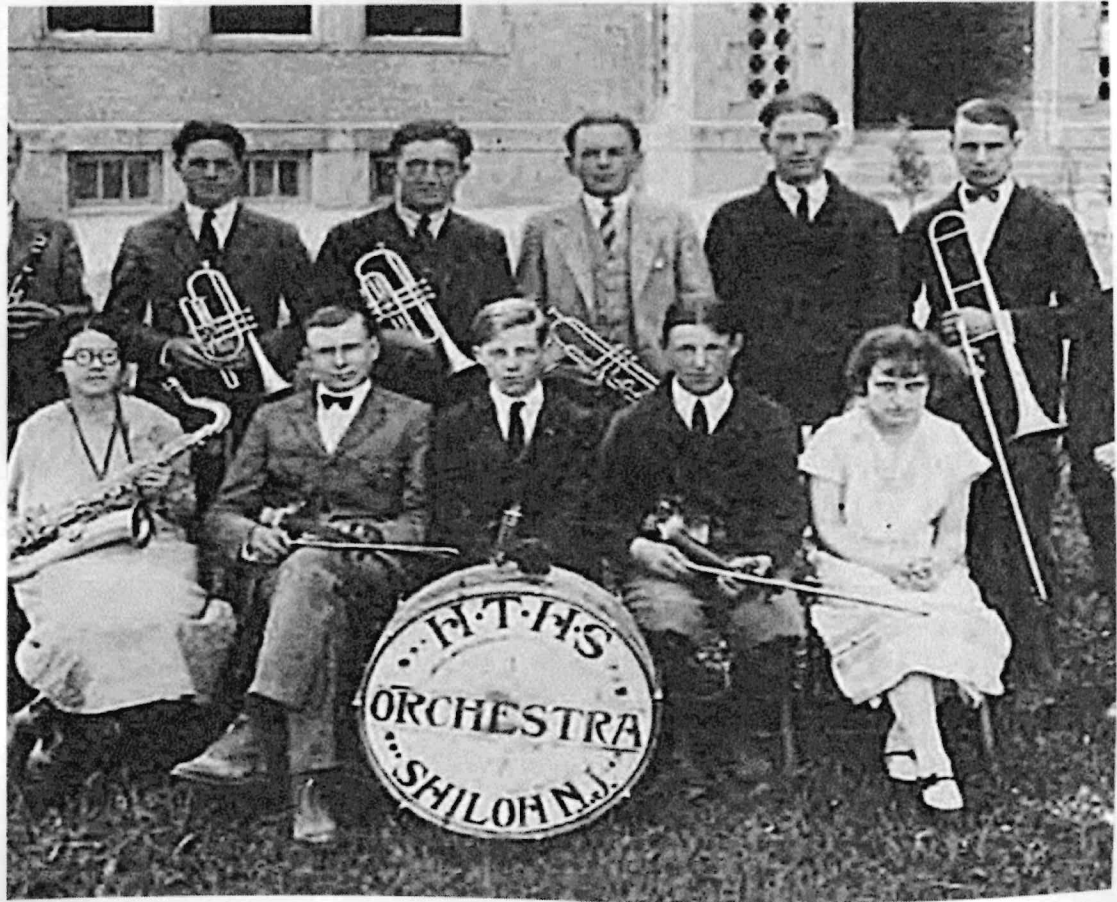
Improved marketing methods, crop-rotations have also helped the farmer a great deal. The farmers have learned the value of cover crops, balanced rations and proper breeding of dairy cattle. In earlier days and in some cases still, some persons are of the opinion that anyone can farm regardless of his education or training. In earlier days this was probably nearer to the truth than under present-day conditions.

When one wants to become a doctor, a business man or take up any profession, he trains himself for that particular line of work. A man may try to practice law without training, but he will not attain much success. The same is true of the farmer under present-day conditions of complicated machinery, keen marketing conditions, high quality of products, etc.

There are so many problems for the farmer to solve in order to be successful and an agricultural course would be of great value to him in this respect. Experience, they often say, is the best teacher, but very often is quite expensive. An agricultural training will help one to avoid many mistakes and save many dollars. An agricultural education shows one that there is really more to farming than just hard work and that farming really is the most noble, the most elevating and the most healthful occupation of man.



Agriculture Class



Orchestra Notes – by Everett Tomlinson, 1926

The orchestra, under the supervision of Mrs. Crone, has had a very successful year for the year of 1924-1925. The Orchestra consists of: Violinists Everet T. Tomlinson and Harvey Tilly; Saxophonists Ceila Ayars and Robert Connelly; Cornetists William Wynn, Christopher Connelly, Edward W. Harris and Henry Lawrence; Flutist Joseph Connelly; and Clarinetist Roscoe Lawrence.

The first part of the year Walter Fogg was the drummer. Robert Brandt is now taking lessons so he can drum for us next year. Mrs. Crone has played the piano.

The orchestra has purchased a number of new books, including the Fox series, Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. We have played at many places during the year, also at almost all of the school activities. Much credit is due to Mrs. Crone for her excellent teaching and for the success which we have had.

Early 18th Century Roadstown

(from Rulon Brooks Family History – 1994)

I cannot find any definite date for the establishment of this village but it had to be early in the 1700's since it was one of the earliest crossroads of importance - they were not roads as we know them today, but Indian paths that were first used by people on foot or riding on horseback since this was the early route from Salem to Cohansey Bridge (now Bridgeton), and from Cohansey (now Greenwich) north towards Burlington where the government of West New Jersey was located.

L. Q. C. Elmer, when he wrote The History of Cumberland County in 1869 said, "This place now called Roadstown, surrounded by a fertile region, was settled at an early date and until Cohansey Bridge was established as the county town, was the place next in importance to New England Town and Greenwich. It is called Kingstown in an old mortgage on record, but if it was ever generally known by that, which is doubtful, that designation was wiped out by the Declaration of Independence. Prior to and for some time after the Revolution, it was called Sayre's Cross Roads. Ananias Sayre, originally from Fairfield, who was a prominent citizen, and at one time sheriff, having settled there, and built the house at the northwest corner of the cross roads."

In October 1947 the following article appeared in "We Women" published by the Cowan Printing Company. "Much of the life of a little town centers around the general store. In the early days of America it was the only way of getting and exchanging the news of the day.

"The little store in Roadstown which still

stands near the corner was, no doubt, the hub of activity when the forefathers of William C. Mulford, one of Bridgeton's historians, kept this little store more than a hundred years ago. Here was sold everything from Bibles to "spirits"; from molasses to cloth by the yard.

"The Mulford family which can trace its family back to 1420, can be listed among the earliest settlers of South Jersey. Barber and Howe in their Historical Collections; published in 1844 say that 'Roadstown was early settled by the Mulford family from Long Island.

In 1648 two Mulford brothers - William and John - came to America and settled on Long Island. A son of William - William, Jr., born about 1651 - came to this part of New Jersey in 1699. From records in the possession of Mr. Mulford, there were nine children who, with their descendants, lived in Greenwich and Hopewell township, and doubtless were among the earliest settlers about Roadstown. It was Henry, the great-grandson of this William Mulford, Jr., pioneering in South Jersey in 1699, who kept the general store in Roadstown from 1820 to 1840, living in the adjoining red brick '1770' house on the corner. Here he raised his six children.

"Judging from old records, storekeeping in those days was a diversified affair - not only in commodities, but in prices. Tea was \$1.00 to \$1.50 a pound, but the very best brandy sold for 75 cents a quart; dried beef sold for 19 cents a pound, while silk handkerchiefs sold for 88 cents to a dollar each. Though rush-bottom chairs (believe it or not) sold for \$15.00 a dozen, gingham was 37 cents a yard and figured muslin \$1.00. Coffee was approximately what it is today - 38 "to 40 cents a pound, but eggs were 8 cents a dozen.

"Itemized sales to certain individuals could

probably cast a ray of light on what the buyer was planning to do: For instance, Edmund Dare may have been getting ready for the hunting season with his purchase of ½ pound of powder for 16 cents, and 1 pound of shot for 12-1/2 cents. Samuel Davis may have been a shoemaker, for he bought 9-3/4 pounds of sole leather at 28 cents a pound; but evidently Samuel was a scholar, as well, for he bought at the same time a copy of the Life of Patrick Herry. Edward Tomkins may have been starting housekeeping, for he bought one iron pot for \$1.00; a teakettle for \$1.00, and, probably to keep himself looking handsome for his new wife, a pocket comb for 12-1/2 cents. Isaac Mulford, who was later, in 1848, to write the History of New Jersey, may have bought his 'paper or ink powder' preparing for that very purpose.

"Even though a credit or ninety days was granted by Henry Mulford in his Roadstown general store, there are over one thousand cases on record where collections were enforced by court action."

Another article which appeared in We Women concerned a house in Roadstown which for many years was occupied by the Brooks family: "Perhaps one of the oldest livable houses in Cumberland County is the house built by Colonel John Remington in 1728. The Brooks family lived there from the early 1800's to the late 1800's. James Brooks, a cabinetmaker, came there from Salem; his son Lewis Brooks lived there as well as Lewis' son, Non-is P. Brooks - this would be the father, Grandfather and great-grandfather of Rulon D. Brooks, Sr. This house was then occupied by Walter Ganison for many years, until the 1960's or later.

"The Remington house is of typical pre-Revolutionary construction, made of soft red brick and one-room wide. It has deep window sills, wide beam floors, and contains

three large fireplaces. All the rooms are reached by up-and-down steps.

"Colonel Remington was one of the first Justices of Cumberland County. His name appears many times in local history, especially during the time when the first courts were being held. It was on May 31, 1748, in accordance with the appointment of Governor Belcher, that the first courts were held in Greenwich. Justices present at that time were Richard Week, John Ogden, Joseph Reeve and John Remington.



John Remington House (1728) This private home was owned by John and Elizabeth Remington and located on Roadstown Road, Cumberland County. This Delaware Valley patterned end brick house was built in the Federal style of architecture with Flemish influences. These homes were built by and owned by the Quakers and this type of agriculture is unique to old "Western New Jersey" now called southern New Jersey.

Wood Tavern
Roadstown, Cumberland County

Photo Credit: Nathaniel R. Ewan

January 3, 1938



Initial Construction 1775 with subsequent work in 1810



DUY H. DILKS BASKET FACTORY

*"An Art of the Past,
Gone But Not Forgotten"*

This information was acquired by Ed Beardsley with the help of Earl Pancoast from Duy Milford Dilks, the son of Duy H. Dilks, Sr.

In 1903 Duy H. Dilks, Sr. who was born on April 16, 1878, acquired an already established business consisting of a saw mill. He started the basket factory located in Roadstown-NJ. His brother John began a similar business in Dividing Creek, New Jersey. Another brother, William W. Dilks started a similar business in Swedesboro, NJ

Poplar trees were the preferred variety because they were the easiest to handle. However, gum and maple were used also. In the summer, the bark came off easily, but in winter, it was necessary to steam the trees to get the bark off. The trees were felled primarily by a two-man cross-cut saw. The logs were first hauled by horse and wagon.

The first truck used to deliver the baskets was a converted bus that had been used to transport passengers between Bridgeton and Salem. In 1930, they bought a new "Brockway". A "Master" truck was one time used to haul logs to the mill with a top speed of 12 miles per hour. The "Master" had solid rubber tires. The sons,

Duy Milford Dilks, Glendon and grandson, Franklin, drove the trucks.

The Dilks had two saws in their mill. One with 52" blade. It would cut 21" boards. The other saw had 60" blade and would cut 27" boards. They turned around 800 rpm. At first, they were powered by steam and then later by electric.

The logs were cut into 60" lengths and 43" lengths for different types of baskets. They were then put into a Veneer machine. The log was turned against a sharp stationary blade. The blade would be the length of the log and would be cut into the desired thickness of 1/16", 1/8" or 1/4". The thicker wood was used for the top rim of the basket.

Several different sizes and types of baskets were made: 1/2 bushel peach baskets, 5/8-bushel tomato baskets, 32 qt. (1 bushel) hard bottom baskets, 24 qt., 3/4-bushel hamppers and a large 48 qt. hamper for cabbage. They also made a tall 1-bushel hamper for peppers, beans, and onions. Some of the 5/8 tomato baskets had a wire halfway up to hold the shape and some had wooden bands around them. One of their 5/8 baskets had 3 sets of X or cross braces.

The basket factory would sell almost a half million baskets in a good year. The 5/8 tomato baskets sold for \$.04 each in the early years and up to \$.15 each in

later years. The Saw Mill was also used to saw lumber for fanners and anyone else who needed to have logs sawed. The cost for sawing was \$.01 a board foot.

The Dilks Basket Factory was issued a federal number of 334 which had to be marked on each basket made.

During World War II, they sawed a lot of lumber for ship building at Greenwich and Leesburg for the Navy. Much of it went into mine sweepers to remove enemy mines from harbors. The wood construction did not draw magnets on the mines as a steel ship would. The lumber was also used for submarine chasers and tug boats. Some of these timbers were 24" square.

An Oyster Boat once required a timber too long to be sawed on the Dilks mill, so they supplied a whole hickory tree to the boat yard where the timber was hand hewn to the proper size.

Mine sweepers used pieces 20" by 24" by 23 foot long. 920 board feet as a Sampson post which stood upright in the ship. Mine sweepers had a stem 9 feet thick and ribs 10 1/2" wide when put together. Oak, hickory and some cedar was used. They had to be steamed in order to be bent to proper shape.

The basket operation was discontinued in 1960 and the machinery was sold.

THE 1770 HOUSE (SAYRE HOUSE)

THE ROADSTOWN STORE

HEWITT'S STORE

Prior to the Revolutionary War, there was a small village in Cumberland County known as King's Cross Roads. As adverse feelings began to mount against England's rule, the name was changed to Sayre's Cross Roads. In the early 1800s it became Roadstown.

There is an old house and general store on the northwest corner of the cross-roading intersection of this village. It has stood there for" over 200 years, silently observing the activities of the village and its inhabitants.

Through the years the property has been called many different names. We will relate the story behind three of these.

THE 1770 HOUSE (Sayre House)

It has been given this name due to the fact that it was built in the year 1770 by Ananias Sayre for his son and namesake, Ananias Sayre, Jr., for use as a dwelling. The year of its birth is blended into the west end of the house between the top of the second story and the gabled end. This was accomplished by brickwork and is readily visible.

There seems to be some dispute regarding the origin of the bricks used in the early construction. There are those that believe they came from England and others are just as firmly convinced they were produced in early South Jersey kilns. One thing is certain. They are old! The house is a real study in early architecture; but that is another story.

Ananias Sayre, Sr. and Jr. were important men in early area affairs. The senior Sayre was the first sheriff of Cumberland County, a Justice of the Peace, a freeholder, a collector for Greenwich in 1753 and a Judge of the Common Pleas Court in 1776. He also operated a stage line which provided transportation and mail service in the area. Ananias, Jr. was a freeholder from 1762-1766 and a representative from Stow Creek.

THE ROADSTOWN STORE

It has been determined that an addition to the house began the store life of the old building in the year 1805. Its birth was long ago; it's life span destined to be long. It is natural that the list of its occupants would change many times. Another reminder of the frailty of man.

In 1820 Henry Dowaney sold the property to Henry Mulford who lived in the house and operated the store. Henry Mulford sold it to Charles Shute in 1840 for \$1,000. Shute kept it until 1844 and sold it to James Bacon. James Bacon died shortly thereafter and his wife, Janetta, sold the property in 1845 for the sum of \$1080., to settle her husband's estate. The new proprietor was Charles Clark. Mr. Clark operated the store until 1852 when he sold it to Joel Moore for \$1400. John Ware became the new owner in 1857. At last, the store was to have more continuous ownership as it stayed in these hands until 1879

Isaac Hurff Swing then purchased the house and store for \$1700. Isaac Swing had been postmaster since March 21, 1873. This now located the post office in part of the store building, adding one more chain to its historical background. The post office was to remain in this location until 1942 even though the store's ownership would change hands. The Swing's sold out to Joseph H. Whitaker and Rhoda, his wife, in 1888. Rhoda Whitaker died in 1907 and this apparently was a large part of the reason why Joseph sold the house and store the following year and moved to Millville to become a part of his brother's firm, Whitaker Ice Company.

James F. Sheppard took up residence in Roadstown in 1908 and also ownership of the store and house. He assumed the postmaster's duties as well.

In 1942 the post office left its home of 63 years in the store building to take up new quarters in the home of Mrs. Milford Dilks. It was during Mr. Sheppard's ownership that gasoline service was commenced for the now firmly entrenched automobile. The value of the property had naturally increased over the years and when Mr. Sheppard sold out in 1945, it brought a price of \$6500.

Frank Bradway became the new owner but retained it only a few months, selling out in 1946 to the present proprietors, Howard and Edna Hewitt.

HEWITT'S STORE

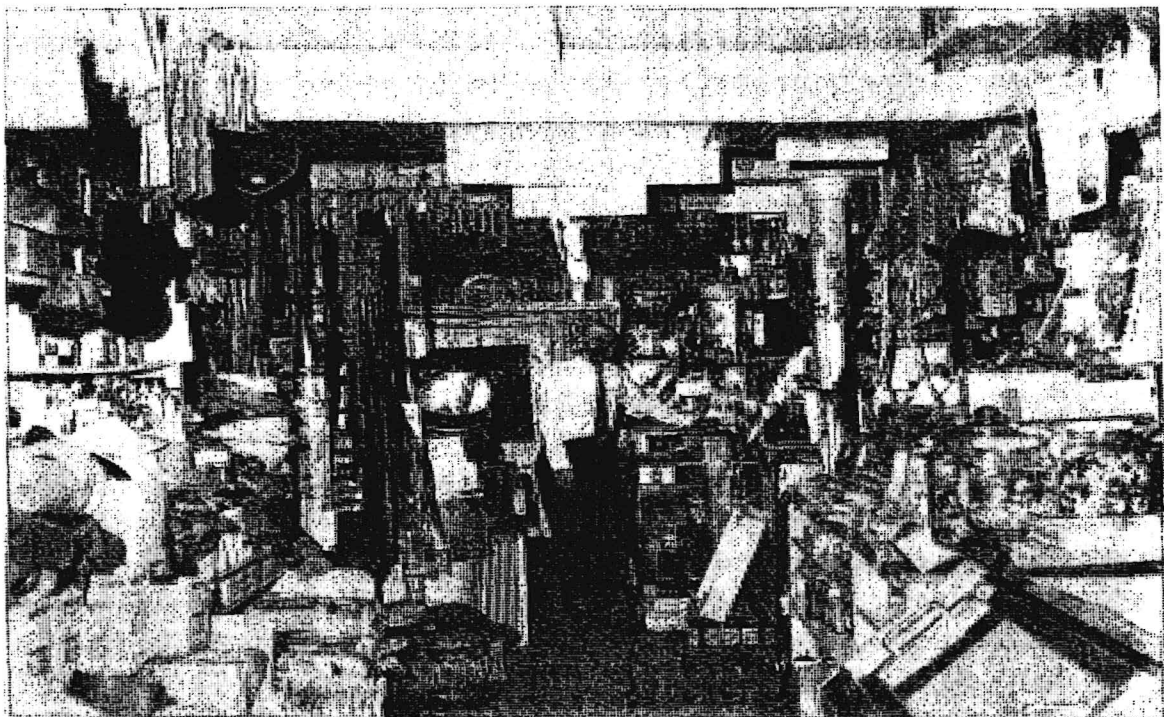
The inhabitants of Roadstown and the old building were fortunate in engulfing the Hewitts into their lives. They have tirelessly given of their time and efforts for over 25 years - in church and community affairs as well as the store.

Of course, many changes have been made to the old house and store over the years. Most of their origins have been lost in the past until it is difficult, if not - impossible, to trace what these changes were and when made. Many had been made before the Hewitts took command. Corner fireplaces had disappeared, along with their mantels. A circular staircase in the front room was removed and a ramp type one added in the next room. A bathroom and closets were also added. In the store the building was enlarged several times and the counter changed to run down the side of the store rather than across it. The old pot-bellied stove has long disappeared.

In 1948 the present owners removed an ironwork porch that had been an earlier addition and replaced it with a brick stoop and railing.



Here are two photos that give a small idea of the amount of stock available at the store on any given day. Howard Hewitt was always ready to serve his customers.



Hewitt's General Store and Gas Station, Roadstown

The original part of this structure, the 1770 House (Sayre House) was built in 1770 with the back portion and the store added later. Roadstown was originally known as "Kingstown" during colonial times. Hewitt's Store and neighboring buildings have changed in appearance since this photo. Houses have been torn down and the fire hall built next door to the store. The old trees are gone as is the porch on the 1770 House.



Hopewell – Stow Creek Fire Department



Formed in 1918, the Hopewell - Stow Creek Fire Department serves Hopewell, Stow Creek Township and the town of Shiloh. Its fire station was built in 1942.

A History of the Hopewell – Stow Creek Fire Company

As Written By: Duy Milford Dilks

On February 12, 1918, a group of men met to organize a volunteer fire company in Roadstown. Some of the men interested in this organization Leamy Bitters, Belford Elwell, Duy Dilks, Charles Ware, James Wood, Frank Newkirk, Van Ayars, and Bud Elwell. Possibly more names could be added. The funds to purchase a piece of equipment were raised by subscription and a homecoming day was held two years. The company and the Cohansey Baptist Church combined their efforts by raising funds which were split by the two groups. This consisted of a parade, a pot pie dinner put on by the ladies, a horse drill which consisted of 12 blacks, 12 grays, 12 bays, 12 sorrels and the Grand Marshal and his assistant who put them thru put them through their maneuvers. The horses were farm log and driving horses. The drill was put on in the field where Evan and Ed Garrison now live. At that time, Walter Ganison lived on the farm and was a trainer of race horses traveling the grand circuit. A race track adjoined the farm, so he put on some harness races with other drivers.

They had tent concessions on the church lawn. These were big days for the people of Roadstown as people gathered from far and near to make these affairs a success.

The first piece of equipment was a two wheeled cart which could be pulled by hand or tied to the rear bumper of a car. On this was mounted a hose rack and hose, crow bar, axe, kerosene lantern and two 35 gallon chemical tanks. Pressure was obtained by mixing water, carbonated soda

and sulphuric acid. When this apparatus was delivered there was a demonstration put on in the driveway on the sawmill property of Duy Dilks. A pile of trash was set on fire and extinguished. It was first housed at Leamy Bitters farm until 1921 when Harvey Garrison donated a plot of ground to erect a fire house on. For an alarm system, a steel rim from a locomotive wheel was secured from the railroad. This was mounted on a frame and to sound the alarm, was hit with a heavy sledge hammer. This is now placed at the corner of the present fire house.

In 1925 an appropriation was made by the Stow Creek Township committee to replace the old equipment with one more modern. This was a Reo Speed Wagon on which was mounted four .35 gallon chemical tanks. This was the first four tank fire engine in the county. It had ladders, crow bar, axe, hand driven siren, spot light, two 2-1/2 gal. extinguishers, double hose racks and hose, and kerosene lantern. After receiving this in April, a chief, asst. chief, 4 drivers, 4 tankmen, 4 hosemen and 4 ladder men were appointed. Meetings were held in the old schoolhouse across from the Cohansey Baptist Church. The first call of this engine was a chimney fire at the home of Glendon Dilks. The engine was purchased from Milton Sheppard of Bridgeton.

On October 28, 1926, a chicken pot pie supper was served to the community at 75 cents a meal for the purpose of raising funds to purchase an electric siren. About \$350 was raised from this supper. An electric siren and tower were installed and are still in use at the present location.

Hopewell Township also had a 1924 Reo Speed Wagon engine with two 35 gallon tanks on it which was kept at Shiloh until 1929 when Shiloh became a borough.

Because we had organized a company the Township moved the engine over to Roadstown for the company here to operate. This was kept in Van Ayars blacksmith shop. It was moved to Fred Wood's and then to Glendon Dilks'.

In the fall of 1940 the Hopewell Township Committee was contacted about getting a new pumper. Two committeemen were for it and one against so a petition was gotten out and the Township was canvassed for signers. It received about 95% signers. This petition was presented to the committee at their New Years meeting in 1941. It was accepted and \$5000 was put in the budget to purchase a new engine. Stow Creek, also in need of a new engine, contacted Hopewell about getting together on fire equipment. Both Townships could have better fire protection at less expense. This was accepted by Hopewell. After careful consideration an order was given to Peter Pirsch and Sons Co, of Dunellen for a Diamond T Combination booster and pumper with a 500 gal. water tank and a 200 G.P.M. pump, together with hose, ladders, spot lights, electric siren, danger signal lights and accessories that are needed on equipment. This was delivered on July 8, 1941 and was temporarily housed in the rear of Van Ayars' Bazaar building. A plot of ground was turned over to the Township by Van Ayars for the purpose of erecting a new fire house which is the present one. Building was started in the fall of 1941 and finished in the spring of 1942. The first meeting in it was held on April 20, 1942. Later on a used Chevrolet truck with an 800 gal tank was purchased to add to the water supply. Then a portable pump which was carried on the tank truck. This truck was replaced later with a used Ford chassis being placed under the tank. In 1945 a kitchen was added to the rear of the hall and

a Ladies Auxiliary was organized to aid the fire company in any way they could.

In 1955 the Township Committeemen learned of the Civil Defense financing a portion of the funds for new equipment. Through the efforts of the Committeemen and the Township lawyer this was accomplished, with the government financing a portion and the Townships the balance. All new equipment was to be built at government specifications and on call for disaster purposes. This was done and a new engine was ordered from the New Jersey Fire Co of Dunellen. This was a G.M.C. truck carrying 800 gal. water, 750 gpm pump, built in side compartments and all the necessary equipment needed on fire equipment. It was delivered in August 1954. A portable lighting system was added later and a new portable pump.

In 1963, another piece of equipment was delivered to us from the New Jersey Fire Equipment Co. of Dunellen. This was a G.M.C. truck with a 1500 gal. water tank and a 250 gpm pump with all the necessary equipment. This replaced the Ford water tank.

In February of 1966 an Electron base receiver and 17 home radio receivers were purchased to increase the speed and efficiency of our firemen. When a call is received at the fire house the bases radio is set off and the home receivers send out the location of the fire. In Mar. 1966 radios were installed in the truck. In August of 1966, 5 more radios were purchased. In 1967, a room was added downstairs and an addition was made to the kitchen.

The following was taken from the Minutes of the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell dated May 7, 1924 and prepared by Bruce W. Ricards, Clerk. Committee Present: W.W. Shute, W.,C. Hannan, Joseph W. Perry and Treasurer A. Van Ayars.

The following were appointed for Fire Company:

President	W.W. Shute
VicePresident	Joseph W. Perry
	W.C.Hannan
Treasurer	F.E. Gillispie
1 st Asst Chief	H.L. Bowen
2 nd Asst Chief	Ed. F. Lykens
1 st Driver	L.P. Smalley
2 nd Driver	E. Budd Newkirk
3 rd Driver	Edward Serrell
1 st TankMan	Wilson J. Davis
2 nd TankMan	Jos. M. Tomlinson
1 st Hose Man	John Mickel
2 nd Hose Man	Charles Myers



Minerva Fire Pumper

The Minerva Fire Company utilized a hand pumper fire engine for fire protection from 1866 until the 1887 when it was replaced with a steam pumper fire engine.

The Fire Pumper can still be seen at the Cumberland Mutual Insurance Company building located at 633 Shiloh Pike in Hopewell Township.



Fire Gong

Fire rings were made from steam locomotive metal tires that were originally around the drive wheels of the locomotive. When the train wheel tires wore out and were replaced, instead of scrapping the wheel, they recycled it at the local fire department to be used as an alarm. A hammer was used to strike the tire to alert people that there was a fire.



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

A Rich Farming Community

Hopewell is a long, narrow township, stretching from Upper Deerfield on the north to Greenwich Township on the south side and is well known as Upper and Lower Hopewell, the Salem-Bridgeton turnpike bisecting it. Hopewell used to embrace a part of Shiloh until the people of that section secured the passage of an act by the Legislature creating the Borough of Shiloh, when she seceded and became an independent municipality.

Like all the townships of the county, Hopewell is rich in colonial history. Within its boundaries are still standing and occupied, a number of dwellings – examples of architecture of colonial days. One of these buildings in Roadstown, which is now the home of Mr. B. Loren Elwell, was once the old tavern where travelers on the stage coach which ran between Greenwich and Philadelphia where one would stop and rest for the night. Another is the old Sayre house, now a store. Judge Sayre was Cumberland County's first Sheriff in 1748.

Roadstown, once called Kingstown in some old documents, is partly in Hopewell and partly in Stow Creek. The Cohansey Baptist Church, one of the oldest church buildings in the county, is in that part of the village, lying in Hopewell Township.

The germ of this old church was planted by an immigrant from the Emerald Isle in 1683 on the east side of the Cohansey in Fairfield Township and the church was organized in 1690. The first house of worship was a crude affair constructed of logs. The old graveyard is still visible. This location was abandoned in 1713 and a new location sought on the west side of the creek on ground known as the "old cemetery", where a frame building was erected in 1714 and a second one in 1741, which was used until 1802, when the congregation moved to the present edifice built in 1801.

At Bowentown in the very early days, the Welsh Baptists built a church, which was long since abandoned, some of the congregation uniting with the Cohansey Baptist Church at Roadstown and some with the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist.

Near the present Hopewell School is an old house in which it is said that Deborah Swinney, the first white child born in Cumberland County, first saw the light of day. She was buried in an old cemetery in Lower Hopewell, near Sheppard's Mill.

On the eastern border of Hopewell, especially along the Shiloh Pike, there has been considerable building in recent years and that section has become something of a suburb of Bridgeton.

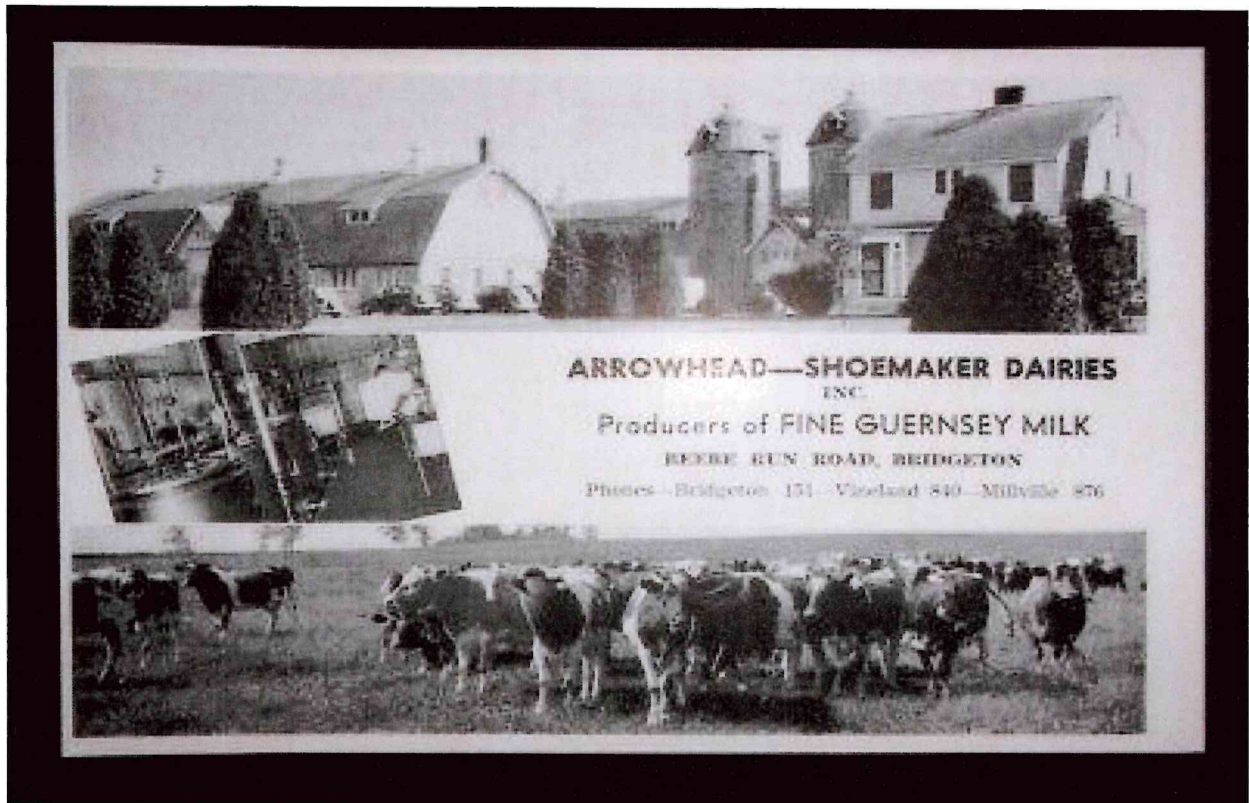
Hopewell is one of the finest farming sections of Cumberland County. Its broad acres are owned and tilled by a most progressive lot of farmers and some years ago, it was the main seat of the extensive farm operations of Minch Brothers, who did much to promote scientific farming and fruit growing in the county.

Soon after Shiloh withdrew from Hopewell, the township built one of the most modern consolidated school buildings in the county, near Shiloh Pike and abandoned all the other schools of the township.

The Cumberland County Insane Asylum and Almshouse are both situated in beautiful locations in Hopewell, the latter situation being what was known in 1786 as Moore Hall.

In these present, hectic war days Hopewell Township has perhaps the best organized and most active Civilian Defense unit in Cumberland County.

**This excerpt is from "An Industrial and Agricultural Review of the County of Cumberland", 1944, compiled by the Bridgeton Evening News.*



In 1940, on a modest scale, the Shoemaker Dairies re-entered the retail field in Hopewell Township merging with the retail distribution routes of Arrowhead Farms, whose registered Guernsey breeding establishment as the best known in this area and whose raw mile products gained wide public acceptance. The farms continued to supply the deluxe premium "A" pasteurized milk to their customers.



SHILOH BOROUGH

Large Orchards and Commercial Nurseries

Shiloh is the only municipality in the county that was created a township, then lapsed back as part of the original township and finally emerged as a borough with a Mayor and Council. In 1837, when Millville made a determined effort to move the county seat from Bridgeton to that town, Shiloh became the deciding factor that settled the fight in favor of Bridgeton. Not satisfied with the popular referendum, Millville carried the contest to the Board of Freeholders. There, the vote was a tie. Shiloh was then created a township under the name of Columbia and elected a Freeholder, who, after taking his seat, when the county seat question came up again, cast his vote in favor of Bridgeton, breaking the tie and settling the question. After this, Shiloh became a part of Hopewell Township and so remained until 1929, when it was created a borough with a municipal government, consisting of a Mayor, Council and other necessary officers, with a Board of Education, Board of Health and its own fire company.

Shiloh, situated in one of the finest farming sections of Cumberland County, is a Seventh Day Baptist community, the church of that denomination in the village being 206 years old. The community was much interested in the events leading up to the Revolution and it was at the Howell homestead, near Shiloh, that the young patriots from the upper section of the county gathered for their march on Greenwich to participate in the tea burning party in that place.

Like all the old settlements of the county, the people of Shiloh took a deep interest in education and early in its history, provided not only for the elementary grades, but for higher education through the founding of the Union Academy, which imparted the more advanced branches of education through a corps of competent instructors to the young men and women of the community. This school ranked well up with institutions of its class and to its credit, is due the high intelligence of the Shiloh population, which is one principally of native born. The old Academy building was originally the Seventh Day Baptist Church. In 1866, a new academy building was erected on Shiloh Pike, still stands, but is no longer used as a school.

Situated on the main State Highway from the seashore to Salem and Delaware River points, with other roads leading to sections of Salem and Gloucester counties and in the midst of a splendid agricultural and dairying section, Shiloh is a village with several businesses and pretty, commodious homes.

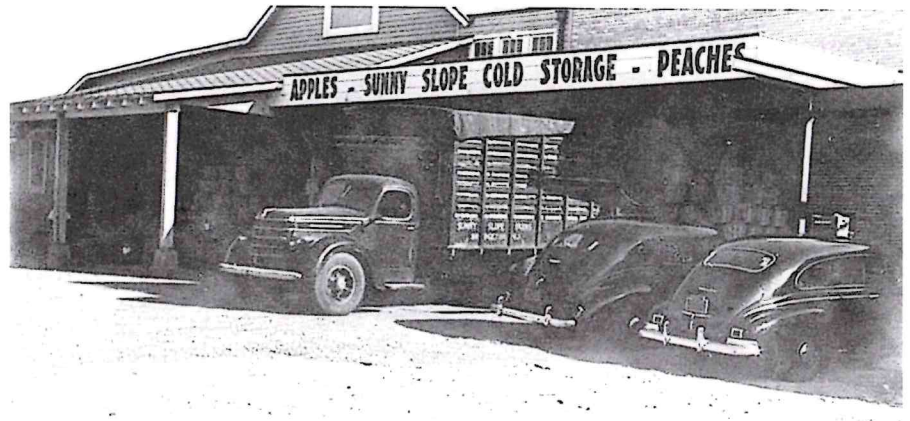
**This excerpt is from "An Industrial and Agricultural Review of the County of Cumberland", 1944, compiled by the Bridgeton Evening News.*

Sunny Slope Farms

Sunny Slope Farms began in Hopewell Township when Vincent Caggiano, Sr. along with his six sons, who were renting farm ground in Hammonton, New Jersey, purchased 126 acres of farmland in 1927 that were part of the Minch Brothers Vegetable and Orchard holdings.

Concentrating on Peach and Apple production, Vincent's sons, Anthony and Alfred, expanded Sunny Slope through the following decades to over 800 acres, developing a reputation for growing quality fruit, shipping to wholesale markets throughout the East Coast and Mid-West. Sunny Slope's retail stand became a frequent stop in Hopewell for many seeking Fresh-from-the-Orchard fruit.

In 1997, Sunny Slope expanded into Wine Grape production for New Jersey Wineries. This eventually led the third generation, Lisa Thomas, her husband Ron, and brother Al, Jr., to establish Hopewell's first Winery in 2019, naming it *Frightened Turtle*.





Governor George Howell's House. Former New Jersey Governor Richard Howell resided in this 1770s brick house where the Patriots were staged prior to the Greenwich Tea Party near Shiloh in 1774.

George Shoemaker's Hotel (1750). This former stagecoach stop and tavern was located in Roadstown which was previously called "Kingstown." The town was an early-stage route between Cooper's Ferry (Camden) and Cohansey (Bridgeton). It also accommodated the stage route between Cohansey (Bridgeton) and Salem.



David Bowen House (1770) This colonial brick house in the Village of Roadstown was built in 1770 by David Bowen, the last royal sheriff of Cumberland County and a member of the Bowen Family who settled at Bowentown more than two centuries ago. Eventually, Charles Ware (1828-1879), grandson of Maskell Ware, patriarch of the Ware chairmaker family industry, owned the home and set up a chairmaking shop on the premises.

A HISTORY OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW JERSEY SINCE 1798

By ALBERT J. WOLFE

**Published by the New Jersey League of
Municipalities, Trenton, 1990**

I. Colonial New Jersey

The original grant of New Jersey from King Charles II of England to his brother, James, Duke of York in 1664 gave the duke the authority to create forms of government and make laws. The duke in turn regranted New Jersey to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret as joint proprietors. The proprietors vested the power to incorporate municipalities in a general assembly. This practice of legislative creation of municipalities continued in both East and West Jersey. However, in neighboring colonies, municipal charters were granted by the governor in the name of the king. Following the merger of the proprietary colonies of East and West Jersey to form the royal colony of New Jersey in 1702, the method of municipal incorporation changed from legislative grant to royal charter.

Following the American Revolution, the power to incorporate municipalities passed to the state Legislature. The first general law incorporating municipalities in the State of New Jersey was the Township Act of 1798, which created the original 104 townships of New Jersey.

II. The Township Form (NJSA 40A:63-1 et seq.)

The township form of municipal government in post-Revolutionary New Jersey began with the passage of the

Township Act of 1798 (PL 1798, p. 289). This law incorporated the original 104 townships of New Jersey, eighty-eight of which still exist as incorporated municipalities today. The early township form, as created by the 1798 act, closely resembled the New England town meeting and was thus a direct democracy. At the annual town meeting, the vote was available to all white males, at least 21 years old, who were citizens of New Jersey, and residents of the township for at least six months; and who paid taxes in the township, or who owned land or rented a home in the township for a rent of at least five dollars a year. On the annual town meeting day, the voters of the township would assemble between 11:00 a.m. and noon. The first order of business was the election of a presiding officer for the town meeting. Immediately upon his election and taking the chair, the presiding officer would cause Section Seven of the Township Act to be read to the assembled voters:

No person shall behave in a disorderly manner or interrupt the person speaking at any town-meeting by unnecessary noise or conversation; and if any person shall, after notice from the presiding officer, persist in his disorderly behavior, then it shall be lawful for the said presiding officer to direct such disorderly person to withdraw from the meeting, and moreover, such person shall forfeit one dollar for such offense; and such disorderly person, if he refuse or neglect to withdraw, shall, by direction of the said presiding officer be carried out of the meeting by some of the constables of the said township and put into a place of confinement, where he shall be detained until such meeting shall be ended. And further, that the fines specified in this section, shall be sued for, and may be recovered with costs, by action of debt, in the name of the clerk of the township, before any justice of the peace of the said county; and

support of such action, notwithstanding his being a member of such corporation, or interested in the appropriation of the said fine in manner aforesaid.

The Township Act of 1798 granted the town meeting the following powers: manage and improve common lands, establish and maintain pounds, make provisions for the destructive of noxious wild animals and birds, maintain and support the poor, build and maintain roads (in townships authorized to maintain their roads by hire) and to tax in order to carry out township responsibilities.

The town meeting was also authorized to elect the following officials for a term of one year: a township clerk, one or more tax assessors, one or more tax collectors, three or more “judicious freeholders of good characters” to hear tax appeals, surveyors of the highways, one or more overseers of the poor, one or more constables, as many overseers of the highways and poundkeepers as deemed necessary or convenient one “reputable freeholder to serve as a judge of elections.” In addition, the town meeting was authorized to elect “five judicious freeholders” to serve as the township committee for a one year term. The Township Act of 1798 empowered the township committee to examine, inspect and report to the annual or other township meetings the accounts and vouchers of the township officers and to superintend the expenditure of any monies raised by tax for the use of the township or which may arise from the balance of the accounts of any of the township officers.

Thus, the function of the township committee under the Township Act of 1798 was simply to supervise the

expenditure of township funds between town meetings. In this way, the township committee under the original Township Act closed resembled the board of selectmen which supervised the expenditure of municipal funds between town meetings in New England.

The Township Act of 1798 was reflective of, and well suited for, the sparsely populated, rural agricultural society which New Jersey was in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Township Act was revised somewhat in 1846, but the basic structure of township government: the annual town meeting, annual election of officers and the township committee, and the limited authority of the township committee to act as a financial steering committee and watchdog between town meetings, were retained intact.

The mid to late nineteenth century was a period of tremendous growth and change in both New Jersey and the United States: a savage, bloody Civil War, the building of the railroads, the start of the Industrial Revolution and massive immigration all worked to change the character of life in New Jersey and the United States. While there were still many quiet, rural townships in New Jersey, townships close to the growing, prospered cities of Newark, Jersey City, Paterson and Elizabeth changed from rural farm areas with a few sleepy hamlets to large, bustling towns in the space of a few years. To keep pace with the population growth and the demand for new services, the Township Act of 1846 was amended extensively during the mid and later nineteenth century. Between 1846 and 1899, the Township Act was amended 168 times. By the 1890's, the Township Act was a

patchwork quilt of powers and functions which has been grafted on to the 1846 Act. And as time went by, it became increasingly apparent that the annual town meeting, while unquestionably democratic, was becoming an inconvenient and unworkable way to govern more densely populated townships. In 1899, a sweeping revision of the Township Act was passed.

The Township Act of 1899 completely changed the way townships were governed. The town meeting, an institution for 101 years, was abolished and all municipal legislative powers were concentrated in the hands of a greatly strengthened township committee. Instead of merely being a financial watchdog, supervising the expenditure of township funds between town meetings, the township committee was upgraded to a policy-making body, empowered to pass ordinances and make certain appointments. Under the 1899 law, the township committee consisted of three members (the law was later amended to allow for an increase to five members) elected to staggered, three year terms.

The tradition of electing certain township administrative position, first established in 1798 law, was continued in the 1899 revision. The township clerk, tax assessor, tax collector, overseer of the poor, three tax appeal commissions and as many poundkeepers as deemed necessary, were all elected officials. All served a term of three years except the poundkeepers, who served a one year term. The township committee appointed three professional positions: the township attorney, township engineer and township physician. The township committee also appointed the township treasurer. The committee could appoint

one of its members or any other legal voter of the township to serve as treasurer. In addition, the township committee elected one of their members to be chairman to preside over committee meetings.

In keeping with the spirit of the Township Act of 1798, the 1899 revision left the power to raise and appropriate money for municipal purposes in the hands of the voters, though from 1900 on, their will on this subject was expressed at the ballot box increase of the town meeting (The Township Act was later amended to give the power to tax and appropriate money to the township committee). The Township Act of 1899 served as the basis of township government from February 25, 1900 to January 1, 1990 when the Township Act of 1989 took effect.

The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries 1606 – 1968

As taken from the book by John P. Snyder, Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969;
Courtesy of Barry Jones of A.A. Fralinger Engineers

Municipality

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date or Page</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Extent Map 21</i>
Columbia township* (cont.)			
1845	Mar. 11 93	Restored to Hopewell and Stow Creek twps.	
Commercial township			
1874	Feb. 27 210	Formed from Downe twp.	20
Deerfield township			
1748	Jan. 19 13 ¹⁶⁶	Formed as precinct.	9-16
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	9-16
1845	47	Part to Bridgeton twp.	9, 11, 15
1888	575	Part from Bridgeton city.	9, 11, 13-15
1922	47	Part to Upper Deerfield twp.	14, 15
1925	Dec. 12	Part to Upper Deerfield twp.	(14, 15)
1934	515	Part from Millville city.	14, 15, 35
Downe township			
1772	Sep. 26 116 ³¹	Formed by royal charter from Fairfield twp., as Downes twp.	19, 20
1798	Feb. 21 289	Incorporated.	19, 20
1874	210	Part to Commercial twp.	19
Fairfield township			
1697	May 12 557 ¹¹²	Formed in Cohansey area of Salem County.	uncertain
1748	Jan. 19 13 ¹⁶⁶	Formed as precinct in Cumberland County.	17-21, 23, 35
1772	116 ³¹	Part to Downe twp.	17, 18, 21, 23, 35
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	17, 18, 21, 23, 35
1801	21 ¹¹	Part to Millville twp.	17, 18
1885	410	Part to Lawrence twp.	17
1888	575	Part from Bridgeton city.	16, 17
Greenwich township			
1748	Jan. 19 13 ¹⁶⁶	Formed as precinct.	4
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	4
1845	91	Part from Hopewell and Stow Creek twps.	4, 28, 29
Hopewell township			
1748	Jan. 19 13 ¹⁶⁶	Formed as precinct.	5-8, 29
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	5-8, 29
1812	64	Boundary with Stow Creek twp. changed.	(5-8, 29)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—(cont.)

Municipality

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date or Page</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Extent Map 21</i>
Hopewell township (cont.)			
1844	194	Part to Columbia twp.	5, 8, 29
1845	91, 93	Part to Greenwich twp. Above part of Columbia twp. restored to Hopewell twp.	5-8
1848	125	Part to Cohansey twp.	5-7
1929	110	Part to Shiloh bor.	5, 7
Landis township*			
1864	Mar. 7 180	Formed from Millville twp. Referendum Mar. 22, 1864.	25-27, 30
1873	754	Part to Maurice River twp.	25-27
1880	May 28	Part to Vineland bor.	25, 27
1892	495	Part to Franklin twp., Gloucester Co.	25
1897	187	Above part to Gloucester Co. returned.	25, 27
1934	514	Part from Millville city.	23-25, 27
1952	Jul. 1	Became part of Vineland city.	
Lawrence township			
1885	Feb. 17 410	Formed from Fairfield twp.	18
Maurice River township			
1748	Jan. 19 131 ⁶⁰	Formed as precinct.	22, 24-27, 30-34
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	22, 24-27, 30-34
1801	2111	Part to Millville twp.	31-34
1844	244	Part to Upper twp., Cape May County.	31-33
1845	58	Above part to Upper twp. restored to Maurice River twp.	31-34
1873	754	Part from Landis twp.	30-34
1878	562	Part to Upper twp., Cape May County.	30-32
1891	541	Part to Dennis twp., Cape May County.	30, 31
Millville city			
1866	Mar. 1 116	Replaced Millville twp. Referendum Mar. 1, 1866.	21-24, 35
1934	514, 515	Parts to Landis and Deerfield twps.	21, 22
Millville township*			
1801	Feb. 24 2111	Formed from Fairfield and Maurice River twps.	21-27, 30, 35
1864	180	Part to Landis twp.	21-24, 35
1866	Mar. 1 116	Became Millville city.	
Shiloh borough			
1929	Apr. 9 110	Formed from Hopewell and Stow Creek twps. Referendum May 16, 1929, recorded P. L. 1930, p. 1219.	3, 6
Stow Creek township			
1748	Jan. 19 131 ⁶⁶	Formed as precinct.	1-3, 28

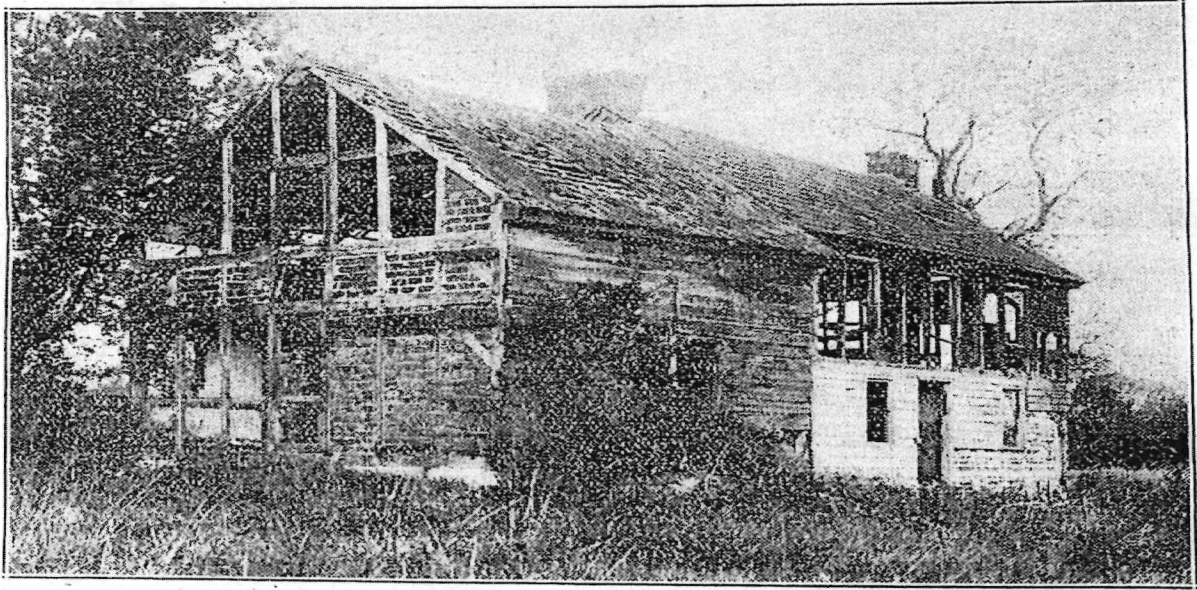
CUMBERLAND COUNTY—(cont.)

Municipality

<i>Year</i>	<i>Date or Page</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Extent Map 21</i>
Stow Creek township (cont.)			
1798	Feb. 21 289	Precinct incorp. as twp.	1-3, 28
1812	64	Boundary changed with Hopewell twp.	(1-3, 28)
1844	194	Part to Columbia twp.	1, 28
1845	91, 93	Part to Greenwich twp. and above part of Columbia twp. restored.	1-3
1929	110	Part to Shiloh borough.	1, 2
1934	Oct. 1	Spelling changed from "Stoe" to "Stow". (Uncertain when Stow became Stoe.) Recorded P. L. 1936, p. 1005.	1, 2
Upper Deerfield township			
1922	Feb. 23 47	Formed from Deerfield twp. Referendum Apr. 3, 1922. Recorded P. L. 1922, p. 743.	9, 11, 13
1925	Dec. 12	Part from Deerfield twp. Recorded P. L. 1926, p. 869.	(9, 11, 13)
Vineland borough*			
1880	May 28	Formed from Landis twp. Referendum May 25, 1880.	26
1952	Jul. 1	Became part of Vineland city.	
Vineland city			
1952	Jul. 1	Replaced Landis twp. and Vineland bor. Referendum Feb. 5, 1952. Recorded P. L. 1952, p. 1413.	23-27

For notes see pp. 65-66.

Ancient House Probably Built Prior to 1732



Ruins of an ancient frame house on Winchcomb Manor known as the old James B. Bowen place. This dwelling greatly resembles the early half-timbered houses to be found in Old England. Its oldest portion was most probably built by Josiah Parvin prior to the year 1732. It stands on the east side of the Beebe Run road about two miles north of Bridgeton.

OLDEST HOUSE ON BIG ESTATE

Wreck of Dwelling On
Beebe Run Road Was
Part of Winchcomb
Manor, Established 1689

By CARL M. WILLIAMS

Several feet north of Shaw's Branch and near its junction with the Cohansey Creek in Upper Hopewell Township, stands the ruins of a building that is most probably the oldest house on Winchcomb Manor, the vast estate of 5,000 acres created by Cornelius Mason, of England, in 1689. Nearly all of the land in Upper Hopewell was included in this ancient Manor and many old houses stand on the large tract today.

However, the oldest is believed to be the brick lined frame dwelling near Shaw's Branch known as the old James B. Bowen place. The great age of this picturesque ruin is readily apparent when one observes its Old World aspect. It is not unlike the ancient half-timbered houses of Old England. The bowen oak frame is filled with a wall of soft, light colored brick and this construction was originally covered with wide hand split boards. I visited this old place with friends from London some time ago and they remarked concerning its unusual similarity with the ancient cottages to be seen throughout the countryside of England. It has almost been wrecked by vandals hunting for firewood.

The early history of the James Bowen house is most obscure. In 1732, the property was owned by Josiah Parvin, a son of Thomas Parvin, who was born in the remote year of 1665. He died in Fairfield in 1743 and is buried in the old Presbyterian Cemetery on the Cohansey Creek below Fairton. His son, Josiah Parvin, settled in Upper Hopewell more than two centuries ago and probably built the oldest portion of this dwelling prior to 1732. He died in 1761 and the property was later owned by Samuel Davis and his descendants. Josiah Parvin has numerous descendants living in this county.

Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Coordinates: 39.438376°N 75.281996°W﻿ / ﻿

Hopewell Township is a township in Cumberland County, in the U.S. state of New Jersey. It is part of the Vineland-Bridgeton metropolitan statistical area, which encompasses those cities and all of Cumberland County for statistical purposes and which constitutes a part of the Delaware Valley.^[16] As of the 2020 United States census, the township's population was 4,391,^[8] a decrease of 180 (−3.9%) from the 2010 census count of 4,571,^{[17][18]} which in turn reflected an increase of 137 (+3.1%) from the 4,434 counted in the 2000 census.^[19]

Hopewell Township was first formed as a precinct on January 19, 1748, and was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature on February 21, 1798, as one of New Jersey's initial group of 104 townships. Portions of the township have been taken to form Columbia Township (March 12, 1844, returned to Hopewell Township on March 11, 1845), Cohansey Township (March 6, 1848) and Shiloh borough (April 9, 1929).^[20]

Geography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the township had a total area of 30.87 square miles

Hopewell Township, New Jersey

Township



John and Elizabeth Remington House



Seal



Location of Hopewell Township in Cumberland County highlighted in red (right). Inset map: Location of Cumberland County in New Jersey highlighted in red (left).

(79.96 km²), including 29.89 square miles (77.42 km²) of land and 0.98 square miles (2.54 km²) of water (3.18%).^{[1][2]}

Unincorporated communities, localities and place names located partially or completely within the township include Bowentown, Cohansey, Dutch Neck, Harmony, Irlands Mills, Lakeside-Beebe Run, Mary Elmer Lake, Roadstown, and West Park.^[21]

The township borders the municipalities of Bridgeton, Fairfield Township, Greenwich Township, Shiloh, Stow Creek Township and Upper Deerfield Township in Cumberland County; and Alloway Township in Salem County.^{[22][23][24]}

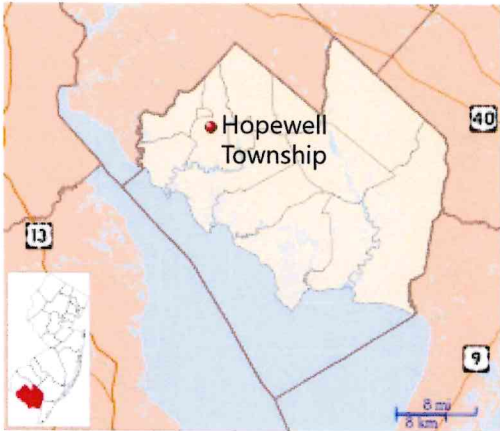
Mary Elmer Lake is a reservoir on the Cohansey River in Hopewell Township and Bridgeton that covers 22.2 acres (9.0 ha) and is used for water-supply and recreation purposes. Sunset Lake is a reservoir in Hopewell Township and Upper Deerfield Township covering 87.0 acres (35.2 ha) that was created by damming a stream that feeds to the area from above Seeley Lake and a stream that feeds into the lake from nearby Mary Elmer Lake.^[25]

Demographics

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1810	1,987	—
1820	1,952	−1.8%
1830	1,953	0.1%
1840	2,220	13.7%
1850	1,480*	−33.3%



Census Bureau map of Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, New Jersey



- Location in Cumberland County
- ☒ Show map of Cumberland County, New Jersey
 - ☐ Show map of New Jersey
 - ☐ Show map of the United States
 - ☐ Show all

Coordinates: 39.438376°N 75.281996°W^{[1][2]}

Country	 United States
State	 New Jersey
County	Cumberland
Formed	January 19, 1748
Incorporated	February 21, 1798
Government ^[6]	
 • Type	Township
 • Body	Township Committee
 • Mayor	Paul J. Ritter III (R, term ends December 31, 2023) ^{[3][4]}
 • Administrator	John Hitchner ^[5]
 • Municipal Clerk	Jeannette Pace (acting) ^[5]
Area ^[1]	
 • Total	30.87 sq mi (79.96 km ²)
 • Land	29.89 sq mi (77.42 km ²)

1860	1,757	18.7%
1870	1,857	5.7%
1880	1,764	-5.0%
1890	1,743	-1.2%
1900	1,807	3.7%
1910	1,818	0.6%
1920	1,844	1.4%
1930	1,764*	-4.3%
1940	2,048	16.1%
1950	2,460	20.1%
1960	3,586	45.8%
1970	3,970	10.7%
1980	4,365	9.9%
1990	4,215	-3.4%
2000	4,434	5.2%
2010	4,571	3.1%
2020	4,391	-3.9%
2022 (est.)	4,344 ^[9]	-1.1%

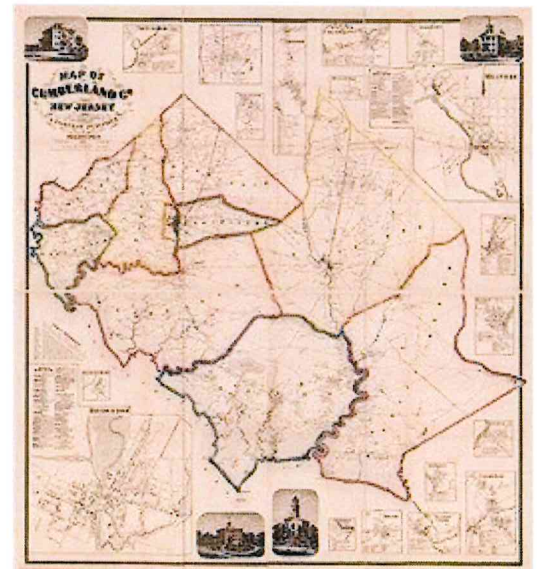
Population sources: 1810–2010^{[26][27]}
 1810–1920^[28] 1840^[29] 1850–1870^[30]
 1850^[31] 1870^[32] 1880–1890^[33]
 1890–1910^[34] 1910–1930^[35]
 1940–2000^[36] 2000^{[37][38][8]}
 2010^{[17][18]} 2020

* = Lost territory in previous decade^[20]

• Water	0.98 sq mi (2.54 km ²) 3.18%
• Rank	86th of 565 in state 9th of 14 in county ^[1]
Elevation ^[7]	72 ft (22 m)
Population (2020) ^[8]	
• Total	4,391
• Estimate (2022) ^[9]	4,344
• Rank	401st of 565 in state 8th of 14 in county ^[10]
• Density	146.9/sq mi (56.7/km ²)
• Rank	521st of 565 in state 7th of 14 in county ^[10]
Time zone	UTC−05:00 (Eastern (EST))
• Summer (DST)	UTC−04:00 (Eastern (EDT))
ZIP Code	08302 – Bridgeton ^[11]
Area code	856 ^[12]
FIPS code	3401133120 ^{[1][13][14]}
GNIS feature ID	0882056 ^{[1][15]}
Website	www.hopewelltwp-nj.com (http://www.hopewelltwp-nj.com)

2010 census

The 2010 United States census counted 4,571 people, 1,662 households, and 1,200 families in the township. The population density was 153.0 inhabitants per square mile (59.1/km²). There were 1,741 housing units at an average density of 58.3 per square mile (22.5/km²). The racial makeup was 84.38% (3,857) White, 6.58% (301) Black or African American, 2.17% (99) Native American, 0.57% (26) Asian, 0.00% (0) Pacific Islander, 3.24% (148) from other races, and 3.06% (140) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 7.33% (335) of the population.^[17]



Hopewell Township is marked yellow on the 1862 map of Cumberland County

Of the 1,662 households, 27.4% had children under the age of 18; 56.3% were married couples living together; 10.8% had a female householder with no husband present and 27.8% were non-families. Of all households, 24.2% were made up of individuals and 14.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.59 and the average family size was 3.07.^[17]

20.7% of the population were under the age of 18, 8.4% from 18 to 24, 21.6% from 25 to 44, 28.6% from 45 to 64, and 20.7% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 44.5 years. For every 100 females, the population had 91.9 males. For every 100 females ages 18 and older there were 88.6 males.^[17]

The Census Bureau's 2006–2010 American Community Survey showed that (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) median household income was \$63,059 (with a margin of error of +/- \$7,372) and the median family income was \$72,520 (+/- \$6,301). Males had a median income of \$44,688 (+/- \$5,244) versus \$46,793 (+/- \$8,187) for females. The per capita income for the borough was \$27,355 (+/- \$2,361). About 0.9% of families and 3.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 2.7% of those under age 18 and 5.1% of those age 65 or over.^[39]

2000 census

As of the 2000 United States census^[13] there were 4,434 people, 1,628 households, and 1,206 families residing in the township. The population density was 148.3 inhabitants per square mile (57.3/km²). There were 1,683 housing units at an average density of 56.3 per square mile (21.7/km²). The racial makeup of the township was 87.10% White, 6.90% African American, 2.32% Native American, 0.56% Asian, 0.02% Pacific Islander, 1.44% from other races, and 1.65% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 3.59% of the population.^{[37][38]}

There were 1,628 households, out of which 30.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.6% were married couples living together, 9.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 25.9% were non-families. 22.9% of all households were made up of individuals, and 12.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.58 and the average family size was 3.03.^{[37][38]}

In the township the population was spread out, with 22.6% under the age of 18, 6.8% from 18 to 24, 24.5% from 25 to 44, 25.6% from 45 to 64, and 20.4% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 42 years. For every 100 females, there were 90.2 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 87.0 males.^{[37][38]}

The median income for a household in the township was \$49,767, and the median income for a family was \$59,675. Males had a median income of \$40,774 versus \$30,402 for females. The per capita income for the township was \$22,783. About 3.8% of families and 6.6% of the population were below the poverty line, including 2.3% of those under age 18 and 17.7% of those age 65 or over.^{[37][38]}

Government

Local government

Hopewell Township is governed under the Township form of New Jersey municipal government, one of 141 municipalities (of the 564) statewide that use this form, the second-most commonly used form of government in the state.^[40] The Township Committee is comprised of five members, who are elected directly by the voters at-large in partisan elections to serve three-year terms of office on a staggered basis, with either one or two seats coming up for election each year as part of the November general election in a three-year cycle.^{[6][41]} At an annual reorganization meeting, the Township Committee selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another as Deputy Mayor.

As of 2023, members of the Hopewell Township Committee are Mayor Paul J. Ritter III (R, term on committee and as mayor ends December 31, 2023), Deputy Mayor Roberta S. "Robin" Freitag (R, term on committee ends 2024; term as deputy mayor ends 2023), Kelsey Bayzick (R, 2023), David Miller (R, 2025) and Thomas J. Tedesco Jr. (R, 2024).^{[3][42][43][44][45][46]}

Federal, state and county representation

Hopewell Township is located in the 2nd Congressional District^[47] and is part of New Jersey's 3rd state legislative district.^[48]

For the 118th United States Congress, New Jersey's 2nd congressional district is represented by Jeff Van Drew (R, Dennis Township).^[49] New Jersey is represented in the United States Senate by Democrats Cory Booker (Newark, term ends 2027)^[50] and Bob Menendez (Englewood Cliffs, term ends 2025).^{[51][52]}

For the 2022–2023 session, the 3rd Legislative District of the New Jersey Legislature is represented in the State Senate by Edward Durr (R, Logan Township) and in the General Assembly by Bethanne McCarthy-Patrick (R, Mannington Township) and Beth Sawyer (R, Woolwich Township).^[53]

Cumberland County is governed by a Board of County Commissioners comprised of seven members who are elected at large by the citizens of Cumberland County in partisan elections and serve staggered three-year terms in office, with either two or three seats coming up for election each year in a three-year cycle. Annually, the seven board members select a Director and Deputy Director for one-year terms.^[54] As of 2023, members of the Cumberland County Board of County Commissioners (with party affiliation, residence and term-end year listed in

parentheses) are Commissioner Director Douglas A. Albrecht (R, Vineland, term as commissioner ends December 31, 2025; term as director ends 2023),^[55] Deputy Commissioner Director Antonio Romero (R, Vineland, term as commissioner ends 2024; term as deputy director ends 2023),^[56] John Capizola Jr. (D, Vineland, 2023; appointed to serve an unexpired term),^[57] Victoria Groetsch-Lods (R, Vineland, 2025),^[58] Carol Musso (D, Deerfield Township, 2023),^[59] Donna M. Pearson (D, Bridgeton, 2023)^[60] and Joseph V. Sileo (R, Vineland, 2024).^{[61][54][62][63][64][65][66]}

The county's constitutional officers are Clerk Celeste Riley (D, Bridgeton, 2024),^{[67][68]} Sheriff Robert A. Austino (D, Vineland, 2023)^{[69][70]} and Surrogate Douglas M. Rainear (D, Upper Deerfield Township, 2023).^{[71][72][62]}

Politics

As of March 2011, there were a total of 3,133 registered voters in Hopewell Township, of which 786 (25.1%) were registered as Democrats, 805 (25.7%) were registered as Republicans and 1,538 (49.1%) were registered as Unaffiliated. There were 4 voters registered as Libertarians or Greens.^[73]

In the 2012 presidential election, Republican Mitt Romney received 57.6% of the vote (1,188 cast), ahead of Democrat Barack Obama with 41.5% (856 votes), and other candidates with 0.9% (18 votes), among the 2,086 ballots cast by the township's 3,193 registered voters (24 ballots were spoiled), for a turnout of 65.3%.^{[74][75]} In the 2008 presidential election, Republican John McCain received 55.8% of the vote (1,248 cast), ahead of Democrat Barack Obama, who received 40.9% (913 votes), with 2,235 ballots cast among the township's 3,125 registered voters, for a turnout of 71.5%.^[76] In the 2004 presidential election, Republican George W. Bush received 59.4% of the vote (1,265 ballots cast), outpolling Democrat John Kerry, who received around 38.9% (828 votes), with 2,130 ballots cast among the township's 2,886 registered voters, for a turnout percentage of 73.8%.^[77]

In the 2013 gubernatorial election, Republican Chris Christie received 65.4% of the vote (873 cast), ahead of Democrat Barbara Buono with 33.1% (442 votes), and other candidates with 1.4% (19 votes), among the 1,350 ballots cast by the township's 3,099 registered voters (16 ballots were spoiled), for a turnout of 43.6%.^{[78][79]} In the 2009 gubernatorial election, Republican Chris Christie received 52.9% of the vote (779 ballots cast), ahead of both Democrat Jon Corzine with 38.2% (563 votes) and Independent Chris Daggett with 5.5% (81 votes), with 1,472 ballots cast among the township's 3,095 registered voters, yielding a 47.6% turnout.^[80]

Education

The Hopewell Township School District serves public school students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Hopewell Crest School.^[81] As of the 2020–21 school year, the district, comprised of one school, had an enrollment of 496 students and 36.0 classroom teachers (on an FTE basis), for a student–teacher ratio of 13.8:1.^[82] The Shiloh School was closed after the end of the 2006–

2007 school year, and all students from Shiloh are being sent to the Hopewell Crest School as part of a sending/receiving relationship, accounting for nearly 10% of the Hopewell district's enrollment.^{[83][84]}

Public school students in ninth through twelfth grades attend Cumberland Regional High School, which also serves students from Deerfield Township, Fairfield Township, Greenwich Township, Shiloh Borough, Stow Creek Township and Upper Deerfield Township.^{[85][86][87]} As of the 2020–21 school year, the high school had an enrollment of 1,032 students and 78.5 classroom teachers (on an FTE basis), for a student–teacher ratio of 13.1:1.^[88] The high school district has a nine-member board of education. Board seats are allocated to the constituent municipalities based on population, with each municipality assigned a minimum of one seat; Hopewell Township has one seat on the board.^{[89][90][91]}

Students are also eligible to attend Cumberland County Technology Education Center in Vineland, serving students from the entire county in its full-time technical training programs, which are offered without charge to students who are county residents.^[92]

Transportation

As of May 2010, the township had a total of 82.00 miles (131.97 km) of roadways, of which 27.02 miles (43.48 km) were maintained by the municipality, 52.51 miles (84.51 km) by Cumberland County and 2.47 miles (3.98 km) by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.^[93]

New Jersey Route 49 is the main highway providing access to Hopewell Township.^[94] County Route 540 also traverses the northern portion of the township.^{[95][96]}



Route 49 eastbound in Hopewell Township

Notable people

People who were born in, residents of, or otherwise closely associated with Hopewell Township include:

- Harris Flanagin (1817– 1874), politician and lawyer who served as the 7th governor of Arkansas^[97]
- Charles Elmer Hires (1851–1937), inventor of root beer and namesake of Hires Root Beer^[98]
- Bloomfield H. Minch (1864–1929), politician who served as President of the New Jersey Senate.^{[99][100]}
- H. Boyd Woodruff (1917–2017), soil microbiologist who discovered actinomycin and developed industrial production by fermentation of many natural products, including cyanocobalamin (a synthetic form of Vitamin B12), the avermectins and other important antibiotics^[101]

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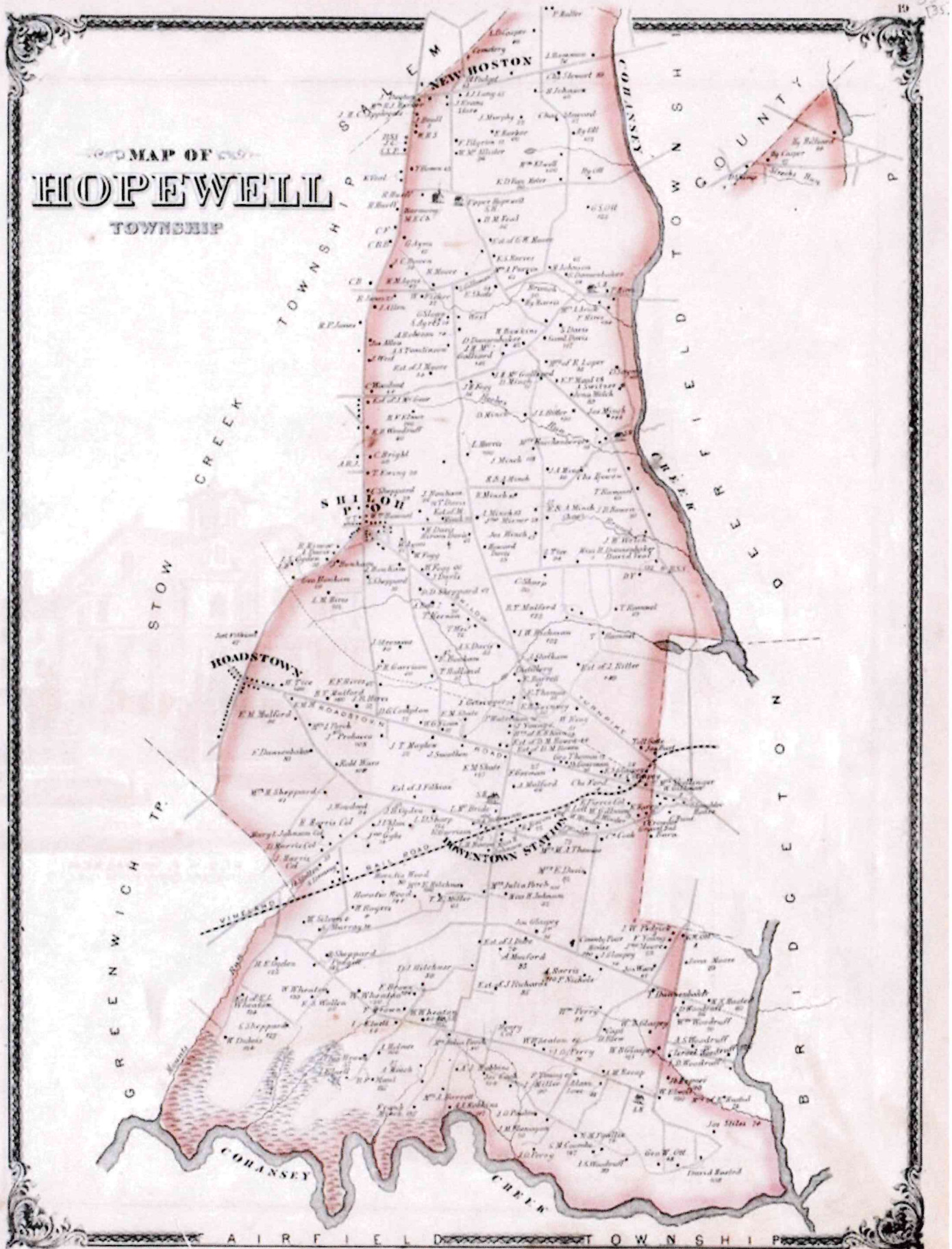
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External links

- Hopewell Township website (<http://hopewelltp-nj.com/>)
- Cumberland County web page for Hopewell Township (https://web.archive.org/web/200605_11180314/http://www.co.cumberland.nj.us/govtserv/municipalityview.asp?interest=&fdMunicipality=Hopewell+Township)
- Hopewell Crest School (<http://www.hopewellcrest.org/>)
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- School Data for the Hopewell Crest School (https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datasearch/school_list.asp?Search=1&DistrictID=3407500), National Center for Education Statistics
- Cumberland Regional High School (<https://www.crhsd.org/>)

HOPEWELL



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP - THE LAST 25 YEARS

1999-2023

BY MAYOR PAUL J. RITTER, III

West Cumberland Senior Center

Shiloh, Stow Creek, Greenwich and Hopewell Townships share a senior center which was established on March 1, 2007 and is located in the Hopewell Business Park. Residents 55 and over participate in a variety of programs provided at the Center. These programs include: card games, Bingo, crafts, exercise, Zumba, board games, music, book club, day trips and speakers on various topics. The current Administrative Director is Angela Allen. Karen Ricciuti was the first Director of the Center.



Hopewell Crest School

Students from Hopewell Township and Shiloh Borough attend Hopewell Crest School on Sewall Road from kindergarten to eighth grade and Cumberland Regional High School from ninth to twelfth grade. The Shiloh School was closed after the end of the 2006-2007 school year and all of the students from Shiloh began attending Hopewell Crest School as part of a sending/receiving relationship. Shiloh students accounted for nearly 10% of

Hopewell district's enrollment. Hopewell Crest School was recently named the top middle school and one of the top five elementary schools in Cumberland County. The current Superintendent is Meghan Lammersen. Kenneth Freitag held the position as President of the School Board for 14 years (2009 thru to 2022) when Michael DeRose took over the position.



Shiloh Borough

Shiloh was originally known as Cohansey Corners and was established in 1705 when several Seventh Day Baptist families purchased land in the area. This village was divided between Hopewell and Stow Creek in 1748 upon the creation of Cumberland County. In 1837, in order to settle a tie on whether to move the county seat from Bridgeton to Millville, Columbia Township was formed in Shiloh. The county seat stayed in Bridgeton and Shiloh was split again between the two townships. Later, in 1929, the Borough of Shiloh was incorporated.

The Greater Bridgeton Amish Market

On July 27, 2011 groundbreaking took place in the Hopewell Business Park on Cassidy Court for the Greater Bridgeton Amish Market. The market, which opened on August 16, 2012, is an Amish pole barn style building with a variety of vendors who provide food, crafts, furniture and other offerings inside and sheds outside. Some of the goods provided include bakery items,

bulk foods, candy, barbeque chicken, fresh meats, produce, deli, salads, winery, pretzels, donuts and a full-service Amish restaurant. Every Fall, the Township sponsors Hopewell Day which features food, crafters, music, a corn maze, pumpkin patch, bounce houses and other means of entertainment for families. Jonas King provides wagon rides pulled by his two mules around the market.



Hopewell Park and Picnic Grove

Hopewell Township established its own 132-acre park surrounding the Hopewell Crest School on Sewall Road in 2013. The 1.8 million dollar project preserves open space for passive and active recreation and for future generations to enjoy nature. The land lies adjacent to the Barrett Run, a tributary to the Cohansey River, which flows through the Bridgeton City Park. The purchase was made possible by a diverse group made up of Green Acres, Cumberland County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, the William Penn Foundation, Open Space Institute, the American Littoral Society, City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township that provided over one million dollars in grants. The park adjoins the Bridgeton City Park and is the home to a variety of wildlife including white tailed deer, fox, red tailed hawks, turkeys and bald



eagles. The Township maintains a number of trails throughout the park and has established a picnic grove on the park grounds. The American Littoral Society also restored a 7.5-acre section of the park with reforestation buffers, deer fencing and native plantings to protect the Barrett's Run Creek. The riparian buffer consisted of over 500 trees to prevent up to 90% of the loose soil and pollutants in stormwater runoff. Benches, gazebos, informational signs and walking trails were also provided as part of the newly established grasslands habitat.

Hopewell-Stow Creek Fire Company

The Hopewell-Stow Creek Fire Department, which was established on February 12, 1918, currently serves Hopewell Township, Stow Creek Township and the Borough of Shiloh from its location at 751 Roadstown Road. The fire station was built in 1942 and expanded in 2007. The current apparatus includes Engine 2101 which is a 2009 Spartan Gladiator (2000/1250), Tanker 2111 which is a 2017 Spartan ERV Gladiator (2000/2500), Rescue 2103 which is a 2003 Freightliner/EVI (1000/750) and an antique 1941 diamond T/Pirsch. The Minerva Fire Department, organized by the Cumberland Mutual Fire Insurance Company, provided fire protection for the area with their hand pumper Minerva fire engine from 1854 to 1877 when they turned their equipment over to the Bridgeton Fire Department. A replica of the Minerva fire engine is in the Cumberland Mutual parking lot.

In January 1, 2014, the fire company began providing fire protection services to the Borough of Shiloh. The current Fire Chief is Kenneth Mayhew. His immediate predecessor as Chief was Maxwell Dilks. The Emergency Management Coordinator is Gary VanMeter, Sr.

Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce / Cumberland Development Corporation

Hopewell became a hub for economic development when the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce, which operated in the 1890's as the Bridgeton Board of Trade, and the Cumberland Development Corporation relocated their offices to the Hopewell Township building in 2021. The CDC promotes economic development through private/public partnerships and inter-municipal cooperation in Cumberland County, New Jersey. Hopewell has an

extensive number of shared services with the neighboring municipalities of Shiloh, Stow Creek, Greenwich and Bridgeton including the Senior Center, Fire Department, Ambulance, Construction Services, Regional Court and Convenience Center. The Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities for businesses to share information and contributes to the area's business environment. Tony Stanzione is the Executive Director of both organizations.

Veteran's Cemetery

Cumberland County established a Veteran's Cemetery in 1999 for county residents "between the hedges" located on Trench Road. The cemetery plaza features a large illuminated flag staff that features the American flag 24/7. In 2021, during the pandemic, the Cumberland County Veteran's Burial

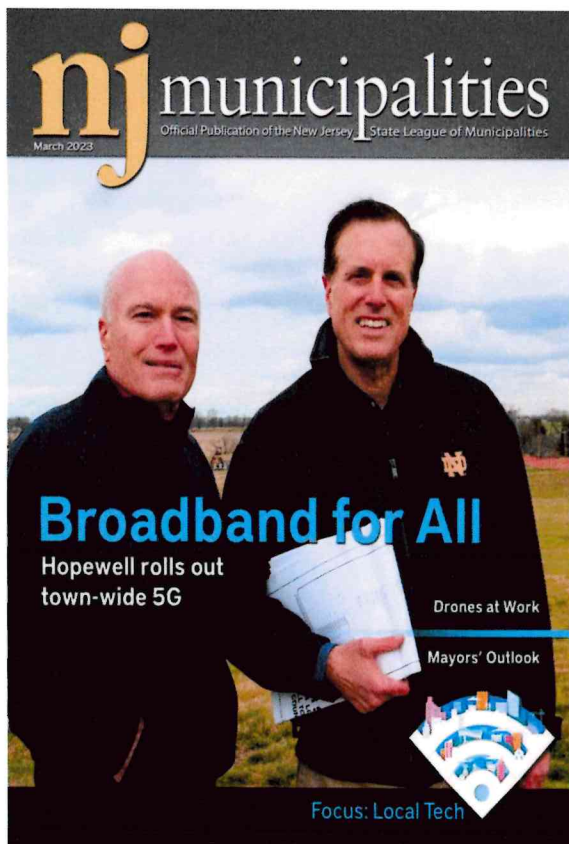


Pavilion was dedicated. This pavilion provides an area for memorial services to take place sheltered from the elements.

Shoppes at Dragon Village

This quaint country village of unique shops began in 1976 and was then known as Dutch Neck Village. From 1982 to 2008 visitors were able to spend a full day at the village. By spending a day at Dutch Neck Village, visitors could avoid the hustle and bustle of city and mall shopping while enjoying

the thrill of finding that unique gift for that special someone. After its sale, the village continued to operate and feature events until it closed in 2013. Dutch Neck was later purchased by the Pessalano family in December of 2017 and renamed the Shoppes at Dragon Village. The Pessalanos aim to restore the property to its original splendor.



Broadband

Just like water, sewer and electricity, broadband has become a key infrastructure that enhances the lives of our residents. It has a substantial impact on how we access and distribute knowledge in the workplace, the classroom and in our homes. In 2022, the Hopewell Township Committee approved a proposal to provide broadband service throughout the Township. This critical infrastructure initiative will be an essential benefit for our Hopewell Township residents now and into the future. Former Deputy Mayor Greg Facemyer was instrumental in accomplishing this project.

Notable Residents and Fun Facts

- Joseph Campbell, the founder of Campbell Soup, grew up on a nearby farm
- Charles Hires, the inventor of root beer, was born and raised in Roadstown
- Douglas Fisher, who had a food market on Shiloh Pike featuring a large chicken statue, is the New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture
- Nancy Sungenis was the first female Mayor of Hopewell Township
- C.F. Seabrook, Frozen Food Pioneer, was born and raised in a 1774 brick farmhouse on Minches Corner Road
- Bloomfield H. Minch from Hopewell was President of the New Jersey Senate. The Minch's were the largest farmers in Hopewell for many years
- H. Boyd Woodruff, PhD from Hopewell discovered streptomycin and actinomycin and developed industrial production by fermentation of other antibiotics
- Roy Brooks, former Mayor of Hopewell Township, donated his Native American artifact collection of arrowheads, axes and pottery to the Township which is currently on display in the Hopewell Township Municipal Building. Most of the artifacts were found on his Hopewell family farm
- Goose Goslin, a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and a two-time World Series Champion, has a plaque outside the Hopewell-Stow Creek Fire House.

Bicenterquasquigenary

January 19, 2023

History presents itself in many fashions. Historical documents are written, pictures are preserved and each generation of citizens recalls stories that are told and retold, remembering their facts and details.

To those fortunate residents of Cumberland County in southern New Jersey who make their homes in Hopewell Township, the prevailing sentiment is that this is indeed the “Garden Spot” in the “Garden State.” In keeping with rural heritage of more than 275 years, or its “Bicenterquasquigenary”, Hopewell Township is an area primarily agricultural in character with scattered developments covering 30.87 square miles of forests, swamps, ponds and open farmland.

As the Township and the area grow, it is important to create historical archives that can be viewed and studied by future generations. The value and relevance of this documentation will prove to be beneficiary for present and future citizens of the Township and Cumberland County.

We are extremely grateful for the community’s support in the preparation of this document. We would like to personally thank former Township Administrator, Burt Doremus, for his contribution to the initial draft of this history book. And a special thank you to Acting Municipal Clerk, Jeannette Pace, for final editing and completion of this submission.

Sincerely,
Hopewell Township Committee
Paul J. Ritter, III, Mayor
Robin Freitag, Deputy Mayor
Thomas Tedesco
Kelsey Bayzick
David Miller