

THE STORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKS

Evelyn C. Sloat

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"But usually the significance of local history is, that it is part of a greater whole. A spot of local history is like an inn on a highway: it is a stage upon a far journey: it is a place national history has passed through... Local history is subordinate to national only in the sense in which each leaf of a book is subordinate to the volume itself. Upon no single page will the whole theme of the book be found; but each page holds a part of the theme."

...Woodrow Wilson

From "The Course of American History," an address delivered at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, New Jersey, May 16, 1895. New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. VIII, P. 165.

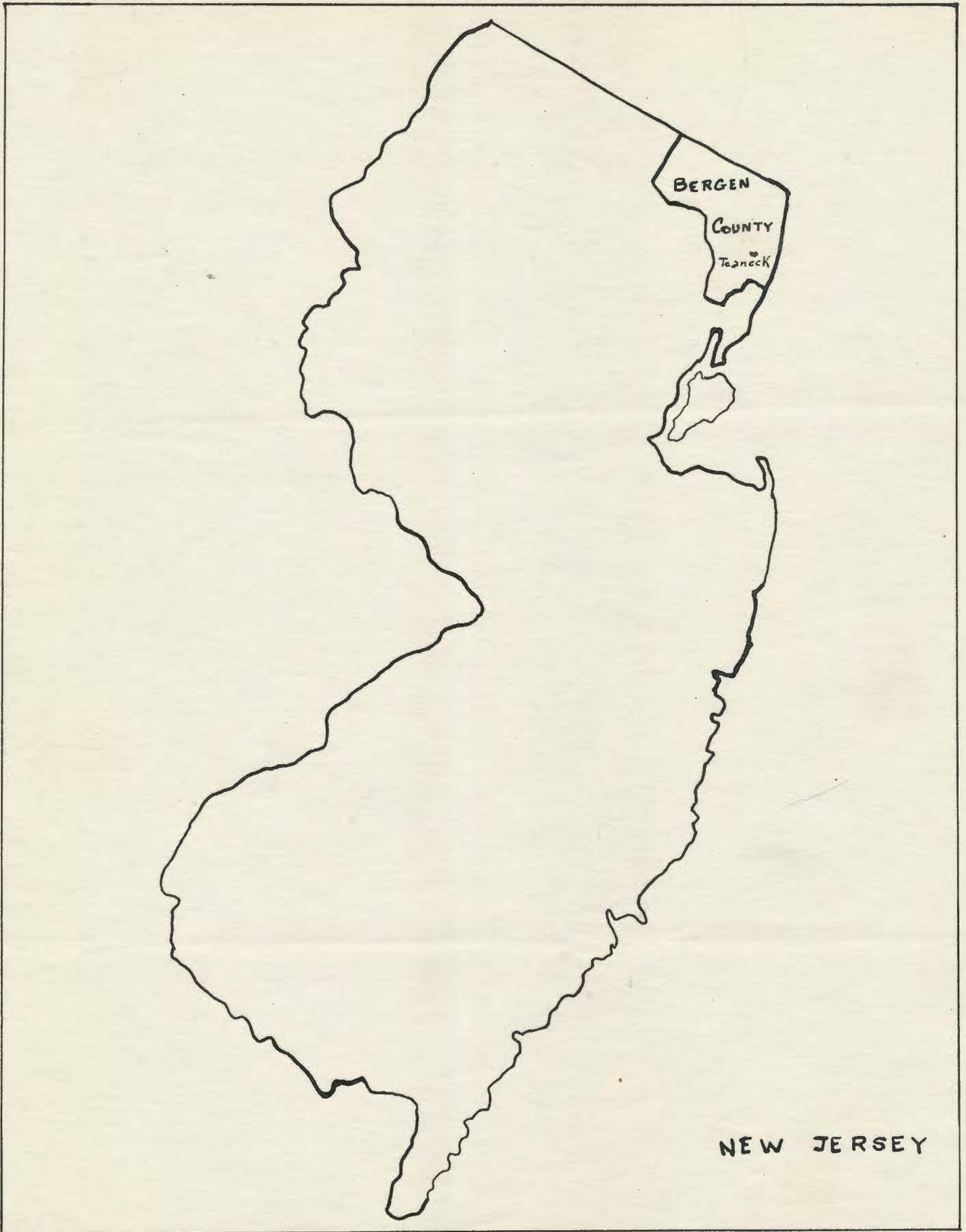
LIST OF MAPS

Facing Page

New Jersey, showing location of Bergen County1
Bergen County and vicinity	26
Bergen County in 1682 and 1710.	43
Bergen County in 1837 and 1852.	52
Tecneck today	61

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
The Story of the Township of Tecumseh	25
Bibliography	62
Appendix	68



BERGEN

COUNTY

Teaneck

NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCTION

Where once stood an Indian village, the thriving community of Teaneck now stands. Where once Dutch farmers sent the produce of their fertile fields to the markets of Manhattan, Teaneck residents now commute daily to their work in the same city. It is the purpose of this paper to trace a few of the outstanding steps in the development of the community during the intervening years. The main section attempts to outline the story of the area that is included in the present township, from the days of its Indian ownership to the present, in chronological order.

The Township of Teaneck, as such, did not come into existence until 1895. Prior to that time, its history was closely tied to the history of the larger units of government by which it was controlled. In order to understand the history of the town itself, it is therefore necessary to know a few facts about the general history of the area in which it is located. The introductory pages which follow summarize the general history of New Jersey during the early colonial period in order to provide this background.

"Scheyichbi", or "land of the shell wampus",¹ as the Indians called the region which has now become the state of New Jersey, was the home of the Lenai Lenape or Delaware tribe of the Algonquin Indians.²

The first Europeans to sail past its shores were Jean and Sebastian Cabot, in 1497-1498, on their voyage along the entire coast of North America, which they claimed for England.³

The first to approach it more closely was Verrazano, who in 1494, sailing under the French flag, reported anchoring both in Delaware Bay and at Sandy Hook.⁴ In the following

1. Federal Writers Project, Stories of New Jersey. 1936-39 Series, Bulletin 12.
2. Federal Writers Project, Stories of New Jersey. 1937-39 Series, Bulletin 3.
- William Nelson, The New Jersey Coast in Three Centuries. 2 Vol. The Lewis Publishing Company, New York. 1902.
Vol. 1, p. 3.
3. Charles H. Winfield, History of the County of Hudson, New Jersey. (Hereafter cited as Winfield, Hudson County) Kennard & Hay Stationary M'fg. and Printing Co., New York, 1874. P. 1.
4. New York Historical Society, Collections, Second Series, Vol. 1. R. Ludwig, New York. 1841. Pp. 6-54.

year, Evastan Gomez, a pilot who had deserted Magellan, ¹ made a voyage for Charles V of Spain during which he may have visited New York Bay and given the Indians the maize or Spanish wheat. ²

It was not until the early sixteen hundreds that the monarchs of Europe took advantage of their claims to the New World resulting from the above explorations. In 1603 Henry IV of France gave the land lying between forty degrees and forty six degrees north latitude to a Huguenot, Sieur de Monts. Not long after, in 1606, James I of England granted the land

1. Samuel Adams Drake, The Eskimo of Virginia and the Middle Colonies, 1578-1791. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1893. P. 116
- Mrs. Schuyler Benson Laer, History of the City of New York in the Seventeenth Century. 2 Vol. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1909. Vol. I, P. 1.
2. New York Historical Society, Collections, Second Series, Vol. I, P. 137, from Adriaen Van der Donck's "A Description of New Netherlands" (1656)
3. John Romeyn Brodhead, History of the State of New York, 1609-1691. 2 Vol. Harper & Brothers, New York. 1883. Vol. I, P. 16.
- W. Woodford Clayton, ed., History of Bergen and Passaic Counties, New Jersey. Swarts & Peck, Philadelphia. 1882, P. 22.
- Winfield, Hudson County, P. 2.

between thirty four degrees and forty five degrees north latitude to the London and Plymouth Companies. ¹ Both of these grants included land within the present area of New Jersey.

The first white men to stand on the shores of New Jersey were Henry Hudson and his crew. ² In spite of his two previous unsuccessful attempts to find the northwest passage to the Indies for London Merchants, ³ Hudson set out from Amsterdam in 1609 on a third attempt, this time for the Dutch East India Company. ⁴

Robert Just, in his log of the voyage, records that the

1. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 11.

Clayton, op. cit., P. 22

Winfield, Hudson County, P. 3.

2. New York Historical Society, Collections, Second Series, Vol. I, P. 137, from Adriaen Van der Donck's "A Description of New Netherlands" (1636) Also, Pp. 71-74, from account of Rev. John Heckwelder, missionary to the Delaware Indians, written about 1760.

3. Clayton, op. cit., P. 22.

Hockwelder, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 3.

Winfield, Hudson County, P. 3.

4. Irving S. Kull, ed., New Jersey, A History. 4 Vol. The American Historical Society, Inc., New York, 1930. Vol. I, P. 60.

Half Moon anchored at Sandy Hook, and remained in the vicinity of lower New York Bay for a week. The waterways around Staten Island were explored, and some trading done with the Indians of the Jersey shore. Hudson then sailed up the Bay and into the river which now bears his name. On his return, he anchored near the present site of Hoboken before beginning the long voyage back to Holland. This location can be identified from Just's mention of the white green cliff so distinctive of this particular spot on the Hudson.¹

During the next few years, Amsterdam merchants sent out several exploration and trading ships, captained by Adrian Block, Hendrick Christiesen, and Cornelis Key.² By 1613 small trading shallops were pushing up the creeks and bays of New Jersey from their base on Manhattan,³ and a trading post was probably soon established on the Jersey shore.⁴

1. Franklin J. Jameson, ed., Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1614. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1909. Pp. 16-28, from "The Third Voyage of Master Henry Hudson" of Robert Just.
2. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 48-49.
Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 66.
Rensselaer, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 39.
3. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 48.
4. William H. Carpenter and T. S. Arthur, eds., A History of New Jersey. Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger, Philadelphia, 1855.
P. 31.

In the winter of 1613 and the spring of 1614, Block established the first "settlement" on New Netherlands when he had his men build several huts for shelter while a new boat was being built to replace the one upon which they had arrived, and which had accidentally burned. ¹

When the favorable reports of these voyages reached Holland, their backers organized the United New Netherland Company and applied to the States General for a trading monopoly in this area, taking advantage of a decree of 1614 which conferred a monopoly for four voyages upon any who should discover new lands and report their discovery to the government. The request was granted, provided the four voyages be made within three years. Manhattan was the center of this trade also. ²

By 1621 the above monopoly had elapsed, and William Usselinx was able to obtain a charter for his West India Company. ³ Trade was continued under the new company, and in 1623 it sent over the

1. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 48.

Benselmer, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 20, 21.

2. Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, ed., Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, Weed, Parsons and Company, Albany, 1891. Vol. I., Pp. 10-14.

3. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 97.

Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 67.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 27.

first group of agricultural colonists aboard the New Netherlands.¹ These settlers were distributed between the Connecticut River, the Jersey side of the Delaware River, Manhattan, and Fort Orange. The greatest number, eighteen families, were sent to

1. The date of the permanent settlement of New Netherlands is difficult to determine. Trading had been carried on ever since 1610, and a fort established for a time near Albany in 1614. Sir Samuel Argall is alleged to have landed at Manhattan in 1613 or 1614, and finding four huts there, to have forced their inhabitants to recognize the authority of the Governor of Virginia. Brodhead and Rensselaer reject the story for lack of proof. Could this have been Black's temporary colony? In 1620 Thomas Berner, captain of a ship of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, stopped at Manhattan and talked with the Dutch there, warning them before he left that they were occupying English territory. These Dutch, too, may have been transient traders. 1623 seems to be the most widely accepted date for the settlement.

Brodhead, op. cit.; Vol I, Pp. 84, 93, 754.

New York Historical Society, Collections, Second Series, Vol. I, Pp. 334-342, 350-354.

Winfield, Hudson County, P. 10.

the latter place. ¹

In 1625 cattle, houses, swine, sheep, seeds and farming implements were sent to the infant colony as well as more settlers, ² and in the following year the island of Manhattan was purchased from the Indians for sixty guilders value in trading goods. ³ Fort Amsterdam was then erected on the southern tip of the island. ⁴

Since the West India Company was primarily concerned with trade rather than with colonization, only about two hundred seventy eight persons were living on its lands by 1628. In 1629, therefore, the States General granted it a "Charter of Privileges and Exemptions" creating the patroon system in order to encourage settlement. ⁵

1. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 150-154.

Jameson, op. cit., Pp. 73, 75, from Nicolaes Wassenar's "Historisch Verhael".

Bensvelaer, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 45.

2. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 158-159.

3. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 37, 38.

4. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 156.

5. Clayton, op. cit., P. 54.

Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 67.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 96-100, 150.

Bensvelaer, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 90.

Under this system the directors of the company carved out large blocks of territory for themselves. Michael Pauw, Lord of Achtienhoven, purchased the site of Hoboken from the Indians on July 12, 1630,¹ and named it Pavonia, the latinized form of his name.² Three days later Samuel Blommart and Samuel Godin jointly purchased land on the south side of Delaware Bay.³ In August Pauw added Staten Island to his possessions, and in November included the present site of Jersey City.⁴

The third patroonship to be recognized was that of Killbuck

1. Charles N. Winfield, History of Land Titles in Hudson County, New Jersey, 1609-1871. (Hereafter cited as Winfield, Land Titles) 2 Vol. Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, New York, 1872. Vol. I, Pp. 3-4.
O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, P. 1, 3.
2. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 203.
Rensselaer, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 94-95.
3. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 96.
4. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 203.
Rensselaer, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 96.
Francis A. Westervelt, ed., History of Bergen County, New Jersey, 1639-1923. 3 Vol. (Hereafter cited as Westervelt, Bergen County) Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1923. Vol. I, P. 53.

van Rensselaer, who on August 13 of the same year purchased land north of Fort Amsterdam. Like the preceding patroons, Rensselaer did not come to the New World himself, but made the purchase through the Director and Council of New Netherlands, who were by now representing the Company in America. ¹

The Delaware River grant, called Swansendael, was soon occupied, but when Captain David Pieterzen de Vries arrived in 1632 to take charge, the entire colony had been wiped out by the Indians, and de Vries himself barely escaped an ambush. ² Pauw's colony did not prosper, and after a few years both of these patroonships were sold back to the company. ³

By 1646 a new charter was made, encouraging smaller grants of land. ⁴ Plantations were slowly established, until December

1. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 96.

2. Albert Cook Myers, ed., Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West New Jersey, and Delaware, 1639-1707. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1912. Pp. 1-29, from "Korte Historiæ ende Journele Aenteycheninge" by De Vries.

3. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 249, 269.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 79.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, P. 54.

4. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 311.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 119-123.

Brodhead, op. cit., P. 556.

13, 1651, when no further "feudal" grants were made, since the monopolization of land for purposes of speculation was becoming too prevalent. After 1652 farms were still purchased from the Indians but only with the consent of the Director and Council. ¹

In their colonization of New Netherlands, the Dutch came into conflict with the Swedish, the English, and the Indians.

As early as 1626 Peter Minuit had tried to interest the Swedish Chancellor Oxenstiern in the colonization of the New World, and by 1638 the New Sweden Company sent two ships, under his leadership, to the Delaware River, where they established Fort Christina and claimed the land as New Sweden. By 1655, the colony had been quietly absorbed by the superior forces of the Dutch. ²

After 1640, the English from the New Haven colony tried to share in the trade of the Delaware River region, but were turned back by the Swedish and Dutch. Their rapidly expanding colony also came into conflict with the northern portion of

1. Francis C. Koehler, Three Hundred Years. Lee Siebighaiser, Chester, N. J. 1940. Unpaged.

2. Federal Writers Project, The Swedes and Finns in New Jersey. Jersey Printing Company, Inc., Bayonne, N. J. 1938. 160 Pages. Myers, op. cit., pp. 57-176.

the Dutch colony both on the mainland and on Long Island.¹

The third group, the Indians,² had welcomed the Dutch trading posts, but by 1640 the influx of agricultural settlers had changed the situation.³ Kieft fanned the sparks by trying to exact a tribute of maize, furs and wampum from the Indians in return for "protection" by the Dutch.⁴

Scattered murders of both Indians and whites, caused by the misunderstanding of each other's code of law, were followed by the retaliatory measures of both sides. In an attempt to end the Indian troubles, in February of 1643 Kieft ordered two

1. Brodhead, op. cit., passim.

Alexander C. Flick, History of the State of New York. 10 Vol. Columbia University Press, New York. 1953. Vol. II, Pp. 36-37.

Jameson, op. cit., Pp. 363-317, from "The Representation (Remonstrance) of New Netherland" and Pp. 432-445, from the "Journal of Van Ruyven, Van Courtlant, and Lawrence."

Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 87, 88.

Remondiner, op. cit., Vol. I, passim.

2. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 179 ff., "Journal of New Netherland"; Vol. IV, P. 101 ff., "Breeders Beedt".

3. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 71.

4. O'Callaghan, op. cit., P. 6.

parties of soldiers to cross to the Jersey shores and attack a group of over one hundred Indians who had fled there after a surprise attack by their enemies, the Mohawks. The entire group, including men, women, and children, were massacred as they slept. As a result, within the space of a few months, the Dutch settlements which had been established at Pavonia, Staten Island, and Manhattan, with the exception of a few homes on the latter, were completely destroyed by the Indians. ¹

Peace was restored in 1645, with the help of Captain John Underhill and a company of hired New England soldiers, ² but in 1654 a new series of attacks began and Pavonia, Hoboken, and the settlements on Staten Island were again destroyed. ³

In order to bring about permanent peace, Peter Stuyvesant, who had replaced Kieft as Director General of New Netherlands, repurchased the present site of Hudson County from the Indians and in 1660 ordered the settlers there to concentrate into

1. Jansen, op. cit., pp. 166-234, from "Korte Historiæ Ende Journaels Aanteycheninge", by de Vries.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, p. 10, 11.

2. Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 71, 72.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, p. 18.

3. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, p. 49, 50.

towns.¹ The first such town, Bergen, was laid out in 1661.² From this time on, eastern New Jersey was under continuous occupation by the white settlers.³

King Charles, dissatisfied at having a Dutch colony separating the two halves of his dominion in North America, and encouraged by a survey of the military strength of New Netherland prepared for him in 1663, determined to control this central region as well.⁴

Accordingly, in March, 1664, he gave a patent for the anticipated territory⁵ to his brother, the Duke of York, and in May sent four ships to capture New Amsterdam. Colonel Richard Nicolls, bearing the Duke's commission as deputy gov-

1. Benjamin C. Taylor, Annals of the Classis of Bergen of the Dutch Reformed Church and of Churches Under its Care; Including the Civil History of the Ancient Township of Bergen, in New Jersey. Board of Publications of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, New York. 1857. Pp. 46-51.
2. Brodhead, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 691, 692.
3. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 107.
4. Ibid., Vol. I, P. 93
5. Aaron Leasing and Jacob Spicer, The Grants, Concessions and Original Constitutions of the Province of New-Jersey. W. Bradford, Philadelphia. (ca. 1752) Pp. 3-8.

ernor of the territory, was one of the four commissioners aboard.¹

Upon the arrival of the fleet in the harbor of New Amsterdam, Stuyvesant was forced to surrender the fort to Nicolls without firing a shot, because of the poor condition of the fortifications and the dissatisfaction of the burghers with his rule. The Delaware colonies surrendered to Sir Robert Carr soon after, and the capitulations were ratified by the home governments in the Treaty of Breda, 1667.²

Colonel Nicolls immediately published a proclamation inviting settlers from the other English colonies to come in town groups to New Jersey, and after receiving permission from him, to buy land from the Indians and establish settlements. On October 28, 1664, land for the Elizabethtown tract was purchased from the Indians, and letters patent granted by Nicolls on December first to a group originally from New Haven but then living in Jamaica, Long Island. Their new tract extended from the Maritan River to the first river above Arthur Kill on Newark Bay.³ The following April, a patent was given

1. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 93.

2. Jameson, op. cit., Pp. 451-466.

Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 94.

Remondino, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 521-530.

3. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 96.

4. William A. Whitehead, Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey. (New Jersey Archives) Daily Journal Establishment, Newark, 1890. Vol. I, Pp. 14-19.

to a group of settlers from Gravesend, Long Island. This tract extended in a strip twelve miles wide from Sandy Hook up the south bank of the Raritan River, and was known as the Beverink or Monmouth Patent. ¹

In the meantime, unknown to Nicolls, the Duke of York had, in June 1664, immediately after the departure of his fleet to America, granted ² the New Jersey section of his prospective territory to Sir John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, defenders of the Crown in the Cromwellian Wars. ³ The area given to these two proprietors was named "Nova Caesaria", in honor of Carteret's stubborn defense of the Island of Jersey against the forces of the Long Parliament, although the Latin form was not retained in common usage. ⁴

Philip Carteret, who had been commissioned governor of the province of New Jersey by the proprietors on February 10, 1665, arrived in the late summer of the same year, bringing with him "The Concessions and Agreements of the Lords

1. Whitehead, op. cit., Vol. I, pp. 43-46.

2. Leasing and Spicer, op. cit., pp. 8-11.

3. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 699.

4. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 99.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 699.

Proprietors of the Province of Nova Caesaria or New Jersey".¹ He and the thirty settlers who came with him joined the four families already living on the Raritan River under the aforementioned Nicolls patent, named the town "Elizabeth" in honor of the wife of Sir George Carteret, and made it the capital of the province.²

Attracted by the liberal and widely advertised provisions of the "Concessions and Agreements",³ which included the right to a representative assembly chosen by the people and religious freedom, a group from Connecticut, led by Robert Treat, settled along the Passaic River in May, 1666 and founded Newark, while in December groups from Massachusetts founded Piscataway and Woodbridge. These towns were established on lands purchased from the Elizabethtown "Associates".⁴ Many New Englanders also joined the towns of Middletown and Schrewsbury, which had

1. Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 101.

2. Edward S. Ellis and Henry Snyder, A Brief History of New Jersey, American Book Company, New York, 1910. Pp. 16, 17.
New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, p. 41.
From "East New Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments", by William A. Whitehead. Martin S. Dennis, Newark, 1878.

3. Donald L. Koeniger, Path to Freedom, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1940. p. 6.

4.

been founded on the aforementioned Nicolls patents before Carteret's arrival. ¹

The first assembly under the "Concessions and Agreements" met at Elizabethtown on May 26, 1668, and remained in session for four days. Bergen, Elizabethtown, Newark, Woodbridge, Middletown, and Schrewsbury sent representatives. Six months later the towns of Middletown and Schrewsbury refused to pay the taxes levied by this assembly, and when the first quit rents came due in 1670, they with the others who had received their patents through Nicolls, refused to pay them or to admit the authority over their towns. ²

Rioting resulted over the attempts to collect the quit rents between 1670-1672, ³ and by May, 1672 had reached such a peak that the people chose a new assembly which met without the knowledge or consent of Philip Carteret, and in his absence appointed James Carteret, a son of the proprietor, as governor. Philip Carteret went back to England in July, to report the

1. Ellis and Snyder, op. cit., p. 16.

2. William Hoove, Early Days and Early Surveys in East New Jersey.
 "The Jerseyman" Steam Press Print, Morristown, N. J. 1893. p. 9.
 New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, p. 62, 63.
 From "East New Jersey under the Proprietary Governments" by
 William A. Whitehead.

3. Kemmerer, op. cit., pp. 7, 8.

state of affairs to the proprietors, leaving John Berry as his deputy. By the following May, Philip Carteret's authority was confirmed by the King, and Berry accepted as deputy-governor by the Assembly. ¹

The controversy was temporarily halted when war broke out between Holland and England in March of 1673. In August the Dutch captured New York, and controlled it altogether with New Jersey until in February of 1674 the Treaty of Westminster, providing for the mutual restoration of territory, was signed. ²

In order to clarify land titles after these months of Dutch ownership, Charles in 1674 regranted the area to the Duke of York, ³ who then gave Carteret a new grant for the northeastern half of New Jersey. ⁴

The Duke took advantage of the interval of Dutch ownership to declare all previous grants thereby invalid, except for the land regranted to Carteret, and sent Edmund Andros as governor of New York and its dependencies. ⁵

1. New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, Pp. 67-70.

From "East New Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments" by William A. Whitehead.

O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 469.

2. Kennerly, op. cit., P. 8

Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 117, 118.

3. Leasing and Spicer, op. cit., Pp. 41-43.

4. Ibid., Pp. 46-48.

5. Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 134.

Berkeley was not included in this regrant, since in the March following the peace, he had sold his share to John Fenwick and Edward Byllynge, English Quakers. A quarrel between the purchasers over the division of the land was settled by William Penn, who awarded nine tenths to Byllynge and one tenth and four hundred pounds to Fenwick. ¹

Fenwick, in 1675, arrived in West Jersey with a group of Quaker colonists and founded Salem. Here he was arrested by Andros, and freed only on his promise not to assert the right of government over the colony, which Andros claimed for the Duke. ² In order to secure funds for this voyage, Fenwick had borrowed a sum of money from two Quakers, John Eldridge and Edmund Warner, giving them for security a one thousand year lease on his land in West Jersey, (less about one hundred thousand acres which he had already sold) with the power of sale to redeem themselves. ³

Byllynge, soon insolvent, made William Penn, Owen Laurie,

1. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 126.

New Jersey Historical Society, Proceedings. Second Series, Vol. 7, 1882-1883. Daily Advertiser Printing House, Newark. 1883. Pp. 37.

2. Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 134.

3. Sydney G. Fischer, The Quaker Colonies. Chronicles of America, Vol. VIII. Yale University Press, New Haven. 1920. P. 133.

Hull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 127.

and Nicholas Lucas trustees for his share of New Jersey for his creditors,¹ and Eldridge and Warner conveyed their rights to the same men, thus consolidating control over West Jersey in the hands of these three Quakers.² They divided it into one hundred shares, of which the ninety owned by Byllynge were offered for sale.³ On the third of March, 1676, the famous "Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors interested in the Province of West Jersey in America", drawn up by Penn, and setting up as nearly as possible a free representative democracy, was approved by those who had purchased shares from the trustees and had thus become the proprietors of West Jersey.⁴

In July of the same year, the Quintipartite deed, marking the division between East and West Jersey, was signed, readjusting the unequal division of the deed of 1674 given to Carteret.⁵

Andros, having subdued Fenwick, now tried to assume authority over all of West Jersey and attempted to collect customs duties on goods entering the Delaware River. The proprietors appealed to the Duke, who referred the question to

1. Floyd Parsons, George Burgess, and Edward Hulce, New Jersey.

New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, Newark, 1925. Pp. x, xi.

2. Hall, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 126, 127.

3. Ellis and Snyder, op. cit., P. 21.

4. Parsons, Burgess and Hulce, op. cit., Pp. x, xi.

5. Leasing and Spiess, op. cit., Pp. 61-72.

Sir William Jones, a prominent English lawyer. His decision was that the tax was illegal. The Duke then made a new grant, in 1681, recognizing the various land transfers since the interval of Dutch possession and confirming the right of the proprietors to the land and of Byllyngs to the government of West Jersey.¹

Most of Byllyngs's land had been sold to two Quaker companies, one in Yorkshire and one in London, by the trustees, although, as stated above, he retained the right of government.² After his death in 1687, his remaining rights in West Jersey were purchased by Dr. Daniel Cox. In 1692, Cox sold all but four shares to the West Jersey Society.⁴ From this time on, the land was continuously subdivided into small sections.

The story of West Jersey has been outlined since the separation of New Jersey into two separate sections in 1674. Let us now return to the story of East Jersey, beginning with the same date.

1. Ellis and Snyder, op. cit., p. 26.

Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 140.

2. Kemmerer, op. cit., p. 9.

3. Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, p. 155.

Isaac S. Milford, A Civil and Political History of New Jersey to 1789. G. A. Brown & Co., Philadelphia, 1848.

4. Kemmerer, op. cit., p. 13.

Carteret, who in 1674 had received a regent of his half interest in the Jersey colony, this time definitely located in the northeastern part, made his will in December of 1678. His wife, Lady Elizabeth, was named as sole executrix of his estate, and Edward, Earl of Sandwich, John, Earl of Bath, Bernard Green-ville, Sir Thomas Crow, and Sir Robert Atkins were placed in charge of his property in New Jersey, together with other lands, to be sold to discharge his debts.¹

After Carteret's death in 1680, the property was offered for sale, but there were no purchasers. Andros tried to claim authority over this part of Jersey, too, by trying to collect customs duties on goods entering New Jersey through New York Bay, but Governor Carteret refused to submit to the theory that the death of the proprietor returned the territory to a dependency of New York. In April, 1681, he was arrested and taken to New York for trial. He was found not guilty of usurpation of authority, in spite of Andros' attempts, sitting as judge, to dictate a verdict of guilty to the jury, and was freed after giving security that he would not resume his control over West Jersey until an opinion was received from England. A few months later the jury was vindicated in its decision when Sir William Jones, as mentioned above, declared that there was no legal basis for such collection of duties, thereby returning

1. Leaming and Spicer, op. cit., p. 73.

the authority to Governor Carteret. ¹

By this time, the Earl of Sandwich had released his interest in Carteret's estate to the other trustees, and Thomas Cruger and Thomas Pocke had joined the group. ² From then, in February, 1683, Penn and eleven other Quakers bought East Jersey at auction for three thousand, four hundred pounds, and at various times throughout the year each of the twelve conveyed one half his share to another. ³ In March, 1683, the Duke confirmed the title of these twenty four proprietors to the land, as well as the right to govern it. ⁴

When the Duke ascended the throne as James II, in 1685, he attempted to unite New England, New Jersey, and New York into one government centered at New York by abolishing charters

1. Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 135, 139-141.

New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, Pp. 94-96.
From "East Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments", by
William A. Whithead.

Whithead, op. cit., Vol. I, Pp. 302-304.

2. Boone, op. cit., P. 14.

3. Kemmerer, op. cit., P. 10.

Kull, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 141.

Leaming and Spicer, op. cit., P. 73, 74.

New Jersey Historical Society, Proceedings, Second Series,
Vol. 7, Pp. 23, 36.

4. Leaming and Spicer, op. cit., P. 141-150.

and making all the colonies royal colonies. In 1688 the proprietors of both East and West Jersey agreed orally to surrender their rights to the government of their respective sections of New Jersey. The Glorious Revolution interrupted the negotiations and James was driven into exile. When William and Mary ascended the throne, the proprietors quietly resumed their authority.¹

For the next fourteen years the Jerseys had many disorders, mainly over the payment of quitrents to the proprietors. The British Privy Council finally threatened to take the colony from its proprietors unless peace was restored.

In 1699 negotiations were begun once more, and on April 13, 1702, the governments of East and West Jersey surrendered to the crown. This was in the first year of the reign of Queen Anne, who put Jersey under the political control of the governor of New York, Lord Cornbury. The proprietors retained their property rights, and all titles for unassigned lands still had to be obtained from this group or their heirs.²

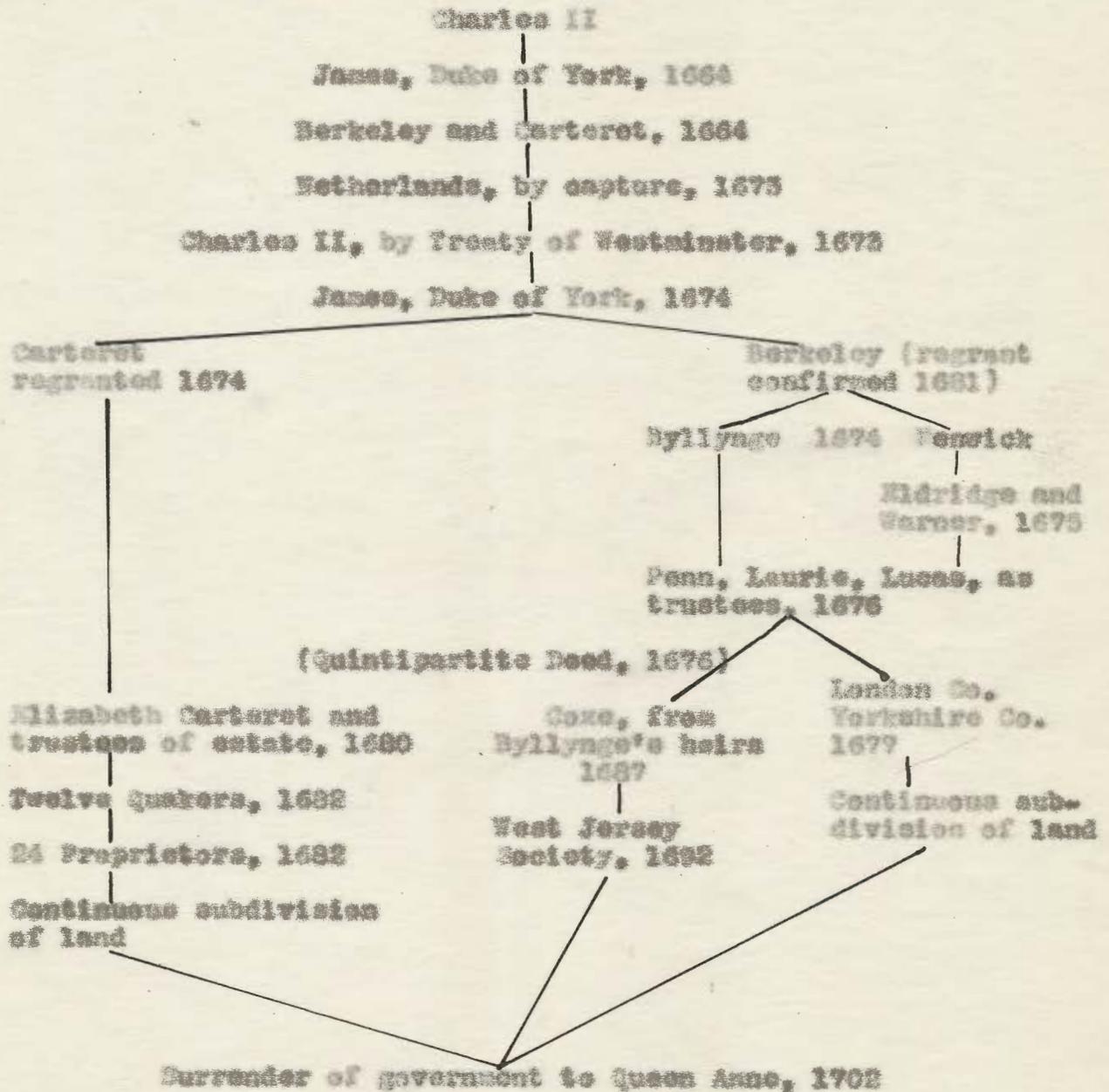
From this time on, the stream of New Jersey history joins the greater current of the story of America. In 1738 it was removed from the jurisdiction of New York, and as a fullfledged colony, acting independently of New York, gave its support to the French and Indian Wars, the Revolution, and the establishment of the new government.

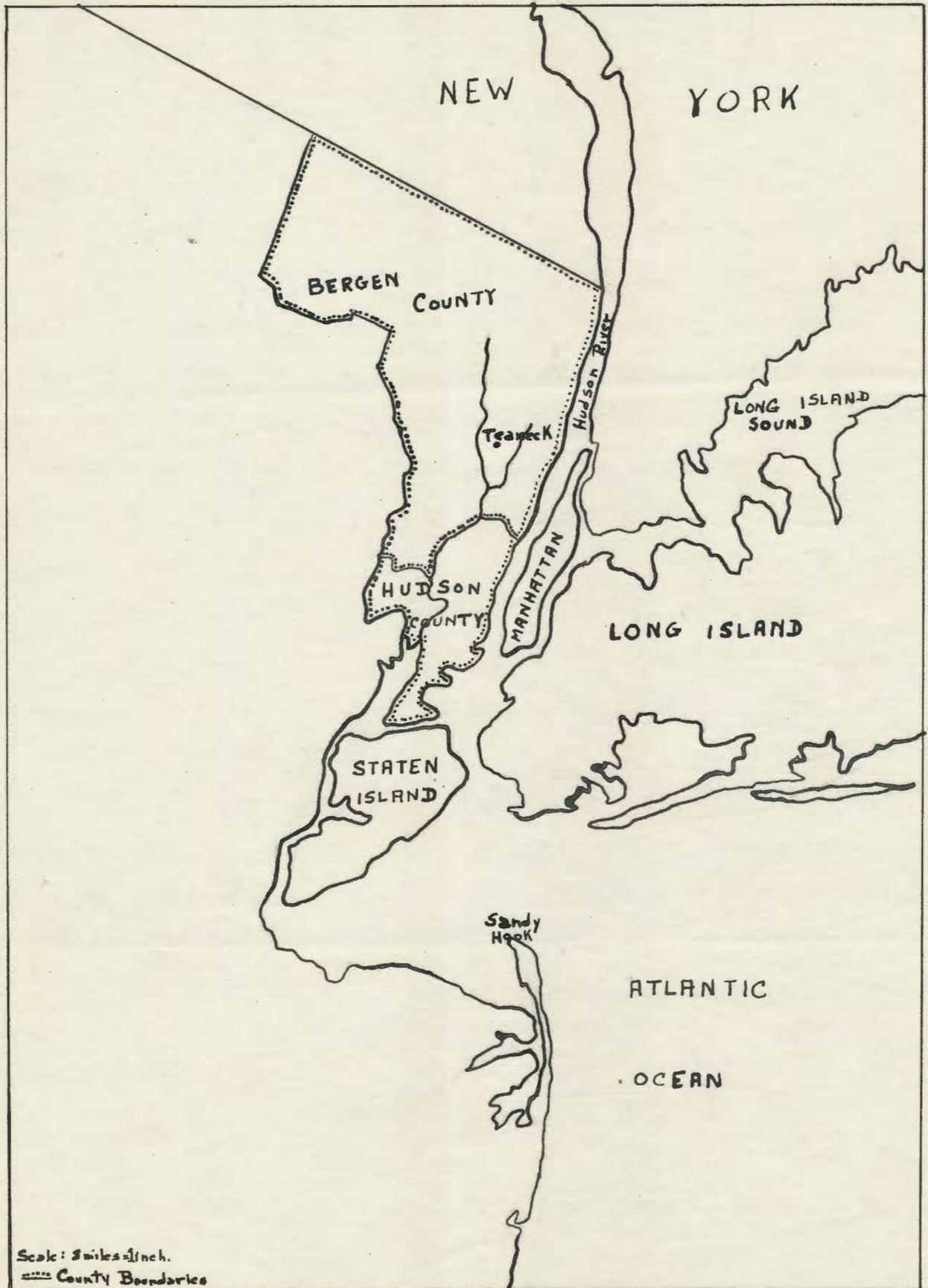
1. Hull, *op. cit.*, Vol. 1, p. 158-160.

2. *Ibid.*, Vol. 1, pp. 157, 168.

N. J. Historical Society, Proceedings, Second Series, Vol. 7, p. 53.

SUMMARY CHART OF NEW JERSEY HISTORY, 1664-1702





NEW

YORK

BERGEN COUNTY

Teaneck

Hudson River

LONG ISLAND SOUND

HUDSON COUNTY

MANHATTAN

LONG ISLAND

STATEN ISLAND

Sandy Hook

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

Scale: 3 miles = 1 inch.
..... County Boundaries

THE STORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK

Turning from general history to local history, the spotlight now focuses on one small section of New Jersey; the section that bears the name of the "Township of Teaneck". Its story will not be found in our important American history books, nor its name mentioned where the names of the great are emblazoned; yet in this pleasant valley history has been made, for in small towns and villages like Teaneck the seeds of a great nation were planted, and from them has grown the America we know today.

The derivation of the name of Teaneck is not at all certain. According to Cornelius Christie, it is of Dutch origin, and means "willow neck"; that is, neck of land where willows grew.¹ Francis C. Kochler, president of the Bergen County Historical Society, agrees with this translation.² In a pamphlet published by the town, "tea" is said to mean "bordering on a stream", and "neck", a curved piece of land, the combination therefore being Dutch for a "curved piece of land bordering on a stream."³ The vice president of the Bergen County Historical

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, Number 11, P. 45.

2. Kochler, op. cit., unpagged.

3. Township of Teaneck, Teaneck, New Jersey, Forty Years of Progress, 1896-1936, 1936. P. 4.

Society, Frank A. Morrison, has written that the original name was the Dutch "Tiene Neck", or "little neck", to distinguish it from the larger necks of land to the east and west.¹ Reginald P. Bolton, Honorary Member of the New York Historical Society, claims that the name is Indian in origin; the first syllable being derived from "te" or "take", meaning "woodland", and the second, "ack", meaning "place", or "place where". The entire name would therefore mean "place where there are woods".²

The original inhabitants of the region were the Hackensack Indians, of the Unami subtribe of the Lenxi Lenape.³ Their principal village was located near the junction of the Hackensack River and the Overpeck Creek,⁴ and between these two waterways many relics of their occupancy have been found.

Here they reared the forests and marshes undisturbed, until in 1640 David de Vries purchased two plantations between the Hackensack River and the Hudson River, one near the present

1. Bergen Evening Record, August 30, 1940.

2. Letter from Mr. Bolton in vertical file, Teaneck Public Library.

3. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, Number III, P. 19.

Wheaton J. Lane, From Indian Trail to Iron Horse. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 1939. P. 13.

Nelson, op. cit., P. 3.

4. Vestarvelt, Bergen County, P. 23.

Tappan and one just north of the present north boundaries of Teaneck.¹ In his journal he wrote,² of the latter place:

"The 1st of December, I began to take hold of Vriessdael, as it was a fine place, situated along the river, under a mountain. There is a flat there, an hour and a half's journey in extent, where hay can be raised for two hundred head of cattle, and where there is thirty morgens of corn-land, where I have seen wheat which grew higher than the tallest man in the country."

1. The location of de Vries plantation on the Hackensack River is suggested by several factors. In the first place, the Van der Horst colony is definitely located on a map of New Netherland published by Vanderdonck in 1656, and de Vries states in his journal that this colony was an hour's walk behind his own. Secondly, there is a tradition in the Demarest family that in 1678, when David des Marest and his companions moved from Manhattan to their patent just north of Teaneck's present north boundary, they found there fallow land and the ruins of buildings. Lastly, Mrs. Elisabeth De Bressel, supervisor of the Historic Buildings Survey of the Works Progress Administration, has stated that foundations of four buildings have already been uncovered near the Demarest 1678 house by archaeologists excavating there, and unofficially expressed her belief that they will prove to be those of the de Vries manor buildings. New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, Frontispiece, Jameson, op. cit., p. 215. Kochler, op. cit., unpagged. Bergen Evening Record, May 8, 1941.

2. Jameson, op. cit., p. 209.

DeVries was a good friend of the Indians, and advised Kieft against the massacre of 1642. He described the retaliation of the Indian tribes following this episode in the following words: ¹

"As soon as the savages understood that the Swannekens [Dutch] had so treated them, all the men whom they could surprise on the farm-lands, they killed; but we have never heard that they have ever permitted women or children to be killed. They burned all the houses, farms, barns, grain, haystacks, and destroyed everything they could get hold of. So there was an open destructive war begun. They also burnt my farm, cattle, corn, barn, tobacco-house, and all the tobacco. My people saved themselves in the house where I alone lived, which was made with embrasures, through which they defended themselves. Whilst my people were in alarm the savage whom I had aided to escape from the fort in the night came there, and told the other Indians that I was a good chief, that I had helped him out of the fort, and that the killing of the Indians took place contrary to my wish. Then they all cried out together to my people that they would not shoot them; that if they had not destroyed my cattle they would not do it, nor burn my house; that they would let my little brewery stand, though they wished to get the copper kettle, in order to make darts for their arrows; but hearing now that it had been done contrary to my wish, they all went away, and left my house unbesieged."

On October 8, 1643, de Vries, who could not agree with Director Kieft's Indian policies, left for Virginia, and the following April sailed for Holland, never to return to America. ²

1. Jameson, op. cit., p. 229.

2. Ibid., p. 234.

At about the same time, Syndert Syndertsen Van der Horst purchased land between the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers, from Newark Bay northward as far as the present north boundary of Hackensack,¹ and sent Johannes Winkelman to establish the settlement for him.² Of this plantation de Vries wrote,³ "about this time [1642] also I walked to Aekingh-sack... in order to see how far the colony of Beer van der Horst had advanced, as it was only a short hour's journey behind my house." In spite of a peace treaty⁴ made by Oratam, Sachem of the Hackensack Indians, on April 22, 1643, the house serving as the headquarters of this settlement was attacked and burned by the Indians in September, and the men defending it barely managed to escape and report the occurrence at Fort Amsterdam.⁵ In November it was recorded that "it was impossible to go there by land or by water to examine the place and its condition because of the great number of savages, who burn and slay whatever they can lay hold of in the woods, on the Hill, or elsewhere."⁶

On August 30, 1645, Oratam signed another treaty of peace for the Hackensack Indians,⁶ and after the second outbreak of

1. Brodhead, op. cit., p. 313.

2. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, p. 9.

3. Jameson, op. cit., p. 213.

4. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, p. 14.

5. Ibid., Vol. XIII, p. 15-17.

6. Ibid., Vol. XIII, p. 18.

hostilities in 1655 was ended by Stuyvesant's repurchase of the village of Bergen and its adjacent lands, in 1658, the documents of the Director and Council of New Netherlands speak again and again of delegations of Hackensack Indians, usually headed by Oratas, visiting New Amsterdam, where they not only pledged their own friendship, but also acted as intermediaries between the Dutch and the more warlike tribes to the north. ¹

Sarah Kiersted, or Mrs. Hans Kiersted, often acted as interpreter at these visits, ² and was given a tract of about two thousand acres by Oratas for her services. This land, lying between the Hackensack River and the Overpeck Creek, included much of the present Teanock. Because of the English capture of New Netherlands in 1664, and the subsequent grant of New Jersey to Berkeley and Carteret, the holders of Dutch patents had their land titles confirmed by the new proprietary government. Mrs. Kiersted received the confirmation of her rights from Governor Carteret in June, 1669. ³

In the same year, Governor Carteret granted Van Quilliam, Rolien, Nichols, Pardon, and Berry each two thousand acres extending from the Hackensack River to the Overpeck Creek.

1. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. XIII, Pp. 25, 46-48, 171, 172,

215, 261, 276, 280, 294, 321, 361, 364, 371.

2. Ibid., Vol. XIII, Pp. 276, 280.

3. Westervelt, Hudson County, Vol. I, P. 46.

Winfield, Land Titles, P. 13.

The most southerly grant, that of Robert Van Quilliam, (Section 15) extended into the northern boundaries of the present Teaneck.¹

Mrs. Kiersted sold, in 1670, "all that tract of Meadow Being situated in Hackensack Province of East New Jersey Bounded on Ye east by ye River called Overpecke Creeke on ye South by said creeke on ye west by ye upland and on ye north by ye Kiersted northernmost lyne containing by estimation ffour hundred and seaventy acres..." to Laurence Van Boskerck for the sum of one pound.² Since her original grant had covered the southern half of the present township of Teaneck, this sale transferred to Van Boskerck the land in the southeast corner.

Immediately after the Dutch recapture of New York in 1673, the inhabitants of the village of Bergen "and its hamlets and boweries" were ordered to surrender to the authority of the States General, and on August 27, sixty nine of the seventy eight burghers took the oath of allegiance. Some idea of the population at this time can be obtained from these figures, since "Bergen and its dependencies" included all land from Newark Bay as far northward as settlement had penetrated into New Jersey.³ Laurens Andriessen (Van Buskirk) and three other large landowners went to Manhattan to have their land titles confirmed by the Dutch,⁴ and the Hackensack Indians also

1. Bergen Evening Record, August 30, 1945.

2. Office of the County Clerk, Hackensack, N. J. Ancient Deeds, P. 68.

3. O'Callaghan, op. cit., Vol. II, Pp. 571, 587.

4. Whitehead, op. cit., Vol. I, P. 128.

acknowledged the recepture by sending representatives to Manhattan, bearing gifts of pelts and wampum, to repledge their friendship. ¹

In 1678, once more under English Rule, Bergen and its adjacent plantations; Elizabethtown and Newark; Woodbridge and Piscataqua; and the two towns at Neversink were made the nuclei of four counties by the East Jersey assembly, although no boundaries were named. The assembly ordered two courts to be held each year in each of these counties. ²

Section 15, having reverted to the Indians by 1678, as Van Quillien had failed to fulfill the requirement of settling a certain number of families on it within six years, was regranted in that year to Laurence Andriessen (Van Bouskerck), and a group of associates including John Bogert, ³ Henry Brink-

1. Whitehead, op. cit., Vol. XIII, P. 476.

2. Lansing and Spicer, op. cit., Pp. 96, 97.

3. Letter of Mrs. John Y. Peter of Ramsey, N. J., dated October 23, 1921: "The Bogert family, who first came to this country in 1662, settling first on Long Island, coming over to Jersey some years later, settling at Teanock, in the County of Bergen, have a legend in their family that the first white child born in this part of New Jersey was a Bogert; that the Indians came for miles around to see the "White Papoose" and presented it with the land extending from the Overpeck Creek to the Tappan Sea (Zee). This was told to my father by his grandfather, Gillies Bogert, of Teanock, and as my father remembers it, the child was a Guillaume Bogert." Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, Number XV. Pp. 112, 113.

erhoff, Rulof Westervelt, John Lotz and Martin Powles. This patent was confirmed by Lady Carteret in 1682.¹

In 1677 David Desmarrest purchased land just north of the present north boundary of Teaneck from the Yappan Indians and in 1678 he and his family began to establish their homes on this land.²

In 1682 the assembly of East Jersey passed a law³ making definite boundaries for the four counties which had been established in 1675, and naming them Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, and Monmouth respectively. Bergen County was bounded on the east by the Hudson River and on the west by the Hackensack River; it extended from Newark Bay to the New York province line.⁴

1. Interview with Mr. Frank S. de Ronde of Teaneck, March 1941.

2. Mary A. and William Desmarrest, The Desmarrest Family. Thatcher-Anderson Company, New Brunswick, 1938. Pp. 13, 460, and map facing p. 443.

3. Leasing and Spicer, op. cit., p. 229.

4. The New York Province line was described in the Duke of York's grant to Berkeley and Carteret in 1664 as "As far as ye northernmost branch of the said Bay or River of the Delaware which is in fourtie one degree and fourtie minutes of latitude and crosseth over thence in a straight line to Hudson River in fourtie one degree of latitude". The location of the northernmost branch of the Delaware caused a one hundred year contest between New York and New Jersey. The dispute was finally settled in 1769. Edgar T. Fisher, New Jersey as a Royal Province, 1732-1776. Longmans, Green & Company, New York, 1911. Pp. 210, 231.

It was necessary to raise fifty pounds to defray the expenses of the province, and this amount was divided among the counties by a tax levied on improved land and payable in cash or produce. Bergen's share was eleven pounds.¹

The penal code established by this assembly was as severe as the laws of Leviticus. For example, the penalty for robbery, upon the first offense, was restitution; for the second, branding; for the third, death. The death penalty was also given for such crimes as arson, murder, smiting or cursing one's parents, witchcraft, and gross licentiousness.² In 1683 Captain Berry informed the Governor's Council, of which he was a member, that a constable should be chosen yearly by the "inhabitants of Hackensacke and those inhabitants lying and being above Bergen Bounds", and the Council so ordered.³

The assembly set up three road boards in 1683, one for each of the counties of Bergen, Essex and Middlesex, to lay out roads, bridges and ferries in their respective counties. Soon after, it authorized the towns to elect men to levy taxes to defray the

1. Milford, *op. cit.*, p. 213.

2. New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, Pp 234-240. From "East Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments", by William Whitehead.

3. New Jersey, Journall of the Procedure of the Governor and Council of the Province of East Jersey. John H. Lyon, Jersey City, 1872. P. 97.

cost of such routes and other necessary county expenses, thus providing the basis of the present Board of Chosen Freeholders.¹

The first formal schooling available to those residing within the bounds of the present Teaneck was under Guiliam Berthold, who by 1684 was acting as both scrivener of the Dutch Reformed Church and schoolmaster in the region of the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, a combination quite customary at this time.²

In "The Model of the Government of East Jersey", written in 1688, George Boet lists the settlements in East Jersey in that year. In the vicinity of Teaneck, he mentions in addition to Captain Berry's plantation to the north, that "There are other plantations upon Hackensack River, which goes a long way up the country, almost northwest; others, also, on the east side of another creek or river at Hackensack River." This latter phrase might mean either on the Passaic River, or the Overpeck Creek. He also mentions that on Mrs. Kiersted's land "there are some little families thereon".³

Sometime between 1685 and 1690, Hendrick Brinkerhoff bought land along Teaneck ridge and built a sturdy stone house. His granddaughter, Margrietje, married Samuel Demarest, and their

1. Leasing and Spicer, op. cit., pp. 237, 234.

2. David Murray. History of Education in New Jersey. Government Printing Office, Wash.
ington, D. C. 1898. P. 199.

3. New Jersey Historical Society, Collections, Vol. I, A
Appendix, P. 406.

descendant, Miss Sarotta Demarest, occupies the homestead today. This building, the oldest in Teaneck, was judged to be of such historic and architectural interest by the Advisory Committee of the Historic American Building Survey that a record of its present appearance was deposited for permanent reference in the Library of Congress. ¹

In 1685, the balance of the present Teaneck, located in Section 16, was sold to new settlers as well as to descendants of the early settlers of Section 15. Among them were Peter Vanderlinda, John, Peter and Laurence Van Buskirk, Rodolph Vanderlinda, Albert Sabriskie, Kirk Banta, Cornelius Christie, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Jacob Van Wagener, Samuel Demarest, Henry Banta, Johannes Verhune, and Christian Sabriskie. ²

Two years later, the General Assembly passed an act ordering a court of small causes (civil cases involving under forty shillings value) to be held once each month at the house of Laurence Andries (Van Buskirk), at New Hackensack, for the settlements east of the Hackensack River, in Bergen County; and at the home of a Dr. Johannes, for those living to the west of the river, at New Barbadoes and Acquickanick (Passaic) in Sussex County. ³

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, Number 11, P. 38.

Demarest and Demarest, op. cit., P. 66.

Interview with Mr. Frank S. de Bonte of Teaneck, March 1941.

2. Interview with Mr. Frank S. de Bonte of Teaneck, March 1941.

3. Leasing and Spicer, op. cit., Pp. 304, 305.

The Township of Hackensack¹ was created by the assembly in 1693, its boundaries being the Hackensack and Hudson Rivers, the town bounds of Bergen, and the New York Province line. The "dependencies" of Bergen village were not big enough to stand alone. In 1694, the new township paid \$1 10s 6d of Bergen County's tax of 11s 8s 3d, a total tax of 79s 12s 6d having been levied on East Jersey to repay the governor.²

Dr. Hoesyne lists the settlers of the area at this time as follows:³

"We append a few of the names of the earlier settlers, as far as we have been able to get them together, with dates, though not vouching for their correctness. This may lead some person to make further investigations....Alberdt Sakorowski, 1662; Lawrence, 1662; Lawrie, 1663; Kipp, previous to 1693; Housman, 1695; Van Buskerk, 1697; Van Plessen, 1699; Andraesen, 1679; Racourier, 1709; Bismarck, 1695; Vanderbeck, 1710; Provoost, 1709; Bopper, 1709; Hoesyne, 1690; Davis, 1709; Devaux,

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1. The present city of Hackensack, then called New Barbadoes, was located west of the Hackensack River. Its name was not officially changed until 1921.
 2. Leaning and Spicer, op. cit., P. 350.
Westervelt, Bergen County, P. 270.
 3. Theodore S. Hoesyne, Historical Discourse. Board of Publication, Reformed Church of America, New York. 1870.
Pp. 16, 17.

Slott, ¹ Douglass, Christensen, Jacobs, Jansen, Westervelt, Brower, Van Horn, Nicoll, Dury, Labagh, Lubbertus, Epke, Santa, Recliffe, Bougart, Fryken, Hendriks, Ackerman, Egberts, Poulsen, Van Der Linde. These latter, twelve in number, previous to 1886*.

1. Jan Pieterse Slat, of Holstein, left Amsterdam with his wife and two sons and arrived in New Amsterdam about 1639. One son, Pieter Jansen Slat, received a grant in the present Hudson County in 1654 which was confirmed by Carteret in 1668. Since the births of only his first two children are recorded in the Bergen church, it may be supposed that the family moved to the vicinity of Teaneck after the sale of this land in 1671. When Pieter's eldest son Jacobus married Marie Demarest in 1683, old David Demarest sold him ninety acres on the east side of the Hackensack River, and his father-in-law added to this in 1701. The eleven children of this marriage were baptised at the Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack, and their son Johannes married both his first wife, Willemtie Van Voorheese, and his second wife, Carstyntie Ackerman, there. In it the first seven children of this latter marriage were baptised. Sometime between 1745 and 1776 Johannes and his family moved northward into New York State. Demarest and Demarest, op. cit., pp. 15, 446, 475. Emma Florence Holland, History of the Slat Family. The Gillespie Brothers, Inc. Stamford, 1932. Passaic. John Drake Slat, The Family of Slat in America. St. Louis, 1910. Passaic. Winfield, Land Titles, p. 69.

One of the interesting stories about old Teaneck concerns its Lutheran Church, the first in New Jersey. The first mention of its existence was made in 1704 by Justus Falkner, first Lutheran minister to be ordained in America. Falkner had been sent by Andrew Rudman (a Swedish Lutheran who had been commissioned by Charles XI of Sweden to preach the gospel to the Swedes on the Delaware) to represent him in eastern Jersey. On February 27, 1704, according to his "Kercken-Boeck", he baptized three children in the barn of Cornelia Van Boscherck. In another book, he mentioned dividing his time between three small Lutheran congregations in Jersey, all three consisting of about one hundred communicants. He continued to serve this section until his death in 1723. Between June 10, 1705 and February 23, 1706, thirty four marriages were recorded as taking place in this church. In 1716, Laurence Van Boskerck, who had attended the Lutheran Church at New York, gave a piece of land at the foot of the present Hattland Avenue to the church, and a building was erected thereon some time later. In 1750, the Rev. Dr. Henry Selchoir Suhlenberg, who founded the Lutheran Church in America, preached there.

A succession of preachers took care of the little congregation, and in 1778 William A. Graff, the last to conduct regular services, moved to Germantown after serving fifteen years. Ministers from New York came to conduct services, but spoke in German rather than the familiar Dutch, and the

congregation drifted to other churches. Many joined the Church on the Green, across the Hackensack River.

The last service was conducted in 1821 by Rev. Dr. F. C. Schaefer, a very prominent Lutheran minister of his time, who unsuccessfully tried to revive an interest in the church. Shortly after, the building was burned. In 1870, it was noted that the ruins showed it to be of very small size.

Today the site is seldom, if ever, noticed by the busy residents of the town. From the road it appears to be merely another unused field. Almost covered with vines, a marker of white granite reminds those who take the time to stop and read it that they are gazing upon

"The site of the
Protestant Lutheran
Church and Cemetery
of Hackensack Township, N. J.
Records 1704-1775
Grant of site by
Lawrence Van Bockneck
1710
Erected by the Bergen County
Historical Society 1921"

The gravestones have long since been broken and weathered. Only two are standing and legible at the present time. They have the following inscriptions:

In
Memory of
Jacob Van Buskirk
Born the 20 day of June 1765
and Departed this Life the
2 of January 1812 Aged
46 Years 6 Months and
12 Days

Call and see as you pass by
As You are now So once was I
As I am now you Soon must be
Prepare for Death and follow me

In
Memory of
John Van Buskirk
who was born Sept. 10th 1742
and departed this life Dec. 5th
1820. Aged 78 years 2 months
and 28 days.

My dearest friends they dwell above
Them will I go to see
And all my friends in Christ below
Will soon come after me

J.P.D. 1

In 1702 the government of New Jersey was transferred back to the crown by the proprietors, and its settlements came under the control of Lord Cornbury, an appointee of Queen Anne. Under his administration, Peter Sennece collected the quit rents still due to the proprietors from the inhabitants living near Newark and throughout Bergen County, and appropriated the funds for himself.²

By 1755 population had increased sufficiently so that the

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings.

Number III, P. 30.

Clayton, op. cit., P. 166.

Andrew D. Sellick, Jr., The Story of an Old Farm.

New York Herald Tribune, June 24, 1934.

Office of the County Clerk, Hackensack, N.J. Liber A of Deeds, P. 40.

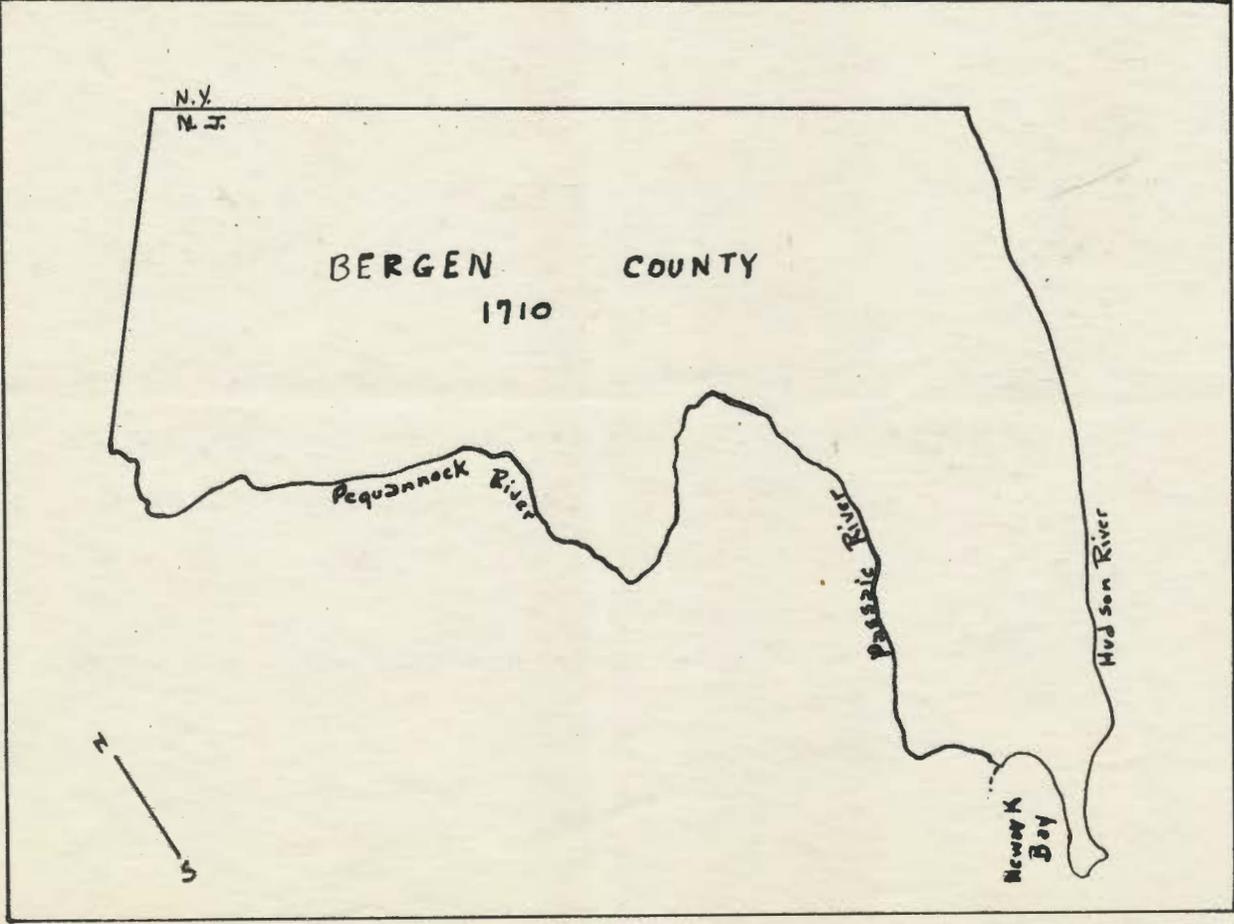
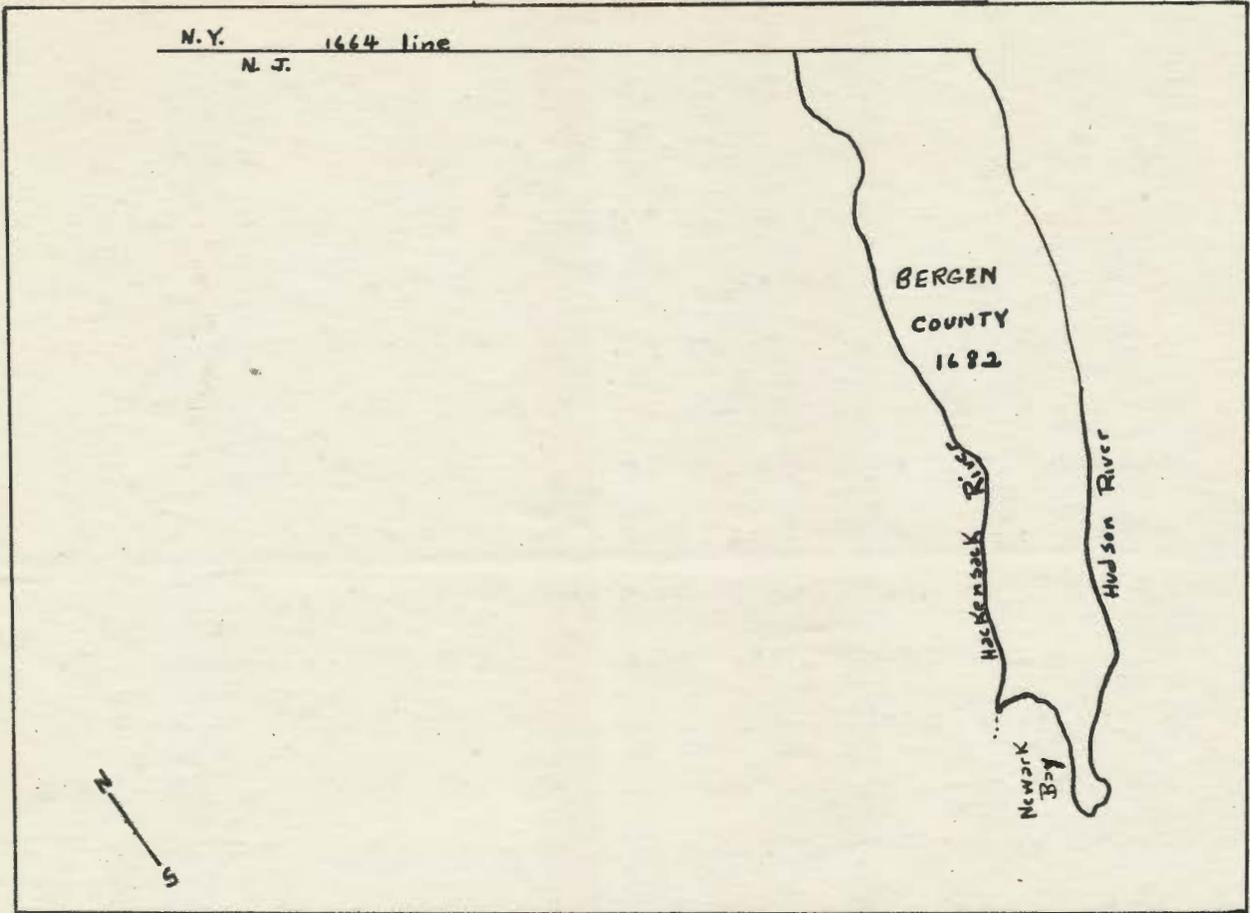
Romeyn, op. cit., P. 42.

Westervelt, Bergen County, P. 463, 464.

Francis A. Westervelt, Bergen County, New Jersey, Marriage

Records. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., New York. 1929.

2. Kemmerer, op. cit., P. 62, 63.



New Jersey assembly passed a law changing county boundaries and readjusting the apportionment of their representatives. The western boundary of Bergen County was moved to the Pequannock and Passaic Rivers. Five counties and three towns were each given the right to send two representatives to the assembly. In East Jersey, the counties of Bergen, Essex, Monmouth, Middlesex and Somerset, and the town of Perth Amboy were named; in West Jersey, the counties of Burlington, Gloucester, Salem and Cape May and the towns of Burlington and Salem.¹

In the controversies between the proprietary and anti-proprietary parties in the assembly, the Bergen County representatives (Henry Brockholst and David Ackerman) were among the eight who were expelled from the assembly in 1716 and declared ineligible for reelection. They had stayed away from meetings to prevent a quorum, since the proprietary party controlled the majority of the votes, then had hidden from the sergeant-at-arms sent to arrest them; and when given the opportunity to return to the assembly and apologize for their actions, they had refused to do so.²

In 1743 an attempt was made to have Bergen County surveyed, in order to have a definite record of the boundaries and area of the "common land" that still remained unassigned. The 31 landholders of the county agreed to such a survey, but it does not seem to have been made.³

1. Kennerser, Op. cit., P. 80.

2. Ibid., P. 103-104.

3. Winfield, Land Titles, P. 16-18.

By 1750 boats were carrying freight up and down the Hackensack River every day.¹ On its banks stood the homes of the Dutch, constructed of red sandstone quarried from the valley by slaves. The mortar was made of river mud and straw. Most of these had gambrel roofs, with overhanging eaves projecting beyond the front wall. In the late 1700's, the eaves were often extended, and upheld by columns to form a porch. The type of architecture of these homes is so distinctive that it has earned the name of "Jersey Dutch". The Dutch built well; about two hundred of these homes are still standing in northern New Jersey, the majority being in Bergen County. Four fine examples in or very near Teaneck are the Brinkerhoff-Demarest house, Teaneck Road, Teaneck; the Bogart house, River Road, Bogota; the Sabriskie-Stauben house, at New Bridge; and the Isaac Demarest house, near the Huguenot cemetery at New Bridge. Also located in Teaneck are the Fortune homestead (north wing); the Ackerman house; and the Sabriskie-Kipp-Cadmus house, all on River Road.²

The inhabitants of the Hackensack valley also gave their name to the language they spoke. To the combination of the dialects of the various provinces of Holland from which they had come, poor English and the inevitable changes caused by

1. Lane, op. cit., p. 63.

2. Demarest and Demarest, op. cit., pp. 432-433.

oral transmission to succeeding generations were added, resulting in "Jersey Dutch".¹

This area played very little part in the French and Indian War of 1754-1763. When the French and Indians seemed about to invade the Hudson valley, farmers from the northern counties of Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon signed petitions urging a stricter military training law and the raising of money to pay for troops. The fighting, however, touched only the northwest frontier of New Jersey, and with such a distance between themselves and danger, the farmers soon lost their enthusiasm for the war.²

Settlements were still so scattered that roads were few in number, and usually followed the river valleys,³ but in 1768 a stage was established by Andrew Van Buekirk which travelled on the road between Paulus Hook (Jersey City) and New Bridge twice a week, for a fare of two shillings six pence.⁴ Before the Revolutionary War, New Bridge was a busy commercial center. Its tavern served those who were waiting for the stage as well as those whose boats were being loaded with farm products for the trip down the Hackensack to New York city.

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings,

No. II, P. 29.

2. Hull, pp. slit., Vol. II, P. 236.

3. Laus, pp. slit., P. 53.

4. Ibid., P. 92.

kets.¹ During the war, most of this traffic was halted, except for the iron mined and forged at Ringwood for the Continental Army, which was placed on boats either here or at Old Bridge (River Edge) landing for shipment down the river.²

Many of the farmers in the vicinity of Teaneck, especially those of Dutch ancestry, were Tories during the Revolutionary period, and showed their loyalty to the King in many ways.³ When in 1774 the assembly of the province voted to appoint a Committee of Correspondence, which was to communicate with committees appointed in the other colonies concerning their mutual interest in England's colonial policies, Bergen County voted in the negative.⁴ In the same year, led by Essex County, the eastern counties of New Jersey held meetings at which delegates to a Provincial Convention were chosen. Bergen

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, No. III, P. 48.
2. Deareest and Deareest, op. cit., P. 461.
3. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, No. III, P. 48.
Kemperer, op. cit., P. 324.
Kull, op. cit., Vol. II, P. 478.
Parsons, Burgess and Hulse, op. cit., P. 9.
4. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, No. I, P. 18.
Fisher, op. cit., P. 443.

held its meeting at Hackensack, and elected five delegates,¹ but in the following year thirty seven citizens of Hackensack met and declared their loyalty to the King, promising to support him if necessary with their lives and fortunes.² The thirteen counties of New Jersey sent sixty five delegates to the First Provincial Congress in 1776. On their resolution that Governor William Franklin's³ proclamation of a meeting of the state legislature should not be obeyed,³ Bergen cast five of the eleven negative votes; on the resolution that Franklin had acted in contempt of the resolution of the Continental Congress that the colonies should frame independent governments for themselves, Bergen cast three of the eight negative votes; on a resolution that Franklin was an enemy of the colonies and should be arrested, Bergen again cast three negative votes; on the resolution that his salary should stop, a lone Bergen vote was the only negative one. When the third Provincial Congress

1. Fisher, op. cit., p. 444

Kemperer, op. cit., p. 319.

Francis Masley Lee, New Jersey as a Colony and as a State.

5 Vol. The Publishing Society of New Jersey, New York.

1902. Vol. II, p. 49.

2. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings,

No. 1, p. 16.

Lee, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 55.

3. William Franklin was a Tory, in spite of the fact that his father was the liberal Benjamin Franklin.

met, in June, 1776, it appointed delegates to the Continental Congress and empowered them to join in any movement for declaring the independence of the colonies, and the next month adopted a State Constitution by a vote of twenty six to nine. Bergen cast two of these negative votes. ¹

After the war started, Peaseack shared with the rest of central Jersey the marchings and countermarchings of the revolutionary armies. In the early days of the war, Washington, having retreated across the Hudson River after the battles in New York, expected the British to invade New Jersey. He decided to evacuate Fort Lee, which was too difficult to defend. Lundin describes the evacuation as follows: ²

"For once, Howe did not give his opponents leisure to complete their plans. At daybreak on November 20, [1776] a large force under Lord Cornwallis debarked unobserved at the foot of the Palisades a few miles north of Fort Lee, ascended a difficult and little used path to the top of the cliffs, and advanced upon the American post. Receiving news that the enemy were approaching, Greene sent posthaste to Hackensack for Washington; but when the commander in chief arrived he had little choice of action...if the soldiers stationed at Fort Lee were to escape the fate of their comrades across the river, there was no course open to them but a swift retreat.

"The order was given, and the Americans

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings,

No. 1, P. 15.

Kemperer, op. cit., P. 346.

2. Leonard Lundin, Backdrop of the Revolution. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 1940. Pp. 137-142.

streamed off in confusion, taking what baggage they could...For so large a body of troops the only practicable route of retreat was by way of the New Bridge, which crossed the river two or three miles above the village of Hackensack and was over six miles from the fort. Somewhat to the surprise of the Americans, the British had not seized this point, and most of the retreating soldiers under Washington crossed the river there..."

The only account of the actual route followed in this retreat was given in Thomas Paine's "The Crisis", from which, knowing the geography of the locality, it seems likely that the troops marched along the top of the Palisades to Liberty Pole Tavern, in the present city of Englewood, then turned westward through Teaneck to New Bridge. After a brief rest, the troops resumed their march, and the retreat across Jersey began.¹

In December, 1776, Howe's troops established winter quarters in a chain of camps stretching from Bordentown on the Delaware to Paulus Hook (Jersey City) on the Hudson. Two of these camps were located at Hackensack and at New Bridge.²

During the following years, the valley of the Hackensack was subject to constant raids by both sides, both for provisions and as retaliatory measures.³ New Jersey has been called the cockpit of the Revolution, and, as Hull said, "It was not only

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings,

No. II, Pp. 23, 24.

2. Lundin, op. cit., P. 168, 169.

3. Hull, op. cit., Vol. II, P. 421.

the cockpit in which the belligerents flew at each other, but was called upon to feed the cocks as well."¹ The fertile farms of the Hackensack valley were not overlooked by the foraging parties of either side. In addition to the activities of the regular troops, the valley was invaded frequently by guerrilla bands of Tories who came from Staten Island and New York to attack the easily accessible valleys of the Passaic, Maritan and Hackensack Rivers.² In 1775 the area of the present Teaneck, like the rest of the Hackensack valley, was stripped of whatever feed and forage they still possessed, for,

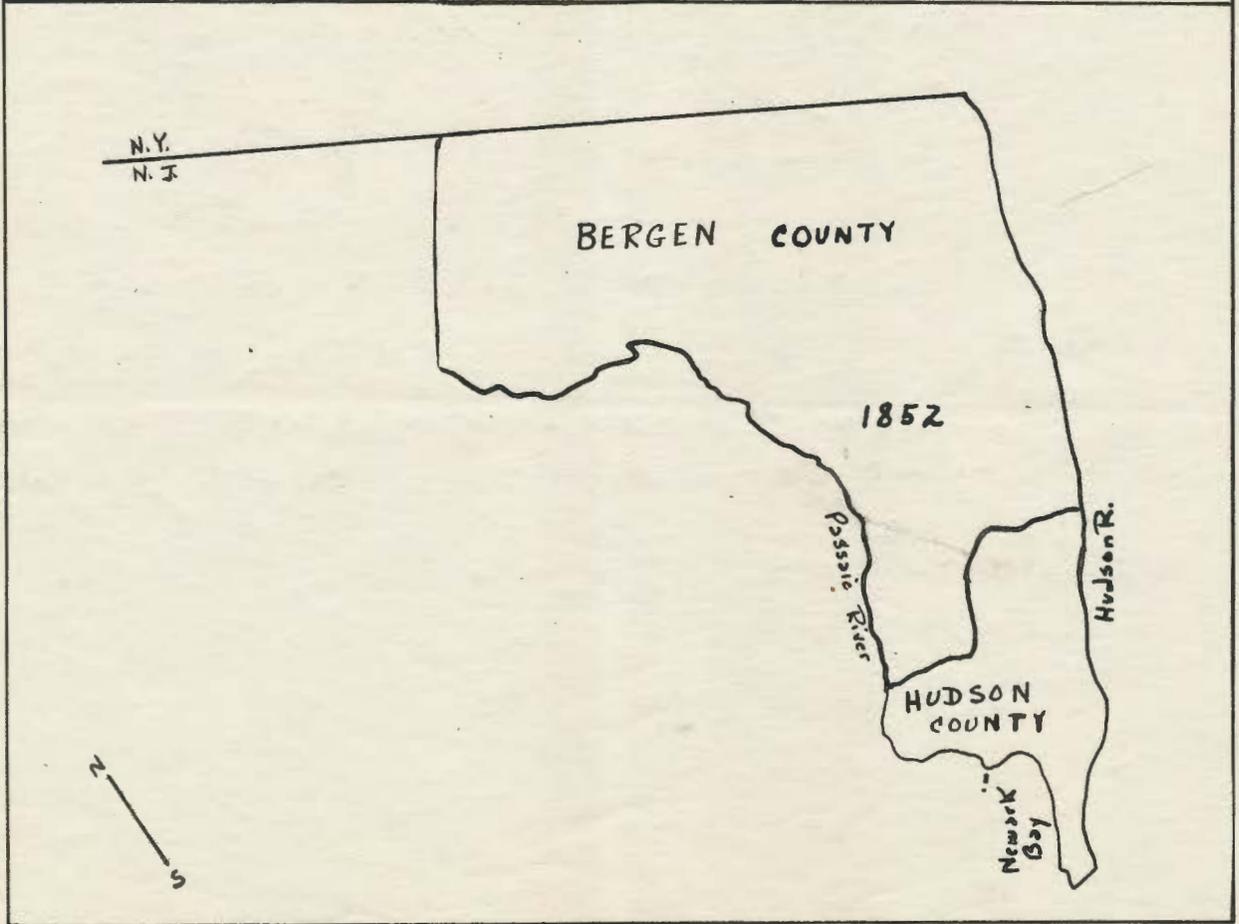
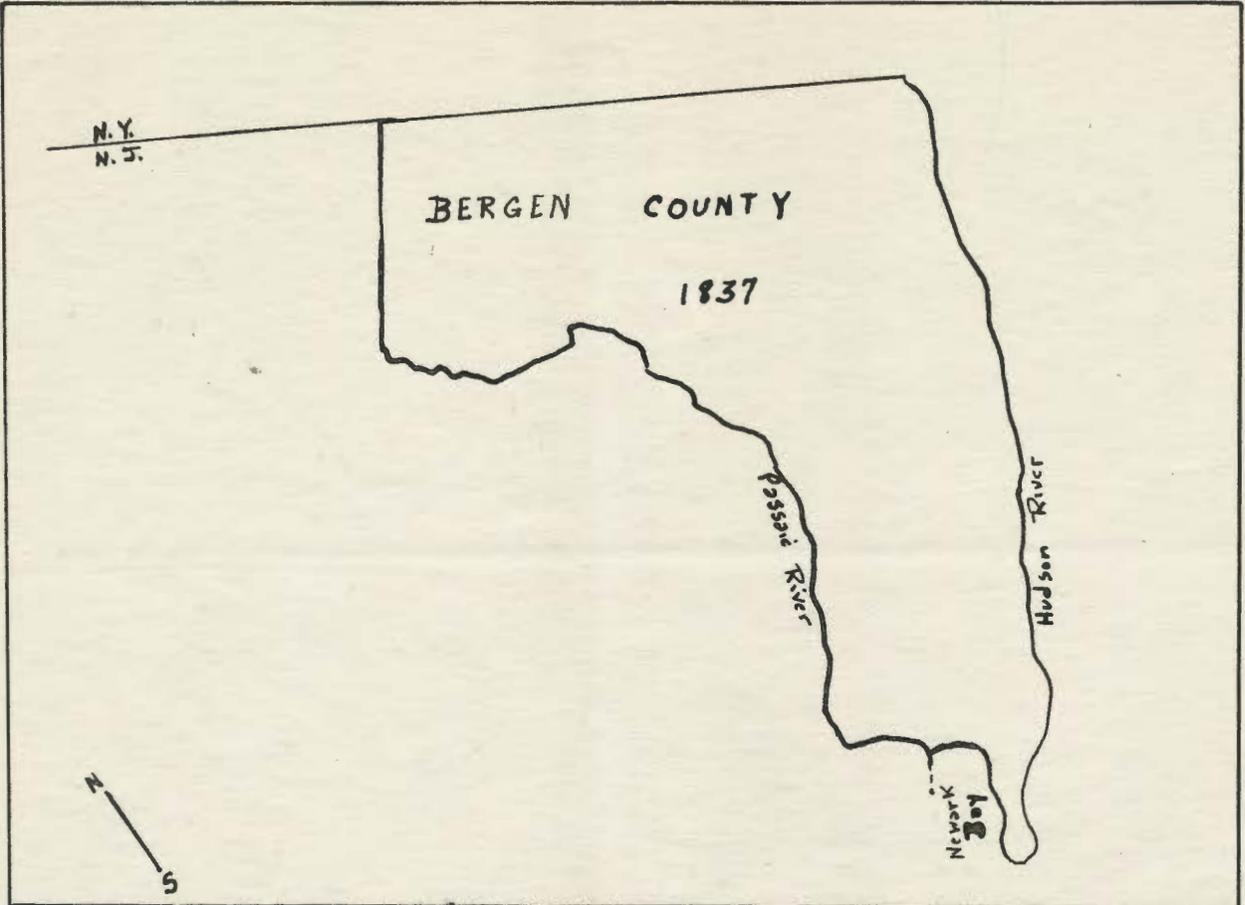
"...during the closing days of September and the first two weeks of October, the British swept the lower part of Bergen county clean of hay, corn, wheat and rye. While their fleet of sloops, schooners, gondolas and small water craft plied busily up and down the Hackensack, carrying their booty to larger vessels anchored in the Hills or directly to landings on British territory, two continental brigades under Lord Stirling watched helplessly, and bodies of hastily summoned, half-hearted militia, in which Stirling said 'the spirit of going home' was universal, looked on gloomily day after day and pestered their officers with clamor to return to their hungry, neglected families."³

In the late summer of 1779, troops under Major Henry Lee (Light Horse Harry Lee) made a rapid trip south from Paramus and captured Paulus Hook, then in order to avoid being cut off from the rest of the army, marched with their prisoners to the banks of the Hackensack, through Teaneck,

1. Hull, op. cit., Vol. II, P. 470.

2. Parsons, Burgess and Hulce, op. cit., P. 9.

3. Lundin, op. cit., P. 410.



Between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, the population of the Township of Hackensack (which included the present Teaneck) grew slowly but steadily, as the figures below show: ¹

1810	-	1918
1820	-	2076
1830	-	2200
1840	-	2631
1850	-	3506
1855	-	4164
1860	-	5488

The following paragraph describes it in 1840: ²

"The township was then ten miles long and from three to five miles wide. It then supplied the New York markets with garden vegetables. Its annual sales of these products amounted to nearly \$48,000, a large township income at that day, more than doubling that of any other township in that county. Its four bridges crossed the Hackensack River, viz., at Hackensack Village, New Milford, Old Bridge and New Bridge. At these places and at Schraalenburgh [Pusent], Closter, and Mount Clinton were a few dwellings, scarcely enough even to call any of them a hamlet."

In contrast to the above paragraph, the growth of industry in the southern tip of Bergen County had created such a demand for labor that immigrants had increased the population greatly, and in 1840 it was set off as a separate county under the name of "Hudson". ³ In 1852 the boundaries of Bergen County

1. New Jersey, Compendium of Statistics, 1726-1908. The John L. Murphy Publishing Company, Trenton. 1908. P. 13.
2. Clayton, op. cit., P. 77.
3. Kull, op. cit., Vol. II, P. 387.
Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, P. 97, 98.

were changed for the last time, and were set as they remain today.¹

The schools, too, were changing between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, to keep pace with the growing population. Previous to 1846, schools were controlled by the townships in which they were located.² In that year the state created the office of Township Superintendent, and required each township to raise by taxation a sum of money at least equal to that supplied to the township by the state for educational purposes. John Van Brunt was township superintendent of Hackensack township during the entire time this law was in effect; that is, from 1846-1867.³

The first regular school in the vicinity of Teaneck seems to have been held at New Bridge, in the chair shop of James Perdy, in 1822, and was taught by a man named Silfillan.⁴ By 1843, according to a report read at the annual town meeting of Hackensack township in that year by Mr. Van Brunt, there were three school districts within the present area of Teaneck. The first, a continuation of the above school, was located near New Bridge. The average number of scholars was thirty four, and the tuition, which was spent for the education of children of the poor and for the expenses of the schoolhouse, ranged

1. Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. 1, P. 98.

2. Ibid., Vol. 1, P. 211.

3. Ibid., Vol. 1, P. 212.

4. Clayton, op. cit., P. 204.

from a dollar and a half to two dollars.¹ In the second, at Lower Teaneck, twenty eight of the fifty six children of the district were being taught.² The third boasted a two story frame building costing three hundred dollars and was located in Upper Teaneck, on the southeast corner of Teaneck Road and Forest Avenue. The timber, stone, sand and labor were furnished by the residents of the district, who also raised part of the money by subscription. The average number of students was thirty eight, and the tuition was a dollar and a half.³ In 1831 the taxpayers of the district voted to incorporate the trustees, and the school was named the "Teaneck Institute". The salary paid to the first teacher under this incorporation, S. L. Van Soun, was sixty dollars per quarter.⁴

Transportation facilities, too, increased between the Revolutionary and Civil wars. Stages still continued to be popular, for in 1783 John Ackerman had a line running from New Bridge to Fort Lee,⁵ and by 1808 a stage was making a round trip daily between Liberty Pole Tavern to Hoboken.⁶ In the

1. Clayton, op. cit., p. 77.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, p. 211.

2. Clayton, op. cit., p. 78.

3. Ibid., pp. 78, 263, 264.

4. Clayton, op. cit., p. 264.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, p. 220.

5. Ibid., Vol. I, p. 275.

6. Clayton, op. cit., p. 260.

early 1800's the state legislature incorporated many turnpike companies, and about 550 miles of road were built in central and northern Jersey. One of these turnpikes served the Teaneck area since it went from Hoboken ferry landing to Hackensack.¹ The early 1800's was also an era of bridge building, and by 1832 Hackensack Township was connected with New Barbados township by four drawbridges over the Hackensack River.² After 1850, railroads began to be established. In 1854 the Northern Railroad was operating one train a day from Jersey City to the New York state line, carrying both freight and commuters.³

In 1861 the Civil War began. New Jersey had been a large slave holding state in the past, having within its borders in 1800, a peak year, 12,422 slaves. Of all the counties, Bergen owned the largest number of slaves; 2,325, or about one sixth of its population in that same year. By 1847, however, the legislature had abolished slavery, making all existing slaves

1. Lane, op. cit., P. 147-151.

2. Clayton, op. cit., P. 86.

Thomas F. Gordon, A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey, and A History of New Jersey from its Discovery by Europeans to the Adoption of the Federal Constitution. Daniel Pelton, Trenton. 1834. P. 153.

3. Clayton, op. cit., P. 89.

Lane, op. cit., Pp. 380-381.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. II, P. 511.

lifelong apprentices (unless manumitted by their former owners) and freeing all children born of such parents after that year.¹

On August 4, 1862, Lincoln ordered three hundred thousand militia to be drafted. New Jersey's quota of 10,478 was entirely filled by volunteers. The Twenty Second Regiment, consisting of 38 officers and 893 enlisted men was composed almost entirely of Bergen County residents. It was mustered into service on September 22nd and disbanded on June 25th, when the nine months enlistment period was completed. This Regiment saw service mainly in the state of Virginia.²

Although the present area of Teaneck for several years after the Civil War contained only scattered farmhouses along the Hackensack River and about a dozen homes on Teaneck road,³ the population of Hackensack Township as a whole had increased by 1870 to 8038 people,⁴ and in 1871 the state legislature divided it into Palisade, Ridgefield, and Englewood townships.⁵ Teaneck

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings, No. IV, Pp. 28, 29.
Lee, op. cit., Vol. IV, P. 41.
2. Clayton, op. cit., P. 137.
John V. Foster, New Jersey and the Rebellion. Martin S. Dennis & Co., Newark. 1868. Pp. 487, 497-499.
3. Interview with Mr. Frank A. de Ronde of Teaneck, March 1941.
4. New Jersey, Compendium of Censuses, P. 13.
5. Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, Pp. 257, 271, 287, and 303.

was included in the latter two townships until 1895, when it became the independent "Township of Teaneck",¹ with a population of 511 persons.² By 1904 the records of a town meeting declared that of the approximately 140 voters in the township, 124 were present to elect new township officials.³ Such meetings were held in the school house built on the corner of Teaneck Road and Forest Avenue in 1869. After Washington Irving School was erected adjacent to it in 1907, the entire building was used as a Town Hall, and in 1926, when the new municipal building was completed, it was moved to Bedford Avenue where it now serves as the headquarters of the Captain Stephen T. Schoemaker Post, No. 1439, V.F.W.⁴

Social life after the Civil War was typical of a quiet farming community. In 1869 William Walter Phelps came to Teaneck. According to Van Valen,⁵

"His estate included thousands of acres of field, slope and hill, intersected by macadamized roads, shaded by forests and ornamental trees. The quaint, low rambling wooden structure flanked on the south by an ornate one of stone containing drawing rooms, picture gallery, etc., the whole surrounded by spacious grounds beautified by rare plants and flowering shrubs was for years the home residence of the family."

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1. See appendix for text of act creating the Township of Teaneck.
 2. New Jersey, Compendium of Censuses, p. 14.
 3. Bergen Evening Record, March 3, 1904.
 4. Township of Teaneck, op. cit., passim.
 5. James H. Van Valen, ed., History of Bergen County. New York Publishing and Engraving Co., New York, 1900. Pp. 639, 640.

This mansion, built on the present site of the municipal building, was destroyed by fire in 1889. The family then moved to another large house located on the present site of the Holy Name Hospital. The driveways mentioned above, about thirty five miles in all, were open to the public and were the only good roads to Hackensack and to the Northern Railroad station at Englewood.¹ As late as 1903 a drag hunt was held on the estate, showing the extent of open land still remaining at that time.²

Schools, too, changed after the Civil War. In 1867 the office of county superintendent of schools was created by the state legislature, and Alexander Cass, who had taught in the Upper Teaneck school for about ten years, was made the first superintendent for Bergen County.³ Between 1871 and 1895, Teaneck students attended one of three schools. Lower Teaneck residents went to one room Ridgefield School No. 5. Upper Teaneck scholars used the school erected in 1869 on the corner of Teaneck Road and Forest Avenue, while those in the vicinity of New Bridge attended New Bridge school. The latter two schools, belonging to the township of Englewood, each contained two rooms.⁴ When Teaneck Township was formed in 1895, these districts were

1. Interview with Mr. Frank S. de Ronde of Teaneck, March 1941.

2. Bergen Evening Record, October 10, 1903.

3. Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. 1, P. 214.

4. Clayton, pp. 211., P. 264.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. 1, P. 216.

Teanack Township was formed in 1898, these districts were numbered 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The New Bridge school was soon abandoned and the students transported to district 2, where in 1907 a new school, called Washington Irving School, was constructed. This is the oldest school building now in use. From that time to the present a constant building program has been carried on, and today Teanack has seven elementary schools, a combined Junior-Senior high school, and a parochial school, with a total school population of about 5,000 students.¹

Prior to the Civil War, the residents of Teanack who wished to attend church, except for those who belonged to the Lutheran Church previously mentioned, travelled to neighboring communities such as Dumont or New Barbados (Hackensack). Soon after the war, the Washington Avenue Union Sunday School was held in the old Town Hall, but it was not until after 1860 that churches began to be established.² At the present time Teanack is served by the following churches, in the approximate order of their organization: Teanack Presbyterian Church, the Teanack Methodist Episcopal Church, Church of the Epiphany, Smith Community Church, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the Baha'i Center, the Norwegian Evangelical Free Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Phelps Manor Methodist Episcopal Church, Grace Lutheran Church and the Jewish Community Center.³

1. Township of Teanack, op. cit., p. 11.

2. Interview with Mr. Frank S. de Bende of Teanack, March 1941.

3. Township of Teanack, op. cit., pp. 14-18.

Transportation facilities increased steadily in the years following the Civil War. In 1869 the Northern Railroad, previously mentioned, was leased to the Erie Railway Company, by which it is controlled today. ¹ Abraham de Bondé, an old commuter on this line, once said: ²

"These were the happy days back in '75 1876 when as a seventeen year old boy, I used to tramp through mud, sleet, and snow all the way from Teaneck, where I was living, to the old Nordhoff Station, which has since been changed to Sheffield Avenue [South Englewood]".

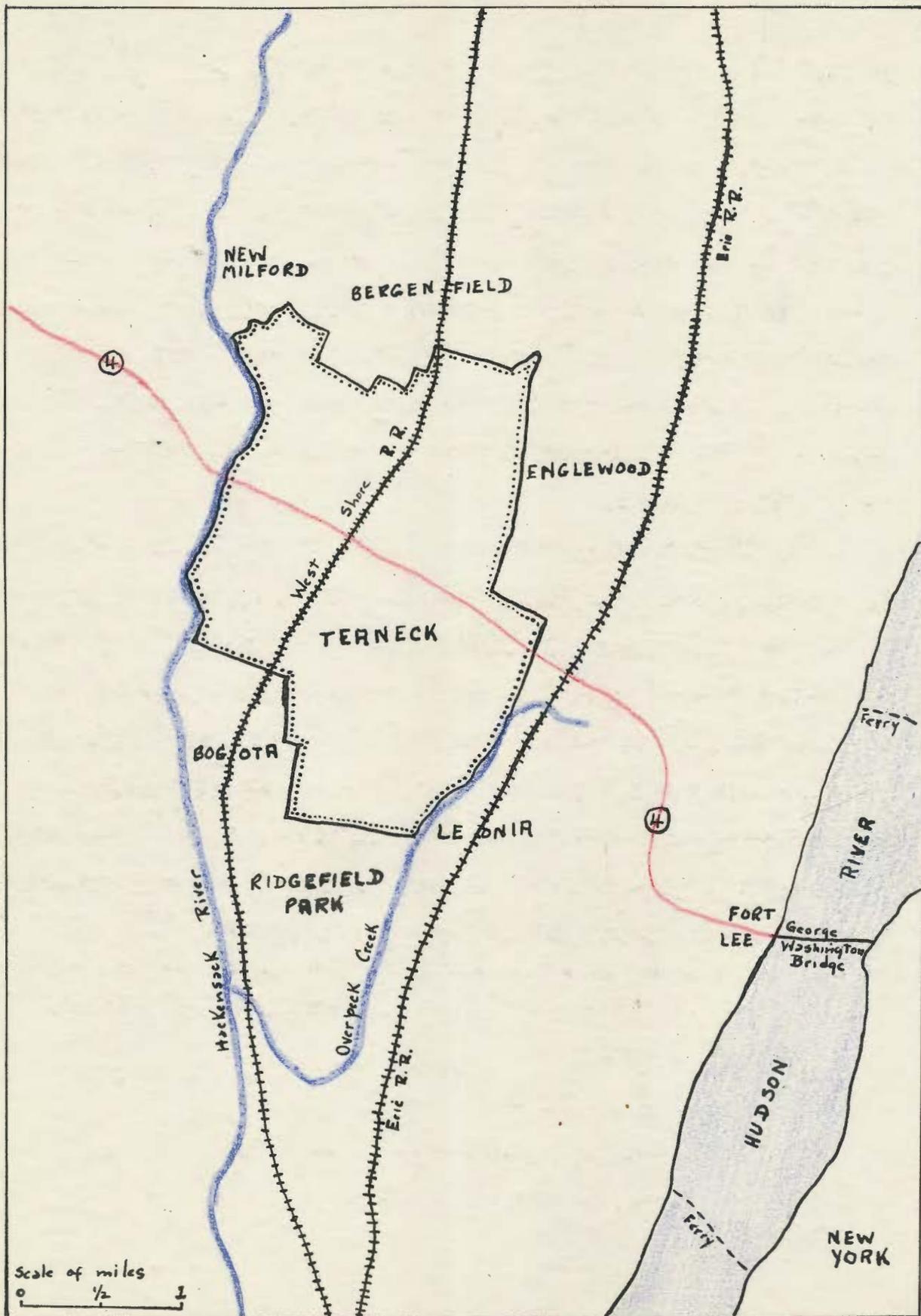
Few Teaneck residents use this railroad now, as the commuter has a choice of nearer, more convenient means of reaching his place of work. In 1873 the Ridgefield Park Railroad Company ran trains from Tappan to Ridgefield Park, where the cars were switched to the Susquehanna Railroad for the remainder of the trip to Jersey City. It was a financial failure, as was the Jersey City and Albany Railroad which followed it, although this latter company extended the tracks to Haverstraw. By 1876 the line was foreclosed. In 1883 it reopened as the West Shore Railroad, and again the revenue did not cover the operating costs. This time, however, without interrupting the traffic or changing the name of the line, it was transferred to the New York Central system and has been

1. Clayton, op. cit., p. 88.

Lane, op. cit., p. 331.

2. Dorothy C. Hott, Boys and Girls of New Jersey Now and Long Ago. Howard Schenck Hott, Jr., Tenafly. 1935. p. 123.

TEANECK TODAY



running ever since.¹ There are two stations of this road in Teaneck. Most of the passengers are daily commuters who travel to the terminal at Weehawken then take a ferry to New York City, where they work. After 1931 the railroad has had to meet constantly increasing competition from the bus companies, for in that year the long awaited George Washington Bridge across the Hudson was completed,² and the busses, using State Highway Route 4, which runs through Teaneck, and the bridge, could deliver their passengers cheaply and quickly to the New York City subway systems.

The federal census shows clearly how Teaneck has changed in recent years. The population in 1900 was 768; in 1910, 2,082; in 1920, 4,192; in 1930, 10,513; and in 1940, 25,272. The main reason for this increase in population is that the above mentioned improvements in transportation have made it possible for those who work in the industries and offices of the metropolitan area of New York City to "own a home in the country". Teaneck has thus become a suburban town, a residential community, and as such its continuous growth seems assured.

1. Bergen County Historical Society, Papers and Proceedings.

No. X, Pp. 52-56.

Clayton, op. cit., P. 89.

Westervelt, Bergen County, Vol. I, P. 157.

2. Englewood Press, October 23, 1931.

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APPENDIX

"An act to create a township in the County of Bergen to be called the Township of Teaneck.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey that all that portion of the township of Englewood, and of the boroughs of Leonia and Bogota, in the Township of Ridgefield, in the county of Bergen, lying within the following boundaries, to wit: beginning at the Hackensack River where the same is intersected by the center line of the road leading from New Bridge to Schraalenberg, being the dividing line between the township of Englewood and Palisades; running thence (1) in a generally easterly direction along the center line of the said road to the westerly line of the borough of Bergen Fields (the same being the westerly line of the farm land of the estate of Peter Baker, deceased, lying on the southerly side of said road); thence (2) along the line of the borough of Bergen Fields, first southerly and then in a generally easterly direction until it meets the division line between the township of Englewood and Palisades, and then continuing along said division line to a point distant easterly 2,500 feet from the easterly line of the Teaneck road, measured at right angles therefrom; thence (3) southerly, and parallel with the Teaneck road and distant 2,500 feet therefrom, to a point 500 feet south of the southerly line of Railroad Avenue,

measured at right angles therefrom; thence (4) easterly, and parallel with Railroad Avenue and 300 feet distant therefrom, to a point distant 200 feet westerly from the center of the Overpeck Creek Canal, measured at right angles therefrom; thence (5) southerly, and parallel to said canal and distant 200 feet therefrom, to the center of Cedar Lane road; thence (6) easterly along the center of said road to the center of the said Overpeck Creek Canal; thence (7) southerly along the center of the Overpeck Canal and the center of the Overpeck Creek to the northerly line of the Village of Ridgefield Park extended to the center of said creek; thence (8) westerly to and along said northerly line of the Village of Ridgefield Park (the same being the southerly line of land late of Cornelius Van Velen and of Jasper Westervelt) to the easterly line of the borough of Bogota (being 150 feet easterly from the Queen Ann Road;); thence (9) northerly, following said borough line and parallel with said road and 150 feet distant therefrom, to the center line of the Hackensack and Fort Lee Road; thence (10) westerly along the center of the said Hackensack and Fort Lee road to the division line between the farms belonging to the estate of John De Gray, deceased, and the land of George Foster (the same being about 777 feet westerly along said road, from center of Westfield Avenue); thence (11) northerly along said division line between the said farms of John D. Gray, deceased, on the east, and the land of George Foster and the land of Ralph Bogart, on the west,

and along the said division line projected in the same course, across the land of Albert S. Bogert and the land of the estate of Peter P. Bogert, deceased, to the land of the estate of William Walter Phelps, deceased; thence (12) westerly along the division line between the farm of the estate of Peter P. Bogert, deceased, on the south, and the land of the estate of William Walter Phelps, deceased, and the farm of Jacob Terhune, on the north, to the Hackensack river; thence (13) northerly along the Hackensack River to the point of beginning; shall be and is hereby set off from the said township of Englewood and boroughs of Leonia and Bogota and the township of Ridgefield and shall be and is hereby created a separate township to be called and known as the township of Teaneck."

Public Laws, 1898, Chapter 37, page 828. From copy in vertical file, Teaneck Public Library.