The Washington Township
Historical Society

presents

Tercentenary Days

SEPTEMBER 19 and 20, 1964

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and

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SECOND PRINTING JANUARY 20, 1970
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The efforts of many people went into the preparation of this small volume and the Editors wish to publicly acknowledge this assistance. Appreciation is extended to Mrs. Virginia Allen, Miss Pearl Hinshaw, Mrs. Vernie Hoffman, Mrs. Elizabeth Holz, Mr. Christian Lanner, Mrs. John Naugright, Mrs. Olive Pfeifer, Mr. Charles Skinner, and Mr. Russell Smith.

Also of great value were the papers written by the students of the Washington Township Elementary School for a class project, under the direction of Mrs. Edythe Del Peschio. The Editors found these efforts to be most helpful and have used the research within the booklet. Wanda Bird, Gerald De Groat, Linda DeYong, Clara Haid, Christine Scheller, and Craig Wilson were the student contributors.

A project of this nature cannot be accomplished without financial assistance, and the Editors appreciate the cooperation of Mrs. Richard Robinson for supervising this task. Her efforts in securing funds and the generosity of our local citizens have made the Editors' expectations possible.

We also wish to acknowledge the patient assistance of Mrs. Irene Tiffenbach of West Morris Regional High School for her efforts in locating and contacting the many people in the township to verify our material.

The Editors assume all responsibility for the material printed and hope the reader will be inspired to go beyond the limits of this work.

Space does not permit a complete list of the many kind and co-operative efforts we have received, however, the Editors acknowledge these and to all those people we are grateful.

...The Editors

PREFACE

"You road I enter upon and look around, I believe you are not all that is here, I believe that much unseen is also here."

Song of the Open Road
...WALT WHITMAN

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP IS... ROLLING HILLS, SERENE FIELDS, AND WINDING ROADS. IT IS STURDY FARMHOUSES AND OLD STONE HOUSES AND WITHIN RECENT YEARS, NEW BRIGHTLY COLORED HOMES HAVE APPEARED.

WE LIVE IN AN ERA OF CHANGE, HOWEVER, WE HONOR THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF OUR PAST. THE YEAR 1964 HAS SPECIAL MEANING FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS WE HAVE REACHED OUR 300TH YEAR. THE YEAR ALSO HAS SPECIAL MEANING FOR WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, AS GROWTH AND EXPANSION OCCUR THROUGHOUT OUR REGION.

THE TERCENTENARY OF OUR STATE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR MANY DECADES AND THE PROGRESS OF OUR STATE, MEASURED AND MARKED. THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP WILL ALSO REMEMBER THIS EVENT AS IT HAS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAUSE AND GLANCE BACK AT OUR TRADITIONS AND HERITAGE.

THE EDITORS HOPE THIS BOOKLET WILL SERVE TWO PURPOSES. FIRST, TO PROVIDE OUR LONG TIME RESIDENTS WITH SOME HAPPY RECollections, AND SECOND, TO PRESENT TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN SOME INSIGHT AND INFORMATION ABOUT WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.
INTRODUCTION

On March 12, 1664, Charles II of England deeded to his brother, James, Duke of York, a tract of land in America which included parts of present New England, New York, and all of what is now New Jersey. Thus began the English government's attempt to force the Dutch from the region, and within the year, without a shot, the Dutch surrendered.

In the meanwhile, the Duke of York had transferred a tract of his grant to his two friends, Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. In honor of Carteret's defense of the Island of Jersey during the Parliamentary wars, the territory was named New Jersey. Philip Carteret, the brother of Sir George, became the first English governor and established the capitol at what is now Elizabeth.

New Jersey was divided into two parts in 1676 and the colonies of West and East Jersey appeared. This division was to create several problems for settlers as no real boundary line could be made. A line was drawn from a point in Little Egg Harbor to the Delaware Gap with Berkeley maintaining West Jersey and Carteret obtaining East Jersey.

West Jersey was soon sold to the Society of Friends and their ownership had a marked influence on the development of the area. The capitol was established at Salem and the region was largely agricultural. Large farms and a landed aristocracy developed, and with the assistance of William Penn, friendly relations were maintained with the Indians of the area.

East Jersey, on the other hand, developed into a commercial region with New York Harbor as a financial aid. Communities developed with a New England influence, leaning toward strong local governments.

Finally, after continued bickering and conflict, the two colonies were united in 1702 forming the royal colony of New Jersey.

This year New Jersey celebrates its Tercentenary, and Governor Richard J. Hughes has requested that all municipalities take action to mark the occasion. The Township Committee of Washington Township has authorized the Washington Township Historical Society to co-ordinate the activities for this event.

On April 22, 1964 the first meeting of a combined effort on the part of the Historical Society and local service groups was held and a program of events planned.

Saturday and Sunday, September 19th and 20th, were proclaimed TERCENTENARY DAYS, to be marked by a parade through the Township and a tour of local homes and sites.
Washington Township was officially established in 1798 and, no doubt, named for the revered "Father of Our Country". Formally, it had been a part of Roxbury Township and also within the boundaries of Hunterdon County. Later, when Morris County was formed, it became the last township to the west and the most rural.

The township contains approximately 45 square miles and is about 50 west of New York City.

Washington Township is located in what is known as the Highlands Section of New Jersey and two mountain ranges cross the community, Schooley's and the Fox Hill Range.

Elevations range up to 1,134 feet above sea level in the Schooley's Mountain Range while the Fox Hill Range reaches 1,034 feet.

Municipal records go back to the year 1800 when the town fathers met in various homes and later in the hotel. For a while, the government met at the old firehouse.

At the present time, the local government meets in the Municipal Building which was built about 65 years ago. At that time, it was a schoolhouse for the upper grades and classes for elementary students until 1956.

LONG VALLEY

Long Valley, the center of activity for Washington Township, was settled by the white man around 1730-31. Friedrich W. Welsh and Samuel Schwackhammer arrived in the area and wrote to their friends in Holland to join them. In the year 1738, the ship "Robert and Oliver" left Europe with its passengers for their new homes. The story goes that the ship arrived in Philadelphia instead of New York, and those bound for Long Valley had to continue their journey up the Delaware River and over land by foot.

These settlers included the families of Philip Weise, Leonard Neighbor, Stephen and Michael Terriberry, Philip Dufford Sr. and Philip Dufford Jr., and Heinrich Schenckle. When the group set out for the Valley, it is reported that a band of Delaware Indians joined them to escort them across the strange land. Also several Indians were giving the settlers difficulty and Chief Tamemund, a friend of Samuel Schwackhammer, wanted the new arrivals to be undisturbed.

Land was plentiful and the valley rich and fertile, and the new settlers marked out their farms. However, within a short period, it was discovered that the land was owned by James Logan, Sr., the secretary of William Penn. After a survey of the area, Logan granted the group the opportunity to purchase the tracts and, in 1747, most of the land was bought.

Peter Neitzer opened a store in 1748 in Long Valley which brought many people from surrounding areas to the new center. In 1750, William Neitzer opened a tavern which became a popular meeting place for the men of the region.

Throughout colonial America, religion played an important role in communities. In Long Valley, the Lutheran and Dutch Reform congregations joined to build a log church which they shared in 1747. Later, a stone church replaced this structure and parts of this still remain.

During the Revolutionary War, the area responded with volunteers. However, no engagements occurred in the region. Several stories exist about Washington stopping at the tavern in Long Valley, and also British prisoners being held here, but little evidence can be found to support these tales. It is interesting to note, however, the lack of stories dealing with Tories in the area. Other nearby communities were sharply divided during the war and several deaths resulted.

An important landmark in Long Valley is the "Old Fort". Presently, a private home located on East Mill Road. This structure was built in 1774 by Philip Weise and occupied by his family for nearly a century. During the Revolutionary struggle, the home afforded shelter to both patrolling Continental and British soldiers.

In 1885, Dutch Valley, as it had been called by residents, became known as German Valley as its predominant German population continued to increase. Over the years, the community grew and its residents enjoyed the prosperity of the new republic. Evidence of hardship is shown by a political switch in 1810, as the previous Jackson supporting community gave the Whig candidate Harrison a margin of 83 votes.

During the Civil War, Long Valley, along with other areas of the Township, responded with its quota. Only one soldier did not return to his home, James Dufford, as he was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness.

Over the years, Long Valley felt the push of the Industrial Age as nearby iron industries brought people to the town. The hotel flourished in 1876, and in 1876, the railroad began to bring visitors as well as more settlers.

The area of Long Valley, like most of the region, was hit hard in the 1890's by the withdrawal of the iron corporation. New mines in the west and lack of capital brought a small depression to the region. From 1890 on, the population began to decrease and the town became "rural" once more.

This has prevailed until today as new homes begin to dot the neighboring fields and increase the activity in Long Valley. The small town serves as the legislative center for the Township.

SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN

The name of Schooley was brought to America by Thomas Scholey, who came from near Sheffield in the West Ridings of Yorkshire in England, in 1677.

His destination in America was the colony of the Society of Friends, about to be established along the Delaware River near Trenton.

About one year later, Thomas' brother, Robert, joined him, and two or three years after that, their father, mother, and younger brother, John, came over and settled in the same vicinity.

Thomas Schooley's plantation in West Jersey was called Nottingham Woodhouse. It was there that Robert and Sarah Schooley's six children were born.
After several generations and various moves about the eastern section of the country, the Schooley family, as it came to be known, settled on Schooley's Mountain, named after Thomas Scholey, around 1730.

The people who settled Schooley's Mountain were drawn there by the magnificent beauty of the Musconetcong Valley on the north, German Valley on the south, and the dense, beautiful woods about them. The mineral springs located on the mountain also attracted the people. It is known that Schooley's Mountain, became very famous for these springs and resorts which sprung up about them.

The Schooley's Mountain Seminary was founded about 1870 in the Forest Grove House by Rev. Luke L. Stoughtenbury. This seminary was located near the post office which still remains at the same site - in the general store now owned by Charles Skinner.

***STEPHENSBURG***

This small community was settled by the Stephens family in the early 1700's. The natural beauty of the section no doubt had a bearing on their selection of this site. The flowing waters of the Musconetcong River provided a small force of power and nearby fertile fields reduced many hardships.

Within a short period, a small village developed containing a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office, an undertaker, a shoemaker, a general store, a school, and a mill. Today, only the general store and the mill remain.

***DRAKESTOWN***

The area known as Drakestown was settled by the English and Germans in the late 1700's. Named for Colonel Drake, the area primarily consisted of farming activities. No grist mills or water were available to the settlers.

This section is presently located in both Washington and Mt. Olive Townships.

The community possessed a general store, a one-room schoolhouse, a carriage factory, a blacksmith's shop, and a church. Mr. Frank Harvey presently resides in the building used as the general store. The store was owned and operated by the Thomas Family, a prominent family in the region.

The carriage factory was located across the street from the Drakestown Methodist Church, on the site of the Pugsley. On the corner of Church and Naugright Roads stood the village blacksmith shop. Behind the site of the general store stood the schoolhouse, which was abandoned about 1915.
Two early photos of the present Long Valley Inn provide some interesting views. The top picture shows West Mill Road as it goes on toward Middle Valley, (note the Presbyterian Church in the center) and the second picture shows an extension to the inn and some of the local citizens gathered for a rally. The inn was used for many such events, and earlier it was a stage coach stop between High Bridge and Dover.

Around the curves on Schooley's Mountain Road.

Down the dirt road through Naugright.
MIDDLE VALLEY

Middle Valley, which was originally part of one of the two Budd tracts, had among its first settlers the Trimmers, Neighbors, Duffords, Beams, and Schwackhammers.

As the valley became more and more populated, there developed a school, post office, and general store and other buildings and enterprises. Jacob Miller, who was the first postmaster, went on to become a United States Senator.

Two of the most prominent businesses were the Middle Valley Iron Company and the Middle Valley Railroad Company. The railroad ran for two miles, transporting the ore from the mines to the Jersey Central Railroad. This line had a station at Low Moor, just below Middle Valley.

One interesting story about Middle Valley is its dispute with the New Jersey Supreme Court over land titles. When the German Settlers received land titles, they, of course, knew no English and signed the deeds with a mark. As the years went by, questions arose as to whether or not Middle Valley residents actually owned their land. By an act of legislature in the 1820's, land was given to the people who lived on it if they could show that three generations of their ancestors had also lived there.

NAUGHRIGHT

The first settler of Naugrightville, as it was known until the 1880's, was William Naugright. He and his family settled down in this section in 1793 and built the first house - a log cabin near the present bridge.

Most of the people who settled in Naugrightville were farmers and land owners. Gradually, there developed a general store, post office, school, and foundry.

The foundry was located in the red brick building that now belongs to Henry Morgan. This foundry made furnaces and farm equipment.

The building on the corner of Coleman and Bartley Roads was the old general store which was run by the Naugrights. This building has now been converted into apartments.

The Naugrights were well-known throughout the area for their home was half-way between High Bridge and Dover. Many people who traveled between the two towns stayed at the Naugright home since the trip was too long to be made at one time.

FAIRMOUNT

Fairmount is believed to be one of the first areas of Washington Township to be settled. Its name, which was originally Foxenburg and then Fox Hill, came from the first settlers, who were named Fox.

Following the Civil War, Fairmount was one of the leading peach producing areas of the country and continued to produce great amounts of peaches until forty or fifty years ago.

This area was also known by many other names, such as Unionville, Parker, and Pottersville.

Early settlers to this region may have come by way of present Middlesex County along the Black River. The iron mines at Hacklebarney, no doubt attracted many of the settlers.

A popular family name in this region is Philhower, as they owned a great deal of the land in the area. The family also donated the first tract of land for a schoolhouse in this section of the Township.

In 1734 the Fairmount Presbyterian Church was established. In 1851 the church was rebuilt and in 1902 it was remodeled. Graves of veterans of the War of 1812 can be found in the cemetery next to the church.
PLEASANT GROVE and PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH

A brief history of Pleasant Grove and the Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church was written earlier this year by a young student from the township school, Clara E. Haid. Her research and essay follow:

In 1732, the first religious body came to Schooler's Mountain from New London, Connecticut. The group, called the Regeresens, had as their leader, a John Coler. The reason behind the Regeresens' move to a frontier so far removed from their original homes, was their desire to be free from persecutions so that they could practice, undisturbed, their peculiar religious habits.

These people considered all days alike. They deemed it lawful to labor after worship on the Lord's Day, and would sometimes even attend the service of the churches carrying their work along with them into the sanctuary. One description of their worship says:

To the meetings the women took their spinning wheels and stools. The men huts on, seated themselves upon the ground in rows opposite the women. Then came the solemn hush of the period of introspection, which often would be long and impressive. When some one was moved to speak the women would quickly uncross their hands and the men would unfold their arms, neither thereafter would be idle a minute. The women applied themselves to knitting, sewing, or spinning, the men went to batten making or some other noiseless occupation until the speaking ended and the assemblage dispersed. Their house of worship was usually the "temple of the grove," a grassy slope in the shade of a cluster of venerable oaks leading down to the edge of a body of water.

Most of the early settlers in this area were Germans. Some of these families which came with these early settlers helped much in the building of this church. Some of them by name are the Hanns and the Colvans, which were the two largest families at that time, and they were later united, John P. Sharp, James Everitt, James and Lawrence Fritts, (which is still a large family now), John Fisher, George and William Lindherry, Jacob Middlesworth, Peter Hopchoch, Nelson, James, William, John, and Philip Siker, (which is also a very large family today). Isaac Smith, Theodore Fefler, and Charles Sarpeant.

To help you to picture better the setting of the community at the time when this church was first founded, I would like to tell you some interesting facts about the community. In 1798, a log school house existed in the district of Pleasant Grove, with an average of eighteen students in attendance. The Morris-Eastern Turnpike Company was chartered in 1800, while 1810 saw the completion of this road. Its route passed through Pleasant Grove, where the family old "Log Tavern" served as a halfway house where horses were changed and travelers were given a rest stop. At that time, Washington Township had a population of 1,793. A laborer here could be hired for $1.50 per day, in the year 1811, and beef sold for five cents per pound. The general store was not established until about 1820 on the northwest corner of the crossroads, (this store is still standing today but is not in use anymore). A post office was established there at about the same time as
During the early 1800's through the Civil War and up to the turn of the century, the mineral springs on Schooley's Mountain provided a resort which rivaled those springs of Saratoga and Newport in popularity.

Although the first visitors who wished to take "the Cure" had to live in tents or temporary shacks, demands were made to improve the accommodations.

The first resort to be advertised was Hager's Inn or Tavern in 1801 - the exact location of which is unknown.

The first man accredited with bringing the springs to public notice was William Hamilton of Bettlestown. On January 12, 1810, he ran an advertisement in the "Newark Centinal of Freedom", offering a boarding house of seventeen rooms "to let", which was leased by Conover Downe for the following summer.

At the same time, Joseph Heath, who had bought land in the area in 1799, decided to build a boarding house called the Alpha, which was the first of the four or five buildings to comprise Heath House.

With the opening of the Washington Turnpike (Route 24) between Morristown and Easton in 1810, the resort prospered. By 1819 or '20, Bowne had erected a new hotel, known as Belmont Hall. Opened in the summer of 1829, the three-story brick and stone building could accommodate up to three-hundred-and-fifty people and aside from the springs, provided livery stables, billiard rooms, bowling alleys, baseball grounds, and three tennis courts, as well as "exceptional cuisine... warranting complete satisfaction of the most fastidious."

The popularity of the springs grew, not because of its fame as a health resort, but as a center for the social affairs of the high society of Philadelphia, New York, and Washington. The Grand Balls, held as often as once a week, with the men in full dress and the bejewelled ladies, reminded one of a fairyland come true.

Many of the distinguished guests at the resorts included the Vanderbilts, Goulds, Breckinridges, Astors, and Roosevelts; the father of Theodore Roosevelt spent considerable time there. President Ulysses S. Grant, with his family, spent part of a summer at Belmont Hall, as did President Benjamin Harrison.

After a while, business gradually declined. The Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Companies began to develop several excursion routes to Lake Hopatcong, the Poconos, and the Delaware Water Gap, which drew the summer crowds away from Schooley's Mountain.

After having been closed for several years, Belmont Hall (renamed Dorincourt) was reopened in June of 1902. Hotel rates varied from $1.80 to $3.00 a day, and a ten-percent discount was given to those who paid by the week or month. Later, during the first World War, the Dorincourt was used as an army hospital.

Between 1937 and '39, the Dorincourt was razed due to the inability of the owner to pay taxes. Now, nothing remains except for the two stone pillars on Route 24.
The site of the Old Stone Church is located on Fairview Avenue, in Long Valley. It is across the street from the Long Valley Firehouse, a short way from where Fairview Avenue and Route 24 meet.

Still on sheepskin in the Calihan Bank is the original deed, property of the Washington Township Historical Society. The original church property was donated by the Weise family.

Before the Old Stone Church was built, there was definitely some kind of building there. The Stone Church was not built until 1774, yet there is a grave there dated 1765. This was called the log church. On July 2, 1876, Rev. Alfred Hiller, D.D., delivered a sermon with the following information:

One of the most historic sites of the Township is the Old Union Church. The building, a center of community activity, has recently been under the care of the Washington Township Historical Society and through their efforts, steps have been taken to restore the building.

Craig Wilson, of Long Valley, wrote a careful study of this building for his seventh grade. His information was compiled and provides an interesting account of this local landmark. The following essay is his research:

"It is hard to tell when the first church was built because there was no church historian at that time. Tradition says there was a log church near the site of the Old Stone Church. It was doubtlessly a union church, probably built about 1747 by the Lutheran (Evangelic Lutheran or Low Dutch) and German Reformed (Dutch Reformed; later Presbyterian) congregations."

For a long time, this church was only an outpost for pastors traveling abroad, with no regular pastor. The congregation often attended the New Germantown (Oldwick) Church, nine miles away. Most of them walked to this church - and barefooted at that. Many of the ladies walked barefooted, carrying their shoes until they came within sight of the church.

At the time when the Old Stone Church was built, one of the most famous ministers in America, Henry Muhlenberg, Jr., was preaching near this area. He frequently visited the German Valley Church. He usually had to ride all the way from Philadelphia to get here. During the Revolutionary War, in a fire and brimstone sermon against the British, he made one of his most quoted statements while in the German Valley Church. After the sermon, he put on his continental uniform and said "There is a time for preaching and a time for war!"; then marched off to the army.

Much of the following information is from records written by Rev. Dalliker, beginning in May, 1769.

The first steady pastor to serve the German Valley Church and other local churches was Rev. Caspar Michael Stapel, who served in the log church.

Rev. Frederick Dalliker was the next minister. In 1774, during Rev. Muhlenberg's and his pastorate in this area, the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations decided to build a new church. It was to be the property of both churches, as it still is today. This was to be the Old...
Records of the church were found in New Germantown. They began with the pastorate of Dr. Hazelius. On May 1, 1915, an election was held by a number of Lutherans to elect seven trustees. Those elected were Isaac Roelfson, Jacob Karn, Philip Weise, Andrew Weise, William Nachrite, Frederick Swackhammer, and Joseph Karr. Jacob Krom was elected president and Andrew Weise became secretary. On June 10 they were sworn in. Dr. Hazelius baptized seventy-five people during his ministry.

Rev. Dr. Hendricks was a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York. He took charge in August and worked for six years afterward. Beginning in 1810, he baptized ninety-eight people. He went to the Lutheran church in Saddle River after six years.

Rev. Henry N. Pohiman was the first graduate of Hartwick Seminary. He came from the church in Saddle River. He took charge of the churches in New Germantown, German Valley, and Spruce Run, in August, 1822.

For several years after Rev. Pohiman left, there were only occasional sermons from ministers traveling abroad. They became very discouraged because they had gotten a Sunday sermon only on a few occasions.

The Presbyterian (formerly German Reformed) and Lutheran churches had both used the same building for worship for many years, but they both agreed this was no longer advisable. In 1832, they split, each building their own church.

Only the crumbling walls are left to be seen now. Most of the gravestones are still intact. One hundred and twenty-eight people are buried here. Several years ago, one summer, the Washington Township Historical Society restored the Old Church site. They fixed the gravestones, cleaned up the area, and planted new grass to help make the area neater and more appreciable. There have been plans to rebuild the church to the way it was first built.

A HISTORIC AGREEMENT

Whereas, we the members of the Evangelic Reformed congregation, and we the members of the Evangelic Lutheran congregation, who by reason of the preaching which we have with Germantown, and by reason of the money expended for the church and parsonage house are members of Zions Lutheran Church living in the Dutch Valley, Roxbury Township, Morris County, are willing to build a meeting house jointly;

Be it hereby known to all men that the following conditions were agreed to by the subscribers, representing both congregations, viz:

I. Both parties have agreed to build the meeting house at their united expenses, so that none of the parties may throw up anything to the other.

II. As the church is built jointly, so it shall be kept up by our posterity jointly, the friendship of both congregations giving us hope that in case of the necessary repairs of the meeting-house, the weaker party will be supported by the stronger.

III. Both parties, with respect to Public Worship, shall have an equal right; in case both preachers should meet together, then alternately, the one must wait till twelve o’clock upon the service of the
IV. For the good of both congregations, none shall be admitted to preach but such as are under a regular church government.

V. Whereas, we do not only concern ourselves for ourselves, but for our posterity also, it is our will and opinion that none of the parties shall or can sell their right in any way or manner.

Acted this 4th day of February 1774, which is testified.
Frederick Dellicker, V.D.M.  Henry Muhlenberg, Jr.
Deputy Rector of Zions Corporation

Wilhelm Welsch, Diedric Strubel, Conrad Rohrle, Caspar Eick, Anthony Waldorf, Adam Lorentz, Philip Weise, Christoph Karn, Leonard Neighbour, Roulof Roulof, John (X his mark), Schwachhauer, Andrew Flacky.

Built in 1832 and remodeled in 1869, the Long Valley Presbyterian Church was a landmark for the area. On February 5, 1954, the building was completely destroyed by fire. The present church is still on West Mill Road, a few houses from the former structure.

FIRE COMPANIES

In the fall of 1913 seventeen men met at the Long Valley railroad station to form the valley’s first fire company—a bucket brigade. In 1921 the fire company was incorporated and the township started insuring members.

The Long Valley Women’s Club presented the company with its first piece of fire equipment, a hand-drawn chemical wagon, in 1915.

The earliest fire alarm system was a hand bell. If a fire broke out, some one would run up and down the street ringing the hand bell. In 1924, the Long Valley Women’s Club donated a fire alarm system to the town.

Around 1921, the first motor driven truck, the Reo, was purchased. This truck could only carry six men.

No fire house existed in the township until 1924; meetings were held in Lyman Rice’s and Jim Frones’ stores and the Reo was stored in Frones’ garage (now the Long Valley General Store). In 1929, it was decided to build a firehouse on Mill Road in the center of town. It was a community project with all helping with the construction. In January, 1924, the original fire house was finished.

In 1941, a new Ford fire truck was purchased. Again, in 1953, a new truck was bought, a new Ward La France. Since the firehouse was now too small for the three trucks, the La France was moved to David Bird’s garage. When Wm. L. Swackhamer put his garage on Fairview Ave. up for sale, the company bought the property for a new fire house. This is the present site of the fire house.

On Nov. 5, 1963, the latest addition to the company, a G.M.C. fire truck was bought.

The Long Valley Fire Company had the honor of having one of the only two firewomen in the state with “Aunt Em” belonging to the company.

Today, the company has a fifty-man membership.

The only other fire companies in the township are Fairmount and Schooley’s Mountain. In Dec. 19, 1948, the Fairmount Co. was formed and the fire house was dedicated in 1949. The Schooley’s Mountain Company was formed in 1953.

One other fire company serving Washington Township is the Tri-County Fire Company on Rt. 24, one mile north of Stephensburg.

This fire company was founded in 1949, and the building was erected in 1950 with an annex erected in 1953. The building is on land donated by E. Johnson of Beattystown.

The company owns a 1940 G.M.C. fire engine with a five-hundred gallon pumper.

ROAD AND RAIL TRAVEL

For over 200 years, thousands of people have traveled throughout our Township by various means: foot, horse, wagon, boat, coach, and train. Many of these people traveled on the Washington Turnpike or Route 24, as it is known today.

When it was found that a road was needed to connect Morristown and Phillipsburg, the Washington Turnpike Company obtained a charter in 1806 to build this road. Once completed, the turnpike went from Morristown through Mendham, Chester, German Valley, turning towards Pleasant Grove at Schooley's Mountain and continuing to Phillipsburg, later going on to Easton, Pennsylvania, and the Delaware River.
The High Bridge Branch of the Central Railroad brought many visitors to the region.

Progress also brought tragedy, as this photo indicates. Mr. W. Shoemaker's automobile did not make the crossing. (around 1910)

The German Valley railroad station. Passenger service on the Jersey Central ceased in the early 1930's.

The first electric light plant in the township.
The turnpike was completed in 1810, and there was a toll for its use. The toll house in German Valley was located across the road from the Old Fort. Travelers had to stop there, and when their fare was paid, the toll gate was lifted and the traveler continued. The exact toll at German Valley is unknown.

Railroads also helped in the development of Washington Township.

On July 1, 1876, the High Bridge branch of the New Jersey Central Railroad was completed, linking High Bridge with Lake Hopatcong, and passing through German Valley. This enabled the people of German Valley to easily get to many of the surrounding towns, either by train or coach.

The railroad also brought many visitors to the township as well. Hundreds of people traveled to Washington Township over these years to seek employment in nearby mines or relax at some of the rest resorts of Schooler’s Mountain.

Middle Valley, at one time, had its own railroad. This line, which was perhaps the shortest in the area, ran for only two miles, served as a feeder to the Jersey Central from the mines.

A railroad line was to have been built on Schooler’s Mountain but never was. Although a corporation charter was received from the state, plans were never completed.

IRON MINING

The Northwest part of New Jersey was an important iron center in the late 1800's. Throughout the region mines flourished and many communities began to grow. These mines and their employees had an impact on the area as hotels developed, railroads came into the towns and many new settlers sought income from the activity.

Morris County was well known for its mining activity and Washington Township contributed its share. Christine Scheller, a student in the elementary school wrote a paper on these mines earlier this year. Below are her findings:

The seventy-three acres of land on which the Scheller “clan” lives was named Mine Hill Farm before they moved there because it was first used for mining iron ore. The mine was named the Marsh Mine after its discoverer, Judge Ephraim Marsh. Though the ore was of low quality, this mining area was actively used during the years of about 1832 - 1857.

The following extract from “1739 - 1882 History of Morris County New Jersey,” was published in 1882:

Judge Ephraim Marsh was the first to take an interest in iron mining in the township; he began to develop the vein on the Mine Hill farm as much as fifty years ago, and this mine was the one chiefly worked in Washington Township until 1857. The operations, however, were not extensive and the ore was carted to neighboring forges to be worked up into blooms. At a later date, the Fisher Mine became prominent and in some years, it has yielded as much as 15,000 tons of ore.

William Wallace Marsh, Son of Judge Marsh, and now residing at Schooler’s Mountain, has been largely interested in the development of the iron industry. For many years, he has been one of the directors of the Thomas Iron Company of Pennsylvania.

You must remember that the previous article was published in 1882, and many of the things said to be true at that time are not true now. Today, there is no mining done at all in Washington Township. In fact, we now use the Marsh Mine’s cavities as a garbage dump, since it is very convenient to us. One cavity is used for cans and another is used for the disposal of food garbage. The food garbage cavity is a very rich compost pile.

The following extract from Gordon’s Gazetteer of New Jersey (published in 1830) may prove interesting in this connection:

The first ore in a mine opened within a gunshot of the Heath House was highly magnetic, so much so, indeed, as to render the use of iron tools about it highly inconvenient. The following extraordinary circumstances we give on the authority of Mr. (Judge) Marsh: The tools by continued use became so strongly magnetized, that in boring the rock, the workman is unable, after striking the auger with his hammer, to separate them in the usual mode of wielding the hammer, and is compelled to resort to a lateral or rotary motion for this purpose; and the crowsbar has been known to sustain in suspension all the other tools in the mine, in weight equal to a hundred pounds. These facts are supported by the assurance of General Dickerson that the magnetic attraction of the tools used in his mine adds much to the fatigue of boring; and that it is of ordinary occurrence for the hammer to lift the auger from the hold during the process of boring.

The mines in this township, according to the report of the state geologist for 1880, are the Ilam, Hunt Farm, Stoutenburg, Fisher, Marsh, Dickerson, Hunt Lake, Naugright, Sharp, Ricker, Hopper, and Poole mines producing magnetic ores, and on hematite veins, the Neighbor and Dufford mines. The two, named last, are in the neighborhood of German Valley.

EDUCATION

Education had an early beginning in the township, as the settlers recognized the value of learning. Tutors traveled from house to house and were usually paid with farm produce, firewood, and some cash. These tutors were no doubt the first real educators of our region.

Records show that in 1718, fifteen school districts were in existence, and four of them had to share their facilities with neighboring towns.

Although the districts were created, not all had schoolhouses. The earliest school was erected in 1810 in Middle Valley. In the 1820's, the state made funds available for setting up and maintaining schools and permitted townships taxing powers for education.

In 1830, a two-story schoolhouse was built on the land adjacent to
The first schoolhouse in Long Valley, built in 1830. Pictured above at the schoolhouse is a public sale.

The old public school in Naughright was built about 1830. The first floor was actually used for classes, while the second floor was a community chapel. The bell used to summon classes was later moved to the Presbyterian Church in Long Valley.

The Flocktown School as it appears today.

The grounds of the old Union Church. The building still stands today, and is now the residence of the Hoffman family.

By the early 1900’s, there were only nine districts in the township; Fairmount, Pleasant Grove, Schooley’s Mountain, Philhower, German Valley, Middle Valley, Stephensburg, Flocktown, and Parker.

At this time, the school in German Valley was moved to the Municipal Building. Along with the grammar school, there was a three-year high school. Students who wished to complete high school were required to attend classes for the remaining year at Dover, Rosbury, or High Bridge. This often involved a train trip of a half-hour or more, and, as in the case of High Bridge students, being out from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Gradually, the outlying school districts began to close, with the exception of Middle Valley. Classes were still held in the Municipal Building, however, the high school was discontinued and students were required to attend classes at Hackettsown High School until 1958, when the West Morris Regional High School was constructed outside Long Valley.
In 1949, a new elementary school was built west of Long Valley. At this time, the school in Middle Valley was closed, but reopened a year later when the Washington Township School became crowded. An addition to the elementary school was completed in 1956 and plans have been approved to construct two new schools on Schooley's Mt. and Old Farmer's Road.

One of the early schools in the district was the Flocktown School. Gerald De Croat, a student in Washington Township, wrote a research paper for class on the school. His excellent findings are below.

The Old Flocktown Schoolhouse is located on the corner of the Flocktown-Neigburville Road in Washington Township. Altogether, there were three buildings serving as schoolhouses at different times.

Flocktown Schoolhouse was one of the first schoolhouses built in Washington Township. When this log building was erected in 1798, there were already seven other schoolhouses in the Township. This school of twenty pupils was located between the present day houses of Mr. J. Kraker and Mr. Donnelly.

In 1823, the log schoolhouse was torn down and a stone schoolhouse was built in its place; this building is not standing any more. An average of forty students attended this school.

The third schoolhouse is the present day building which is across the road from the older schoolhouses. It was built in the mid or late 1800's and closed in 1929. It took about two hundred dollars to build the one-room schoolhouse.

In 1868, the schoolhouse was known as district four. At the same time, there were fifteen one-room schoolhouses in the township. Each schoolhouse had about thirty to forty students.

Altogether, there were six hundred students attending Washington Township schools. There are about seven hundred students attending the Washington Township School now.

The schoolhouse was used as an art gallery by Mrs. Chevalier about two years ago. It was also used as a skating school.

Flocktown Schoolhouse had no well. The school relied on the rain for drinking water. Water coming off the roof was obtained in buckets and stored in a cistern.

Grades first through eight were taught at the school by one teacher. Most of the teachers were men. These teachers received a salary of $31.72 a month.

Miss Skonberg, a former teacher at Washington Township School, was one of the few women teachers to teach at the Flocktown Schoolhouse.

The pupils went to school from November to May. In the months before November, the children had to help harvest the corn crops. During May, the children had to plant crops. Then the hot weather came.

The school day started at 6:30 A.M. and ended at 6:00 P.M. when the weather was good. When the weather was bad, classes started at 7:00 A.M. and ended at 6:00 P.M. If the students behaved themselves fairly well and learned their lessons well, they got out of school at 5:00 P.M.

Pupils who attended the Flocktown Schoolhouse were strictly of Dutch descent. Andrapas Flack and three other Flack families were known for the number of Flack children attending the school. The present day Flocktown Schoolhouse and Flocktown Road were named after the Flack families.

POSTAL SERVICE

The first post office in the township was in the old stone store of Peter Neitzel, Long Valley, in 1749. Down through the decades the location of the Long Valley Post Office has changed several times. At one time it was in the old store which stood on the site adjoining the present day General Store. When that store was torn down, the post office moved to the lot on which the lumber company now stands. Following this, the post office moved to the building now owned by James Naugright across from the Lutheran Church, and the final move was to the present post office building in May, 1958.

Records in Washington, D. C. reveal that on February 3, 1836, a United States Post Office was established in Long Valley, with John McCarter as postmaster. Miss Pearl Hinshaw is the current postmistress.

Except from October 27, 1841, to March 31, 1842, when the office was discontinued, postal service has been continuous in the valley.

From 1836 to January 1, 1921, Long Valley's Post Office had a fourth class rating. In 1921 it changed to third class, and since July 1, 1953, it has been a second class office.

In January 1, 1927, a 24 mile rural delivery route with Ira Sanderson as carrier was started in Long Valley, and by 1958 the route had grown to 55 miles. The rapid growth of the township in recent years made necessary the establishment of a second rural route in 1962. The total length of both routes today is 71 miles.

In 1936, the first year the office in Long Valley was opened, office receipts totaled only $200. By 1957, it had grown to $10,500, and in 1966, receipts amounted to $25,000.

As the valley grew during the middle of the 18th century and the village of Middle Valley developed, a post office was established at what was called Neighborgrove, a section of Middle Valley. When Jacob Miller constructed the first store in Middle Valley, the office moved from Neighborgrove to the village itself. Today this post office is still in operation.

Approximately 137 years ago the Schooley's Mountain Post Office was established in the store of Joseph Heath, now owned by Charles Skimmer. It is interesting to note that Heath, the first postmaster, was also a telegraph agent and public notary, and that his store contained dry goods, groceries, provisions, hardware, boots and shoes, and drugs and medicines. Today, the Schooley's Mountain Post Office is still
maintained in Skinner's store. At one time, post offices also existed in Stephensburg, Pleasant Grove, Parker, and Naughright.

The stone quarry was another activity in the township. For many years this business existed and some of the stone went into the building of Centenary College, Hackettstown. The picture illustrates the process of stone-cutting.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1960 several residents of the area decided to form a historical society for Washington Township. Christian Lanter, former mayor of the township, was elected the first president.

Over the years the organization has successfully restored the site of the Old Union Church on Fairview Avenue and have attempted to bring about a historical interest in the community.

The objectives of the society are:

Discovering the past: To this end we need material which may help to discover or illustrate the past of our township; its settlement, development and activities in peace or war; its progress and share in wealth, population, arts, education, agriculture, industry, trade, and transportation.

Collecting printed witness: We plan to collect printed material: histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, newspaper, pamphlets, catalog, programs and posters, at as well as manuscripts, letters, diaries, journals, memorandums, posters, records, accounts, surveys and field books; and museum material such as pictures, paintings, relics and material objects showing life, conditions, events, and activities of the past or present.

Preserving material: We desire to help preserve all such material collected and to establish access to it, as far as feasible, for examination and study; and to co-operate with officials of our township in providing for the preservation and accessibility of such material; also to help preserve historic buildings, monuments and markers.

Spreading information: We intend to disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in newspapers and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites and trails; and by using media of mass communication to stimulate public interest.

Co-operating with county and state: Concerning material of wider interest, we wish to co-operate with county and state historical societies to make those available to students and scholars.
THE TERCENTENARY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

HARLEY WILSON, Chairman

MRS. THERESA HOPLER, MR. RUSSELL SMITH,
MR. ROBERT GRIFFITH ......................... Historical Society

MR. CASPER HUIZENGA ......................... Schooley's Mt. Fire Company

MR. J. RUSSACK ................................. Tri-County Fire Company

MR. WAYNE J. MILLER ......................... West Morris Regional H.S.

MR. C. WARD ................................. Fairmount Fire Company

MR. EDMUND TIMM (Treasurer) .................. Lutheran Church

MRS. R. ROBINSON ............................ Girl Scouts

MR. A BRYANT ................................. Long Valley Fire Company

MR. H. STEINMETZ ............................ Long Valley Rescue Squad

MR. H. MUELLER ............................. Boy Scouts

MRS. B. JOHNSON ............................... Pleasant Grove Mothers Club

MR. WALTER BRIGHTMAN ....................... Community League

MRS. WALTER BRIGHTMAN ...................... P.T.A.

MR. EDWARD KIBBLER ......................... Progressive Club