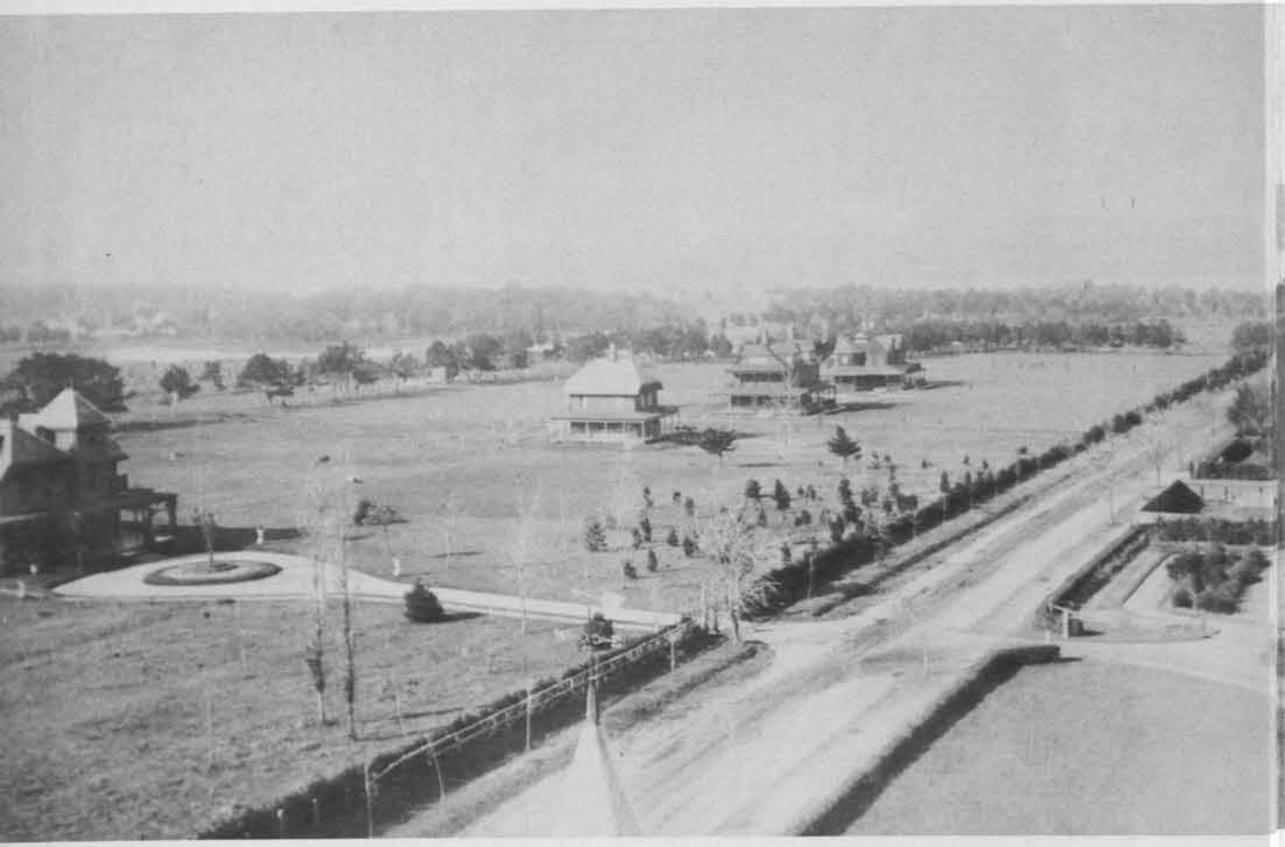
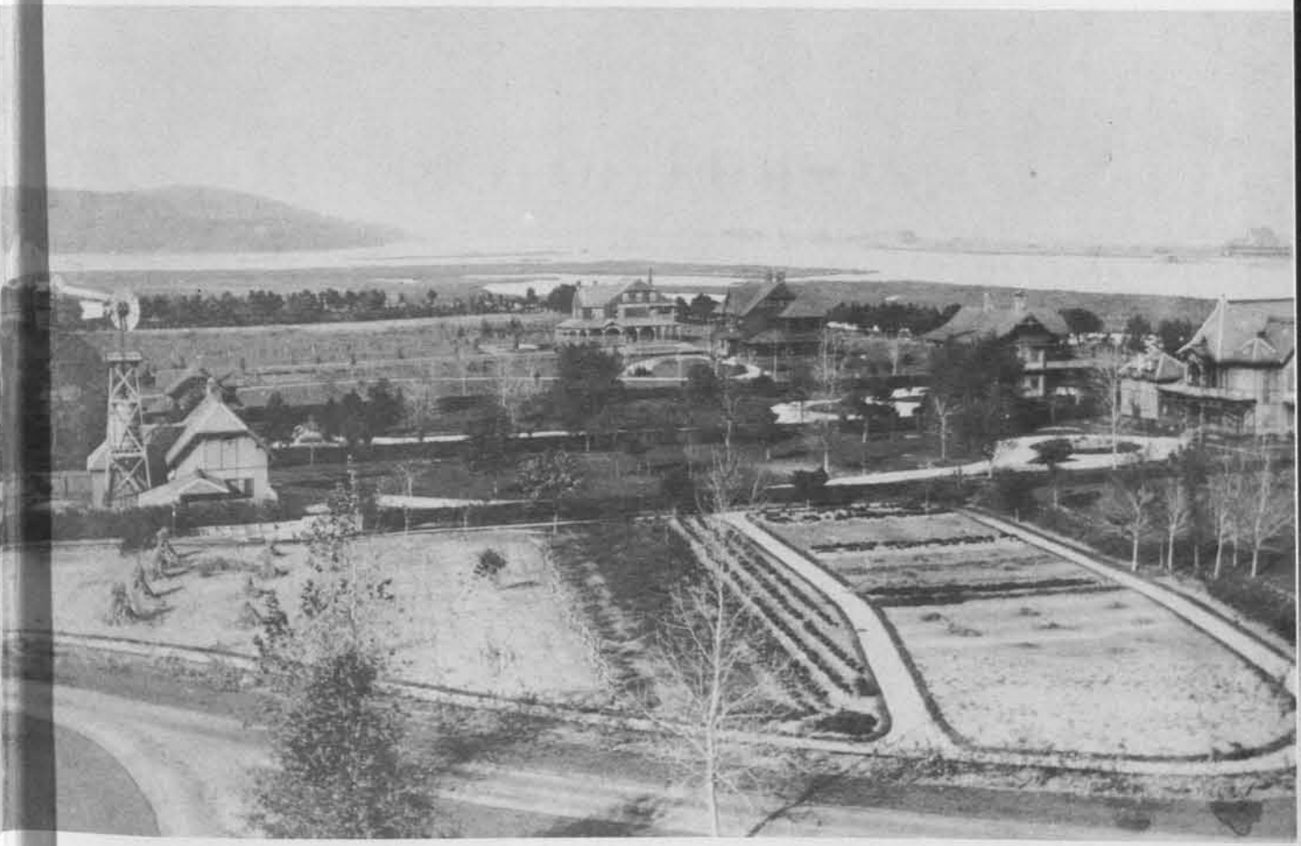




HISTORY OF RUMSON

1665-1965

THE RUMSON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
RUMSON, NEW JERSEY

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This book is dedicated to The People of Rumson, past and present, who have labored unceasingly to make their borough a pleasant place in which to live.



FOREWORD

Like the original edition in 1944, this three hundredth commemorative edition in 1965 is the result of the efforts of the citizens of the Borough of Rumson, many of whom because of limited space cannot be given proper recognition for their assistance in preparing this volume.

Most of all, the editors of and contributors to the first volume are to be thanked by the present committee for their fine work, upon which this volume is based. Characteristic of our "progress" since 1944 are the increased costs of book publishing, which have caused this volume to be considerably shortened and the number of articles to be decreased. For this the committee is very regretful, but it is hoped that both new and old residents of the Borough will find herein much information of interest.

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History of Rumson, 1665-1965

This book is a revised edition of the volume prepared by the Rumson Historical Committee in 1944, which was "a collection of historical information by the students of the Rumson High School, Rumson, N. J., interested citizens of the community, and the School faculty."

The 1944 Historical Committee appointed by the Board of Education was

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Chapter 1

INDIANS AND EXPLORERS

(Charles A. Wolbach)

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

The Indians who inhabited New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and part of Virginia, were members of the large tribe known as Delawares. The Delawares belong to a larger Indian family known as Algonquins, all of whom had some common characteristics in language and customs. In Indian language, the Delaware was a Lenapé or "real man." The prefix Lenni placed emphasis on the importance of the Lenapé, therefore Lenni-Lenapé in Indian talk means a "man of all men."

The Lenapé tradition and legend is explained in Brinton's book,[1] which is now a rare edition and found in only a few libraries. The legend which is in Indian characters that have been deciphered states that the Lenapé originated far to the west where the ocean washed the shores. This may

[1] Brinton, D. G., The Lenape and the Legend, published by Brinton, Philadelphia, 1885.

mean the Pacific Ocean. From thence he journeyed eastward in search of the Indian paradise which existed in a land near the rising sun. After many hardships he reached the Great Water which is believed to be the Great Lakes.

At the Lakes, the original Indian tribes split into several parts. One branch journeyed southeast and is believed to have founded the Shawnees of the southeastern United States. Another branch journeyed through Canada and the northeastern United States. From these Indians originated the Iroquois and some of the New England tribes. The Lenapé continued eastward until they reached the valleys of the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Potomac east of the Alleghenies. They claimed the seashore from New York to the Virginia Capes.

The particular sub-tribe which claimed the seashore and adjacent territory in Middletown and Shrewsbury Townships as far south as the Manasquan River was the Navesinks. Their sacred animal, or totem, was the Unami (turtle). To them the turtle had a special religious meaning and the tatoo mark of every Unami was readily distinguished from the Minsi (Wolf), or the Unalachtgo (Turkey) of two other branches of the Lenapé family. The three branches of the Lenapé lived peacefully in New Jersey and adjacent states for many years. The Minsi, also called Munceys, were of necessity more warlike because their hunting grounds in Northern Pennsylvania and New Jersey did border on those of the Iroquois who were not very friendly. The Navesink had a peaceful existence along the Jersey shore and never gave any trouble to the early white settlers unless he was mistreated. Like most Indians he acquired early the habit of drinking too much of the white man's rum.

The Navesink Indians had a village near Middletown when the white man came. Evidences of Indian villages have also been found at Black Point in Rumson Neck, at Branchport near Long Branch, on Port-au-Peck, and places further inland. Indian trails from the Highlands and Black Point are mentioned in the early surveys for roads, and the present Rumson

Road follows the Indian trail which extended from Black Point to Little Silver to Shrewsbury to Tinton Falls where it connected with the main Indian trail known later as the Burlington Path or Road. The main Burlington Trail ended at Branchport where many Indian relics and heaps of oyster shells show that Indians lived or camped in large numbers.

The Burlington Trail followed the same route as one would take now from Tinton Falls to Freehold to Crosswicks to Burlington. At Crosswicks lived the great sachem or chief of many of the Lenapé tribes in this section. The largest permanent Indian village in New Jersey is supposed to have been located there. Another large, permanent Indian Village was located on Minisink Island on the upper Delaware. The Minisink trail started there and crossed New Jersey in a southeasterly direction. A main branch of this latter trail terminated at the Highlands across the river from Rumson. Mr. Jesse Howland relates how he found Indian relics and skeletons at Black Point which was the end of the Indian Trail on the Rumson Neck. The presence of heaps of oyster shells, skeletons, and other objects shows that the Indians remained near the seashore for the summer months and possibly all year. There is no evidence that any farming was done so near the shore, but Indian villages and fields are mentioned near Middletown and points further inland.

The Indians loved to eat oysters and clams. The shells were used for the making of money (peaque) and ornaments. The dark and the shiniest parts of the shell were used for commercial purposes and the rest of the shell thrown on the refuse heaps which are so common along our shore and river banks. The Navesink Indian literally buried his dead in oyster shells according to Howland, who dug up some skeletons while excavating for the Shippen house at Black Point in Rumson. Just how the Indian dried or cured clams and oysters is not known exactly. He did string them and use them for food farther inland during the winter months.

It is interesting to note that the Indian's wife did most of the heavy work, such as farming and hauling, while her husband kept the family

larder supplied with wild game. Indian farming was crude as compared to present day methods. Near the Indian villages were some fields which were permanently cleared of trees and brush. When planted for one season only, the trees were girdled so that they died and allowed sunlight to reach the ground. The Indians had many vegetables and provisions which were new to the white man because they were native in America. Among the purely American grown eatables were potatoes, corn, squash, string beans, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and artichokes. Tobacco was an Indian product which has become the white man's favorite stimulant.

The Indian lacked metal tools for cutting and digging and had no domestic animal for hauling except his dog and wife. His wife and dog were always loaded down when he moved his belongings from one place to another. The dog's load was usually on a sled or sledge, while the woman carried her youngest child and her household belongings on her back. Indian civilization was still in the stone age.

The Lenapé lived in bark houses called long houses by some writers. To cut and prepare his timber for houses, he used a stone ax or hatchet. For boards he removed the bark from trees and flattened it out. The bark served as siding and roofing for his house. Sturdy stakes, some with forks, helped to hold up the sides and roof. Wooden pegs and the strong inner strip of bark from trees were used to hold the bark and supports in place. Parker[2] gives a detailed description with drawings of an Indian house which he helped to construct. He was descended from Indians and spent much time with the Indians when he gathered material for his very instructive book.

Before the Indian had metal tools, he used fire extensively to help fell large trees and to make dugout canoes from large logs. He would build a fire at the base of the tree to char and sear the wood which he could then hack away with a stone ax. To prevent the fire from burning too far up the trunk, he applied wet clay or moss around the trunk above the fire. When clearing a field for a permanent place to plant corn, tobacco, beans,

[2] Parker—The Indian How Book, Doubleday-Doran, 1928.

etc., he might burn off all the trees. For temporary planting he would simply girdle the trees so that lack of sap would kill them.

To build a large dugout canoe, he used fire to char the wood before he used his stone ax. Wet clay or water were used to stop the fire from burning too large an area. He was also a good builder of bark canoes. The building of a bark canoe is described in detail by Parker.[3] This skill is now almost a lost art, although the writer saw Indians build birch bark canoes at Old Town, Maine, a few years ago.

The student of Indian lore will not be satisfied with the brief account that has been given here of the Navesink Indians. He will travel to the Freehold and Newark Museums to see the collections of Indian relics, etc., that have been found in New Jersey. Mr. Charles Philhower of Westfield, who is one of America's foremost authorities on Indian culture, has personally excavated many Indian relics on the site of the Minisink Village on the Delaware. Many of his findings have been published and valuable relics given to the Newark Museum of the New Jersey Historical Society.

The Lenapé lived close to Mother Nature. His wants were simple. He shared his food supply with his neighbor and even with strangers. He was hospitable to the white man who was not used to life in the wilderness. The Lenapés are described in Lewis'[4] history as peace-loving and agricultural rather than the warrior type. If aroused or treated unfairly, they would resort to war. Fortunately they were not overcrowded and had a very large area in their possession. Their nearest enemies were the Iroquois of New York and Northern Pennsylvania and possibly the Shawnees of the South. The Lenapés seldom fought with each other. There was plenty of room for all the subtribes. The language and customs of the many subtribes were similar enough so that all could understand each other. Trade by the barter method was practiced between tribes. Primitive life was simple and there was plenty of wild game to supplement the farm products.

The white man learned many new things from the Indians and survived

[3] Op. Cit., p. 35.
[4] History of Monmouth County, Lewis Historical Pub. Co., New York, 1922, Vol. I, p. 10.

many a hard winter at first because the Indian was willing to share or trade food for the white man's wares (often rum). The white man became fond of potatoes, corn and numerous new farm products and raised them in his own garden and farm after he learned from the Indian how to prepare the soil and plant the seed.

The Indian was amazed at the cutting tools, such as axes, chisels, knives, and plows that the white man brought to America. The Indian soon adopted the ways of the white man and abandoned his inefficient stone tools in favor of the metal ones. The primitive Indian wore little clothing in summer, but sought some protection in winter by wrapping an animal skin around his shivering body. He was fascinated by clothing and sold to the white man thousands of acres for shirts or coats.

The Indian had no horses, cows, pigs, sheep, or any of our common domestic animals with the exception of dogs and sometimes turkeys. Dogs had been domesticated from wolves and turkeys from the wild variety. His lack of horses or beasts of burden, except his wife and dog, was a serious handicap. In winter he might use a dog sled to transport produce over land. In summer he would be limited to burdens that his wife might carry. If the Indian hunter shot a deer at some distance from the village, he might bring it to some predetermined spot outside the camp. Then he would sneak home and send his wife to bring it in under cover of darkness so that he might enjoy some of it for himself and family. If he had brought home a deer in broad daylight, the whole village would have declared a feast and the hard-working hunter would have had none for himself. This procedure does not imply that the Indian was selfish. On the contrary he was generous and willing to provide food and shelter to friend or foe. He did not like anyone to impose on his good nature, however, and believed in some of the personal rights which we also claim.

The excavations by Howland and others, while building docks and other structures along the shores, show that the ocean washed directly on the Rumson shore along Sea Bright. Sea Bright's sandy peninsula from Monmouth Beach north did not exist or was just starting to form northward from the outlet of the South Shrewsbury River near Portaupeck. The South Shrewsbury River flowed into the ocean below Sea Bright and the Navesink (Shrewsbury) River entered the ocean just north of Sea Bright at Black Point (Passage Point). As recently as 400 years ago, the sand bar which is now Sea Bright and Sandy Hook was practically non-existent. The Sandy Hook sand bar was connected then to the Highlands and was very small as compared to its size now. Within the last two hundred years the two outlets and later one outlet of the two rivers (Navesink and Shrewsbury) have closed permanently and the rivers cut across the Sandy Hook peninsula and enter the bay at the Highlands.

Several of our older residents may remember the time when the ocean broke through at Sea Bright so that ships could pass in and out to the ocean. Kobbe,[5] and Woolman and Rose [6] both give dates at which important changes took place in the Shrewsbury exits to the ocean. In 1778 the sand bar which had been building northward from Sea Bright partially closed the river's outlet to the ocean so that the river started to cut across the isthmus connecting Sandy Hook to the Highland. That Sandy Hook was connected by land to the Highlands is verified by a map of 1777. Boats from the Shrewsbury River used the inner outlet to the bay after 1810 in preference to the ocean entrance which was considered dangerous in the days of sailing vessels.

A storm in 1831 almost closed the inner outlet to the bay. A digging crew was organized to assist the river in restoring the opening across the Sandy Hook isthmus at the Highlands. By 1840 the inner passage was

[5] The New Jersey Coast and Pines, DeLeeuw & Oppenheimer Press, N. Y., 1889.
[6] Historical and Biographical Atlas of the N. J. Coast, Phila., 1878.

restored and the ocean inlet almost closed. At various times from 1831 to 1870, boats used openings directly into the ocean especially in winter when the water in the inner bay was frozen. For a time both Shrewsbury rivers had separate openings. Since 1870 the openings to the ocean have been closed and the beach protected by a sea wall. A railroad was built along the narrow coastal strip in 1865 from Long Branch to Sandy Hook.

The tides, ocean currents, and storms along the East Jersey coast seem to transport annually tons and tons of sand and other material along our coast in a northerly direction. Sand from the beach at Long Branch is carried to Monmouth Beach to Sea Bright to Sandy Hook. This process has been going on for hundreds of years and explains how the sand bar at North Long Branch finally choked the entrances of the two rivers and formed the sand bar on which some of Monmouth Beach, Sea Bright and Sandy Hook are located.

Howland found also that the shore line sank fourteen feet below low water mark many years ago. Tree stumps were found at this level at many places along our coast from Boston to Cape May, showing that trees grew on land which is now several yards below water level and often far out in the ocean. This drop in the shore level inundated many square miles of shore lands and helps to explain how the sandbars and other land changes may have started.

The North and South Shrewsbury Rivers were formerly deeper and narrower than at present. The tides entered directly from the ocean and helped to keep the rivers more free of the dirt and mud which is now making these rivers unnavigable unless dredged. Howland is of the opinion that the North Shrewsbury (Navesink on maps) had an exit into Raritan Bay via Claypit Creek. This creek is directly across the river from Rumson and represents a low area of land which extends from river to bay. The presence of oyster shell beds and other evidences of river bottom and tidal flow in Claypit Creek and across the low area from the source of Claypit Creek through Atlantic Highlands to the bay seem to provide evidence of this previous outlet.

Rumson was covered during Indian days with a forest of large, sturdy

trees of which many were oaks. Only a few of these primitive oaks remain to remind us that Rumson was an Indian paradise.

THE WHITE MAN EXPLORES AND ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE EAST JERSEY

Between the time that Columbus discovered America in 1492 and the permanent settlement of lands along the Jersey coast in 1664 was a period of almost 175 years. During this long period of time, several explorers visited our shores and attempts were made to establish colonies here. The Cabots, sailing from England in 1497, sailed along the shores from Labrador southward and claimed North America for England. When Holland, Sweden, and France established colonies on our eastern shores, England always used the Cabot explorations as her main argument for seizing or destroying all colonies of other countries except the Spanish Colonies from Florida southward.

In addition to Columbus and Cabot, the student of history finds that other explorers visited our shores. Among these were Americo Vespucci, for whom America is named. Vespucci was an Italian who sailed on a trip of exploration to South America for the King of Portugal in 1497. He wrote letters describing the "new world." A German professor, Martin Waldseemuller, read the letters and marked the new continent "America" in a new edition of Ptolemy's geography published about 1500. Other publishers copied Ptolemy's maps and the name America became common usage.

Other explorers who may have seen the Jersey shore during their travels were Verrazano (1524) and Cartier (1534-5) whose trips were made in the interest of France. Holland also took her turn at exploration in 1609 when Captain Henry Hudson in his ship the "Half Moon" sailed northward along the Jersey Coast.

A copy of the log book kept by Robert Iuet,[7] mate of the "Half Moon," is found in the Newark Museum of the New Jersey Historical Society.

[7] Jameson, J. F., Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664, N. Y., Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1909.

The entry of September 2, 1609, says in part, "At five o'clock we anchored two leagues from land and rode in eight fathoms of water. The night was fair. Far to the northwest we saw high hills (Highlands)."

"September 3, it proved a misty morning, but cleared away about 10 A.M. A southwester came up, so we weighed anchor and stood to the northward. At three o'clock in the afternoon we came to three large rivers. We started to go up one but found a shoal bar and but ten feet of water. Finally we sent in our small boat to sound, and they returned in about an hour and a half, reporting seven fathoms. Then we weighed anchor and went in and rode in five fathoms. Latitude 40°30′.

September 4. As day dawned we saw that there was good riding farther up, and sent our small boat out, found five fathoms, two cable lengths from shore. Our men went in shore with nets drew ten great mullets and a ray as great as four men could carry home. At night the wind blew heavily from the northwest and we were driven ashore, but got off easily the following day as the ground had soft sand. The people came down to the ship and on board: they were of a yellow copper color, and wore loose deerskins: they gave us green tobacco. They also had great quantities of maize (corn). The country was full of great tall oaks and hills (Highlands).

September 5. We got our ship into five fathoms hard by the southern shore. Our men again went on shore and saw a great store of men, women, and children. We went into the woods and saw wild plums. The natives had red copper pipes and things of copper about their necks.

September 6 (Sunday). John Coleman and four other men started out in a small boat and went up a narrow river to the westward; the land was found pleasant with grass and wild flowers. Night was coming on, their lights went out and they lost their way. They were set upon by two canoes filled with Indians. John Coleman had an arrow sent through his throat, and two others were hurt. It was so dark they could not find the ship.

September 7. Coleman died and was this day carried on land and buried. They named the point where they buried him "Coleman Point."

September 8. The Indians again came out to the ship with tobacco and wheat (corn), but they said nothing about the death of Coleman.

September 9. Two great canoes came alongside filled with men with bows and arrows, evidently intending to betray us. We finally weighed anchor and went up the channel."

The log continues on following days to describe the journey for some miles up the Hudson River. The seven-day stay as related above enabled Hudson and his crew to give a good account of the Highlands and the shore in that vicinity. The Shrewsbury was undoubtedly one of the three large rivers mentioned on September 3. The Dutch claimed New York and New Jersey because of Hudson's explorations and established permanent settlements in Manhattan in 1614, and on the Delaware, near Camden, in 1623. No permanent Dutch settlements were made in the vicinity of Rumson, although Dutch traders visited the Highlands and surrounding territory to trade with the Indians.

An attempt to colonize the territory between New England and Maryland was made in 1634 under the Plowden grant of Charles I of England. The three sons of the deceased Sir Thomas Plowden, Francis, George, and Thomas, claimed ten thousand acres at Waterset (near Salem) on the Delaware River (named Charles then). The three sons leased their grant to Sir Thomas Danby provided he would settle 100 families, etc. The most complete account of this attempt is found in Lee's "New Jersey Colony and State," Vol. I. This attempt to settle New Albion (later New Jersey) was unsuccessful for several reasons. The Swedes had already settled there, and the men who did come to New Albion were adventurers who were not used to the hard work necessary to a colonist. This unsuccessful attempt at colonization did help to publicize the territory of New Albion in glowing letters and descriptions which were used to induce people to settle here (see Lee, page 80 ff). The early explorers saw here the "land of milk and honey." When the English seized the Dutch colonies at New Amsterdam (New York) and South River (Delaware Bay), in 1664, the way was opened for the formation of English settlements in New Jersey.

PURCHASE FROM THE INDIANS

There is no evidence that permanent settlers were in Monmouth County before 1664. From 1614 to 1664 the Dutch claimed this territory because of the explorations of Henry Hudson and the trading posts in Manhattan, Bergen, and on the lower Delaware. The English laid claim also to this same territory because of grants made to the Plymouth and London Companies in 1607 and 1620. The English claims were based on discovery by the Cabots in 1497.

Dutch traders from Manhattan (New Amsterdam) knew the territory along the Highlands and sea coast. Rensalaer Dock (now Atlantic Highlands) was one of the stopping points for Dutch traders before 1664. The Dutch had made several attempts to North Jersey to settle on large plantations, but were driven out as late as 1644 by the Indians. Only a few small settlements across the river from Manhattan, and several on the lower Delaware preceded those which the English made in 1664 at Middletown and Shrewsbury.

Charles II of England decided in 1664 that he would give the territory between Connecticut and Maryland to his brother, the Duke of York, provided the Duke would seize it from the Dutch and settle colonists there. Consequently the Duke sent three ships with 600 soldiers. This British force, headed by Colonel Richard Nicholls, Col. George Carteret, Sir Robert Carr, and Samuel Maverick, arrived in the harbor at Manhattan on August 19, 1664, and demanded the surrender of the Dutch colony. The Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, surrendered reluctantly to the superior English forces on August 29, 1664. The Dutch remained in possession of their lands under liberal terms and Colonel Nicholls became the deputy governor.

English settlers on the western end of Long Island saw their opportunity now to acquire land on the Jersey shore. They had tried to buy land at the Highlands in 1663 but were frustrated by the Dutch who warned the Indians not to sell to the English. With the English in control in the New

York harbor and territories adjacent, a party of men from Gravesend, Long Island, journeyed by boat to the Highlands and made a deal with the Indians for the purchase of lands south of the Raritan River. The first purchase [8] is dated January 25, 1665 (new style) and included the Middletown tract between the Raritan and N. Shrewsbury (Navesink) rivers. The second purchase [8] is dated April 7, 1665 and the third [8] June 5, 1665. The second and third are known as the Narumson and Pootapeck purchases.

INDIAN PURCHASE OF APRIL 7, 1665

Know all men, whom these presents may any way concerne, that wee Tapatowoppammund, Wattamahickanick, Yawpachamund, and Kackenham of Munnerrahapannuck, as also Mattanoh Worchon, and Querremeck of Mattawommung, The right and true Proprietor of a certaine Parcell of Land, commonly called by the Indyans Narrumsum and Pootapeck, lying and being near adjacent, unto another Parcell of Land, which by the Indyans is called Navesand, which formerly was Purchased and paid for by the English Inhabitants of Gravesend, to the then right Proprietor Popamorah: Do hereby declare, That for and in Consideration of Two Anchors of Liquors, Foure Hundred Fathomes of Seawon, Nine Blanketts, Nine Trading Cloathe-Coates, Nine Kettles, Nine Troopers Coates, Nine Gunns, Six Howes, Six Shirts, Six Pounds of Powder, Six Barrs of Lead already paid and delivered unto us, by John Tilton, John Bowne, Samuel Spicer, William Goulder, Richard Gibbons, James Grover and Richard Stout of Gravesend as abovesaid, Do by virtue hereof, absolutely Sell, Assigne and make over for ever, From us, Our Heires, Executors Administrators, and Assignes, all Our right Title, Interest and Claime to the above said Parcell of Land called Narrumsum and Pootapeck, it being Bounded as followeth, That is to say, On the North side thereof, with the River called Shushopponoring, and the Land of Navesand as aforesaid, so extending to another River called by the Indyans Arrummannend, and so

[8] Salter, Edwin—History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, 1890, p. 33.

along the said River, unto a fall of Water, and also to a Certaine Parcell of Pine Trees, and from thence already Bounded and marked by us, by marked Trees, through the woods to a certaine Swampe being at the head of a small River, to the Maine Ocean, with all the Havens, Harbours, Rivers, Creekes, Wood-Land & Marshes, unto the said John Tilton, John Bowne, James Grover, William Goulder als Goulding, Richard Stout and Richard Gibbens, theire Associates, Heires, Successors or Assignes, And For them and every of them actually, really and Perpetually to enjoy as their owne free Land of Inheritance, Also unto the said Purchasers, John Tilton, John Bowne, William Goulder, James Grover, Richard Gibbens, Samuell Spicer and Richard Stout, their Associates, Heirs &c. Wee the said Taptawoppamund, Wattamahickcanick, Yawpachammund and Kackenham, as also Mattannoh Worchon and Querremeck, do give and Grant full Liberty for Mowing, Feeding, or Grazing of their Cattle, as for falling of Timber upon all such Land whatsoever, within one day's Journey, with a Cart, from theire said Bounds, And in Confirmation hereof, Wee have here unto Sett Our hands this 7th day of Aprill 1665.

Acknowledged & Sub-
Scribed in ye Presence of

The marke of
Topta X wappammund.

Hance als
Puerker X rinos his Mark
the Interpreter, Indians,

Sign
Wattama X hickanick.

Neckowoth X an Indyan
Popamora X his marke

William Wilkins

Sign
Yawpack X hamund

Sign.
Rawma X wawoth

Sign.
Hacken X ham.

Ralph X Cordalls Marke
Englishmen.

Sign.
Minguish X saksin.

Sign.
Wor X chon.

Ermor X hornd his marke

Acknowledged before the Governour ye 7th Aprill 1665
to which the Governour hath sett his hand.

MONMOUTH PATENT OR GRANT OF APRIL 8, 1665

(This grant by Governor Nicholls verified the three purchases and established the procedure for the proper colonization and government of the settlers.)

A copy of the Charter or Grand Pattent granted unto the Purchassers & Pattentees of Newasinke, Narumsum & Pootapeck.

To all whom these presents shall cume, I, Richard Niccoles, esquir Gouevenor under his royal highnesse the Duke off Yorke off all his territories in America send Greeting:

Whereas thare is a certain tract or parcel off land within this Gouevermentt lying and being near Saundy point upon the maine, w'ch sayd parcell off land hath bin with my consent & approbation bought by sume off the Inhabbitants off Gravesent on Long Island off the Sachimes chieff Proprietors there off who beffore me have accknowledged too have received Sattisfaction ffor the same to the end the said lands should bee patented & Manured and Inhabbited & ffor divers other good causes & considerations, I have thoughtt ffitt to Give, conffirm Grantt, and by these presents doe Give, conffirm Grantt unto Wm. Goulding, Samuel Spicer, Richard Gibbons, R'd. Stoutt, James Grover, John Bowne, John Tillton, Nathaniel Silbester, Wm. Reape, Walter Clarke, Nicholas Davis, Obadiah Hullmes, Pattentees and thare associates thare haires, Successors Assignes.

All that tract & part off the Maine Land, beginning at a certain place, commonly called or Known by the name off Sandey Poyntt and soe running along the Bay, West North West, till it cume to the south off the raretan River, ffrom thence goeing along the said river to the westernmost part off a certain Marsh Lanch wch divides the river into two partes, and from that part to run in a direct Southwest lyne into the woodes twelve miles, and then to turne away Southeast & by South until it falls into the Maine Ocean, together with all landes, soils, rivers, creekes, harbours, mines, mineralls (Royal mines excepted), quarries, woods meddowes, pasttures, marshes, watters, lakes, fishing, hawking, hunting & fowleing. And

all other proffits, commodities hereditaments, to the sayd landes & premises belonging and appertaining, with thare & every off thare appertenances, and off every part & parcell thereoff, to have & to hold all and singular the sayd landes, herridimts & premises, with their and every of their appertenances hereby given & granted or hereinbefore mentioned to be given & granted, to the only proper use and behooff of the sayd Pattentees, and their associates, thare haires, successors, and assignes fforever, upon such tearmes and conditions as hearaffter are expressed, that is to say that the sayd Pattentees & Assosiates, thare haires assignes shall within the space off three years, beginning ffrom the day off the date hereoff, mannure & plant the afforesaid landes & premises and settle thare one hundred ffamilies at least: In consideration whearoff I doe promise and Grant that the sayd Pattentees and thare associates, thare hayres, successors and assignes shall injoy ye sayd landes & premises with thare appertenances for the tearme off seaven yeares next to cume, affter the date off these presents ffree ffrom payment off any rents, Custumes, excise tax or leavy what soever; but affter expiration of the sayd tearme off seaven yeares, the persons who shall bee in possession thareoff shall pay after the same rate wch others within this, his royall highnesse his territorries shall be obleiged unto, and the sayd Pattentees & thare assosiates, thare haires, successors and assignes shall have free leave & libertie to erect & build thare towns & viledges, in such places as they in thare discretions shall thinke most convenient: Provided that they assosiate themselves, and that the houses of thare towns & villeges lye nott to ffar distant & scattering one ffrom the other and allsoe they may make such ffortiffications for thare defense agt an enemy as may seem needfull. And I doe likewisse grant unto the sayd Pattentees and thare assosiates, thare hayres, successors & assignes and unto any & all other persons who shall plant & inhabitt in any of the lands afforesaid; and they shall have free liberty off consience wth out any mollestation or disturbance wtsoever in thare way off worship. And I doe ffurther grant unto the afforesaid Pattentees thare hayres, successors &

assignes that they shall have Liberty to elect by the voate of the Major Part off the Inhabbitants five or seven other persons of the ablest & discreatest of the sayd Inhabbitants or a greater number off them iff the Pattentees, thare haires, successors or assignes shall see cause to joyne with them, & they together, or the Major pt off them shall have full power & authority to make such pecular & prudentiall Lawes & constitutions among the inhabbitants for the better & most orderly governing of them as to them shall seem meet: provided they be not repugnant to the publique Lawes off the Government. And they shall allsoe have liberty to try all causes & actions off Debt and tresspasse arrissing among themselves to the value of ten poundes without appeale, but that they remitt the hearing off all criminall matters to the assises at New Yorke. And furthermore I doe promise & grant unto ye Pattentees & thare assosiates aforementioned thare hairs, successors & assignes that they shall in all things have equall priviledges, ffreedumes, and immunities with any off his Majesty's subjects within this government, the sayd Pattentees & those assosiates, thare hayres, successors & assignes rendering and paying such Dewties & accknowledgemts as now are or hereaffter shall bee constituted & established by the lawes off this governmt, under the obeydience off his royall highnesse, his hayers & successors. Provided they doe noe way infringe the liberties, priveledges above specified. Given under my hand & seale at Fort James in New Yorke on Manhatane Island the 8th day off Aprill in the 17th year off the reigne off our Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace off God, off England, Scottland, France & Ireland, King, Deffender off Fayth and in the yeare off our Lord God 1665.

RICHARD NICCOLES

Entered in the Office of Recordes in New Yorke the day & yeare above written.

MATTHIAS NICCOLES, SEC.
VERA COPPE
RD. RICHARDSON

The total purchase price for Narumsum and Pootpeck was £359-1.

Newasink, Narumsunk & Pootapeck is Dr., to the severall disbursements by James Grover, John Tilton, William Goulding & Company as followeth:

THE ACCOUMPT OFF THE SECOND PURCHASSE
(Narumsum Pootapeck)

To severall sachims in Peaque 1350 gild is	£55—00—00
To 9 Blanckets 360 gilders is	15—00—00
To 9 Coates at 315 g., 9 Kettles 240 is 555 g. is	23—07—06
To 4th ¼ off powder 21 g., 15th ½ of lead 11, 6 Howes 27 is in all 59 gilders and in English accnt.	02—09—06
To expense on the Indians at New York 60 g.	02—10—00
To expense on them at Gravesend is 50 g. is	02—01—10
To recording the deed 25 g. is	01—00—00
To tobacco to them at times 20 g. is	00—17—10
To our voyage in the purchasse marking out the 2 necks Narumsum Pootapeck together with provissions the Indians had in voyage, 720 gilders in	29—11—06
To 2 anchors off rum 200 g.	08—06—06
To treat with ye Jersey Governor, expenses 350 g.	13—11—08
To expense at Narumsunk l'wise on ye Country affaire, 480 g.	20—00—00
To the sachims 6 coates 210 gil	08—15—00
To incidental charges 600 gilders	25—00—00
To Christopher Allmy 50 g. for himself his boat at Narumsunk	02—01—06
	359—01—00

Of this amount the sum of £298—17—10 was subscribed by the following persons before the expiration of the three-year period from April 1665.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF NARUMSUNK AND POOTAPEK

	£	S	P
Christopher Allmey—Rhode Island	4	0	0
*John Allmey—Rhode Island	4	0	0
John Allen & Robert Taylor—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Stephen—Rhode Island	3	0	0
John Boune—Gravesend, Long Island	4	0	0
John Boune—Flushing, Long Island	3	0	0
James Bowne—Long Island	1	14	6
William Bowne—Rhode Island	1	6	8
Gerrard Bourne—Rhode Island	4	10	0
Richard Borden—Rhode Island	11	10	0
Nicholas Browne—Rhode Island	4	0	0
*Francis Brinley—Rhode Island	3	10	0
*Henry Bull—Rhode Island	3	0	0
John Conklin—Rhode Island	0	15	0
*Walter Clarke—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Robert Carr—Rhode Island	3	0	0
*Robert Carr & Walter Clarke—Rhode Island	1	0	0
*John Coggshall—	3	0	0
*Joshua Coggshall & Daniel Gould—Rhode Island	3	10	0
*William Coddington—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Thomas Clifton—Rhode Island	3	10	0
John Cooke—Rhode Island	3	0	0
George Shutte—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Thomas Cooke—Long Island	3	10	0
Joseph Coleman—	3	0	0
*Nicholas Davis—Rhode Island	8	0	0
Roger Ellis & Son—Massachusetts	6	0	0
*Peter Esson—Easton, Rhode Island	3	0	0
James Grover—Long Island	4	0	0
Richard Gibbons—Long Island	4	0	0
*Zachary Gauntt—Rhode Island	1	10	0
William Goulding—Long Island	4	0	0
Ralph Goldsmith—Long Island	3	10	0
Samual Holliman (Holman?)	3	0	0
John Horabin	2	1	8

Obadiah Holmes—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Johnathan Holmes—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Tobias Handson—(Rhode Island?)	4	0	0
John Hance —(Wales?)	4	0	0
*William James—Rhode Island	1	5	0
*John Jenkins—Massachusetts	3	0	0
John Jenkins & William Shadduck—Massachusetts	2	0	0
Edmund Lafetra—(Hugenot?)	3	10	0
Henry Lippit—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Richard Lippincott—Long Island	16	10	0
*Thomas Moor—Long Island	1	13	4
Francis Masters—(New York?)	3	10	0
Thomas Totter—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Edward Pattison—Massachusetts	4	0	0
John Ruckman—Long Island	4	0	0
Richard Richardson—	4	0	0
Samual Spicer—Long Island	4	0	0
Richard Stout—Long Island	4	0	0
*Nathaniel Sylvester—Long Island	6	0	0
Thomas Shaddock—Massachusetts	3	0	0
William Shaddock & George Webb—Massachusetts	1	0	0
Edward Smith—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Robert Story—New York City	9	0	0
William Shaberly—Barbadoes	4	0	0
Richard Sussell—Rhode Island	4	10	0
John Tilton—Long Island	4	0	0
*John Throckmorton—Rhode Island	1	6	8
John Townsend—Long Island	4	0	0
*Edward Thurston—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Nathan Thompkins—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Edward Tart—(Massachusetts?)	3	17	6
Emanuel Woolley—Rhode Island	3	0	0
Thomas Winterton—Rhode Island	3	0	0
*Edward Wharton—Massachusetts	3	0	0
Eliakim Wardell—	4	0	0
Thomas Whitlock—Long Island	3	17	6
Bartholomew West—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Robert West—Rhode Island	4	0	0
Walter Wall—Long Island	4	0	0

John Wall—Long Island	3	10	0
John Wilson—	4	0	0
John Wood—Rhode Island	4	10	0
	298	17	10

Giles Slocum bought Robert Carr's land and gave it to his son John. He is known to have bought the holdings of others also and settled his son Nathaniel on a portion of it.

The Patent required that not less than 100 families should be settled on the land within 3 years. The Slocum purchases were made sometime within this period. Giles Slocum never came here so far as is known.

Not all the men and families mentioned in the Monmouth Patent and list of contributors came here. A brief account of several families that are associated with the Rumson Neck section of Shrewsbury will be given in a later chapter.

List copied from Edwin Salter's History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

* Settled in what is now Ocean County.

Chapter 2

ABRAHAM BROWN'S DEED OF LAND

(May 10, 1688)

For a number of years Mr. Theodore Parsons, prominent attorney of Red Bank, has displayed in his office a framed copy of an original deed which was given to Abraham Brown in 1688 by the East Jersey Proprietors. The deed has a particular interest because the property is located on Rumson Neck between the two rivers. The boundaries are: northeast by a highway, northwest by the Neversink (Shrewsbury) River, southwest by a branch of the Shrewsbury River and land of Samuel Dennis. The tract contained 450 acres.

A study of land titles before 1688 was made at Perth Amboy at the Surveyor General's office and the conclusion was reached that the boundary on the northeast was a road now known as Prospect Avenue in Little Silver and Red Bank. Other records show that this road extended from river to river at a very early date. This road today is a little less than two miles in length, which corresponds to the figure of 155 chains in the deed. The

branch of the Shrewsbury was Little Silver Creek which can be noted from a present-day map. The Samuel Dennis property was southwest of the Brown property and south of the Parker property which was east of Prospect Avenue. An exact wording of the Brown deed is given here. Much of the legal phrasing is more or less common in all deeds of this period. Mrs. V. A. Rudloff transcribed the deed. Her fine work is hereby acknowledged.

COPY OF DEED

This Indenture made the Tenth day of May Anno domini one Thousand six hundred Eighty & Eight and in the fourth year of the Raigne of our soveraigne Lord James the second, over England, Scotland, ffrance & Ireland, King. Between the proprietors of the province of East new Jersey of the one part, and Abraham Browne of Shrosberry in the County of Monmouth, planter, of the other part witnesseth that the said proprietors for & In Consideratione of the rents & services herein after reserved Have aliened, granted, barganed & sold, and by these presents doe aliene, grant, bargane & sell unto the sd Abraham Browne his Heires & assignes All That Tract of upland & meadow scituate lying & being within the bounds of Shroesberry aforesaid Containing ffive hundred acres, But (after allowance for highwayes & bareen land) The same is to remain for ffour hundred & ffiefty acres English measure. In length Runeing northwest & southeast one hundred fiefty five chaines and in breadth Thirty one chaines & an halfe, Bounded on the northeast by a highway, south east by Samuell Dennes, northwest by Naversinks River, and southeast by a branch of the Shrosberry River, ther being therein comprehended a piece of meadow Joyning to Restore Leppencott, which (after allowance for highwayes & bareen land) Is to remain for ffour hundred & ffourty acres, as also seaven acres of . . . . . meadow lying in the great meadow In length ten & in breadth seaven chaines, bounded on the east by Robert Lekock South by the upland, west by a small creeke & north by John Hance. As Also one

Triangle piece of meadow Joyning to the north end of John Hances meadow lying between two small creekes esteemed at three acres. Together with all and manner of ---dings pastures woods and orchards trees waters water courses waterfalls ponds powls pitts Easements profits commodityes libertyes advantages Emoluments ----itaments & appertenances whatsoever unto the same belonging or appertaining in any manner of wayes. To have and to hold the sd Tract of upland and meadow Together with their & every of their appertenances unto him the sd Abraham Browne his heires & assignes for ever To the only proper use & behoove of him the sd Abraham Browne his heires & assignes for ever To be holden in free & common sevrage of them the sd proprietors theirs heires & assignes as of the seignory of E----- with yeelding and paying therefor yearely & every year to the sd proprietors their heires & assignes one halfe penny per acre of sterling moneys of England or the value thereof for every of the sd ffour hundred & ffifty acres att or upon every five & twentieth day of March every year for ever hereafter in Liew & stead of all other services & demands whatsoever. The which sd Rent above mentioned is to commence from & after The ffive & Twentieth day of March which was in the year One Thousand six hundred & seaventy. And the sd Abraham Browne doeth hereby for himself his heires & assignes Covenant grant promise & agree to & with the sd proprietors theirs heirs & assignes That he the sd Abraham Browne his heires & assignes shall or will weel & truly pay or cause to be payd unto the sd proprietors theirs heirs & assignes, the sd yearely Chiefe or Quitt Rent of one halfe penny per acre of Sterling moneys of England or the value thereof for every of the sd ffour hundred & ffifty acrse att or upon every five & twentieth day of March for ever, hereafter. In Liew & stead of all other services as abovosd, to the Receiver general which shall from tyme to tyme be appointed by the sd proprietors their heires & assignes, without fraud Covine or delay provided allwayes that if the sd yearely Chiefe or Quitt Rent shall be behind & unpaid in part or in all on any of the sd dayes or tymes upon which the same is to be payed as aforesd————————& so oftenn, it shall or may be lawful to or for the sd

proprietors & their——————their servants agents and assignes Ten days after such neglect & nonpayment of the sd yearely Chiefe or Quitt Rent Into the aforesd land——————the appurtenances or into any part or parcell thereof——————to distraine, and the distress or distresses there——————drive——————impound & in their custody to detaine until the sd yearely Chiefe or Quitt Rent so being behind & unpayed Together with all costs & charges of such——————& impounding shall be fully payed & contented unto the sd proprietors their heires or assignes. In witness whereof the deputy Governor of the sd province——————of his Council for the tyme being, to one part have subscribed their names & affixed the common seal of the sd province, and to the other part thereof the sd Abraham Brown hath Interchangeabley set his hand & seale the day——————above written

RICHARD COX
JOHN JOHNSTONE

Seal of the Province of East Jersey in America

Andrew Hamilton
Deputy Governor

Chapter 3

The Name "Rumson" and Its Origin

(1944—Mrs. V. A. Rudloff, Genealogist and Historian)

This would seem to be an especially appropriate time to clarify the source of the name Rumson.

There is a tale, unfounded and entirely fallacious, that one of the early settlers brought the neck of land of the Indians for a keg of rum, and, because of this, the land was called some-rum, or Rum-some.

Long before the white man set foot upon the soil of the beautiful "neck of land" now called Rumson, it was called Navarumsunk by the Indians. This is clearly shown by the records of the negotiations in 1663 for its purchase from the Indians by the prospective settlers from Long Island and New England, and in the granting in 1665 of the "Monmouth Patent" by Governor Nicholls to confirm the purchase. On the first page of the Monmouth County Records, in Freehold, New Jersey, is recorded a

copy of this patent under the heading: A Copy of the Charter or Grand Pattent granted unto the purchasers and Pattentees of Newasinke, Narumsum and Pootapeck.

The name of the family making the "rum-some" claim does not appear in the list of the twelve Pattentees, nor in the list of the "associates," nor in the list of the first one hundred families required to be settled upon the land in the first three years to fully establish the rights cited in the patent. Later, this family bought the proprietary rights of an earlier owner, and lands were granted to them near Long Branch on which some younger member of this family settled: and it appears, by the mention of the name in a boundary line, there was land owned by them in Rumson, and the record of a purchase at a later date.

The "rum-some" tale may therefore be relegated as a bit of colorful, but wholly unfounded fiction.

Navarumsunk has, by the simplifying process of time and usage, become Rumson. It should be treasured as a proud inheritance of a glorious past now all too lightly esteemed. Evidence of the high moral tone of the negotiations of the purchase of the land by its early settlers and their subsequent dealings with the Indians is clearly set forth and acknowledged by a member of this aboriginal race,[1] who, having been educated in the white man's institutions, wrote to the New Jersey State Legislature in 1832:

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

[1] Calvin, B. S.

Chapter 4

EARLY SETTLERS AND GOVERNMENT

(1944—Charles A. Wolbach)

THE FIRST SETTLERS ON RUMSON NECK

Throughout the early record of quit rents, land grants, etc., the land between the Neversinks and Shrewsbury Rivers is called Ramson's Neck. In several instances Narupton's Neck or other spellings are found. The neck extended from what is now Sea Bright (Wardell's) westward to the sources of the creeks that flow into the North and South Shrewsbury Rivers. In the Indian purchase and Monmouth Patent of 1665, the neck was called Narumsum or Narumsunk and extended westward and southwest for an indefinite distance.

The first settlers on Rumson Neck built their homes in the Shrewsbury village section of the Neck. In the three-year period (1665-8) over 100 families had migrated to the Middletown and Shrewsbury area. We know that the Middletown and Portland Point (Highlands) settlers built compactly in villages before they spread out on their farms. There is no record

of any distribution of small lots in Shrewsbury, but we know that village life began there and that farms were laid out both east and west of the village. Of the farms which were assessed for quit rents from 1670 to 1685, the following were bounded on the north or northwest by the Neversink River or its branches: Restore Lippincott (200 A.), Caleb Sheriff (82 A.), Stephen West, William Scott, Abraham Brown (500 A.), George Parker (64 A.), John Hance (247 A.), Hugh Dickman, Richard Lippincott.[1]

From descriptions in wills and ownership at a later date than 1670, one learns that several large farms were located toward the eastern end of Rumson Neck before 1700. John Hance, who was among the first settlers in Shrewsbury, had a large plantation which extended from river to river and from what is now Bingham Avenue westward to the Fair Haven line. In the account for quit rents in 1685, Hance is listed for 550 acres. Some of this may have been outside of the Rumson neck.

East of Hance's property (Bingham Avenue to Navesink or Avenue of Two Rivers) were properties of Hugh Dickman and Francis Jackson. In 1683 the Dickman property of 60 acres was transferred to Richard Lippincott and to Thomas Hewett. The Jackson property reverted to the proprietors in 1687, according to a note in the quit rent accounts.[2]

At Black Point, the east end of the Neck, was a large property which changed hands several times between 1665 and 1700. The land records for this tract of 700 acres (Sea Bright bridge to Navesink Avenue or Avenue of Two Rivers) show that Christopher Almy sold it to Simon Cooper in 1679. Almy was probably the first owner of this tract as he was an original purchaser during the three-year period of 1665-8. On April 15, 1689, Col. Lewis Morris deeded this property to a nephew, Lewis Morris, of Passage Point. In the biographical sketch of Morris, it is stated that he lived at Passage Point (later Black Point). Morris was murdered by negro servants in 1694 and the property passed to his widow, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Almy (niece of Christopher Almy), and a son Lewis.

[1] Stillwell, Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Vol. II, pp. 373-385.
[2] Stillwell, op. cit., Vol. II.

The widow married John Leonard of Middletown soon after 1696 and in 1710 her son Lewis Morris sold part of her large estate to John Leonard, his step-father. Young Lewis Morris also sold land to John Curlice (Corlies) on Jan. 9, 1710. This John Curlies or his son, also John, died about 1800 and the property, described in Book IV, Record of Deeds, Freehold, N. J., passed to Thomas Hartshorne in 1803. This Corlies property was the most easterly on the neck and extended from river to river as far west as James Borden's land which also extended from river to river. The property line on the South Shrewsbury River started at the eastern side of the Oyster Pond (Polly's Pond). A rough estimate would be 350 acres in this Corlies tract.

The Thomas Hartshorne house was located at the southeast corner of what is now Hartshorne Lane and Ward Avenue. Hartshornes have lived there until recent years. The large estate of 1803 has been subdivided many times since into small places of which more will be said later. The main road to the river at Sea Bright, then Wardell's property, was Hartshorne Lane rather than Rumson Road. A map of Rumson Road in 1851 [3] shows that Rumson Road went northward at Navesink Avenue and followed eastward along Hartshorne Lane to the river.

Other later owners of the original Morris property have been Richard Salter and John Hartshorne. We know that John Curlice had the first section along the river. Therefore, the assumption is that Richard Salter and John Hartshorne owned the strip which later was in possession of James Borden in 1803 when Thomas Hartshorne acquired the John Corlies tract.

In Stillwell's [4] account of the Salter family, it is stated that Richard Salter (1699-1762) a prominent man in various provincial offices, built a home at Black Point and lived there until 1753 when he moved to Burlington. His son, John Salter, paid taxes in Shrewsbury until 1761, indicat-

[3] J. B. Shields, Publisher, Middletown Point (Matawan).
[4] Op. cit., Vol. IV.

ing that he owned the place. John Hartshorne was married to Lucy Salter, sister of John Salter, and lived on the Salter place or another tract of what was originally Lewis Morris' land. James Borden came into possession of this tract at some time before 1803. About 1830 Dr. Eleazar Parmly owned for a short time a part of the original Morris property in the location of James Borden's tract. Dr. Parmly sold this to Seabury Tredwell whose home is still standing north of Ridge Road, west of Navesink Avenue.

Between the Tredwell place and Dr. Parmly's property (Avenue Two Rivers to Forrest Avenue line, river to river) was a strip of land of several hundred acres which belonged to Richard Borden in 1833 when Dr. Eleazar Parmly acquired his property at Bingham Place. Richard Borden [5] lived in the farm house near where the Williston house stood later at the northwest corner of Rumson Road and Avenue of Two Rivers.[6]

Mr. Jackson Conover, now past four score years, remembers the Bordens, but thinks it was Joseph Borden about 1875. This could have been a son of Richard Borden. Mr. Conover remembers distinctly the three sons, Albert, Williams, and Charles, who lived at the Borden farm on Rumson Road. Williams married a Miss Harris who taught in the old school house in Parmly's woods where Mr. Conover attended school. This Borden family owned all the property between Parmly's and Tredwell's, according to Mr. Conover.

Mr. Conover remembers that the present Scudder property at the south end of the Avenue of Two Rivers was owned in succession counting backwards by Strong, Cameron, Dr. Wright, Wyckoff, and Corlies. This may have been a part of the Corlies tract acquired from Morris in 1710, although the description does not agree with the deed of John Corlies to Thomas Hartshorne, which is mentioned above.

From the present line of Forrest Avenue, westward to Bingham Avenue was a large tract from river to river which the Parmly deed shows was

[5] Liber E 3, p. 47—Book of Deeds, Freehold.
[6] May of 1851.

acquired from Joseph Wardell by William Bingham of Philadelphia on July 26, 1791. Joseph Wardell was a descendant of Eliakim Wardell, an original purchaser in 1665.

Eliakim Wardell settled on the Pootapeck purchase, south of the Shrewsbury Rivers, and had his plantation in the vicinity of Monmouth Beach. One can only suppose that his grandson, Joseph, acquired this tract which William Bingham bought in 1791, and sold in 1833 to Eleazar Parmly. William Bingham, a wealthy merchant from Philadelphia and later a Senator from Pennsylvania, built a beautiful mansion on the most elevated spot (Bingham Hill) and entertained lavishly here during the summer season. The wedding of Lord Ashburton and Senator Bingham's daughter was celebrated in this country home. The appearance of the house may be noted in a picture which was called the Bellevue Academy in 1831 when Solymon Brown and Antonio Martino advertised the Academy which served as a school for several years.

Dr. Eleazar Parmly, pioneer dentist of New York and a man of wealth because of his industry and a favorable marriage, bought this large estate in 1830 and used it as his summer home. At various times the mansion was remodeled and enlarged. Farm buildings and other improvements were added by several generations of Parmlys.

The Parmly family was of French or English origin and appears in New England records as John Parmelee of Guilford, Connecticut, in 1635. The Eleazar Parmly who bought Bingham Place was the sixth generation from the John Parmelee of 1635. His father was Eleazar, grandfather Jahial, great-grandfather John. Eleazar's father Eleazar was a farmer of Braintree, Vermont, and there Eleazar, the dentist, was born in 1797. Up to 1923, Dr. Lawrence Parmly Brown [7] gives a resume of 13 dentists who were all members of this family.

Dr. Eleazar Parmly had an older brother Levi, who was a noted dentist in New Orleans for many years. Jahial, a younger brother, was probably America's outstanding itinerant dentist, practicing in many cities for short

[7] The Greatest Dental Family, Dental Cosmos, March, April, May, 1923.

periods of time. After his father's death in 1825, Jahial took over his father's farm, then in Perry, Ohio, and invested his earnings in farm lands. He built a "mansion" at Perry and acquired some 6000 acres of land which made him a wealthy man later when land values rose. Two of Jahial's sons became famous dentists in Paris, France. Samuel Parmly, the youngest brother of Dr. Eleazar, also became a dentist who for a time worked in the New York office with his brother and for 20 years at 30 Bond Street in New York City.

Other dentists in this family and their relation to Dr. Eleazar were: Jahial, first cousin; Ludolph, first cousin; David, first cousin; George W., nephew; Henry C., nephew; Levi S. Burridge, nephew; Ehrick, son; Jahial, Jr., son of Jahial, first cousin.

Dr. Eleazar Parmly wrote articles for dental and other journals. He was in the habit of writing poetry in his diaries, in letters, and on special events. Before his death in 1874, he published a collection of his poems, entitled "Thoughts in Rhyme." A copy of this book has been donated to the high school library.[8] He helped to organize the first Society for Surgeons and Dentists in New York and was its president in 1834. In 1837 he helped to found the first dental journal, "The American Journal of Dental Hygiene." In Baltimore he was founder and trustee for years of the "Baltimore College" for Dentists. From all the accounts that are given of his life, it is stated that he was a leader in his profession and contributed much in the elevation of dentistry to a recognized profession.

His family life was both happy and sad. His wife was Anna Marie Valk Smith of New York, whose father was a wealthy broker. Three of four sons died in infancy. There were four daughters. His son Ehrick followed in his father's footsteps and, until his death in 1907, was a resident at Bingham Place. Many of our older residents remember him as a very benevolent and kindly gentleman.

Dr. Ehrick Parmly married Lucie Du Bois in 1855. There were five sons, Fred, a lawyer; John, a minister; Eleazar, a business man; Dalton, the

[8] By Rev. W. C. Colby of Rumson.

farmer; and George who went West. The first four of these sons married and many of their children and grandchildren are in this community. Dalton took over the large estate at Bingham Hill and engaged in farming and real estate ventures which proved unprofitable. Many parcels of land were sold, including one where the high school is now located. The estate of late years was probably half its original size. When Dalton died a few years ago, his widow and son, John, remained in the big house, but they will have to vacate soon because the whole remaining estate, including the buildings, has been bought by Michael Jacobs, the noted fight promoter. He is restoring the property to its former usefulness as a farm and country estate.

In the Parmly deed of 1833 it mentions the fact that Asher Corlies' land bounded Parmly's land in 1791 when Bingham bought this tract (Parmly's) from Wardell. This places Corlies' tract along the west side of the street known now as Bingham Avenue. Since Asher Corlies had married Rebecca Hance just prior to 1791, one assumes that Corlies acquired his land from his father-in-law John Hance. Corlies died in 1793 at the age of 26, and left property which was heavily mortgaged. In 1824 at a sheriff's sale the title of the Corlies' property passed to Thomas and Benjamin Borden who were two of the complainants in the foreclosure.

The records at Freehold show that the Bordens sold this same tract to Aaron Jones in 1826. Jones had financial troubles also and lost his property in 1840 during a forced sale when Thomas G. Hunt bought the property.

Hunt was interested in a steamship line from the Shrewsbury River to New York, developed his property along the river by building a dock at the present location of Washington Street, a summer hotel which was known for years as the Port Washington Pavilion Hotel, a church for the summer guests at the hotel, and a farm cottage for those who tilled the soil or kept summer boarders. For a number of years Martinus Bergen either owned or rented a large part of the original Hunt property as a farm. Bergen specialized in tomatoes for his canning factory which was

located at the present site of the elementary school at Lafayette Street. The canning industry was flourishing about 1870.

On February 23, 1853, according to a map which is reproduced in this book, a sale of lots at Port Washington was held. The lots were located north of Church Street between Lafayette Street and Bingham Avenue. The results of the sale are not known, but several old deeds of property in this location indicate that the village of Port Washington (later Oceanic) dates from this sale of 1853. Larger tracts of the original Hunt estate were sold after 1853 to Matthew White (now Old Farm Village), Eleazar Parmly (south of Ridge Road), Capt. William Boardman (now Metcalf's property), and Michael Kennedy (now the Riker property, south of Rumson Road). Mr. Jackson Conover, one of Rumson's oldest residents, states that some of the Hunt property as well as property of the Bordens was sold at an auction about 1870. Mr. Conover calls the sale a "balloon sale" because a large balloon was used for advertising during the auction.

The oldest and most prominent family which owned a large estate in the western part of what is now Rumson Borough was the Hance family. John Hance (Hans, Haunce) was an original purchaser in 1665 and was prominent in early colonial affairs as a magistrate, deputy, and justice. His plantation was located west of Bingham Avenue and included approximately 500 acres. His farm house was located near the old cemetery on Rumson Road, probably at the corner of the present Bellevue Avenue and Rumson Road.

In the record of quit rents[9] John Hance is listed for 550 acres, comprising 5 parcels. One parcel of 247 acres is "bounded South by Shrewsbury River, North by Neversinks River, West by Eliakim Wardell, now Ephraim Allen's, East by Dickman's, now Hewett's." This parcel would be large enough to include a strip three to four blocks wide from river to river.

When John Hance died in 1707, his property on Rumson Neck passed

[9] Stillwell, op. cit., Vol. II, p. 370.

to his son, Isaac (1685-1764), whose first wife was Rachel (died 1738). Isaac married twice later, his last wife, Mary, dying in 1779. Isaac willed the property to his second son John (1720-1769). John's wife was Catherine and they had five children who reached maturity: Waples (married Benly), John (married Ann Borden), Rachel (married Asher Corlies), Elizabeth, and Isaac. At John's death in 1769, the estate was assumed by John (wife Ann Borden). This latter John Hance lived on the paternal estate until his death in 1827. Six of his children reached maturity: Borden, John H., Asher, George, Margaret, and Susan. Of these six children, Borden and Asher remained in Rumson on the paternal estates. Borden lived in the house at the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Rumson Road, still standing; Asher lived further west near Kemp Avenue where he had a large nursery business which is shown on old maps as extending from river to river. Part of the nursery north of Ridge Road was in territory which is now in Fair Haven Borough. The Hance nurseries prospered until the 1880's when financial reverses caused the sale of the large estate which was the nursery. The father of the late Senator Barbour bought property where the nursery was located and built a large country home which is now the property of George V. Coe. Property further west was bought by Thomas N. McCarter and others who built magnificent homes along the Rumson road.

Robert Hance, son of Borden Hance, lived for a time on his father's place at Bellevue Avenue. He finally sold this place and opened a store in Red Bank which is still listed as R. Hance & Sons and is now conducted by the sons. Mrs. Gilbert Reckless of Red Bank is a granddaughter of Borden Hance and Rebecca Woolley. She has been of great assistance in locating the facts concerning the Hance family in Rumson. She spent many happy days during childhood at the house of her grandfather at Bellevue Avenue and can relate many incidents that help to clarify the section of Rumson near to the old cemetery on Rumson Road. Counting back from Robert Hance who was the last of the family to live on Rumson

Road, we find that there were at least six generations of Hances in Rumson.

Another large landowner in Rumson in the 1740's should be mentioned here. He was Richard Stillwell (1671-1743). His widow, Mercy Sands Stillwell [10] (1693-1746) left a large estate which was advertised for sale in the Parker's "New York Gazette" of August 10 to October 19, 1747, as follows:

"To Be Sold"

"A Plantation in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, consisting of about 440 acres, upon Rumson Neck, well timbered. It fronts northerly on the Navesink River, and southerly on the South or Shrewsbury River, both rivers navigable; there is plenty on it both of salt and fresh meadow, and several acres of clover is yearly mowed, and at least 50 acres more may be put to the same use, if cleared; on it there is a good new house, with a large stone cellar under it, a barn and orchard, and the fences generally in good repair; there is about 100 acres cleared; the land is good both for winter and summer grain, and hay enough may be had on the premises already to maintain 30 milch cows, with other stocks answerable yearly; it lately was purchased by Mrs. Mercy Stillwell, deceased, and ordered by her in her will to be sold by her executrices, namely Catherine and Elisabeth Stillwell, of whom a good title to the same will be made to any purchaser."

The exact location of this large estate on Rumson Neck is not known at this time. It was comparable in size to the Hance or Bingham property and extended several blocks wide from river to river.

West of John Hance's property as far as the Falls of the Swimming River (Tinton Falls) one finds properties belonging to such families as Allens, Parkers, Borden, Lippincotts, Nicholas Brown, Abraham Brown, Wests, Corlies, Tilton, Lafetra, Worthley, Lewis Morris, Samuel Wolcott, John Chambers, John Slocum, William Scott, Caleb Shrieve. An unsuccessful attempt has been made to arrange these on a map so that the reader might see the exact place of abode of the original settlers. It has been definitely

[10] Stillwell—History of Capt. Richard Stillwell, Vol. II, p. 21.

established from descriptions of property at the four corners at Shrewsbury Village about 1700 [11] that Jedidiah Allen lived in the N.W. corner, John Lippincott N.E., Nicholas Brown S.E., and John West S.W. Brown sold land to both the Episcopalians and Presbyterians for churches and Lippincott to the Friends. These churches are still located at approximately the same location in buildings of more recent design. The residents on Rumson Neck attended the churches at Shrewsbury until churches were founded in Rumson many years later. The records of the three churches are found in Stillwell [12] and include many items of interest.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT 1664-1776

King Charles II gave New Jersey to his brother the Duke of York. The Duke of York gave to the Governor, Richard Nicholls, full power to set up a government at New York and to start new settlements.

The Nicholls grant of 1665 gave twelve men a large, unsurveyed tract of land south of the Raritan River, comprising what is now Monmouth, Ocean, and part of Middlesex Counties. These twelve were required to settle 100 families in this new territory before April 8, 1668, or the land would revert to the Duke of York and the King. The majority of the twelve Patentees came from Long Island. Credit is given, however, to William Reape, a Patentee from Rhode Island, for organizing a group of interested families in Rhode Island and nearby places and for procuring transportation, supplies, and necessary equipment for the new settlers. Only five Patentees, Richard Stout, James Grover, John Boune, Richard Gibbons, and later, James Hubbard settled here permanently. The other Patentees came here on business, for visits, or delegated their business to others. The sons and daughters of several patentees came here and settled on land claimed by their elders.

[11] Ellis, op. cit.
[12] Vol. II.

Christopher Allmy of Rhode Island was a ship owner and close friend of William Reape, a Patentee. Allmy's sloops carried the first settlers here from Rhode Island and made trips back and forth for several years. William Reape submitted a bill of £89-7 which shows the expenses of these first trips.

"Newasink, Narumsunk & Pootapeck is Dr. as followeth to Wm. Reape.

	£— 5s—od
To John Tillton & Compie in peaque, 16 pd	
In rum at tymes at 7s—6d. gallon	23—10 — 0
54 ells Duffelle at	25—02 — 0
To the sachim off ye gift land Randall Huet in rum	1—01 — 6
To a sloop hire 10 daies with expenses in provissions upon a voyage with the Patentees to Pootapeck Neck	4—06 — 0
To the charge of three men sent from road Island to settle ye countery affaires hear	3—08 — 0
To the use of Dirrick Smith's sloope for thare transport	4—11 — 6
To 21 dayes for myself on ye publique affaires with provission	3—03 — 0
To the forbearance of my money	0—00 — 0
To my expense time of now attending the Publique service at the making up of this acct	0—00 — 0
Summ—	89—97 — 0

The abovesaid accountt of Disbursements of Wm. Reape amounting to 89£ 07 sh. is owned by us the Pattentees & Deputies now present at Portland Pointe As Witness our hands the 5th day of July, 1670. —Pattentees: Will Goulding, James Grover, John Boune, Richard Gibbins, Richard X. Stout: Dps: John Hance, Eliakim Wardell, James Boune, Testis— Rd. Richardson, recdr."

The moneys received from subscriptions, as noted in the preceding chapter, were applied toward the expenses of William Reape and the other Patentees in buying the lands from the Indians and bringing settlers here.

Under the conditions of the Nicholls grant, no rents or taxes of any kind might be assessed until seven years after the date of the patent. This condition would give the settlers tax free lands until 1672.

The Nicholls grant gave the settlers a large degree of self-government to regulate all their local affairs and law suits up to the value of 10 pounds (approx. $50). Criminal cases and law suits for amounts above 10 pounds were to be tried in New York. The Middletown and Shrewsbury settlements were given, therefore, the usual degree of self-government enjoyed by the colonies in New England and elsewhere, but were subject to the governor at New York who in this case represented the Duke of York and the King. Religious freedom was also guaranteed and thus many Quakers and Baptists were early settlers here.

The Patentees and the 100 or more families, who migrated to the Middletown and Shrewsbury settlements before the expiration of the three-year period specified in the Patent, lived up to the agreements, and their form of government might have been enjoyed peacefully for years if another system of government had not been set up by the Duke of York.

The Duke had two friends whom he wished to reward for their past services to him and the King. To these friends, Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, he deeded or granted all of Nova-Caesaria or New Jersey in June 1664. This grant to Berkeley and Carteret was made prior to the Nicholls grant to the Patentees for Shrewsbury and Middletown, but Nicholls was ignorant of the Duke's grant and made grants in good faith.

Berkeley and Carteret issued a list of concessions and agreements under which persons might obtain land, settle, and govern themselves in New Jersey. Sir Philip Carteret, a relative of Sir George, was appointed governor to carry out the instructions of the proprietors. Smith [13] gives a complete copy of the Concessions which were in reality the first Constitution of New Jersey. It is interesting to note the dual form of government with the governor and his council of six to twelve men as the upper chamber

[13] History of New Jersey, 1765 (reprint 1890), p. 512 ff.

and an assembly of two delegates elected from each of the various settlements as the lower chamber.

Although Shrewsbury and Middletown sent delegates to the first Assembly called by Governor Carteret at Elizabethtown in 1668, the delegates took the oath of allegiance with reservations and refused to surrender the rights under the Nicholls patent. In a second Assembly of November 1668, these delegates were not allowed to sit in session. The Middletown, Shrewsbury, and other delegates from Nicholls Patents formed an insurgent assembly and forced the temporary withdrawal of Governor Philip Carteret. The proprietors Berkeley and Carteret finally forced the issue and the Nicholls Patentees gradually took the oath of allegiance and observed the regulations set forth in the Assemblies at Elizabethtown.

The Dutch recaptured New York and New Jersey in July 1673, and held it until February 1674. This short period of Dutch control abolished all grants and concessions made by the English from 1664 to 1673. In June 1674 the Duke of York again deeded New Jersey to his friends Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. At the request of Lord Berkeley, who was in bad financial straits, the Duke of York granted the western half of New Jersey to Berkeley's creditors and gave the whole eastern half to Sir George. The government in East Jersey continues until 1682 under practically the same form as that of 1668-1672. Governor Philip Carteret made several concessions to the Nicholls Patentees in 1672 and in 1674 whereby these Patentees of Shrewsbury and Middletown retained their lands and privileges and became eligible for 500 acres of additional land as soon as they petitioned for a land survey.

When Sir George Carteret died in 1680, his widow Lady Elizabeth became executrix and carried on with the sole proprietorship until 1682 when the East Jersey part of Sir George's estate was deeded to six persons in trust for his creditors. Like Lord Berkeley, Sir George had financial difficulties and used his Jersey holdings as a means of paying off debts.

The six trustees sold all of East Jersey to 12 proprietors. The 12 pro-

prietors each sold one half of his rights to another, thus making 24 proprietors. The Duke of York makes another grant (the third) to the 24 proprietors, giving them authority as a council of proprietors to rule their possessions. The council was to consist of at least one-third (8) of the proprietors or their proxies. Two meetings of the proprietors and assembly were held yearly.

In 1682 Shrewsbury was described as containing about 400 families with several thousand acres and large plantations under cultivation. Lewis Morris of Barbadoes was a prominent resident and had large iron works there. Although the quit rents of a half penny per acre and other taxes for the support of the government at Elizabethtown caused considerable trouble between the land owners and the proprietors, many people migrated to New Jersey from New England, Scotland, and England to take up lands.

The governments of both East and West Jersey were not conducted in a manner satisfactory to the many political and religious factions which composed the colonies. The large number of proprietors created a diversity of opinions and constant controversies in the Assemblies. Finally, in 1702, the proprietors of both East and West Jersey surrendered all their rights of government to the crown (Queen Anne) but retained their land titles and non-political functions.

NEW JERSEY A ROYAL COLONY, 1702-1776

Queen Anne appointed Lord Conbury as governor of New Jersey in 1702. He was also governor of New York at the same time. New Jersey was no longer divided into East and West, but the Assembly met alternately at Perth Amboy and Burlington until the capital was established at Trenton.

Shrewsbury settlements were represented in the first Assembly (1703) by Jedikiah Allen whose home was then in the northwest corner of what is now Broad Street and Sycamore Avenue at Shrewsbury. Lewis Morris of Tintern Manor (near Tinton Falls) represented Shrewsbury at nearly

every assembly from 1703 to 1738. Morris and several others soon found fault with Lord Cornbury's administration. One of the main objections to Cornbury's as well as subsequent administrations up to 1738 was the fact that the governor lived in New York, thus making New Jersey a part of New York. The friction [14] between Cornbury and the people's representatives at the assembly finally came to the attention of Queen Anne and she replaced Governor Cornbury by appointing Governor Lovelace in 1708.

Several harmonious sessions of the State Assembly were held in 1708-9 before the sudden death of Lord Lovelace in 1709. The colonies in America were asked to raise sums of money to send an armed force against Canada in what was known in history as Queen Anne's war (English vs. French). New Jersey levied a tax of 3000 pounds and did furnish some volunteers for this war. Paper money (bills of credit) was used for the first time in connection with Queen Anne's war debt. Colonels Vetch and Nicholson came from England in 1709 to lead the expedition which included 200 men from New Jersey and some 1300 men from the other colonies. The expedition set sail from Boston in 36 vessels and in six days' time arrived at Port Royal (Annapolis, Nova Scotia) which was taken from the French.

A second expedition against Montreal went by land and sea but failed to take its objective when the fleet was partly destroyed by collision with an island in the St. Lawrence during a fog. The fleet turned back to England and the land forces at Albany returned home. Governor Hunter served as governor from 1709 to 1720. On the whole his administration was more peaceful than Cornbury's although Hunter was criticized by many for his continued appeals for more salary and other sources of income. Hunter maintained a governor's home at Perth Amboy as well as one in New York.

Agitation for a separation of New Jersey from New York continued during the governorships of Burnett, Montgomery, Cosby, and John Hamilton, 1720-1738. Complete separation was obtained in 1738 when Lewis Morris of Monmouth County (Tinton Manor) was appointed governor.

[14] For complete list of grievances see Smith's History of New Jersey, pp. 289-294; 313-345.

He had long been a prominent member of the Council and very active in the affairs of the colony. He was one of the largest land owners in the colony of New Jersey and had also a large plantation at Morrisania in New York (now Bronx). He was the nephew and chief heir of Colonel Lewis Morris who purchased the iron works at Tinton Falls about 1785. Governor Morris was a cousin to Lewis Morris of Passage Point who owned 700 acres of land at Black Point in Rumson (1695).

Other governors after Morris (died 1746) were Belcher, Bernard and William Franklin to 1776. Smith [15] gives a detailed account of the Indian Treaties made in 1756-1758. The Indians from all sections of the State met at Crosswicks (near Burlington) in 1756 and formulated a list of grievances which were considered in the State Legislature in 1757. Lands still claimed by the Indians were purchased and heavy penalties were prescribed for white persons selling intoxicating liquor to Indians. No Indian could be imprisoned for debt. The State purchased 3000 acres at Brotherton, Burlington County, for the Indians and assisted those who wished to move there in taking their houses and belongings. New Jersey's representatives attended a meeting at Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1758, where additional treaties were made with the Indians.

A COLONIAL PLANTATION IN RUMSON

Colonial maps and records show that John Hartshorne (1725-1813) conducted a summer hotel and inn at Black Point, now Rumson, during and after the time of the American Revolution (1759-1785). The pretentious house stood near the northern end of Navesink Avenue on property that in later years belonged to Seabury Tredwell. The old Indian Trail passed through Rumson approximately where Rumson Road is now. At Navesink Avenue the trail led northeasterly to the North Shrewsbury River, and a lesser trail, not used until recent years for a road, led to the river at the present location of Lincoln Avenue. The latter place at the river was

[15] Op. Cit. pp. 440-484.

known as Jumping Point. This was the place where Joshua Huddy made his famous escape during a skirmish in the Revolutionary War.

The Black Point trail led to the North Shrewsbury River and in the very early days was sometimes called Passage Point. Lewis Morris of Passage Point lived here in 1689-1696. A Negro servant murdered him in 1696, and his son Lewis and widow Elizabeth remained on the place until 1710. Young Lewis Morris and his mother, who married John Leonard of Middletown before 1710, disposed of the 700 acre tract to two persons, the step-father John Leonard took the western half and John Corlies bought the eastern section along the river. The Corlies deed is dated January 9, 1710. This property was bounded by the river on the North, East, and South, and by James Borden on the West in 1803, when it was sold to Thomas Hartshorne (Book N, page 565, Record of Deeds, Freehold).

The John Corlies house was located near the river at the present location of Hartshorne Lane and Ward Avenue. At that time the Lane started at Navesink Avenue and went to the river edge. A map of 1851 shows Hartshorne Lane leading to the river, and does not show the section of Rumson Road beyond Navesink Avenue to Jumping Point.

The John Hartshorne (1725-1813) who had the inn and summer hotel business for the elite of Philadelphia acquired the property just west of John Corlies in 1759, since in this year he first paid taxes in Shrewsbury Township. It is known that John Leonard, step-father of the young Lewis Morris, bought this tract about 1710. Previous to 1759, a wealthy provincial official of New Jersey, Richard Salter, owned this same tract and built on it a pretentious home, according to Dr. Stillwell's account in his Genealogy, Vol. IV; page 187. When Salter moved to Burlington County in 1759, his son-in-law John Hartshorne, who had married Lucy Salter in 1752, purchased the pretentious place and supplemented his income by running a summer hotel and an inn.

Sloops on their way in and out of the North Shrewsbury River stopped at the Black Point dock to take produce, iron from Tinton, and also passengers bound for New York or return. The Burlington Trail had become

a highway before the Revolution, and Black Point, as well as Port Monmouth, was a place where travelers from South Jersey and points further south could find passage to New York by water. This explains why the Black Point Inn is mentioned in Hornor's "This Old Monmouth of Ours," as the first summer resort on the Jersey coast.

After the Battle of Monmouth in 1778, the Americans pursued the British down Rumson Neck Road (Rumson Road), as well as through Middletown to the Highlands. When George Washington stopped at the little brook, which crosses the Rumson Road near the old cemetery, to give his horse a drink, the General asked little Rachel Hance, standing nearby, if he might also have a drink. She brought him a cool drink from the well without realizing, probably, that she was serving our first president. A few minutes after the General and his staff went on their way toward Black Point, a slight skirmish between Americans and some Tories took place a short distance from where Rachel stood, and a bullet whizzed by her head and lodged in a black walnut tree a few feet away. She ran for cover. Rachel Hance was the daughter of John and Catherine Hance and a great granddaughter of the original John Hance who was undoubtedly Rumson's first resident in 1665 or 6. Rachel's nephews, Asher and Borden Hance, were prominent farmers on Rumson Road and had a large tract of land from river to river in the 1850-1880's. A few of our older residents may remember the Asher Hance Nurseries on Rumson Road, extending into Fair Haven.

Hartshorne's Inn passed out of the picture in the late 1700's or early 1800's. The Hances and Bordens of Rumson Road had established a dock on the river where Bingham Avenue is now, and by 1845 Thomas G. Hunt built the palatial Port Washington Hotel to attract the summer residents. The John Hartshorne property did not continue in that particular branch of the family. Before it was acquired by Seabury Tredwell about 1830, it had at least two other owners, James Borden and Eleazar Parmly. Parmly sold it to Seabury Tredwell.

John Hartshorne, the man who first made Rumson a summer resort, had

sons, John and Lawrence, and a daughter Hannah (married Thomas Eddy of Philadelphia). Lawrence was a Tory and had to flee to Canada where he settled at Halifax, Nova Scotia. No mention is made that John, Jr. remained on the Black Point place, but John Jr.'s son, Samual Hopkins Hartshorne (son by a second marriage) appears in Rumson in 1851 as shown by a date map of that year. Samuel Hartshorne was a relative (not a son) of the Thomas Hartshorne who got title to the John Corlies property in 1803. Samuel Hartshorne of Hartshorne Lane and a Robert Hartshorne on Rumson Road, near Little Silver, are remembered by many of our present residents of the borough. Next to the Hance family, the Hartshorne family appears to have the record for being represented in Rumson for a long period of years (1759-1920). The Hance family has been credited with 225 years in Rumson (1665-1890).

In Wolverton's Atlas of Monmouth County in 1889, the 700 acres of Lewis Morris of Passage Point are shown divided into beautiful country estates which are well-known to our older residents. Starting at the Oyster Pond and going northward along the river toward the Highlands, one finds the homes of J. N. Ewell, C. B. Alexander, H. M. Alexander, Malcolm Graham, J. C. Graham, T. C. Clarke, Robert L. Belknap, Howard Clarkson, James W. Alexander, Charles A. Peabody, Jr., and H. A. Crosby, all north of the Sea Bright bridge east of Ward Avenue.

Along the west side of Ward Avenue, north of Rumson Road, are the properties of the Catholic Church, Charles Hartshorne, Mrs. Mary A. Ward, Ralli, George C. Kobbe, and Henry S. Leavitt. Along the North Shrewsbury River east to west, as far as the Avenue of Two Rivers are Mrs. J. A. Romaine, Ogden Hegeman, M. Schrenkeisen, and A. West. East of the Avenue of Two Rivers, between Black Point Road and Hartshorne Lane, are the large estates of Seabury Tredwell and W. L. Tyson. Along the north side of Rumson Road, east of the Avenue of Two Rivers, are J. T. Low, J. H. de Mott, Robert L. Belknap, Charles MacDonald, and the Tennis Club. Tredwell, Dr. Shephard and Dr. Wright owned all of the property south of Rumson Road, east of the Avenue of Two Rivers. There

were no homes south of Rumson Road, east of the Avenue of Two Rivers.

From the above list of homes east of the Avenue of Two Rivers, one can see what happened in 200 years (1689-1889) to the 700 acres of land which Col. Lewis Morris deeded to his nephew, Lewis Morris of Passage Point. During the past 50 years many of the fine country estates in this area have been subdivided so that today one can hardly recognize the original spacious and picturesque homes which made Rumson Road a synonym for wealth and distinction.

Chapter 5

Log of a Journey to New York City, 1734[1]

(This trip to New York City, taking six days in 1734, was made later by steamboat daily in three hours.)

A journal of our intented voyage by Gods Permission from Red Bank to New York Distant 12 Leagues in ye sloop Portland and back Again.

On Saturday the 9th Novm'b 1734 we went on board In order for to come to Sail but in weighing the best bower it got fast under the Stern and it not being got light we could not clear it untill the tide was so much fallen that we could not get away so we was obliged to go on shore again the wind W S W and went home and Likewise the Passengers went home.

On Sunday the 10th we went on board without the Passengers early in

[1] From Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Vol. I, by John E. Stillwell, M.D., pub. New York, 1903. (1944 edition)

ye evening and got Down the river as far as Mr. Pintards it being one mile but it was with much labour for their was no wind and we were oblidge to Row and set all the way, when we came their 7 passengers came on board but went on shore again for the wind sprung up at E & S and that being contrary we went home again on foot, wet weather.

On Mon'd the 11th at 12 o'clock we went on board again with 5 passengers and sailed down the rier as far as Rocky Point the wind at S and their got aground and Lay untill hy water that being at 9 o'clock when we weighed Again & with Abundance of Difficulty and hard Labour we got to black point then it being Late in the night tho it being but 1 mile yet the wind being at S Contrary we ware oblidg to row and set all the way and got aground several times then being come to an Anchor we went on shore & some of our passengers Lodged on shore the weather being all day Lowering. ye distance from Mr. Pintards to black Point being 2 lgs.

On Tues'd we went on board Again with all our passengers In ye morning & set sail & sailed towards the Inlet about I mile and there got aground & tho we carried out an Anchor & strove verry hard for it yet we could not Get off that tide, then their came a Cannoe & fetch't one of our passengers & some of us went onshore & barbycued a pig and Eat him, then towards Evening went on board Again and at hy water we strove to get off again but could not tho we carried out an Anchor & took much trouble, in the evening came in a sloop from Rhode Island Capt John Watson Commander & run aground in call of us at Dark came a Cannoe on board and took one of our passengers on shore.

So we findings our Labour in striving to get off to be in vain we went to sleep the wind at W & N clear weather.

On Wednes'd by Break of day we began beat and thump and at hy water we got off and got over ye shole, we lay upon and came to an Anchor. Likewise the other sloop got off and slipt yer cable & left her boat with it & got some of our passengers to carry it to black point. In the after'noon they came back with that passenger that Left us the night before, then we went on shore 4 of us and got some wood, while we were

on shore one of the Passenger that came on shore with us had a fit of feaver & Ague, when we came on board Again we weighed Anchor & in cafting the Anchor the Cap-roap broak & ye Anchor fell down Again and before we could get it up agin we got aground & was obliged to carry out an Anchor Again in about 1-2 hours time we got off & sailed Down to the baar, but it being low water we struck upon the baar & lay thumping bought 1 hour. by this time the sun was Down & when we got out the wind was at W B (?) N. we sailed along Sandy hook about 2 miles & then the being began Scant upon us and at last came to N.W then we were oblidged to turn it & in 3 trips we got within the hook, we had a verry rough time and several of our passengers ware sick. we ran against shole harbour & came to Anchor there at 11 o'clock at night & went to sleep. some of our passengers ware yetsick the weather indifferent & Clear. she rid all ye night wind still at N E & blew fresh.

On thurs'd towards day we awoke and boiled a pot of potatoes & eat of them by Day light. we weighed Anchor and came to sail. the wind still at N W that morning we got into Permy City Cove where lay 2 Vessels one of them from Egg Harbor which was full of water. ye people came on board of us to get some meat we having a small shoat let them have half of it & took part of the other & carried it on shore with some potatoes which we Exchanged with the other people for musty Indian meal & made Doboys of it at an Indian wigwam. so having Eat our Doe boys potatoes & pork & got some wood, towards Evening we went on Board Again all but 2 passengers which Left us & went home on foot, so then we had lost 3 of our passengers. ye wind still at N W clear weather. the man that had a fit of the feever & ague yesterDay had another this Day. Also I cut my Right hand with a Shell very badly.

On Fri'd we boiled more potatoes & pork & Eat that for our bread was all spent, towards Evening their came a man hail'd us, 4 of us went on shore to him & he told us he wanted a passage to York, we told him ye wind was contrary & we could not tell when we should go for it was at N W still, so he Left us. then having got some wood we went on board

Again, by this time we found ye wind was shifted fair for us, we quickly come to sail and with much Difficulty we got out of the Cove. the wind at S W by this time it was dark, however we steered our course. then we boiled more potatoes and Eat them without Anything. then being oblidged to steer by the Compass we had no Candle but were oblidged to put some tallow in a rag & Do with that, then having made the narrows at 10 o'clock at night we had I small bottle rum which finished by the time we got into the narrows. then the wind dyed away and we hoisted our Square sail but presently the wind sprung up and Broak the Oar. we burn'd it out with & had like to have carried the Square sail away but haveing a brisk gail & fair we got to York by 11 o'clock that night but in comeing to run into the Dock we run with our Bolt Sprit upon ye Long Bridg.

I had like to have Broak it & tore ye jib but haveing clear'd her again we with much difficulty haled her along the Dock where having fastened her & Landed part of our passengers & secured all things the rest of us went to sleep the wind at S.W, clear weather.

On Mon'd we landed some Leather & Cheefs we then being got unto Connches Dock, the weather clear.

Also we took on board 8 barrels and 2 Crates and other goods. at night by candle Light we spliced the Down hale of ye Jib intending to sale at 4 o'clock ye next morning, for then the tide did serve. and ye wind at S fair and good weather. On Thurs'd by 2 o'clock in the morning we got all things in order for us to sail and got water on board. but their being 4 Vefsels of us, all Defineing to sail together, and had Appointed to Call upon one another & we trusting to that, went to sleep. they all went away without calling upon us, so when we awake our vessel was aground and we could not go that tide tho ye wind was fair, when we floated again we came to sail, ye wind at E B (?) N and rain by the time that we got down to ye narrows, the wind was got to N E and ye tide of Eb was made for us then we had a Debate Among us whether we should come to an Anchor their and stay untill better weather or stand along, but at Length we concluded to stand along and see it out, but the fog was so thick that we

ware oblig'd to steer by ye compafs and in crofsing ye bay the Cask shiifted in ye hold ye Seas being so rough—Likewise our main sail give way out of the bold Roap, ye wind being so hard, however after some time we made Sandy Hook, we then being within we made for permy City Cove but in going in we grounded upon ye point of the Cove, but haveing a fresh breeze we rub'd over but being Desireous to get as far in as we could we went to put her in stays, but she milstayed several times, then we wore her but with mifstaying so often we were got so near ye shoal that in waring she struck, but rub'd over, then we find the wind so hard that it was impofsible to bring her to stays we come to an Anchor in ye mouth of ye Cove, so haveing put things in order we went and kindled a fire and warm'd ourselves, their being but 2 pafsengers, we went to sleep, ye wind still at N E and rain and cold uncomfortable weather. On frd'd morning went to mend ing ye main sail, but for want of a nedle we were oblidg to make one of an old fork, which we made holes through ye sail and put ye twine through and so round ye bolt roap, so having mended some part and hoop ye other by taking a reef we come to sail ye wind at N W and in 3 trips we got around ye point of ye Rock the wind then being fair we in a little time got in ye River but just as we come to black point ye wind being contrary thare we got aground and was oblidg'd to carry out an Anchor before we could get her off but having got her afloat.

Chapter 6

SEABURY TREDWELL PROPERTY, 1669-1964

(1944—from deeds loaned by Jesse Howland and Harry I. Caesar)

The Tredwell property and house have a very interesting history which has been traced in the land records in Freehold as far back as 1670. This property is a part of the large estate which comprised approximately 700 acres at the extreme east end of Rumson Neck and was first developed as a plantation by Lewis Morris in 1689. This Lewis Morris is known as the Lewis Morris of Passage Point to distinguish him from his uncle, Col. Lewis Morris who had the iron works at Tinton Falls, and a first cousin Lewis who became the first Governor of New Jersey as a separate province in 1738.

In Book E, page 142, Record of Deeds, in Freehold, is found the deed of March 4, 1710, in which Lewis Morris (son of Lewis Morris of Passage

Point) sells to John Leonard for 600 pounds the original property with the exception of a tract along the east side which he had already sold to John Corlies on January 9, 1710.

The deed of Lewis to Leonard describes the property as follows:

"Whereas Christopher Almy of Rhode Island was seised of a certain tract of land and meadow formerly by the name of Narrumsont now being called Passage Point will all the privileges thereunto belonging, the said land and premises he, the said Almy did ded, grant, and sell unto Simon Cooper Chirurgeon his heirs and assigns forever."

The deed then recites that Simon Cooper got a patent from the Governor and Council on January 15, 1679. Cooper sold the identical property to Col. Morris on November 10, 1681, and Col. Morris transferred title to Lewis Morris of Passage Point on April 15, 1689. The deed relates also that Lewis Morris of Passage Point acquired from William Shatock on July 4, 1690, an additional tract which bordered on the west side of the Morris tract. This addition brought the Morris property westward to the present line of Avenue of Two Rivers.

The reader should know here that Lewis Morris of Passage Point was murdered in 1696 by his servants and that his widow, Elizabeth Almy, daughter of William Almy of Rhode Island, shortly thereafter married Capt. John Leonard by whom she had four sons before 1711. Capt. John Leonard died about 1711 and left a will (Book E, p. 107) which empowers a cousin, Henry Leonard, to sell the Passage Point property to pay his debts, etc.

The widow and four sons (John, Henry, Samuel, and Christopher) gave a deed to Gabrielle Stelle, dated March 23, 1722 (Book G, p. 117), in which the Leonard property is sold for 900 pounds.

On February 22, 1737, for 1240 pounds Gabrielle Stelle and wife, Margaret, gave a deed to Richard Salter. The same property is described and the Corlies sale of 1710 is noted as well as the fact that Pontus Stelle now lives on the property. Pontus Stelle owned and operated stage coach lines to and from Burlington.

Richard Salter, a wealthy provincial official of New Jersey, built a large house on the property according to Stillwell's Geneology.[1]

On July 27, 1753 (Recorded May 18, 1798, Book L, p. 240) for 2000 pounds, the same property passed to Joseph Salter and John Hartshorne as tenants in common. This deed adds the fact that Joseph Salter was living on the place. The reader should know that John Hartshorne had married Joseph's sister Lucy in 1752.

By a deed on March 4, 1761 (Recorded May 19, 1793, Book L, page 244) for a consideration of 1561 pounds 10 shillings and 9 pence, Joseph Salter relinquished all title to the property in favor of John Hartshorne. John Hartshorne enjoyed possession of the pretentious Salter house for many years and conducted an inn and summer hotel here as noted elsewhere in this book. His occupancy spanned the period of the American Revolution and many a tale of Tories and Patriots was told at the Inn. The Hartshornes were suspected of being Tories and the record shows that one of John's sons, Lawrence, joined the Tories and settled later at Halifax, N.S., where he had descendants.

John Hartshorne left a will, dated June 21, 1810 (Book A, p. 618), in which he directed that the property should be sold and the proceeds to be divided as follows: son Lawrence $750, John $750, and niece Elizabeth Robinson $300. Remainder, if any, to be divided equally between Lawrence, Hannah, and John. The latter and a cousin William Hartshorne (son of Robert) were named executors.

By a deed of April 15, 1815, for $18,000, the two executors, John and William Hartshorne gave a deed to Britton White. On the same day (Book V, p. 288), Britton White gave a deed to John Hartshorne for $18,000. (Note: This looks like a legal procedure to enable John Hartshorne to get clear title or to avoid family squabbles.)

On April 1, 1829 (Book R 2, p. 294), John Hartshorne and wife Hannah, gave a deed to George W. Hall for $10,000. This deed indicated however, that 150 A. had been sold on June 10, 1819 (Book B2, p. 508) to David E.

[1] Vol. IV., p. 187.

Ogden and Lewis Marks, and that 4 A. had also been sold to Sarah Tabor.

George W. Hall and Emily, his wife, sold their property to Eleazar Parmly on November 22, 1830 (Book Z, p. 242) for $12,000. On September 17, 1832 (Book D3, p. 359), Parmly sold the same property to Seabury Tredwell for $13,000.

Tredwell increased his holding on June 5, 1833 by the purchase of 150 A. from William L. Borden (Book D2, p. 330). This addition was on the east and north east of the original Tredwell purchase and is the same 150 A. which John Hartshorne sold on June 10, 1819, to David Ogden and Lewis Marks. It is known that William L. Borden purchased this tract from Jacob Corlies on August 22, 1827 (Book O 2, p. 313). We may assume that Jacob Corlies purchased it from Ogden and Marks.

The Tredwell property was enlarged by the acquisition of property south of Rumson Road between Avenue of Two Rivers and Sea Bright as well as parcels north of Rumson Road at Ward Avenue (see Plate 6, Wolverton's Atlas, 1889). The present owner is Mr. Joseph Hoagland, Jr.

Chapter 7

NEWS ITEMS, 1726-1778

(1944—compiled by Charles A. Wolbach)

June 17, 1762 (First Series, Vol. V., 1762-1765)

B. Cook advertised as follows in Penna Gazette:

"Any number of Gentlemen or Ladies, not exceeding five, may have a genteel covered light waggon to convey them from Bordentown to Shrewsbury, upon any Monday, from the date hereof, for 35 shillings, the run downe by me."

June 13, 1764 (same series, same paper)

"This is to acquaint the Public, that I have moved from Bordentown to Black Point, about 6 miles from Shrewsbury Town, where all Gentlemen and Laudies, who intend going there, for the benefit of the Salts, may depend on good accommodation, and best usage, from their most humble servant." —John Brown

June 23, 1740 (Vol XII, Newspaper extracts, Vol. II, 1740-1750).

The New York Weekly Journal had the following notice:

"Run away from Thomas White of Shrewsbury, a certain lusty negro fellow called James, he has his right shoulder cut, and is still so which by lifting up his arm may be soon discovered: he had on when he went away a homespun coat, thread stockings, and a new pair of pumps. Whosoever takes up the said negro and secure him so that his master may have him again shall have 20 shillings as a reward and all reasonable charges paid by Thomas White."

Feb. 6, 1766 (Vol. XXV, 1766-1767) in the Penna Gazette

"To Be Lett"

"The noted Tavern at Black Point, in Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, in East Jersey, and may be entered on March next. For further particulars enquire of John Salter at Pool's Bridge, Phila., Hugh Hartshorne, Esq. at Bristol; Joseph Salter, near Trenton, or to John Hartshorne near the premises."

Also in the same paper in the same issue (1766)

"Six Pounds Reward"

"Ran away from the subscriber, in Shrewsbury, the two following Negroes, viz., Pompey, a lusty fellow, about 35 years of age, 5 feet 8 or 9 in. high. Had on red duffel Trowsers and Waistcoat, speaks pretty good English. Nero, a slender young fellow, about 25 years old, speaks very bad English, had on a red duffel waistcoat and brown Broadcloth breeches. They went away in a small boat, 16 ft. keel, black bottom and her wales painted with Spanish Brown, had 4 oars on board." —John Morris

Jan. 29, 1777 (Second Series, Vol K, Newspaper Extract, Vol. K, 1776-1777)

The Penna Journal and Weekly Advertiser had the following news item:

"A party from Col. Humpton's Regiment, who are stationed in West Jersey, about the middle of the month, went to Shrewsbury in Monmouth County, where they took a large quantity of cloth and other stores, collected there by a set of Tories, who infest that county, many of which were obliged to make a precipitious retreat on board the English Men of War."

July 15, 1778

The same paper as above under date line Trenton, N. J., carried the following news:

"It is currently reported that the French fleet under the command of Admiral Count d'Estagny is arrived off Shrewsbury from which we hourly expect to hear some important intelligence."

July 23, 1778

The same paper carried the following under date line Fishkill, N. Y.:

"A large drove of cattle are sent to Shrewsbury in order to supply the fleet at Sandy Hook (British)."

1726—(In N. J. Archives, first series (1720-1737)

On page 164 is a census report as taken by the sheriffs of each county and reported by them to the colonial officials. At that time the population of Monmouth County was 4446 whites, 433 negroes, total 4879. Monmouth County was the most populous in the state, Essex being next with 4230 total, and Burlington third with 4129 total. The whole State of New

Jersey (province) had a total of 34,442. (Note how few people lived here 60 years after the first settlers came to Monmouth County.)

Feb. 9, 1740—In New York Weekly Journal

The following news under date line of New York:

"Last week Capt. Barnes from South Carolina came up to town having left his sloop at Shrewsbury where she is froze up."

May 11, 1761—In New York Mercury, under date line New York

"Samuel Corlas of Shrewsbury is now in our goal (jail) for killing his wife with a gun."

June 16, 1773—(Vol. XXVIII, Newspaper extract, Vol. IX, 1772-1773)

On page 535, the following ad appears in the Penna Journal:

"The road leading to the New Ferry (near Trenton) is very good and the difference in the distance between it and the Old Ferry from Phila. to N. Y., is but little better than half a mile which the convenience of the Ferry will abundantly compensate. Gentlemen &C., travelling toward Crosswicks, Allen-Town, Shrewsbury, Black Point, &C will save near two mile riding."

Elijah Bond John Thornton.

About 1770

In Vol. V. of Stillwell's Genealogy of the White family of Monmouth County, one finds a reprint of an autobiography written by Benjamin White (1755-1841) of Shrewsbury who conducted a country store in Shrewsbury Village for many years and was affectionately known as "Book Muslin

Bennie." The following is quoted because it relates Mr. White's experience at Black Point (Rumson) and shows his sincere belief in a kind Providence in this and other occasions in his life.

"We started early one morning to gunning at Black Point, Judiah Allen's brother and Brother Robert, the weather was very cold. I shot some fowl and in going for it on the ice I broke through, lost my gun in the water and came near drowning. I was expecting every moment to sink under the ice, my mind being turned unto the Lord, I said "O Lord I am now coming unto thee, do thou have mercy on my soul." At last having got my arms on the ice and with my feet as if swimming brought me to the top of the water, and with great effort I gradually crawled on the ice, and as I moved I said "Am I yet alive," and I praised my Maker for deliverance.

"John Hartshorne had been an eyewitness to all my struggles in the water but dared not come to me until I was on strong ice; he then gave me his arm and helped me to Widow Marshe's Tavern at Black Point. They put me to bed—"

Chapter 8

RUMSON IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

(1944—Charles A. Wolbach)

The present boroughs of Rumson, Red Bank, Fair Haven, Shrewsbury, and Little Silver were parts of Shrewsbury Township during the American Revolution. During the years of the conflict between the colonists (patriots) and the British (Tories), the shore section of Shrewsbury Township had interesting episodes, several of which took place in Shrewsbury. The Jumping Point episode of Joshua Huddy took place in Rumson.

As a background for understanding the episode of Joshua Huddy, the reader should know that Shrewsbury Township had its patriots and Tories who fought each other on sight. Some families were split so that brother fought brother. British ships along the coast landed raiding parties which devastated the country side in quest of food, ammunition, or other commodities. Sometimes a raiding party of British sympathizers would shoot

or kidnap leading patriots. The notorious Pine Robbers were Tory refugees who worked for the British by stealing supplies and selling them to the British. Their name was derived from the fact that this band of marauders lived in the pines and swamps in the central and southern end of the county.

The reader who wishes a very comprehensive account of the part Monmouth County played in the Revolution should read Ellis' or Lewis', History of Monmouth County. As early as Oct. 1, 1774, the city of Boston acknowledged the receipt of 1140 bushels of rye and 50 barrels of rye flour which sympathizers from Monmouth had sent to Boston to relieve the food shortage in that city due to the British Port Bill. On July 21, 1774, Monmouth County was represented at a meeting at New Brunswick of all "Committees of Correspondence and Inquiry" which were established in protest of the Boston Port Bill, Stamp Act, and other infringements of the personal and constitutional liberties of the colonists.

Records of 1774 and 1775 show that Shrewsbury Township was slow in following the other townships in the organization of patriotic committees to resist the British rule.[1] The township had many Tories who resisted any action that would tend to diminish their loyalty to the mother country. The Quakers were numerous in Shrewsbury and their religious faith forbade participation in war.

A colonial Congress of New Jersey grew out of the Committees of Correspondence, Committees of Safety, and other organizations which were formed in protest of the British procedure in colonial government. This colonial Congress had no plans at first for independence, but it did adopt measures for armed resistance to George III in the same resolution which also pledged allegiance to his Sacred Majesty, George III.

The State Militia of New Jersey was organized to contain 26 regiments. Monmouth County was assigned the task of enlisting three regiments in the state militia and raising 1069 pounds, 10 s., 8 d. to defray expenses.

In addition to the state militia the Congress of N. J. fell in line with

[1] See Ellis, History of Monmouth County, pp. 122-3.

Massachusetts and other colonies in establishing an army of "minute men" who would be ready on short notice to report for duty within or without the colony. A "minute man" enlisted for four months only unless at the end of that time he was actually on duty. In contrast with the soldier of today it is interesting to note the instructions given to enlisted men in 1775. Every man enlisted in the militia "shall, with all convenient speed, furnish himself with a good musket or firelock or bayonet, sword, or tomahawk, a steel ramrod, priming wire and brush fitted thereto, a cartouch box to contain 23 rounds of cartridges, twelve flints and a knapsack, agreeable to the direction of the Continental Congress (at Philadelphia), under the forfeiture of two shillings for the want of a musket or firelock, and of one shilling for the want of the other above enumerated articles." Also, at his place of abode, each enlisted man was to provide himself "with one pound of powder and three pounds of bullets of proper size to his musket or firelock."

When it was learned in New Jersey that General Howe (British) was leaving Boston and might attack New York, New Jersey sent some troops to New York to prevent the occupancy of the city by the British. The "minute men" were combined with the militia and never functioned as a separate unit as was the case in Massachusetts.

As late as June 19, 1776, the Colonial Congress of New Jersey received a petition from a group of inhabitants of Shrewsbury and Middletown asking the Congress to maintain its former mode of government and not to seek a separation of this colony from Great Britain.

On June 26, 1776, the Colonial Congress of New Jersey ordered two companies of militia from Burlington County to proceed into Monmouth County to apprehend any insurgents (Tories) who were trying to interfere with plans to defend Monmouth from invasion by the British. The British were reported off shore on June 28, when they had taken possession of Sandy Hook. Colonel Joseph Borden of Bordentown (grandson of Benjamin and Susannah Grover of Middletown) furnished the wagons, etc. to transport militia from Pennsylvania to Monmouth County to

defend the inhabitants from the British. Among those who were resisting the cause of the patriots and who were apprehended were Jacob, Joseph, and Peter Wardell (July 30, 1776) who were furnishing the enemy with provisions. A Joseph Wardell owned the tract in Rumson which later became the Bingham and Parmly property.

A threatened invasion of the Jersey Coast did not materialize as expected, but the militia had plenty of action in and around New York, which was finally taken by the British in the fall of 1776. Washington and his army retreated across New Jersey passing through New Brunswick and Princeton to Trenton and Philadelphia. The British established strong positions at New Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton. Most of New Jersey, including Monmouth County, was firmly in British hands for only a few months.

The brilliant victories at Trenton and Princeton during the Christmas season of 1776 kept alive the hope that the British could be beaten in time. Recruits flocked to Washington's armies and New Jersey was cleared of invaders. Washington's forces spent the winter of 1776-7 at Morristown watching the British at New York. It was suspected that the British would take Philadelphia in the spring of 1777 either by crossing the Delaware from New Jersey or by attack from warships in the Delaware. The land attack was frustrated by Washington's troops when they intercepted the British at Woodbridge, Metuchen, and other points near New Brunswick in June 1777. The Americans hastened to the Philadelphia area when a large British fleet was reported approaching Philadelphia.

The British maintained garrisons on Staten Island and Sandy Hook during the time that they occupied New York. These garrisons kept in touch with Tories in Monmouth and were a constant source of trouble to the colonial troops in the county. The Pine Robbers, mentioned above, committed murders, if necessary, to obtain food and supplies for themselves or their allies, the Tories.

The finale of Jacob Fagan, notorious leader of Pine Robbers, was published in the New Jersey Gazette of Oct. 1, 1778:

"About ten days ago Jacob Fagan, who having previously headed a

number of villans in Monmouth County that have committed divers robberies, and were the terror of travelers, was shot, since which his body has been gibbed on the publick highway in that county to deter others from perpetrating the like detestable crimes."

Capt. Benjamin Dennis, whose men had caught and shot Fagan and two of his confederates, was later shot by Lewis Fenton, one of Fagan's gang.

Ellis[2] mentions some prominent men in Monmouth County who were adherents of the Tory cause but did not resort to any violence such as robbery or other acts. Among these men were Clayton Tilton of Shrewsbury who became a captain of the British army; John Wardell, a judge of Monmouth County before the Revolution; Capt. Richard Lippincott of Shrewsbury, grandson of an original settler in the village; Elisha Lawrence, sheriff of Monmouth County and a descendant of early settlers at Middletown; Thomas Leonard of Upper Freehold; Joseph Holmes; John Lawrence of Upper Freehold, a prominent surveyor for the province; Rev. Samuel Cook, D.D., Episcopal minister at the Shrewsbury church; Thomas Crowell of Middletown; Lawrence Hartshorne, son of John Hartshorne, who was born and lived on the Hartshorne estate in Rumson, later Seabury Tredwell place; and other prominent citizens.

Capt. David Forman (later Brig. General) was in charge of a contingent of colonial troops in the country. His vigilance prevented many depredations by Tories and refugees who were assisting the British cause. Collins' Gazette of June, 1779, gives an account of a skirmish at Black Point,[3] Rumson, in which Capt. Chadwick and Lieut. Hendrickson of the Colonials were killed. It appears that 50 refugees landed in Monmouth and reached Tinton Falls before they were discovered. Their main object was to steal cattle and to drive them to the shore where boats would carry them to Sandy Hook. Chadwick and Hendrickson were being carried away as prisoners when they were shot. Lieut. James Moody of the British relates the Black Point incident in a paper which was published in London after the war. The Colonials

[2] Op. cit., p. 201.
[3] Ibid., p. 207.

caught up with the British at Black Point but were unable to stop the British escape because of lack of ammunition and men. Moody estimated the value of stores stolen at 500 pounds After many escapades, Moody was captured by the Americans and became a prisoner at West Point, N. Y. He was court martialed for the Black Point killings and sentenced to be hanged. He escaped from prison on Sept. 17, 1780, by breaking his handcuffs, knocking down a sentinel, assuming the sentinel's post, and escaping during the excitement caused when his cell was found empty.

A negro slave of John Corlies (most easterly resident on Rumson Neck at Sea Bright), known as Colonel Tye, was the leader of a band of negroes who sympathized with the British cause. The colored refugees had a rendezvous on Sandy Hook and made incursions into Shrewsbury to harass colonial troops and to obtain supplies illegally. On a raiding expedition in June 1780, a band of colored refugees, led by Tye, carried to Sandy Hook as prisoners, Captain Barnes Smock and Gilbert Van Mater, spiked an iron cannon, and took four horses in Shrewsbury.

On Oct. 15, 1781, Colonel Nathaniel Scudder, M.D., of Freehold, was killed at Black Point (Rumson) during an attempt by colonials to recapture some prisoners which the British raiding party was taking on boats at Black Point on their way to Sandy Hook.

Captain Joshua Huddy is important in Rumson's History because an incident in his life took place at "Jumping Point" on the river bank at Sea Bright, near the present location of the Sea Bright bridge (Lincoln Avenue). Huddy lived at Colt's Neck and was surprised on the night of Sept. 1, 1780, by a band of black and white Refugees (Tories) headed by "Colonel Tye," mentioned above. Huddy and a girl, Lucretia Emmons, were alone in the house, and had to surrender after some shots were exchanged and the house was set afire. Huddy was carried away as a prisoner. For some reason the Refugees tried to escape across the river at the narrowest point to Wardell's Beach (Sea Bright). The Colonials reached the river bank while the boat which carried Huddy as a prisoner was in midstream. Huddy saw his friends on the bank and jumped overboard, shouting "I am Huddy." He swam to shore, although he had been wounded in the thigh

by a bullet which was intended for the captors. Huddy had other engagements with the Refugees who finally captured him again at the Toms River blockhouse in March, 1782. This time the British carried Huddy to Sandy Hook. On April 12, 1782, a party of Refugees took Huddy to Gravelly Point at the Highlands and hung him. Capt. Richard Lippincott was believed to have led the hanging party which justified its execution of Huddy by accusing him of murdering Philip White, a Tory sympathizer, several years before. The hanging of Huddy without a military trial caused bitter hatred of all Tories and helped to free Monmouth County of any and all persons who had dealings with the British. Washington notified the British commander, Sir Henry Clinton, of the hanging of Huddy and demanded the surrender of Lippincott. When the British refused to surrender Lippincott, Washington order the selection of a victim from among the British officers imprisoned at Lancaster, Pa. The lot fell on Capt. Charles Asgill, a British nobleman. Asgill was never executed because of the intercession of the King, Asgill's mother, wife, and Count de Vergennes, French minister to the colonies.

The road from Burlington to Crosswicks to Freehold to Tinton Falls to Shrewsbury to Black Point in Rumson was traveled extensively during the Revolution. It has been noted in a previous article that a tavern was located at Black Point. The Hartshornes owned the land at Black Point and were suspected at various times of aiding the Tories. John Hartshorne's son, Lawrence, enlisted in the British troops at Sandy Hook and is known to have settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after the war.

The incident that was related by Rachel Hance (Mrs. Asher Corlies), in regard to Washington's ride down Rumson Road, has been included in a previous article on a colonial plantation. Because of their adherence to the Quaker doctrine, the Hances, Corlies', Bordens, Hartshornes, and others did not take an active part in the actual fighting. With few exceptions, these pioneer families of Shrewsbury retained possession of their plantations during the Revolution, showing that they were in sympathy with the colonials. The property of all Tories was confiscated by a public sale on April 18, 1778.

Chapter 9

RUMSON IN THE WARS OF 1812, 1848, AND 1861

According to Ellis[1] no Monmouth County troops saw active service in the War of 1812. Troops from the county were in training during 1813 and 1814 and held maneuvers at the Highlands in preparation for duty. Many British armed vessels were seen along the coast at Sea Bright but no raiding parties were made into Shrewsbury or other parts of Monmouth County.

In the Mexican War of 1846-8, three companies of infantry from New Jersey were on duty on the brig G. B. La Mar, which guarded the coast near Matamoras, Mexico. None of the New Jersey troops participated in any battles.

In the Civil War of 1861-5, Monmouth County furnished its quota on every call that was made for troops. The State provided the necessary arms and munitions that could not be provided by the Federal government.

[1] Op. Cit., p. 240.

New Jersey's first troops left Trenton on 14 canal boats on May 3, 1861, and were the first troops to arrive in Washington, D. C., to protect the capital. A Washington newspaper, National Intelligence, of May 5, 1861, states: "The whole brigade, with its four pieces of artillery, arrived at Annapolis on Sunday, May 5, in 28 hours from Trenton, and proceeded direct to Washington. It is stated that the 14 transports, with a strong convoy, made a splendid appearance steaming in two lines down the Chesapeake. This Corps is composed of some of the best men in the State and in athletic appearance, as well as general soldierly deportment, is a credit to the country."

The New Jersey brigade had more drill and preparation before it was moved into Virginia to stop the Confederates who were coming northward to attack Washington, D. C. It so happened that the N. J. contingent was not stationed at Bull Run and was not included in the first battle in which the Union Army was forced to retreat pell mell to Washington. In a few weeks after Bull Run the three-month enlistment had expired and most of the N. J. contingent was mustered out. Some rejoined the army on a three-year enlistment and saw active service.

The Fifth Regiment N. J. Infantry Volunteers had one Company (K) which was composed entirely of men from Monmouth County. This regiment left Trenton on Aug. 29, 1861, and was a part of the Third Brigade of General Hooker's Division on the Lower Potomac. From May 4, 1862 to Nov. 5, 1864, this brigade participated in numerous engagements. At least 25 men from Monmouth died from wounds or disease in this brigade alone.

The 14th Volunteer Infantry of New Jersey contained three companies (A, D, and G) of Monmouth County men. These were three-year men who left for service on September 2, 1862. Until July 9, 1863, this Infantry unit guarded the Monocacy bridge in Maryland. After July 9, 1863, the unit became a part of the Army of the Potomac and saw active service at Rapidan, the Wildnerness, and Petersburg, Va. Many men in this unit lost their lives in battle and by disease. Major General Peter Vredenburgh,

Jr. of Freehold, who commanded the 14th N. J. Volunteers, lost his life at the Opequan, near Winchester, Va. The reader who wishes a complete list of Monmouth men who served in the 14th and other Volunteer units should refer to Ellis (pp. 242-270).

Among other units, which were composed almost entirely of Monmouth men, were the 29th Regiment (9 month's enlistment) which was organized at Freehold in August and September, 1862. This regiment saw action at Chancellorsville, Va., and lost many men in battle. Monmouth men were found also in the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-eighth, Thirty-fourth, and Thirty-fifth Regiments. Men from Monmouth were found also in the Second and Third Cavalry Regiments and in Batteries A, B, and D of the Artillery.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

After the War of the Rebellion, posts or lodges for men who served in the war sprang up all over the country. Arrowsmith Post, No. 61, Red Bank, was organized on December 6, 1881 and had 101 members. The Post was named for Lieut. Col. George Arrowsmith of Middletown, who was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

Ellis [2] gives a biography of this brave, young colonel who distinguished himself in the battles of Bull Run and Chancellorsville before he was mortally wounded at Gettysburg at the age of 24. He led his troops personally at Gettysburg in a charge in which only 80 men out of 420 and only 8 of 26 officers survived the onslaught. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery, near Red Bank. His friends and classmates of Madison University, of which he was a graduate, erected a monument over his grave on which is inscribed, "Erected by his numerous friends in token of his distinguished personal worth, patriotic devotion and distinguished bravery."

The G.A.R. kept alive the memory of the Civil War days by their frequent meetings and encampments, and by celebrating the annual Me-

[2] Op. Cit., p. 269-70.

morial Day with special ceremonies at the cemeteries and churches throughout the land. For many years the veterans of '65 made an annual visit to the schools to entertain and to be entertained. The school children of ten years ago may remember the last two or three veterans in blue who accompanied the Sons of Veterans and other patriotic groups on these annual visits. A few years ago the last surviving member of Arrowsmith Post passed away. The American Legion of World War I, and possibly a new organization of World War II, will carry on to this and future generations the patriotic fervor and enthusiam of the G.A.R. These newer organizations will continue to decorate on Memorial Day the graves of the men who served their country in past wars.

Chapter 10

NEWS ITEMS, 1881-1894

(1944—compiled by Rose Foderaro, Florence Johnson, Helen Melacci, and Gloria Woodruff)

News From Oceanic

A new post-office building has been erected here by Mr. Bruce formerly of the firm of Lloyd and Bruce. It will be occupied also as a fruit store. The building has been erected on a contract for $230.

Mr. Charles Longstreet was the builder. The post-office and fruit store were occupied on Monday for the first time.—Red Bank Register, October 17, 1881, Vol. 4, No. 17.

Enright's Store (Oceanic)

The partnership of Enright Bros. was dissolved on Monday. John Enright has assumed control of the property and will continue business.—Red Bank Register, Oct. 17, 1881.

Correction on Enright Store

In noticing the dissolution of the partnership of Enright Bros. last week, mistake. James purchased and will continue.—Red Bank Register, Oct. 24, 1881.

(Oceanic) Robinson's Market Closes for Season

Reason for closing is that the people of Oceanic do not patronize home enterprize but purchase meats elsewhere. About April first Mr. Robinson will reopen as he received liberal patronage from Summer residents.—Red Bank Register, Oct. 28, 1881.

Rumson Nurseries

The spring catalogue of the Rumson Nurseries is now ready for distribution. Besides the usual features of a catalogue it embraces the description of every ornamental tree cultivated at the Rumson Nurseries and gives unusual prominence to those which flourish near the sea coast. The catalogue is very interesting, and we advise everyone who is thinking of beautifying his grounds to send for one. The catalogue was compiled by Mr. A. R. Borden.—Red Bank Register, Feb. 8, 1882, Vol. 4, No. 33.

Rumson Nurseries

Financially embarrassed for a number of years placed in the hands of a receiver at the suit of bookkeeper James Brown—the chancellor vacates the receivership on a legal technicality on the petition of Conover Bros.—These are the headlines of an issue of the Red Bank Register, dated March 8, 1882, Vol. 4, No. 37.

Jails

An Irishman at Oceanic, who is known as "Mickey Free," and who has given a great deal of trouble to the residents of that place, was arrested on Saturday and sent to the county jail for twenty days.

In order to evade arrest he ran into the river, and Constable Chas. E. Applegate, who was in pursuit of him, was obliged to take a boat to effect his capture.—Red Bank Register, July 19, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 4.

Police

Red Bank, Oceanic, Sea Bright, Long Branch, and the other towns should maintain a sufficient force of police officers in the summer season to thoroughly patrol the streets and roads at night and make it impossible for burglars to rob a cottage without being disturbed at their work. To do this would cost money and would increase taxes. But it would pay.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 2, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 6.

RIVERSIDE GROCERY, OCEANIC, N. J.

Patterson & Son—Dealers in dry goods, plain and fancy groceries, provisions, etc.

A large and first class stock of goods at reasonable prices.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 9, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 7.

Mr. Ward bought 40 acres of Mr. Parker's land in 1869, at $400 per acre, opened up Ward Avenue and has sold plots.

Wards Avenue runs north from Hartshorne Lane, and has upon its river side the fine residences of R. I. Belknap, the Abbott estate, now rented by Howard Clarkson, Esq., James W. Alexander, Charles A. Peabody, Jr., and H. A. Crosby, with a plot on the north side of Mr. Crosby's of about 700 feet.—Red Bank Register, August 16, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 8.

Mr. Geroge S. Scott, who already owns a villa by the sea at Monmouth

Beach, has bought from the Hance estate, a plot of about 30 acres, extending to the south Shrewsbury River, just beyond the lands of Messrs. Hutchinson and Fisk.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 16, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 8.

Mr. George S. Scott has sold his marine villa and grounds at Monmouth Beach to Mr. Hudnut, the well known druggist for the sum of $32,500. Mr. Scott will at once begin a handsome and spacious cottage and other building upon his new purchase on the Rumson Road, where he has a frontage of 400 feet adjoining the old Hance farm house. The owner of the latter, one of the Messrs. Hance, has bought from his brother the meadow land in front of the farm house and south of the Rumson Road at $500 per acre.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 23, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 9.

Personal

Bishop O'Farrell of the New Jersey Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, was in town on Friday. He is visiting the family of Mr. Jose F. De Navarro of Rumson. The bishop is a very learned man, and is looked upon as an authority in historical matters.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 23, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 9.

RIVERSIDE GROCERY, OCEANIC, N. J.

Patterson and Son, Dealers in
Dry Goods, Plain and Fancy Groceries, Provisions, etc.

A large and First-class Stock of Goods at Reasonable Prices.

Patterson and Son
Oceanic, N. J.

Repeated advertisement, Red Bank Register, Oct. 4, 1882. Vol. 5, No. 16.

H. ROBINSON

Dealer-in-First-Class
Meats, Poultry and Vegetables
Markets at
Fair Haven and Oceanic, N. J.
The best quality of salt and smoked meats, sausage, headcheese, lard, etc. Always on hand, at prices that defy competition.
Red Bank Register, Nov. 22, 1882, Vol. 5, No. 22

Silk Culture

A new and Profitable Employment
For
Women at Home

This industry which is now attracting so much attention, can be conducted with profit and advantage by women and children in their homes. Farmers' wives and daughters have particular advantages over all others in pursuing this industry. $5.00 will buy sufficient eggs and requisites to begin with.

Catalogue giving prices of stock and instructions for silk culture mailed free to all applicants by

HANCE & BORDEN
Managers Rumson Nurseries
Red Bank, N. J.

In addition to the business of providing silk food and requisites, The Rumson Nurseries supply plants and trees of all kinds as heretofore.—Red Bank Register, Mar. 7, 1883, Vol. 5, No. 37

News from Oceanic

The coming election for road overseer will probably be quite exciting, yet, we may safely prophecy the election of Mr. Joseph Longstreet, who has acted in that capacity a long time with perfect satisfaction to all.—Red Bank Register, Mar. 14, 1883, Vol. 5, No. 38

CHAS. A. SCOTT
CARRIAGE MANUFACTURER
OCEANIC, N. J.

Carriages made of every description such as Rockaways, Coupes, Victorias, Phaetons, Spring, T Carts, Buggies, etc. I also manufacture Farm Wagons, and Business Wagons of every kind. All work guaranteed first-class and prices as low as first-class work will admit. Also painting, trimming and repairing in all its branches. Give me a trial and be satisfied that my work is done equal to any shop either in city or country.

Chas. A. Scott

Red Bank Register, May 23, 1883, Vol. 5, No. 48

News from Oceanic

Chas. W. Longstreet's block of stores is completed. Three of the stores are already rented. One of them is occupied by Postmaster Bruce as a post office, news depot, and stationery store. The upper floors of the entire block are fitted up as tenements, and these are all occupied.—Red Bank Register, July 4, 1883, Vol. 6, No. 2.

Choice Lots for Sale

1,000 choice lots at Oceanic are offered for sale very cheap. Special rates will be made to purchasers of 2 or more lots.

Also for sale on
Bellevue Avenue near Sea Bright a number of suitable lots for country residences

Also for sale or rent, furnished or unfurnished, a Boarding House at Oceanic containing 20 rooms in first class order. For map or other information apply at the store of Geo. H. Hance, Jr.

Cor. Broad and Mechanic Sts. Red Bank, N. J.
Red Bank Register, Aug. 8, 1883, Vol. VI, No. 7.

New Church Planned

The collection taken on Sunday for the benefit of the new Catholic Church amounting to $5,553.94. The building will be situated on a high bluff on the south side of Rumson Road, and just west of the draw bridge. The plans are being drawn.—Red Bank Register, Aug. 15, 1883, Vol. IV, No. 8

J. T. Low's cottage on the Rumson Road is being hurried along very rapidly by the builders.—Red Bank Register, Vol. VI, No. 8, Aug. 15, 1883.

Matthew White, Jr. of Oceanic is the author of a serial story now being published in GOLDEN DAYS. Mr. White is also a frequent contributor to "Harper's Young People."—Red Bank Register, Vol. VI, No. 21, Nov. 14, 1883.

Asher Hance of Rumson, who is now in his 78th year is quite sick. Lewis White, another of the old residents of Rumson, is also seriously ill. —Red Bank Register, Vol. VI, No. 22, Nov. 21, 1883.

RUMSON NURSERIES

Agents wanted to sell Nursery Stock

Active, live, wide awake men will be sure to succeed. Experience not requisite. Address—

HANCE & BORDEN

Managers Red Bank

Red Bank Register, Vol. VI, No. 22, Nov. 21, 1883.

RUMSON NURSERIES

Established 1854
Centennial Award, 1876
HANCE & BORDEN, Managers
Red Bank, N. J.

No More Poor Knotty Quinces

The Great New Quince: "Meech's Prolific."
The most wonderful of all new fruits for delivery in Fall of '84.

1 year, 1st class trees $1.50 each.
Stock limited! First come, first served!
This is a variety that bears annually and bears perfect fruit. Send for interesting circular as to the productiveness of this new prolific sort; also giving the method of the originator's success in growing annual crops for the past 10 years. An orchard of eight year-old trees in 1883 yielded over $800 per acre. Anyone may do as well.

THE SUPPLY DEPOT FOR MULBERRY TREES FOR THE EAST, WEST, AND NORTH.

A full supply of everything in the nursery line.
Red Bank Register, Feb. 27, 1884, Vol. 6, No. 36

Oceanic—Personal

Jas. A. Hume, formerly of New York has opened a resort of pleasure seekers in this place, which will no doubt become very popular. Mr. Hume will supply soft crabs, oysters, clams, etc., cooked in any manner desired, and will have a dining room attached where meals can be served at any hour. One of the chief features of his place will be furnishing of dinners or suppers for pleasure parties.—Red Bank Register, June 25, 1884, Vol. 6, No. 53.

James Enright has purchased the Midwinter lot at the corner of Lafayette and Main Street, and is putting up a building which he will occupy as a store in the spring. James P. Bruce is the mason employed and William Jeffery is in charge of the carpentry work.—Red Bank Register, Feb. 2, 1891

Sea Bright News

W. W. Conover is putting down the Rumson Road in order to make an easier grade from the west end of Jumping Point draw bridge.—Red Bank Register, April 15, 1891

Cottages are nearly all rented at Sea Bright and Rumson for the season. The prices range from $500 to $2,500.—Red Bank Register, May 13, 1891

Oceanic

The Sea Bird made her first landing at the new dock on Saturday morning.—Red Bank Register, June 10, 1891

Joseph Howe of the Oceanic Inn is making some improvements to his docks on the River front.—Red Bank Register, July 1, 1891.

Set on Fire by Firecrackers

A number of boys were having fun with firecrackers in front of the Methodist Church at Oceanic, last Saturday afternoon. After igniting the fuse of the crackers they would throw some of them in the road and others they threw on the church stoop. A cracker slipped between a crack of the stoop and exploded underneath the boards, setting a quantity of paper on fire. The fire spread to the stoop and was discovered by Theodore Roberts before it reached the vestibule door.

Roberts called for assistance and the fire was easily put out before much damage was done.—Red Bank Register, Wed. July 1, 1891.

The residences of D. B. Keeler, Jr., E. D. Adams, W. J. Hutchison, R. L. Crawford, Fred Achelis, Dr. W. Gill Wylie, W. E. Strong, Theodore Moss of Rumson, and Mr. M. C. D. Borden, Oceanic, are being connected by Long Distance telephone this week, when the new line is opened. Manager P. Hall Packer will give a clam bake and lunch on the Rumson shore of the river to a number of invited guests and subscribers. The new poles were completed on Monday from Sea Bright to the Fair Haven Road along the Ridge Road.—Red Bank Register, July 15, 1891

S. E. Van Brunt and Theodore West, old residents of Sea Bright, have bought lots near Black Point on the Shrewsbury side of the river where they will build their future homes.—Red Bank Register, July 15, 1891

Washington E. Connor bought the remaining tract of the Treadwell estate on Rumson Neck on Saturday. The tract contains over 25 acres and runs from the Black Point road to the Avenue of Two Rivers. It has a frontage of 1,092 feet on the Rumson Road. Mr. Connor paid $850 per acre for twelve acres and $800 per acre for the remainder. This brings the total price a little above $20,000. He was offered $1,000 for his bargain a little after the sale but he said he would not sell it for $10,000 more than he gave.

Mr. W. W. Conover says the property would have been cheap at $1,500

per acre. Mr. Connor expects to build a country residence for his own occupancy on the plot.—Red Bank Register, Wed., July 15, 1891

Oceanic News

Rev. Charles S. Newhall of Brownwood, Texas, will preach in The Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning and evening. Mr. Newhall was pastor of the church about twelve years ago.—Red Bank Register, July 22, 1891.

The house and lot of John Jeffery at Oceanic was sold at an auction by Jacob Shuttle at Shrewsbury last week.

The lot is 45 x 90 feet and the house is quite small. It was bought by a Mr. Eccles for $1,090 which is considered a very good price for the property.—Red Bank Register, Sept. 2, 1891

The school at Oceanic opened last week with J. W. Gaskill, formerly of English Town, as principal. The assistants are Kate G. Regan of Lambertville and Lillian McCane of Scobyville. There has been a good attendance for the opening week.—Red Bank Register, Sept. 16, 1891

The Oceanic Dock

A meeting of the Oceanic dock committee was held on Tuesday of last week. Dr. Ehrick Parmley was elected president and treasurer and James Enright, Jr., was elected secretary. The amount of the treasurer's bond was fixed by the township committee at $500, and this will be forwarded to the committee in a few days.—Red Bank Register, Oct. 21, 1891

Water on Rumson Neck
The Rumson Road to Be Lighted with Arc Electric Lights

The Rumson Water Company began on Saturday the work of sinking of well on W. W. Conover's land, southeast of Mrs. Doughty's property at Fair Haven. The well was put down 79 feet on Saturday. Uriah White of

Asbury Park is doing the work, and the well is expected to be completed tomorrow. On Saturday they struck a marl rock, two feet thick and it required an hour to cut through it. They expect to go down 300 to 500 feet to find a good supply of water. A stand-pipe will be built on a hill near the Ridge Road, almost a quarter of a mile distant from the well. As soon as a sufficient water supply is struck, it will be tested, and if found of good quality the work of laying the mains and of putting up the stand-pipe will be begun. If water is not struck experimental wells will be put down in other places. If a sufficient supply cannot be found, or if the water is not of good quality, they will get their supply from the Red Bank works.

The intention on the part of the Company is to supply the summer residents of Rumson Neck. Should the works be built, engines and dynamos will be put in and the Rumson Road, and perhaps the Ridge Road, will be lighted with Arc electric lights. The estimated cost of the works is from $50,000 to $60,000.—Red Bank Register, Dec. 23, 1891, Vol. 14, No. 26

The Rumson Water Works
A Supply of 60 Gallons per Minute from One Artesian Well

The Artesian well put down by the Rumson Water Co. has been given a test, and it gives a supply of 60 gallons a minute. The water flows from the pipe at the surface of the ground at the rate of 5 gallons per minute. The chemical analysis of the water was satisfactory and more wells will be put down at once. It is possible that a large receiving well will be dug and the Artesian wells siphoned into this. The water will be pumped into a stand-pipe as a supply reservoir, the stand-pipe will be 16 feet in diameter and 80 feet high. It will be located on a hill 80 feet above the level of the well. This will give sufficient pressure when the stand-pipe is three-fourths full to carry the water to the top floors of any house in the eastern part of the township. It is expected that the work of laying the mains will be commenced at once.

An electric light plan will be operated in connection with the water

works. This will be used to light the Rumson Road with Arc lights and the houses in that part of the township with incandescent lights, the same as Arc lights that are used in Red Bank.—The Red Bank Register, Jan. 6, 1892, Vol. 14, No. 28.

The Rumson Water Works
The Water Is the Same as That from Red Bank Artesian Wells

The water from the Artesian wells near Fair Haven which are to supply Rumson Neck with water, has been analyzed by Prof. Wesson, and has been found to be remarkably pure, and to be almost exactly like the water from the Red Bank wells.

The analysis of the water is as follows:

	Parts per millions
Total solids by evaporations	180.
Loss on ignition	16.
Chlorine	5.20
Free ammonia	.032
Albuminoid ammonia	.061
Nitrogen in nitrites	none
Nitrogen in nitrates	1.10

Mr. Wesson states that there are traces of phosphates, which are doubtless derived from ancient organisms, such as form the marl beds, but that no importance can be attached to this. The report concludes as follows:

"The organic purity of the water indicated by the low free and albuminoid ammonia absense of oxygen absorption and nitrates, makes this water eminently fitted for potable purposes, though for washing the amount of lime present makes it somewhat harder than Lake Michigan water."

"I should infer that this water came from the same strata which supplies Red Bank. The comparatively large amount of lime and small amount of chlorine shows it to be of entirely different origin from the various wells of Rumson Neck which I have had opportunity of examining."—Red Bank Register, Jan. 20, 1892, Vol. 14, No. 30.

The Rumson Water Company

The Rumson Water Company has been incorporated with a capital of $100,000 divided into one thousand shares of $100 each. The directors of the company are Wm. E. Strong, Chas. MacDonald, Edward D. Adams, Henry E. Owen, and Wm. A. Street. Last Saturday the township committee gave the water company authority to lay mains in the streets of the township for to supply the people of Rumson Neck and the lower part of the township with water.—Red Bank Register, Feb. 10, 1892, Vol. 14, No. 33.

Instituting a New Lodge

Members of Narumsunk tribe of Red Men of Oceanic went to Oceanport on Monday night to institute a similar lodge at that place. Great Sachem Frederick Walm of Camden presided together with Daniel M. Stevens, great chief of records. A large delegation of members of the order were present from Long Branch, Asbury Park and Manasquan. The Narumsunk tribe worked the several degrees in full regalia. Their floor work was such as to call forth special praise from the chief.

The Narumsunk tribe have received numerous invitations from various lodges to visit them and confer the adoptions ceremonies.—Red Bank Register, March 2, 1892, Vol. 14, No. 36.

J. C. Hoagland has had a long distance telephone placed in his handsome residence on Ridge Road.—Red Bank Register, July 4, 1894, Vol. 14, No. 2

Four plots of land in Shrewsbury township on the Rumson Road, opposite the property of John Hance were sold.—Red Bank Register, July 4, 1894.

OCEANIC SPORTS—100 yd. dash—⅓ mi. bike ride—440 yd. run—½ mi. handicap bike ride—swimming race—ladies rowing race.—Red Bank Register, July 11, 1894, Vol. 17, No. 3.

The electric R. R. from Red Bank to Sea Bright is one of the proposed enterprises. GOWDY AND PITCHER.—Red Bank Register, July 11, 1894, Vol. 17, No. 3.

The strong and commodious Steamboat, Sea Bird, Capt. J. P. Chadwick, will leave Pier 24, foot of Franklin St., New York and Red Bank as follows:
Leave New York daily (Sundays included) at 9 A.M.
Leave Red Bank daily (Sundays included) at 4 P.M.

John Morford, Salesman
Edgar Brower, Messenger

Shrewsbury, Long Branch, Highlands, Highland Beach, Oceanic, Locust Point, Brown's Dock, Fair Haven and Red Bank.

N.B. All freight intended for this boat must be on the wharf a sufficient length of time to handle as she will positively leave promptly on her advertised time.—Red Bank Register, Vol. 17, No. 1, June 27, 1894.

Chapter 11

Personal Recollections of Port Washington

(1944—Mrs. Sarah Harvey Bruce)

The scenes of one's childhood,
So dear to the heart,
Grow dearer and clearer
When they form a part—
A background of living
For eighty-two years—
Years filled with their measure
Of joy, work and tears.
The folks and the places
Are really well known
When "Memory Lane" winds
Thru one little town.
—*Mildred Bruce Truex.*

That is the way it has been with me. Almost eighty-three years ago I was born to David and Mary Harvey in this little village, then called Port

Washington. Since then it has always been my home. Those years have been spent in only three houses: that of my infancy; the "new" house, which father built when I was a young girl; and my present one, to which I came as a bride almost sixty years ago. My father was the shoe maker for the community, that is, he handmade all the boots and shoes required by his fellow-townsmen.

These consisted of just a few families, probably fifteen or twenty in all. There were the Bergens, who ran the tomato canning factory; William Bruce, our village school master; Samuel Harvey, my father's brother, who owned the general store; and the Midwinters, who operated a small mop factory. Then there were the Jeffreys, Longstreets, Snyders, Lewises and perhaps a few others whom I do not recall.

New and different buildings have long since occupied the sites of our two small village industries. The Lafayette School stands on the property where the tomato cannery was located. A river front residence stands on the ground, just east of the foot of First Street, where the mop factory once stood. My favorite childhood "playground" has long since completely disappeared from the landscape. It was a pretty little spring-fed pond, which filled the present-day dry depression on the land at the corner of River Road and Allen Street. In summer, it was an ideal wading pool for the little folks, and, in winter, a good place to learn to skate. Our parents considered it much safer for the "small fry" than the river.

When I was a little girl, a trip outside the village in any direction was an event of major importance. Then, as now, Red Bank was our nearest shopping center. I can remember my parents' stories of the days when there was no road at all to Red Bank. Then people walked, or drove, along the shore at the water's edge. It was always best to try and make the trip at low tide. There was considerable opposition by the "conservatives" to the proposal for a new and more convenient road, but it was finally put thru—the fore-runner of our present River Road. This did not mean easy traveling, however, even for those people fortunate enough to own a horse and carriage. After hard rains and during the Spring thaw,

the road became a sea of mud, deep mud. Horses and pedestrians alike were obliged to take to the adjacent fields to keep from bogging down completely. In spite of this, the eight-mile walk to Red Bank and back seemed no particular hardship to us, in those days of sturdy bodies and sturdy shoes.

During the summer season things were easier. As soon as the ice was out of the river, the steamboats started to run between New York and Red Bank. There were two of these, the Helen—later replaced by the Albertina—and the Sea Bird. One left Red Bank early in the morning; the other New York at about the same time. This gave the residents of the village where stops were made—one of which was Port Washington—the opportunity to make the trip to either point and return the same day. The fare to Red Bank was twenty cents return; to New York, one dollar. These boats also served as carriers to transport perishable farm products from this area and to bring in needed manufactured articles. Sailing schooners also plied between New York and Red Bank to bring in shipments of fuel and other heavy freight.

When I was quite young, Long Branch was fast becoming a very fashionable "Watering place." I, along with the other village children, used to love to watch the beautiful horses and coaches—victorias, phaetons, and even an occasional tally-ho, being unloaded from the steamboats. From Port Washington they were driven on down to Long Branch for the use of their owners during the summer season.

When I was a little older, a horse-drawn stage line was started between Port Washington and Red Bank. The fare for this trip was fifty cents each way, a prohibitive price for many of the villagers in those days. Later, however, a competitor started another line, resulting in reduced fares and better service.

The first post office in our village was not an "office" at all, but a box nailed to a post—similar to the rural mail box of today. It was located on the north west corner of what is now Washington Street and River Road. When one of the village folks went to Red Bank (the nearest post

office), he collected and brought back the mail for the entire community. He left it in the box and the residents sorted out their own as they happened to be passing that way. This, it seems to me, speaks well for the honesty of our community. Later we were given a government post office. This necessitated the change of names from Port Washington to Brighton, since there was already a "Port Washington" post office in New Jersey. Some dissatisfaction with the new name existed, however, and soon Brighton became Oceanic. My Uncle "Sammy" Harvey was the first postmaster and kept the post office in his general store for many years.

As has been previously stated, Mr. William Bruce came to Port Washington as its first school master. He taught all the pupils, regardless of age, size, or scholastic advancement. The education received by children in the village school was about equivalent to that received by present day pupils in the first six grades. In addition to his teaching duties, the school master of that day was responsible for the entire care of the building. This, of course, included the maintenance of heat during the cold winter months and meant that the fire in the "pot belly" stove must be started early on cold mornings. Even then, only the pupils fortunate enough to be seated nearest the stove were really warm.

There was no well on the school grounds. Two boys were delegated each day to carry a wooden bucket of drinking water from the Mahoney house, which stood near by. A long-handled tin dipper hung on a nail near the bucket for the use of all.

In those days, teachers were firm believers in that well-known saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Mr. Bruce was no exception, although he confined his use of the birch to recalcitrant boys, only. When a lesson was unprepared or conduct disorderly, the offender was required first, to bring the switch from its place on the wall; second, to touch a crack on the floor with his fore finger; third, to take what teacher considered punishment commensurate with the crime. One of teacher's most frequent quotations following the administration of such disciplinary measures was, "A bird who can sing, but won't sing, must be made to sing."

After a number of years, Mr. Bruce resigned to accept a similar position in Red Bank. He was one of those hardy souls who daily walked to Red Bank to his work and home again in the evening.

He was succeeded by Miss Kate Hutchinson, a tall attractive young woman. She was my first school teacher and my recollection of her is very vivid. Later came Miss Marie Coyle. After several years, Miss Coyle left and Mr. Bruce returned to his former position. He retired after many years of service and Mr. Henry Dennison took over his duties.

My recollections of the village store, which was owned and conducted by my uncle, Samuel Harvey, was a two-story building located on what is now Washington Street, a little south of Pauels'. It was a wooden structure with a porch across the front and made an ideal place for the men of the village to gather and discuss affairs. This location made access to the dock very convenient, as it, the dock, was at the foot of this street. The Port Washington P.O. was on the first floor, and a small enclosure in one corner gave it some privacy. Next to that came the candy store, a source of interest to the younger fry. The Dry Goods Department, on the same side, gave one an opportunity to purchase a few yards of calico or muslin, needles, pins, cotton thread, thimbles, etc. The only thing in the way of millinery was an assortment of wide brimmed straw hats, the best customers for these being the farmers. Then there was a good-sized desk, where all the finances of the business was transacted.

After that was the grocery department; very few canned goods were available in those days. The commodities were measured or weighed out of barrels principally, flour, sugar, molasses, vinegar, etc., all came this way. The space in the center of this room was occupied by a huge pot-bellied stove, and made a very comfortable winter resort, for the hangers-on. The only thing that savored of a meat market, was a large "chunk" of dried, smoked beef, which for us now comes all chipped in convenient bottles or cans. This must be cut paper thin with an ordinary carving knife, and when several customers arrived about the time of the evening mail asking for a pound or so apiece, you can well imagine the chore it

was to wait upon them. A room at the rear of the store held garden tools, rope, hampers, various kinds of seeds and grains for poultry. A bin in one corner contained oats for the cattle, and a barrel of kerosene oil provided the light for the neighborhood. There was a second-story room where the shoe-making business was located and carried on by my father, David Harvey, who made most of his shoes at that time. When shoes were needed, the person came to the shop, had a measurement taken, picked the desired pattern and goods, and was told when to call for them. These were all made by hand. Each worker was provided with a bench and tools for his own case for the work. I regret that one of these benches had not been retained as a family heirloom. This room also served as a convenient gathering place, and many a tall story has been thought out for discussion there. When machine-made shoes came into vogue, my father retired from the business.

Chapter 12

TRANSPORTATION IN RUMSON

(1944—Ralph E. Longstreet)

The early residents of Rumson had no public transportation problem. If by chance they had business to transact away from home, they walked, took horse and wagon, or traveled by boat. Red Bank, Port Washington, Sea Bright, and other common names of today did not exist before 1830. Shrewsbury village was the church and business center of this whole area. Rumson Road was the only thorofare on Rumson Neck until 100 years ago.

At first pedestrians and vehicles used the shore along the river from Rumson to Fair Haven when the tide was low. From Fair Haven to Red Bank the road was a sandy trail a short distance back from the shore line. When the tides were high, vehicles had to go to Red Bank via Rumson Road and Scuffletown Road (Spring St.).

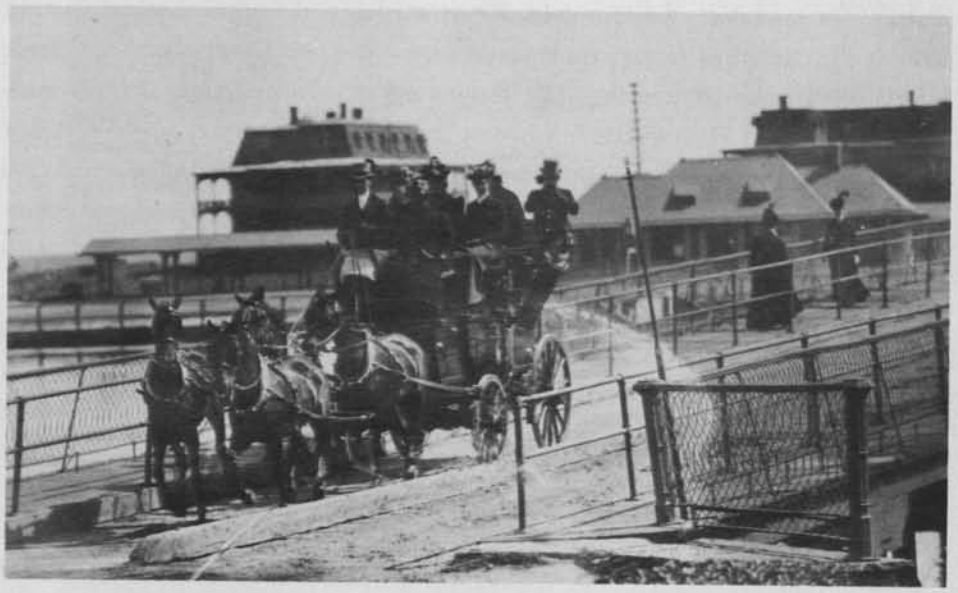
In 1856 a railroad was built from Port Monmouth (Raritan Bay) to Red Bank. Few people in Rumson used this route to New York, as the steamers to New York stopped at the Port Washington dock (foot of Washington St.) to take passengers for New York. By 1867 the railroad from

Sandy Hook to Long Branch was completed and business men began to commute from Rumson to New York by taking the train to Sandy Hook and the steamer from the Hook to New York. Holmes Bennett of Fair Haven started a stage coach service to Sea Bright to transport passengers to and from the trains in the summer months. George W. Longstreet of Rumson operated a stage coach over the same route for the same purpose.

When the New York and Long Branch Railroad established direct rail connection with New York, Mr. Bennett operated his stage coach between Rumson and Red Bank. A few years later George Bennett, a son of Holmes Bennett, also started operating a stage coach over the same route. Michael Mulvihill of Fair Haven succeeded Holmes Bennett, and for many years George Bennett and Mr. Mulvihill made several round trips daily operating on an alternating schedule. After George Bennett passed away, his route was taken over by William Parker. A one-way trip to Red Bank took approximately one hour. Passengers who desired the stage to pick them up at their doors would write their names and address on slates hung in Enright's store in Oceanic and the stage drivers would obligingly drive up to the door.

The stage coaches used were a far cry from the motor buses of today. They were drawn by two horses and seated twelve or fourteen persons. Passengers entered by a door at the rear and were seated along the sides of the vehicle. The body of the stage closely resembled the earlier motor bus bodies. When heavy snows made the going bad for wheeled conveyances, sleighs were substituted. In very cold weather a thick coating of straw would be laid on the floor to help the passengers keep their feet warm.

The stage coaches became things of the past in 1907, when a trolley line was put in operation between Red Bank and Rumson. A trip in one of these trolley cars was apt to be full of thrills for the passengers. They frequently ran off the tracks and often had breakdowns. Commuters never were certain of making their train connections. In winter a few inches of snow would stall the cars until the tracks were cleared by a snow plow. During the winter of 1919-20, extra heavy snows caused the line to suspend



Hurrying over the Seabright bridge in 1898. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



The Rumson to Red Bank Rapid Transit stops at the Oceanic Post Office. Courtesy H. W. Lancaster

service for a period of five weeks. A car was stalled in Fair Haven during the tie-up. Needless to say, transportation between Rumson and Red Bank suddenly became foot traffic. The trolley cars ran between Red Bank railroad station and Hintelmann's Corner, Rumson. For a few years Van Allen Soule of Rumson had a jitney bus shuttle service from the end of the trolley line to Seabright. During the trolley era Edwin Pomphrey of Rumson provided a dependable jitney bus service to and from Red Bank railroad station for commuters to New York.

On February 26, 1922, Boro Busses Inc. ran the first motor bus between Red Bank and Rumson. This inaugurated a transportation era that has rendered a real service to the people of this section. They have maintained schedules under all types of adverse conditions and have provided well-kept and modern equipment.

Another type of transportation that contributed much to the growth of Rumson was the use of the Navesink River, first by sailing boats, or packet boats as they were called, and later by river steamers which followed the packet boats in providing cheap transportation of freight and passengers to and from New York.

In another part of this book a vivid description has been given of the perils and difficulties experienced by passengers and crews of the early packet boats on voyages to New York.

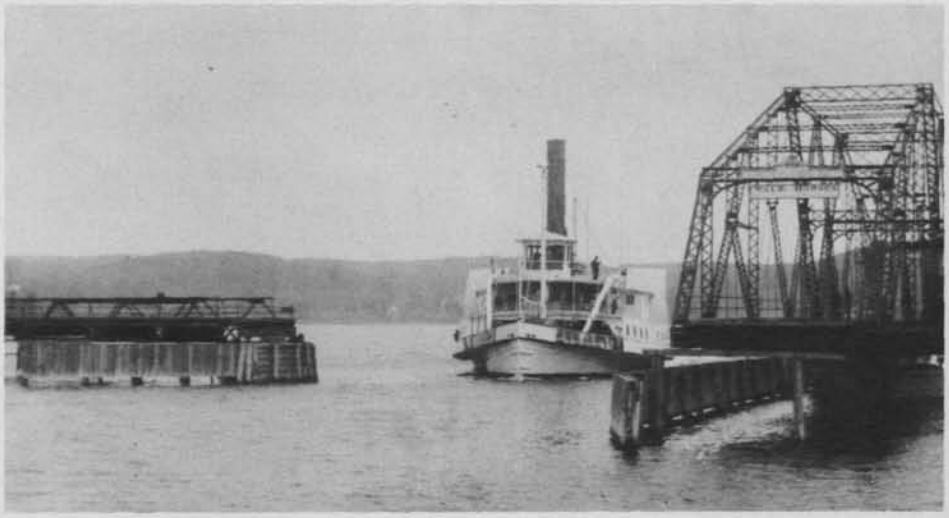
The river steamers started about 1845 and provided service each year from early spring until late autumn. Trips on these steamers were not always devoid of thrilling incidents. The passage over Raritan Bay from the point of Sandy Hook to the Narrows was sometimes dangerously rough and, although fortunately no real harm befell the passengers, they were several times in real danger of shipwreck. When bad storms occurred, it was necessary to suspend service. Sand bars at the mouth of the Navesink River were also a source of much annoyance to passengers who were more than once forced to spend an uncomfortable night when a steamer became securely stranded on one of these bars. It was often necessary for the steamer schedule to be arranged so they could pass over the bars at high tide.

Trolley accident at the foot of Third Street, 1915.



The Merchants Steamboat Company of Red Bank was the last company to operate steamers out of Navesink River. Finally after approximately 90 years of service, they were forced through lack of freight and passengers to suspend business in 1930.

Both the stage coach and the steamers have left many pleasant memories with the old-timers, who considered them an important part of their lives and regretted seeing them go down to defeat, victims of our fast moving motorized age. They represented the slow-moving, pleasant life of the Rumson of long ago.



"Seabird" passing through the Oceanic drawbridge in the 1920's. Courtesy Leon Reussile.



"The Wilbur A. Heisley" passing through Sea Bright drawbridge in 1885. Wyer photo from Moss Archives.

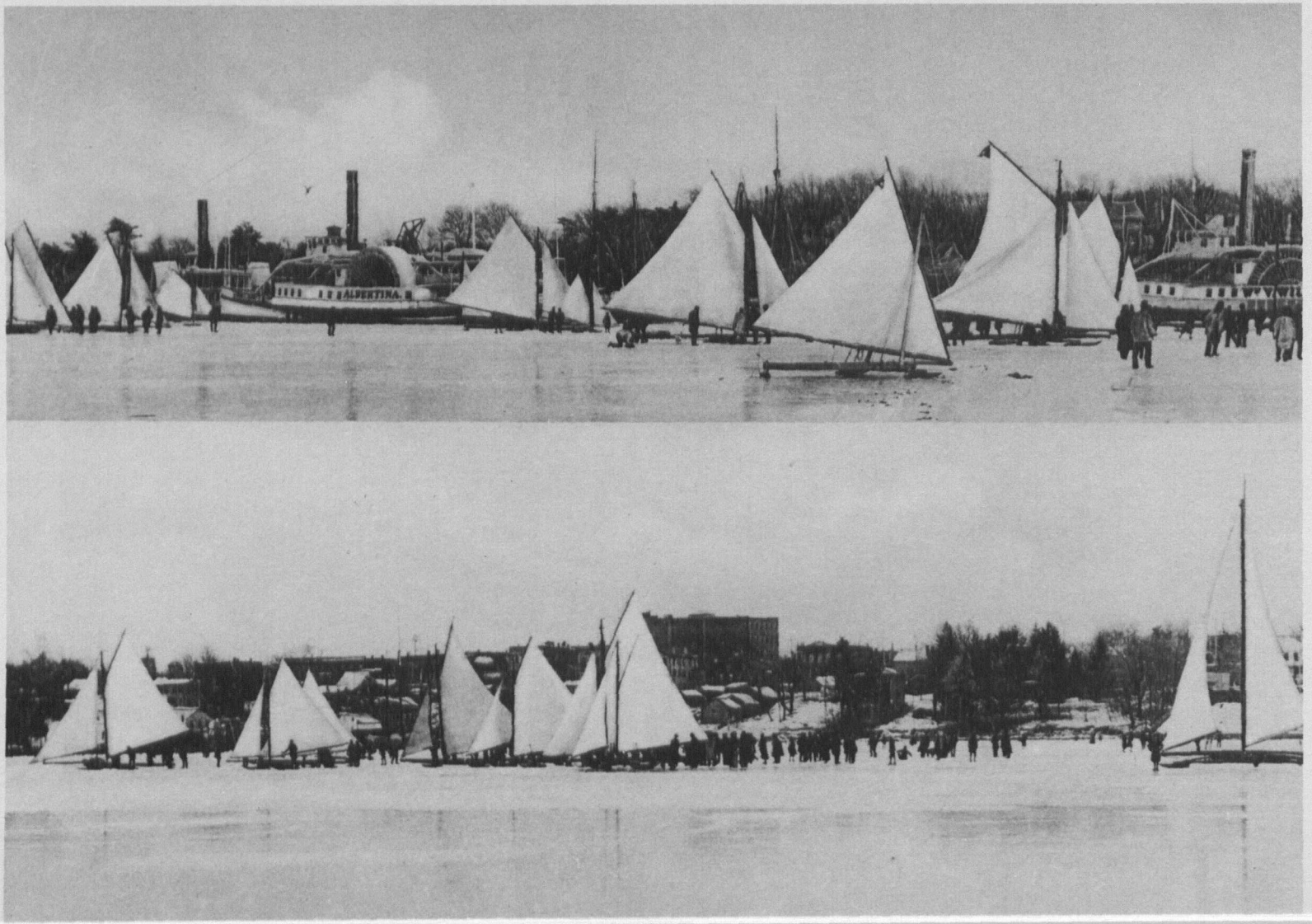


Looking northeast in 1885 from Rumson neck. Steamer "Helen" moving up the Shrewsbury. Wyer photo from Moss Archives.



The "Elberon" of the Patten Line. Note sailing vessel on the Atlantic Ocean. Courtesy Leon Reussile.

The Shrewsbury in winter showing steamboats at their winter moorings and the ice-boating activity. Courtesy Leon Reusille.



Chapter 13

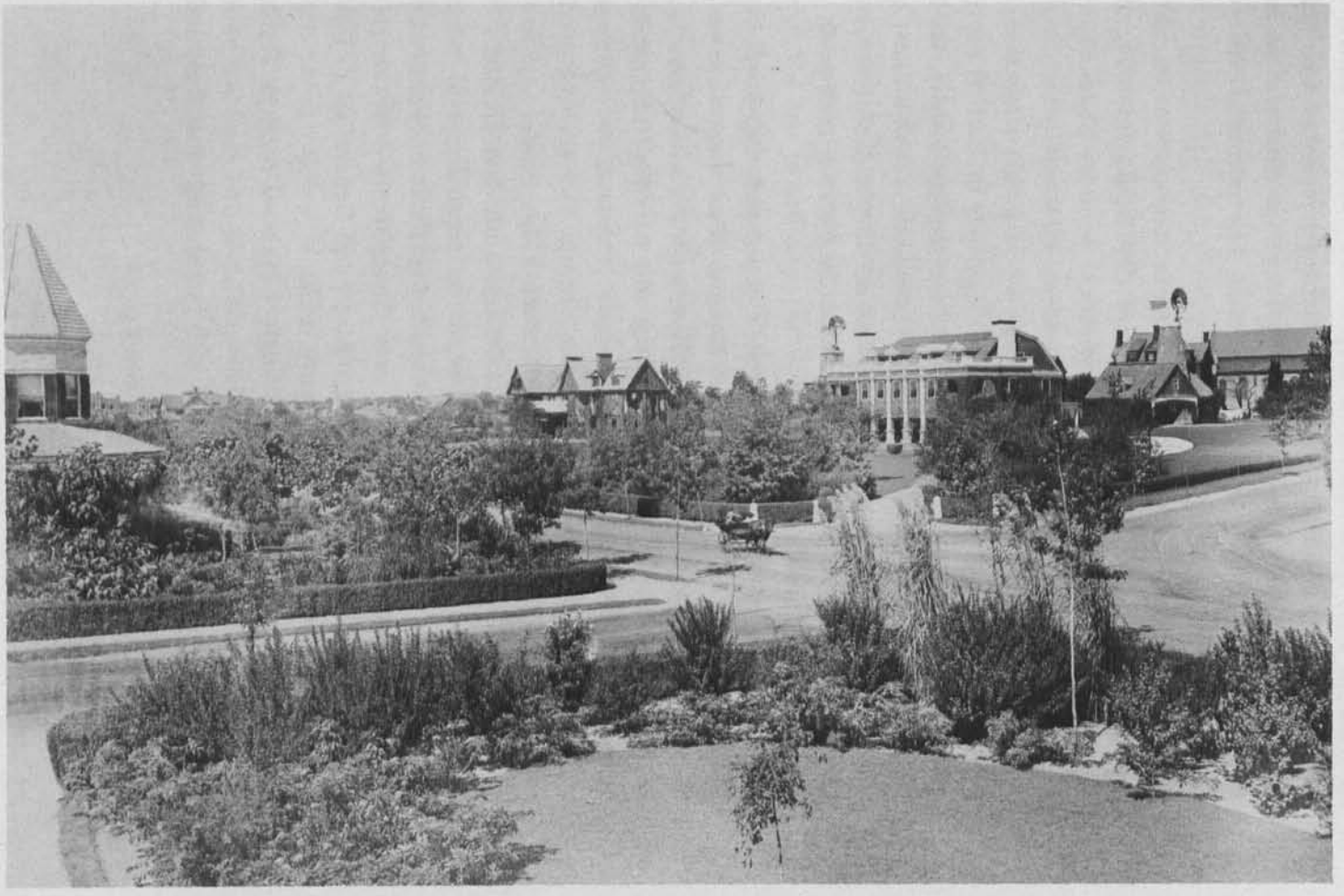
Rumson Road at the Turn of the Century

(1964—Carol Anne Geary)

As the Gay Nineties drew to a close, America, sensing before her the impending changes of a modern world, paused a bit wistfully for one last look at the leisurely, gracious ways of the nineteenth century. The country would know more prosperous times, but the old pace of life, the old class domination, would soon pass away forever.

A citadel of the existing order, and one of the loveliest spots in the country was Rumson Road, famous as the "most beautiful driveway in New Jersey." Running between Sea Bright and Red Bank, it was noted both for its quaint, dignified colonial dwellings and for its elegant modern residences, all set back in quiet dignity from the prying eyes of curious passers-by. Primarily a haven for leaders of finance and commerce from New York, it was "the country counterpart of the closed corporation, and

Rumson Road and Ward Avenue in 1901, looking northwest. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



its residents were quite content to keep it that way." The owners of the various estates had expended fortunes on the development of their grounds, quietly competing with one another to produce the most artistic gardens, the choicest varieties of flowers and shrubs. The results of their efforts were justly famous throughout the East.

The single event which touched off this new development was the completion of a drawbridge at Jumping Point (Sea Bright) in 1870, and the extension of Rumson Road from its terminal point at Navesink Avenue to the river the following year. The residents of Rumson had frequently petitioned for the construction of a bridge at this point, since at the time, the only means of transportation to Sea Bright was by boat. However, the Board of Freeholders consistently refused the request. Finally, the Hartshornes, Bordens, Parmlys, Tredwells and a few others took the matter into their own hands, and constructed a wooden drawbridge at the expense of the town. Later, when the wooden structure became inadequate, it was replaced by an iron bridge.

From this year, 1870, Rumson Road's population expanded by leaps and bounds. At that time, on all of Rumson Bluff there were only two estates. One belonged to Mrs. Mary Parker, a widow, whose house was one of the two seventeenth century buildings still standing. The other estate belonged to the Samuel Hartshornes, whose "Portland" was distinguished by one of the few sequoia trees in the county. The Hartshornes sold a part of their property to Robert L. Maitland, a New Yorker who had spent the previous summer with G. D. H. Gillespie, and had decided to locate permanently in Rumson. Maitland began the construction of a home on his property: however, he died in December, 1870, at the Parmlys', before it could be completed. The estate was then purchased by Mr. Howard Potter of New York, and later was sold again to General C. B. Fisk, who used it as his summer home for many years.

In the same year, Charles Ward bought forty acres north of Hartshorne Lane fronting on the Shrewsbury River. The Wards' land was noted for an unusual urn-shaped garden filled with fuchsia and vines surrounded by

coleus and abounding with tuberoses. Not far away, James W. Alexander purchased 135 feet of frontage on the River where he erected "pretty villas and stables." Activity on the Bluff increased steadily as Alexander was followed in swift succession by Henry M. Alexander, E. Boudinot Colt, and Samuel Browne, Jr., each of whom purchased part of the old Hartshorne lands and proceeded to construct "handsome villas."

Then Robert L. Belknap also joined the summer colony, building a stately mansion to the south of Hartshorne Lane. On Belknap's death a few years later, John V. Fraley purchased the home, improving it until this became one of the choicest residences on the Bluff. Adjoining this property were grounds belong to Mr. Howard Clarkson. These were eventually sold to Mr. A. N. Beadleston, who also purchased the Alexander holdings in the neighborhood. Beadleston had the picturesque Alexander home removed, and in its place, he constructed a twenty-nine room monstrosity which was widely admired.

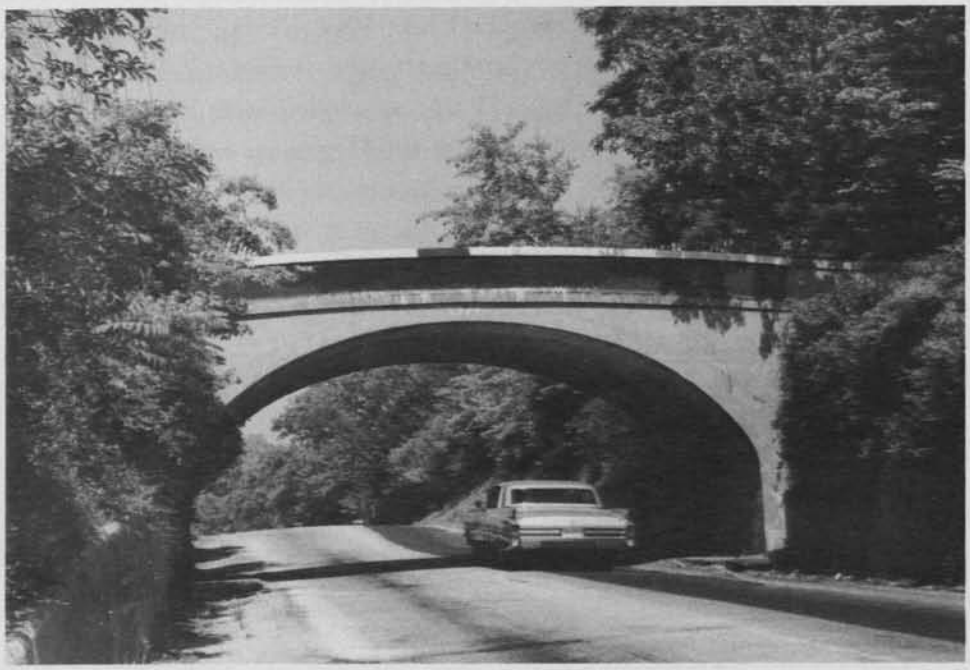
One of the last to settle on the Bluff was T. Carmichael, whose estate adjoined the Beadleston property. Between the Carmichael brood and the Beadlestons, "to say nothing of young Mr. Duncan," a bachelor on a neighboring estate, "the neighborhood was kept lively," and the social activities served further to attract still more new residents.

The Parker homestead at Black Point was purchased by W. A. Van Hegeman in 1785, while on either side of the Hegemans homes were being erected for the Benjamin F. Romaine family and for the Devoes. The latter home, "Shrewsbury Park," was sold again in 1886 and still again during the 1890's. The last owner, Colonel J. B. Hughes, made extensive improvements on the turreted old house until it became one of the most outstanding places on the river.

New York society was not the only group to discover the attractions of the area. In the spring of 1885, the Reverend John H. Fox purchased property from the Hartshornes for the construction of the Holy Cross Catholic Church, which was duly erected and dedicated by the Bishop of Trenton the following spring.



The main house on the former McCarter estate. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



The McCarter bridge spanning Ridge Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

Farther inland, Rumson Road was witnessing the same spurt of building which characterized the Bluff. One of the first and the largest estate on Rumson Neck was located at Kemp Avenue, and belonged to Edward Kemp, who purchased it in 1868 from the Gillespies. For many years, the Kemps used the 200 acre estate as a summer home, while buying up additional lots until the property was doubled in size. On the death of Mr. Kemp, the imposing brick residence became the permanent residence of his widow. Sometime after the turn of the century, it was sold to Thomas McCarter.

Neighbors to the Kemps after 1872 were the José de Navarros, who purchased 375 acres extending from the Shrewsbury River to Ridge Road. The Navarros occupied the John L. Borden home, a large substantial white building at the corner of Bellevue Avenue. This house, which had been built in 1870, was intended to resemble a French chateau, complete with mansard roof. It contained 34 rooms, and sufficed the Navarros from October through January. During the summer months, the family moved to another residence, which they had erected on a nearby hill. In 1888, they sold their winter home to Jacob H. Schiff, a noted financier who lived there for many years.

The Navarros were one of the most public-spirited families on the Road, and were particularly influential in the promotion of the Sea Bright Tennis Club, the Rumson Country Club (in 1908), and the Holy Cross Catholic Church. Their son Antonio married Mary Anderson, a leading actress on the American stage who also made Rumson a summer residence.

The area between the Navarro and the Parmly holdings was divided into smaller estates belonging to George S. Scott, Robert Hance, Edwin Adams, William Hutchinson, Clinton B. Fisk, Mr. Fritz Achelis, and Robert L. Crawford, the latter a "true southern gentleman" from Mobile, Alabama. George Scott's residence, which had been designed by the noted architect, Bruce Price, was regarded as the finest house on Rumson Neck. Said one account, "To say that it is beautiful is an inadequate tribute to

the genius of the architect." Later, the vine-covered mansion was sold to General H. L. Terrell, who spent his summers there.

"The Lindens," another particularly fine home, was built near Bellevue by Mr. Lester Churchill and was purchased by George Dexter toward the turn of the century. This was described as a "large white colonial, situated beside a small lake on grounds noted for fine shade and specimen trees." The main approach to the house was a long, winding bluestone drive lighted by an underground wiring system installed in 1896, when electric lighting of any kind was still an innovation in Rumson. Inside, the house was noted for an oval shaped music room, and seven servants' quarters. In addition to the main buildings, the estate included a greenhouse, stables, and a gardener's house, some indication of the manner in which the owners lived.

Another group which was popular with many of the homeowners in the area was the Rumson Borough Improvement Association. This group was probably most responsible for the beautiful shading of the town roads and for the perfect maintenance of the estates. To the families who had invested fortunes in their properties, their homes were a source of constant attention, and were perhaps most notable because "the owners refrained from indulging the fantastically extravagant taste which characterized so many other centers of wealth."

Most of the homes contained antique furnishings and collections of art work of exceptional value. One family, which remains anonymous, had in its possession a 250-year-old clock which had been made in Estonia for Peter the Great. Shipwrecked off the coast of Denmark before it reached Russia, the clock was rescued by a fisherman and passed down through his family for generations, weathering the immigration to America, and finally achieving a treasured position in an elegant mansion on Rumson Road. Seven feet high, of honey-colored fruitwood, with silver facings, the clock possessed great aesthetic as well as commercial value.

Anecdotes about the priceless possessions of Rumson's residents would be endless. It was a prosperous era in United States history, and nowhere

was the prosperity more evident than in Rumson. This was the heyday of the upper class, the period when wealth and social position were most revered by the rest of the population. Looking back, we can see that the era had reached its peak—the world was marching on at a heady pace, and before long, the old order would have passed away. Many of the fine old estates would disappear, along with many of the family fortunes, and another century would see a vastly altered Rumson Road. But in 1900, the changes were still in the future, and the lovely old roadway basked tranquilly in the glow of its justly deserved reputation.



Seabright Beach Club, 1901. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



A real clam bake circa 1904. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Bernon Prentice, Mrs. Hoagland, and Mrs. Schley. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



C. D. and Van R. Halsey in their pony cart. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Military circus and wild west show for the benefit of Oceanic Babies Hospital, 1912. Morris photo from Moss Archives.



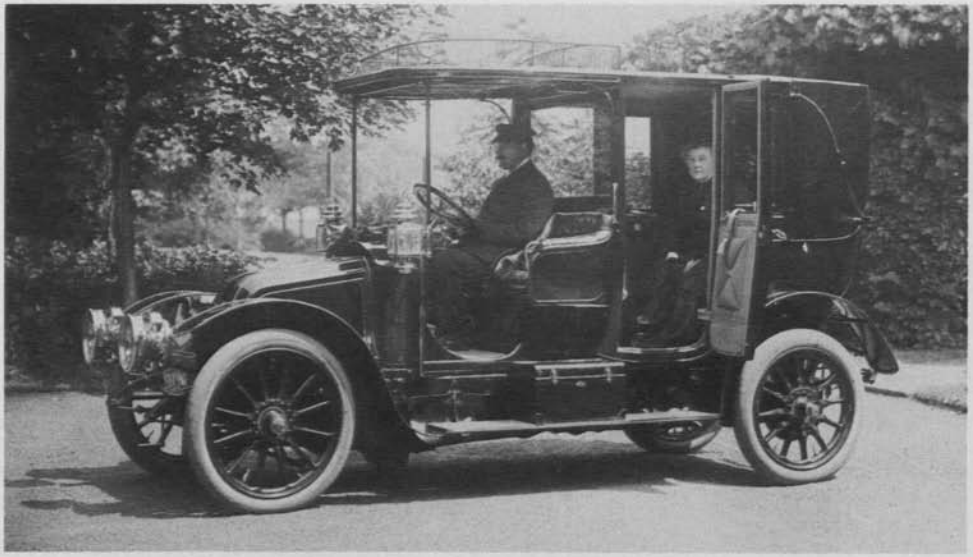
Bertram Borden clowning up for charity. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Cars were afforded more respect in 1901. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



W. E. Strong's Napier. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



A 1904 Renault. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Masquerade party many years ago. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hintelmann. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



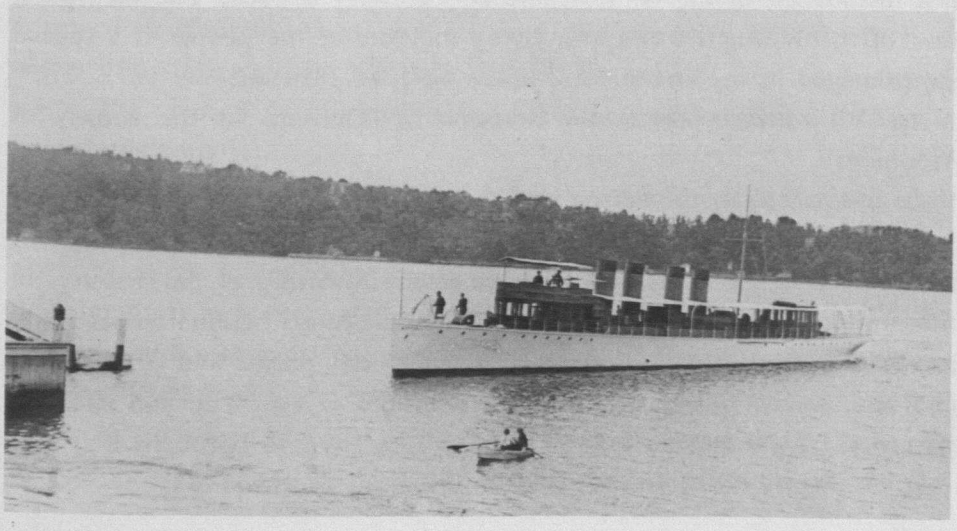
Lifeboats as they were formerly hauled in by a team of horses.



Rumson Free Booters, a group of polo enthusiasts. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Family sailboat, South Shrewsbury, in older days. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Borden yacht "Sovereign," one of the fastest in the country, approaching its dock in Rumson. Courtesy Leon Reusille.

Chapter 14

Borough of Rumson, 1907-1964

(1964—Arthur Albert Kerr, Jr.)

The Borough of Rumson was incorporated by Senate Bill #80 which was introduced in the N. J. Senate on February 4, 1907. The incorporation of the Borough was approved by the vote of the people at a special election held in the Oceanic fire house on June 18, 1907.

An Act to incorporate the Borough of Rumson, in the county of Monmouth.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The inhabitants of that portion of the township of Shrewsbury, in the county of Monmouth, contained within the limits hereinafter set forth, are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate in fact and in law by the name of the borough of Rumson, and shall be governed by the general laws of this State relating to boroughs.

2. The territorial limits of said borough shall be as follows:

Beginning at a point in the high-water line of the South Shrewsbury river, which said point is intersected by the center line of the Rumson road at or near the Sea Bright bridge; thence northwardly and westerly, along the high-water line of the South Shrewsbury and North Shrewsbury rivers, to a point where the center line of Buena Vista Avenue projected north would intersect the high-water line of the North Shrewsbury river; thence southerly, along the center line of Buena Vista Avenue, to the center line of Ridge Road; thence westerly along the center line of the Ridge Road, to the center line of the Borden Hance Road, to the center line of the Rumson Road; thence westerly, along the center line of the Rumson Road, to the center line of a road or highway bounding the lands of Wardell Ivins estate property on the west and leading from the Rumson Road to the South Shrewsbury river; thence southerly, along the center line of said road or avenue, to ordinary high-water line in the South Shrewsbury river; thence along said ordinary high-water line easterly and northerly to the place of beginning.

3. This act shall not become operative until the provisions of this act shall be submitted to the voters of the territory comprehended by the aforementioned borough limits at a special election and approved by a majority of the voters voting at such election upon the question of the approval or disapproval of said act, and said act shall be submitted to voters in accordance with the provisions of the general election law regulating the method of submitting legislative acts with other questions at special elections.

4. The first election of officers in and for said borough of Rumson shall be held within thirty days after this act shall have been approved by a majority of the voters voting as aforesaid (if approved), and notice thereof shall be given by the clerk of said township of Shrewsbury, in the county of Monmouth aforesaid; said notice shall be published in a newspaper circulating in the territory hereinbefore described and published at Red Bank, New Jersey, eight days prior to said election, and shall also be posted for the same length of time in five of the most public places in the territory

hereinbefore described, and the said election shall be held in the manner now prescribed for the election of borough officials.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 15, 1907.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Department of State

I, JOSEPH A. BROPHY, Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey, do hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true copy of Chapter 213, P.L. 1907, "An Act to incorporate the borough of Rumson, in the county of Monmouth," as the same is taken from and compared with the original Approved May 15, 1907 and now remaining on file in my office.

In Testimony Thereof, I have hereunto Set my hand and affixed my Official Seal at Trenton, this sixteenth day of October A.D. 1943

SEAL OF STATE OF NEW JERSEY

J. A. BROPHY

Secretary of State

All meetings were held at Oceanic fire house until Memorial Borough Hall was presented to the Borough by W. Warren Barbour in 1927.

The members of the first governing body and their terms of office are as follows:

Mayor—	Frank McMahon	1907	2 years
Council—	James Enright	1907	1 year
	H. L. Crawford	1907	3 years
	Dennis Martin	1907	2 years
	John Yeomans	1907	1 year
	C. D. Halsey	1907	3 years
	George Alas	1907	2 years

Other officers of the newly organized municipal government in 1907 were:

William H. Hintelmann	Borough Clerk
L. B. Van Nest	Recorder
Tunis S. Barkaloo	Collector
V. A. Ligier	Assessor

The following served as Mayors from 1908 through 1964:

1908-1909	Incl.	Frank McMahon
1910-1921	"	John M. Corlies
1922-1923	"	William H. Mahoney
1924-1929	"	W. Warren Barbour
1930-1935	"	Van R. Halsey
1936-1937	"	Neilson Edwards
1938-1942	"	James C. Auchincloss
1943-1947	"	Louis M. Hague
1948-1949	"	J. Edward Wilson
1950-1951	"	Peter H. B. Cumming
1952-1957	"	Francis J. Nary
1958-1961	"	Peter Cartmell
1962-1964	"	Charles S. Callman

The following served as members of the Borough Council from 1908 to 1964:

James Enright	Benjamin H. Johnson
Dennis Martin	John M. Ellis
C. D. Halsey	Edward O'Brien
Charles D. White	Van R. Halsey
Richard J. Rogers	James F. Murphy
Charles Briggs	Robert V. White
George A. K. Churchill	James C. Auchincloss
George W. Emery	Frank J. Nary
Charles B. Ward	Robert G. Ilsley
Hugh Hartshorne, Jr.	Francis J. Nary
James P. Bruce	Louis M. Hague

Paul J. Hintelmann
H. L. Crawford
John Yeomans
George Alas
William R. Mahoney
George R. Kuhn
Dalton Parmly
Joseph Ryan
Charles A. Willson
Harry A. Caesar
Lewis T. Wilson
Raymond R. Pullen
Frank Benson
W. Warren Barbour
A. A. Pintard
Henry Bauer
Leighton Lobdell
Andrew F. Zerr
Richard J. Rogers, Jr.
Bernard V. Ryan
Sheldon T. Coleman
J. Edward Wilson
George Dwight
Charles R. Beattie
Edgar B. Blake
Harold J. Goetschius
Randall M. Keator, Jr.
Peter Cartmell
Ralston P. Lamborn
W. Dinsmore Banks
Wyndham L. Gary
Harry J. Sundermeyer
John H. Dill
Harry L. McMahon
Charles B. Harding
Peter H. B. Cumming
John W. Carton, Jr.
Garrison C. King
William F. Halleran
Harry C. Cronan
Charles S. Callman
Francis E. P. McCarter

Seal of the Borough of Rumson

(By the Seal Committee Mrs. Edgar A. Knapp, Mrs. Leighton Lobdell, J. Edward Wilson and Van R. Halsey, Chairman)

The design which appears on the dedication page of this history is the official seal of the Borough of Rumson. This seal was formally adopted by the governing body. Previously the Borough of Rumson did not have an official seal other than the ordinary seal of the corporate type, and the Mayor appointed a committee on November 6, 1943, to develop a design which would have historic significance and heraldic symbols combined in appropriate form. After months of research Mrs. Edgar A. Knapp, a member of the committee, made preliminary drawings and as a result of several meetings, the final design was unanimously recommended by the committee.

The basic framework of the design is a shield with chevron and is similar to that of the English arms of Monmouth, England. The two groups of wavy lines are the heraldic symbols for water and represent the two rivers which are boundaries of the Borough of Rumson. In the upper corners of the shield are symbols representing plows which have been taken from the great seal of the State of New Jersey and signify the rural character of our community and the fertility of the land. At the bottom of the shield appears an Indian head done in the likeness of the Lenni-Lenapé Indians, who originally lived on the land which is now Rumson. The head-dress shown is characteristic of the tribe. The crest represents an osprey or fish-hawk, a bird indigenous to this part of the country. In the circle surrounding the shield and crest are to be found three characters of symbols adopted from those appearing in the Walum Olum, which was the Lenni-Lenapés' Pictographic Book of Sacred Writings. These characters mean "in those days all men were friendly."

The First Election for Borough Officials in Rumson
(From Red Bank Register of June 26, 1907)

"The first election in the new borough of Rumson will be held Tuesday, July 16. The polls will be open from six o'clock in the morning to seven o'clock at night, and the voting will be on the machine.

"A public meeting to nominate officers of the new borough will be held next Tuesday night. There is to be no politics in the first election of officers for the new borough, and the meeting will be open to all citizens, whether they are Republicans, Democrats, Prohibitionists or Socialists.

"It has been proposed to divide the borough into three districts for the selection of councilmen. This would give two councilmen to each district. One of these districts will be the village of Oceanic, another will be the territory east of Buena Vista Avenue, and the third will be the section of the borough south of Ridge Road. Such a selection of councilmen will give representation to every part of the new borough.

"The name of Frank McMahon still leads as the choice for mayor. Mr. McMahon is averse to accepting the office from a personal standpoint, but the people who want to see the new borough prosper tell him that he should not let his personal desires stand in the way of a public duty. Many names have been suggested for councilmen and for the other officers of the borough, and there apparently is a determination to have the first board of officials made up of as good and public spirited a set of citizens as can be found in the new municipality."

Memorial Borough Hall
(1944—Patricia Clancy and Janet Gorman)

For twenty years after its incorporation as a borough, Rumson had no borough hall. The three mayors preceding William Warren Barbour met with the Borough Council in the Center Street fire house. This was by no means an ideal arrangement for the meetings. There was no place to keep permanent files and records of the Borough, and Borough officials desperately needed offices in which to carry out their duties as part of the Borough government.

In the year 1927 Mayor William Warren Barbour presented to the Borough the buildings and grounds that make up the home of our present Borough government. Inside the main entrance of Memorial Borough Hall there is a plaque inscribed with these words:

Memorial Borough Hall
This Building and Grounds Given to
Rumson, New Jersey, By
Mayor W. Warren Barbour in Memory of
His Father and Mother
William Barbour and J. Adelaide Barbour
1927



Rumson Borough Hall. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

The room in which the mayor and Borough Council meet is located in the western part of the building, and adjoins the offices of the Mayor and the Borough Magistrate. The large council table, the speaker's table, and the comfortable leather covered chairs in the mayor's and council's rooms were presented in 1928 to the Memorial Borough Hall by the Rumson Borough Improvement Association. The gavel and gavel block at the head of the council table were fashioned of wood from the original wooden hull of the United States Frigate "Constitution" or "Old Ironsides" and were also presented in 1928 to the Borough Hall by Frederick K. Barbour.

Memorial Borough Hall is located on the southeast corner of River Road and Wilson Circle and consists of a basement wherein is located a police locker room, jail comprising two cells, a boiler room, and various store rooms. On the main floor is the Council Chamber, Mayor's Office, Police Headquarters, Magistrate's Office, Building and Health Department office, and an office of the Public Health Nursing Association of Rumson, Sea Bright and Fair Haven. The second floor consists of offices of the Borough Clerk and Business Administrator, Collector-Treasurer, Assessor, map room and a conference room. On the third floor there are storage rooms and lavatories.

At the rear of the Borough Hall is located the First Aid Squad Headquarters and the Street Department Garage (built in 1955). Adjacent to the Borough Hall property and across the Avenue of Two Rivers is the newly installed boat launching area, the construction of which was completed in 1963.

ZONING ORDINANCE

In August 1929 during the tenure of Mayor W. Warren Barbour the first zoning ordinance of the Borough was adopted. This was probably the most important legislation ever enacted in the Borough. It provided for the future growth in an orderly fashion and preserved to a great extent the large tracts and beautiful homes we now enjoy.

The original Zoning Board of Adjustment was as follows:

John M. Ellis, Chairman
J. Stanley Farrar
George H. Hallanan
John H. Naughton
William H. Mahoney
Hardin L. Crawford
L. Suffern Tailer

In 1944 during the tenure of Mayor Louis M. Hague, a Planning Board was organized to provide for the expanding population and has been instrumental in maintaining orderly growth and in preserving Rumson's residential character.

The original Planning Board was as follows:

J. Sanford Shanley, Chairman
Richard J. Rogers
Edgar B. Blake
William H. Hintelmann
Harry A. Wilson
George W. C. McCarter
Mrs. Bertie Jeffrey
Mrs. C. L. Despard
Louis M. Hague

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

In 1922, the Rumson Improvement Association and Miss Nellie A. Porter were instrumental in urging Mayor William H. Mahoney to appoint a Sidewalk and Tree Committee. In February 1923 this became officially The Rumson Shade Tree Commission.

E. A. S. Clarke, father of the late Mrs. George Bodman, served as the first chairman; William H. Hintelmann, Sr. as secretary; and Bernon S. Prentice, as the third commission member.

Subsequent members have been Henry E. Butler, Nicholas G. Rutgers, Jr., Marshall Blankarn, William Porter, Uzal McCarter, Thomas J. Gilligan, Walter Rice, Louis M. Hague, Francis M. Taylor, and Van R. Halsey.

The majority of the Commission's early work was centered in Oceanic, the most heavily populated district of the Borough. They later concentrated on planting elms along the major thoroughfares. It is the sad task of the present commission to remove these magnificent, but diseased specimens.

In the spring of 1963 the Commission planted a Kwanzan flowering cherry tree in Victory Park in celebration of its fortieth anniversary and in memory of the late William H. Hintelmann, Sr. His work as secretary and later as chairman for over thirty years is manifested by Rumson's beautifully shaded streets.

In the spring of 1964 the Commission planted twin weeping beeches on the approach to the Sea Bright bridge to commemorate New Jersey's Tercentenary. Most recent varieties used by the Commission have been European little-leaf Linden, the Chinese Scholar tree, and a high branched Kwanzan cherry. The sweet gum has been used extensively in low lying areas. It is interesting to note that the Commission started with a budget of $500 and that the present budget is $4,000.

In 1962, because of the growth of the Borough, Mayor Charles S. Callman increased the number of commissioners from three to five.

The present commissioners are Werner Kobelt, chairman; Mrs. Peter Cartmell, secretary; Mrs. Rawson Atwood, Otto Peters, and John Watson.



Looking east on Rumson Road as it crosses Avenue of Two Rivers. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

Chapter 15

Police Department

The first policemen of the Borough, then called marshals, received $55 a month. These marshals, appointed in the summer of 1907, were W. W. Emery, James Wallace, William Porter, John McPeak, and William Mullen. The first police committee members were Councilmen James Enright, Jr., C. D. Halsey, and George Alas.

In 1940 the Police Department was reorganized, and Henry S. Kruse, captain since 1938, was appointed chief. Upon his death on June 7, 1960, William Zerr, a member of the force since 1928 and captain since 1944, was appointed chief. When the office of sergeant was created, Seth G. Johnson became the first appointee to that office.

At present the table of organization calls for a chief, a captain, a lieutenant, two sergeants, and eight patrolmen.

In 1938 a two-way police radio system was installed, with two fully equipped radio patrol cars. The Department receives all Fire Department, First Aid, and Civil Defense calls. The last two are also equipped with two-way radios. On school days at opening and dismissal times, six special officers are on duty at strategic intersections throughout the Borough.

Chief William Zerr was graduated from the New Jersey State Police Academy, Chiefs of Police, F. B. I., and State Police School. He has taken special courses in the apprehension and treatment of narcotic addicts, and has studied juvenile problems at Rutgers University.

All members of the Department have acquired basic and special skills at various police schools throughout the East. Municipal police schools have been attended in Sea Girt and Red Bank under the direction of the New Jersey State Police. Another such school sponsored by the Monmouth County Chiefs of Police and the Prosecutor's Office has also been attended by several Rumson policemen.

The roster of the Rumson Police Department is as follows: Chief William Zerr, Captain James Shea, Sergeants Perry Eli and John Shea, and Patrolmen John Keany, Walter Pomphrey, Jr., John Gaynor, Roderick Maine, Donald Searles, Robert Zerr, Gerald Kelly, and Phillip Duffy.

BOROUGH RECORDERS

1907 L. B. Van Nest
1934 Jere Carew
1936 John Yeomans
1938 Alfred F. King
1946 John G. Keeley
1947 Arnold Tulp

BOROUGH MAGISTRATES

1948 Arnold Tulp
1954 Stuart A. Young, Jr.
1960 William I. Riker

Chapter 16

Fire Department

OCEANIC HOOK AND LADDER CO., NO. 1, INC.

(1964—Frank Baigent)

In 1897, in the small village of Oceanic, now part of the Borough of Rumson, one of the first fire companies in this area, the Oceanic Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, was formed. The company was instituted in a store situated on the corner of Washington and Hunt Streets, on May 22, 1897, by a small group of local citizens interested in the welfare and growth of the community.

There were no permanent officers of the company, except a treasurer, until February 2, 1882, when the formal charter for the company was received and organization completed. The original charter was signed by the following: John H. Wilson, T. S. Barkuloo, Elisha J. Keach, Edward Lloyd, Edward Dennis, Theodore Skidmore, John C. Brill, William Briggs, William H. Pearsall, Charles T. Allen, Timbrook Harvey, William F. Longstreet, Harry B. Patterson, Walter P. Brown, Tunis Denise, George B. Snyder, James P. Bruce, George Longstreet, William R. Bailey, Harry

Robinson, Henry Riddle, Samuel Bruce, Michael Rainey, V. A. Ligier and W. A. Jeffrey.

Shortly after the original charter had been signed, by-laws were drawn and accepted under which William Pearsall was elected as the first President, T. S. Barkuloo, Treasurer, and Harry Robinson, Secretary of the Company.

Organization having taken place, the next problem was to keep the group united until a home could be found. Meetings were held daily in the back rooms of stores, coal offices, and even in a chicken house until the latter part of the year 1880. At that time, a building formerly used as a schoolhouse (on Bingham Avenue) was acquired and moved to the corner of Allen and Church Streets.

In 1882, the Company purchased its first piece of property, located on First Street. However, on May 10, 1884, it was traded with $200.00 for the present location on the corner of River Road and Allen Street.

On January 2, 1890, work was started on the first "real home," a wooden firehouse with a long wooden ramp in front. This building remained the headquarters until the present house was built and completed in 1940. The Company held its first meeting in this firehouse on April 3, 1940, where regular meetings are still being held. This building was re-modeled during 1962.

Shortly after the first organizational meeting, the initial piece of apparatus was presented by Matthew White, a summer resident. This piece of apparatus was a horse and man power drawn ladder with rubber buckets hanging from the sides.

In July, 1898, a new piece of apparatus was purchased by the Company, a Howe Hand Pump. This unit remained in service until water was put through the village in September, 1905. Shortly after this the old Hook and Ladder along with the Hand Pump was sold. They were replaced with a new hose reels and a new Hook and Ladder, which were used until June, 1914. At this time, the Company received its first real mechanized apparatus, a Boyd Pumper, which was used until 1930, when it was replaced by



Oceanic Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 on River Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

the present American La-France 1000 gallon rotary pumper along with 1400 feet of 2½" hose plus other equipment. Other Company equipment includes a 1948 International, equipped with a 500 gallon water tank, and a 200-gallon pump which is used for all general fire fighting purposes. The third unit is a 1961 Chevrolet general utility truck used to transport special equipment, such as auxiliary lighting units, portable pump, tarpaulins, etc.

The Company was first incorporated March 27, 1882. On April 22, 1929, the Company having completed its first fifty years of organization, the charter was extended; and on February 3, 1947, the Company was re-incorporated with the signature of 54 members.

The Company has a total membership of 127 of whom seventy-four are active in fire fighting, twenty-seven are life members (the latter having

served twenty-five years or more in active service), and the others include Chaplains, Honorary, and Social members.

The present elected officers are: President, Arthur Pauels; Vice President, Edward Sherman; Treasurer, Millard Aumack, Jr., and Secretary, Frank W. Baigent.

THE RUMSON FIRE COMPANY

(1964—James Wagner)

The Rumson Fire Company, on the corner of River and Blackpoint Roads, was started at almost the exact spot the fire house now stands.

In September, 1905, meeting in the East Oceanic School on Blackpoint Road, a group of men formed a "Volunteer Fire Company." This name was changed to "Rumson Fire Company," and a state charter was received January 18, 1906.

The first officers were:

President—John Hintelmann; Vice President—Dennis Martin; Secretary—Paul Hintelmann; Treasurer—Frank McMahon; Chief—James Murphy

On the Board of Trustees were Dalton Parmly, John Grogan, Sr., George Curtis, William Mears, and Clarence Ford

The original fire house now standing on Center Street is the present home of the Junior Service League. In the beginning, the Company had a roller-bearing hose wagon, which was followed in 1907 by a ladder truck. In 1911 the Company won the State Championship and broke the world's record for horse drawn apparatus.

The progress of the Rumson Fire Company has been rapid. In 1955, the Company acquired the property they now own, and had erected the present fire house. After the contractor had finished his work, the men of the Company donated their time, skill, and labor to help make it the beautiful building that it is today.



Rumson Volunteer Fire Company Headquarters on River Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

The men give of their time and service to the people of Rumson 24 hours a day on a volunteer basis. They are also a unit of the Civil Defense of Rumson. They are trained in the duties involved in fire fighting and attend drills once a month. They now have a 1000 gallon American La France pumper, and a new 75-foot American La France Aerial Truck.

The present officers are:

President—Frank Hiltbrunner; Vice President—Lynn Farnham; Secretary—James Wagner; Treasurer—Aubrey Dell 'Omo; Chief—Herbert Bush, Jr.; Captain—Joseph Slocum; 1st Lieutenant—Alfred Brighton; 2nd Lieutenant—Edward Large; Aerial Truck: 1st Lieutenant—Harold Peters.

Trustees—Chairman—Harold Halligan, Alfred Brighton, Harry Clayton, Richard Campanella, and Walter Pomphrey, Jr.

Past Presidents of the Rumson Fire Company

1906-1909	John Hintelmann	1928-1939	Harold Benson
1910-1911	Dennis Martin	1940-1942	Harold Peters, Sr.
1912	C. H. Ford	1943-1946	Walter Carle
1913-1915	G. H. Hale		Raymond Shea
1916	E. A. Pomphrey	1947-1948	Francis Murphy
1917	C. F. Buchannan	1949	Elmer Blumel
1918	Frank Ward	1950-1951	Walter Pomphrey, Sr.
1919	Alfred Brighton, Sr.	1952-1957	Francis Duffy
1920	Charles Ward	1958	Frederick Bradley
1921-1922	Oliver Brighton	1959	Edwin Peters
1923	George Neuhauser	1960	William Beattie
1924-1927	John Grogan, Jr.	1961-1964	Frank Hiltbrunner

Charter Members of the Rumson Fire Company

Dennis Martin
Randolph Voorhees
E. A. Pomphrey
James F. Murphy
Michael O'Rourke
Paul Hintelmann
Dalton Parmly
George A. Curtis
John Grogan
William Mears
George H. Hale
Louis Neuhauser
Abram Herbert
Elwood Barkalow
John H. Wilson, Jr.
John Dolan
Henry J. Hintelmann
Thomas Fallon
William Mullen
Frank McMahon
John Hintelmann
John H. Wilson, Jr.
Walter Robinson
Alfred Brighton
Patrick Flatley
Thomas J. Leavey
A. C. Voorhees
Timothy Noonan
Harry Marks
Emlin Van Brunt
Patrick Murphy

John Daly
Richard Rogers
George Havens
John Carton
Carroll B. West
Clarence A. Ford
James P. Shay
John E. Mount
William H. Bruce
William Dowlen
John Murphy

Rumson Fire Department Chiefs

Chief	*Year*	*Company*
John Yeomans	1897-1901	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
John H. Wilson	1902-1905	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
George R. Kuhn	1906	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
William Mahoney	1907	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
James Murphy	1908	Rumson Fire Company
Charles F. Briggs	1909	First Borough Chief, Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co.
James Murphy	1910	Rumson Fire Company
Charles F. Briggs	1911	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
James Murphy	1912	Rumson Fire Company
John Bailey	1913	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Louis Neuhauser	1914	Rumson Fire Company
Louis Freitag	1915	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
William Brennan	1916	Rumson Fire Company
Andrew F. Zerr	1917	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Joseph Strohmenger	1918	Rumson Fire Company
Matthew Boman	1919	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Alfred Brighton	1920	Rumson Fire Company
Patrick Kennedy	1921	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Alfred Brighton	1922	Rumson Fire Company
Walter Zeigler	1923	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Arthur Van Brunt	1924	Rumson Fire Company
Henry Kruse	1925	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Harold Benson	1926	Rumson Fire Company
William Sinclair	1927	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Charles Tilton	1928	Rumson Fire Company
Charles Walker	1929	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Walter Newhauser	1930	Rumson Fire Company
Thomas Dilly	1931	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1

Chief	*Year*	*Company*
Harvey Tilton	1932	Rumson Fire Company
Andrew Heckt	1933	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Edward Andre	1934	Rumson Fire Company
Joseph Duryea	1935	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Harold J. Peters	1936	Rumson Fire Company
Raymond Desmond	1937	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Frank Pfeiffenberger	1938	Rumson Fire Company
Joseph Desmond	1939	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Walter Pomphrey	1940	Rumson Fire Company
Vincent Sexton	1941	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Frank Hiltbrunner	1942	Rumson Fire Company
Charles Muegge	1943	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Raymond Shea	1944	Rumson Fire Company
Arthur Pauels	1945	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Elmer Blumel	1946	Rumson Fire Company
Harry Collis	1947	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Ellsworth Soden	1948	Rumson Fire Company
Peter Pauels	1949	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Daniel Shay	1950	Rumson Fire Company
Arthur Mellish	1951	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Alfred Van Brunt	1952	Rumson Fire Company
Frank W. Baigent	1953	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Daniel Shea, Jr.	1954	Rumson Fire Company
G. Russell McCue	1955	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
James Wagner	1956	Rumson Fire Company
Melvin J. Scheidt	1957	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
John Slocum	1958	Rumson Fire Company
Edward Sherman	1959	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Edward McSorley	1960	Rumson Fire Company
Hyatt Cunningham	1961	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Alfred West	1962	Rumson Fire Company
Robert Marass	1963	Oceanic Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1
Herbert Bush, Jr.	1964	Rumson Fire Company

Chapter 17

Religion in Rumson

HOLY CROSS PARISH

(1964—The Rev. Joseph A. Sullivan)

Rev. John H. Fox, commissioned by Bishop Michael J. O'Farrell, established the Parish of Holy Cross, Sea Bright, in May, 1883. The only available hall, that of the Knights of Pythias, was the scene of the first Mass celebrated on June 17, 1883. The newly organized Parish, known under the legal title of "The Church of the Holy Cross, Sea Bright, N. J.," was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey on March 4, 1884.

In the Spring of 1885 Father Fox purchased the Rutherford property for the purpose of building a church and awarded the contract to John Burke of Asbury for the sum of $8,440. On August 18, 1885, it was decided to exchange the Rutherford property, which was only eighty feet wide, for Mr. L. H. Hartshorne's, one hundred thirty feet wide. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on August 30, 1885, and the church was dedicated by Bishop O'Farrell on June 27, 1886, just three years after the



Holy Cross Church on Ward Avenue. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

foundation of the Parish. During that same year the present Parish Rectory was built. Father Fox was succeeded by Father Edward Egan in 1892. Father Michael Callahan served from 1914 to 1924. Father John Murray was Pastor until 1940, when Father Patrick Clune succeeded him. Father Joseph A. Sullivan, the present Pastor, has been here since 1947.

During the pastorate of Father Clune the School was opened in the present Convent building. Father Sullivan extended the school into the Parish Hall, and in 1953 built the present beautiful brick School and Hall containing ten classrooms for the kindergarten through eighth grade. In 1962 were constructed six additional classrooms and a New Convent for the Sisters of Mercy, who staff the school.

ST. GEORGE'S-BY-THE-RIVER

(1964—Rev. Canon George A. Robertshaw)

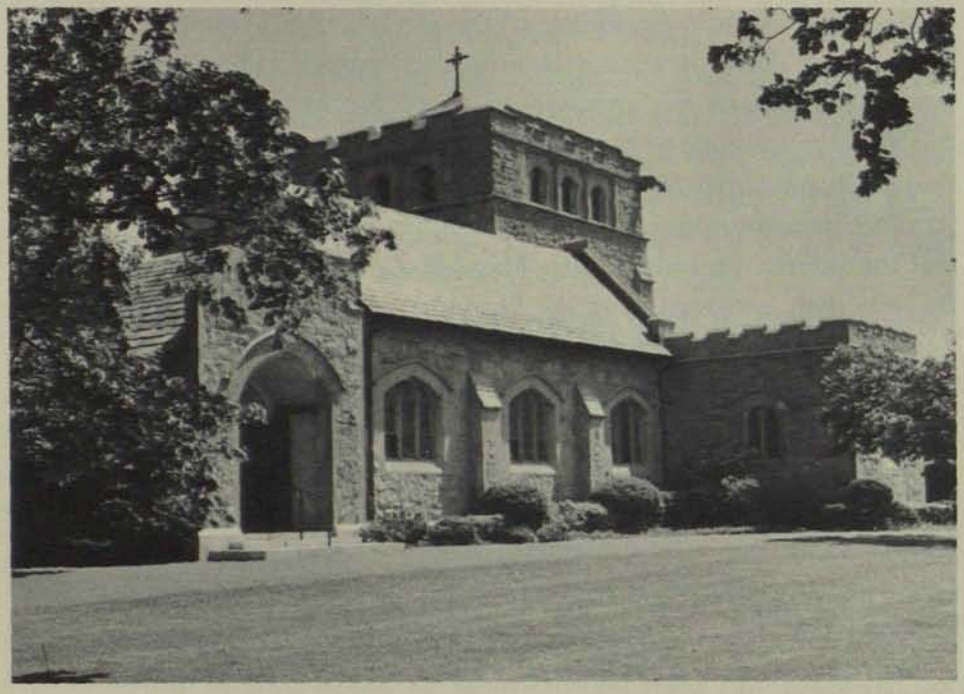
In July, 1873, the Rev'd William B. Otis, Rector of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, noting the number of Episcopalians living in the area of Rumson, called together a meeting of interested persons to discuss the possibility of building a church and establishing an independent congregation. One year later, the Parish of St. George's on the Hill was organized as an Episcopal Church with the approval of the Bishop of New Jersey, the Rt. Rev'd John Scarborough. The construction of the stone church on the property located on Ridge Road and Bellevue Avenue followed and became the house of worship for Episcopalians in this vicinity for the next thirty-two years, at which time the property was sold to the Rumson Country Day School. During this period, the services were held in the summer months only.

In 1907, it was decided that a year-round ministry was needed, and at the urging of Miss Caroline Shippen, Mrs. William E. Strong, and the Rev'd J. Frederick Talcott, the move was made to locate the congregation at the present site of Waterman Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, on the

property adjacent to the river. The name of the church was to be changed to St. George's-by-the-River. Mrs. Strong offered to give sufficient funds to build and furnish the church, Mrs. J. Fritz Achelis raised the funds necessary for the building of the Rectory, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dean Adams gave Ralph Hall in memory of their son. The Church, Rectory, and Parish Hall were built and in the following year a full time Rector was called to minister to a growing congregation and conduct services on a regular schedule. The first Rector was the Rev'd W. Dutton Dale, who served from 1909 until 1929.

The Parish grew with the community from one hundred or more members until, today, it is the third largest Episcopal parish in the Diocese of New Jersey with 1500 members.

Additions have been made at various times, all necessitated by a grow-



St. George's Church. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

ing congregation. In 1946 the building known as the Cloisters was built to provide classrooms and a recreation room for the young people. In 1950 Canterbury Hall was built to provide additional classrooms and offices. In 1955 the Chantry and the Chapel of the Resurrection was built as a gift of Mr. Bertram H. Borden to provide a mortuary and chapel for small services and to augment the seating capacity of the church proper for large and special services. St. George's is in the Norman Gothic style of architecture, with an imposing stone tower directly over the Altar and Chancel. In this tower, there is a carillon of 23 bells cast in England, the gift of Mr. Bertram H. Borden. A recital is played every Sunday a half hour before the services and on special occasions.

The congregation is an active one—with 400 children in the Church School, 150 young people away at school and college, fifteen organizations related to the various church activities, and three choirs numbering 90 voices. From the very beginning of the services of St. George's, there has been a men and boy choir following the English tradition of liturgical music. The church has always been noted for its fine musical program due in large measure to the high caliber of men who have held the position of Organist and Master of the Choristers. Those who have given outstanding leadership have been Mr. J. Stanley Farrar, Mr. Paul L. Thomas, and the present incumbent, Mr. Marshall C. Bush. The year 1964 being the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of the Parish, a new 28-rank Aeolian Skinner pipe organ was built to replace the original instrument, which had been in use since 1907. A four-rank Moller pipe organ was placed in Ralph Hall for services and community meetings.

During these ninety years of St. George's ministry in Rumson, names familiar and prominent in the life of both the community and church appear. The Church's influence has the spirit which encouraged men, women, and children to serve in the wider field of community responsibility.

The Rectors of St. George's-by-the-River since 1907 have been:

The Rev'd J. Frederick Talcott	1907-1909
The Rev'd W. Dutton Dale	1909-1929
The Rev'd Albert J. M. Wilson	1929-1933
The Rev'd Earle A. Lier	1933-1937
The Rev'd Dr. George F. Dudley	1937-1941
The Rev'd H. Fairfield Butt	1941-1946
The Rev'd Canon George A. Robertshaw	1946-

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RUMSON

(1964—Charles A. Wolbach)

In 1849 Thomas Hunt of Brooklyn bought 177 acres of land on Rumson Neck and started the village of Port Washington. Among several other buildings he included a small church and a hotel. This church, now Bingham Hall, was dedicated on May 1, 1842, and used as a nondenominational place of worship until April 23, 1861, when it was formally organized as a Presbyterian Church. The first members of the Presbyterian congregation were William Bruce, Martinus Bergen, David Harvey, Mrs. Catherine Bergen, and Mrs. Lydia Harvey. The first pastor was Albert V. King, a licentiate from New York. Mr. Bruce was the first Elder.

From 1861 to 1883 the church was supported partly by Presbytery from mission funds. The pastors were either supplied by Presbytery or were aging men whose services were sincere but often feeble. During this period of 22 years one finds the following ministers: Albert V. King, 1861-2; Alexander Clements, 1865-7; James MacFarlane, 1868-71; Lewis C. Lockwood, Stated Supply, 1871-4; Charles S. Newhall, S.S., 1874-8; Charles Parker, S.S., 1879-80; Samuel Miller, 1880-3.

In 1883 Rev. Samuel W. Knipe, a younger man, became the pastor. About 1880 the name of the village was changed to Oceanic. Under the able leadership of Rev. Knipe the church added many new members, be-

came self-supporting, and built a new sanctuary in 1886 on land that was donated by Dr. Ehrick Parmly, a prominent resident of Oceanic. The old church building was retained as a Parish house until 1956, when it was sold to Rumson Borough for $11,000. At present the Borough is using this old landmark as a meeting place for various community activities.

The records show that 146 new members joined the church during Rev. Knipe's pastorate from 1883 to 1907. In 1905 the congregation built the present manse on River Road. During this period two young men of the congregation entered the ministry, John Ehrick Parmly and Samuel Conover Osborn. Pastor Knipe was a very versatile man. Among other activities one finds that he was a good seaman, a classmate of the famed Admiral Dewey of the U. S. Naval Academy, a skilled fisherman, a botanist, a skilled mechanic, and an official observer for the U. S. Weather Bureau.

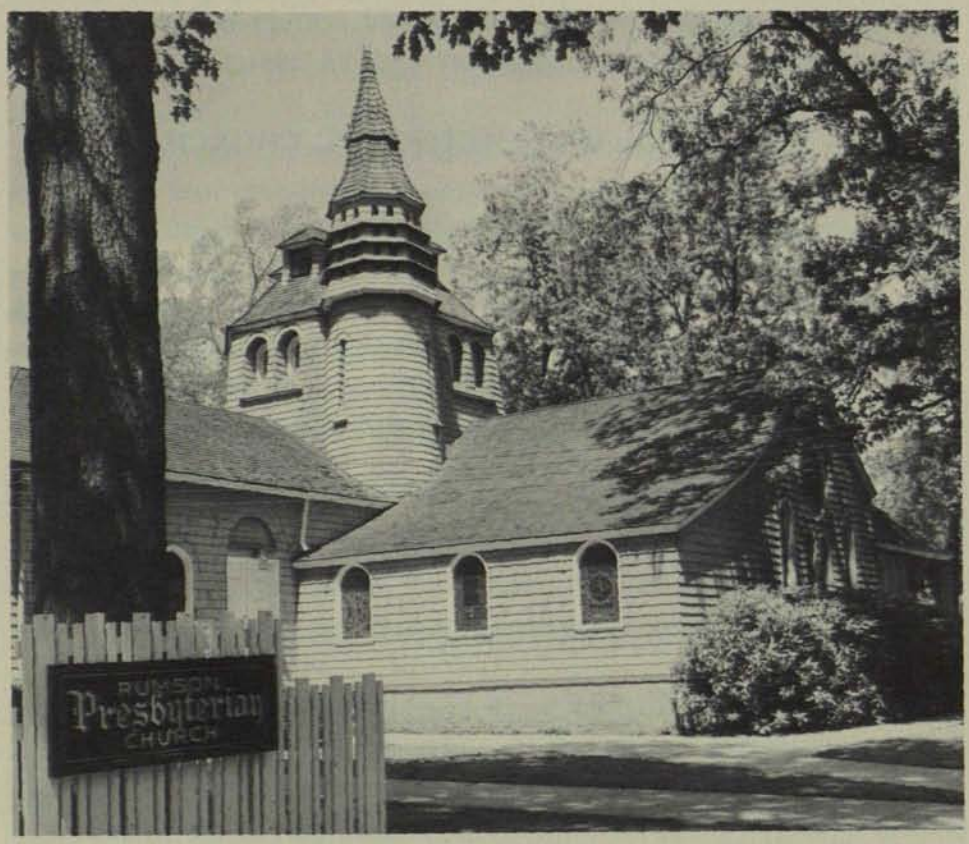
Rev. Frank Diehl, more of a scholar than a preacher, stayed for two years, 1907-9. He was followed by Rev. Arthur Albert MacKay, who was installed in 1911 and served faithfully until his retirement in 1926. Copies of old programs show that the 50th anniversary of the congregation and the 25th in the present church were celebrated with special events in 1911. Records show that Rev. MacKay was very active in church and community affairs, many of which centered in the Parish House. This was the period of Boy Scouts, the Rumson Improvement Association, the Oceanic Library, the Nursing Association, Victory Park, the First World War, and other exciting events in the new Borough of Rumson, organized in 1907.

From 1927 to 1930 the pastor was Rev. W. Potter Van Tries. His short stay in Rumson was followed by many years as pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

In 1930 the congregation called Rev. William Calvin Colby. His long pastorate of twenty years is noted for the progress that was made in services of the church to the community during the years of depression. Beautiful memorial windows were given by Mr. George Parmly, Mr. George Walter Davis, and others. These beautiful and inspiring works of art have made the sanctuary one that will never be forgotten. In 1942, on the 100th anni-

versary of its founding as a church, the Parish House was completely renovated and re-dedicated as Bingham Hall, in memory of Senator Bingham, a summer resident of Rumson in the early 1800's.

Rev. Allan Kenneth Magner began his pastorate here on November 11, 1951. During his stay of seven years, until October 1, 1958, the congregation increased very rapidly. The Sunday School outgrew its quarters and along with the congregation went on double sessions. The urgent need for expansion was met by the church in the building of the Fellowship Hall, adjacent to the church building and connected by a foyer. At the 100th



Rumson Presbyterian Church. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

Anniversary Dinner on April 23, 1961, the small remaining mortgage on the original cost of $120,000 for the Hall was burned, symbolizing that the congregration was then free of debt.

Rev. Edward John Costello began his duties as an Assistant Pastor on July 7, 1957. He served with Rev. Magner and during the interim after Rev. Magner left to accept the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church at Mount Vernon, N. Y., Rev. Costello left Rumson on August 31, 1959, to assume his duties as pastor of the Slate Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cardiff, Maryland.

On May 10, 1959, the Rev. Harvy C. Douie became the pastor. Under his leadership the church entered its second century of service in this community at impressive ceremonies on April 23, 1961.

THE GOOD WILL METHODIST CHURCH

(1964—Kenneth M. Horton)

In the winter of 1875-76 the Reverend Robert Emery, a local preacher, was holding evangelistic services at Sea Bright. Attending these services were two men from Rumson, Charles Jeffrey and John Sewing. These men were converted at these meetings and returned to their homes with something of a fear in their hearts like that felt by John Wesley after the Aldersgate experience, and at once began to have services in their homes. These meetings grew and grew, so that in March, 1877, the need of a minister was felt, and the Reverend W. P. Strickland, preaching on the Atlanticville (now North Long Breach) -Sea Bright Circuit added Oceanic to his fold.

On March 20th, 1877, plans began to take shape for a church building and through prayer and the efforts of Mr. Jeffery and Mr. Sewing, both carpenters, with a host of friends to help with the work, the church was built and on July 29, 1877, dedicated. It became part of the Atlanticville-Sea Bright Circuit.

The first wedding performed in the church was on June 28, 1879, when

James Dewitt Brower and Cecilia Jeffery were united in holy wedlock. This fine Christian couple served the church well with their time, talents, and earthly goods as long as they lived.

The church was known as The Oceanic Methodist Episcopal Church, and when Oceanic and its environs became officially the Borough of Rumson, the name was changed to the Good Will Methodist Episcopal Church.

Many of the pastors who have served there in the past have gone on to bigger things. One student pastor brought to mind is Reverend W. E. Leddon, serving from 1911-14, now Bishop W. E. Leddon of the Utica Conference, retired. Another is Herbert J. Smith, a student at Drew, serving from 1918-19, and District Superintendent of the New Brunswick District, retired.

Within the past ten years the Good Will Methodist Church has had to its credit a man entering the ministry, studying at Temple, and now at Crosier Theological Seminary. He is the Reverend Irving Stevens, pastor of the National Park Church and another entering the Service of the Lord as a local preacher.

In 1963, while the Reverend Richard I. Hoye was pastor, the Good Will Methodist Church of Rumson officially joined with the Christ Methodist Church, Ridge Road, Fair Haven. The Rev. James C. Rupert is its present pastor.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

(1964—Dr. Gilbert S. Rosenthal)

Although the Jewish community in the greater Red Bank area dates back to before the turn of the last century, there was not sufficient Jewish population to met the establishment of a formal synagogue. From time to time, private services were held in Red Bank, but in 1922 the time seemed ripe for the establishment of an organized house of worship.

In January of 1922 a group of 35 Jewish men gathered to organize a

congregation in Red Bank. Several months later a frame house at 10 Riverside Avenue was purchased, and Congregation B'nai Israel was officially and publicly born. The first president of the Congregation was Mr. Benjamin Alperin. Shortly thereafter, the first rabbi was called to the pulpit of B'nai Israel.

Simultaneous with the organization of the Congregation and the purchase of the building, a religious school was organized and a Ladies Hebrew Society (subsequently renamed the Sisterhood) was formed to serve as an auxiliary organization to assist the men.

As the Congregation continued to grow and flourish, the need to expand the physical facilities of the institution became acute. A building fund was begun, a site at the corner of Hance and Ridge Roads in Rumson was purchased, and the firm of Kelly and Gruzen was retained to design a new synagogue. In August of 1957 the construction work was begun by the Hall Construction Company, and on December first of the same year the cornerstone laying ceremony was held.

The edifice was completed in May of 1958 at a total cost of over $400,000. The structure is on one level, modern style, of brick, wood and glass. It



The Rumson Synagogue, located at the corner of Hance and Ridge Roads. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

consists of a sanctuary that seats 320 people, a social hall, six classrooms, a daily chapel, a youth lounge, a kitchen, and offices and studies. The sanctuary is in the shape of the six-pointed Star of David and resembles the tent-sanctuary in which the ancient Hebrews worshipped while in the wilderness.

The present membership of the Congregation is 400 families. There are 300 children in the religious school. The Congregation sponsors a nursery school at the synagogue mornings during the school year for children of pre-school age. The current rabbi, the sixth in the Congregation's history, is Jack M. Rosoff. He is assisted by a Cantor, Choir Director, staff of teachers, and administrators in the congregational duties.

The following rabbis have served the Congregation B'nai Israel:

Rabbi Joshua Weiner	1922-24
Rabbi Nathan Witkin	1924-32
Rabbi Rosengard	1932-33
Rabbi Arthur H. Hershon	1933-59
Rabbi Gilbert S. Rosenthal	1958-64
Rabbi Jack M. Rosoff	1964-

Presidents

Milton Abramoff
*Benjamin Alperin
Max Benowitz
*Joseph Cohen
Harry Feldt
Henry Hurwitz
*Morris Jacks
Max Klarin
Max Lewis
*Louis Miner
Harry Roman
Leon Rueckhaus
*Louis Schwartz
*David Shipkin
Michael Silberstein
Maurice Stalberg
Morris Westerman
Abraham Zager
Morton Winer
Judge William Klatsky
Albert Fink
David Ruda
Irving Diamond
(* Deceased)

THE RUMSON CEMETERY

(Rumson Road at Conover Lane)

A definite tradition has been handed down for many years that the old cemetery was used as a community burying ground since the time John Hance settled in Rumson in 1665, according to Dr. Charles A. Wolbach. Indians were supposed to have established the burying ground before that time.

In his article in the 1944 history of Rumson Dr. Wolbach writes, "The oldest legible stone is that of Joyce Borden Hance, dated 1722-3. Her husband John Hance (son of the first John Hance) is buried beside her and has a similar stone, badly chipped, which is dated 1728-9. The inscription for Joyce reads, 'Here lies ye body of Joyce Hance who Died febru'y ye 4th 1722/3 aged 39 years and 8 months.' John's reads, 'Here lies ye body of John Hance who died febru'y ye 26th 1728/9 in ye 46th year of his age.' "

Others who lived and died in the eighteenth century were Isaiah Chambers, -1794, and Asher Corlies, 1767-1793. There are 196 headstones listed in the 1944 edition of the history of Rumson, copied from George Castor Martin's "Book of the Dead of Monmouth County," published at Asbury Park in 1915. Of these, 64 people buried in the Rumson cemetery were born in the eighteenth century. Among them are such names as Bennet, Borden, Chambers, Corlies, De Grant, Douglas, Hance, Havens, Haviland, Hendrickson, Inman, Jobes, King, Klots, Letson, Peace, Sherman, Snyder, Trafford, Wardell, White, Williams, and Wooley.

As in all old cemeteries, it is interesting to note that several persons had reached or come close to one hundred years of age before their deaths. On the other hand, the present observer can draw a painful conclusion about the comparatively large number of deaths at an early age.

There are three large vaults in the cemetery—the Parmlys', the McMonagles', and the Thomas N. McCarters'. Mr. McCarter thought so much of

the old cemetery that for many years he arranged for his employees to keep the entire cemetery in good condition. He later set up a trust fund, the income of which was to be used for perpetual care of the old graveyard.

At present the Rumson Improvement Association has undertaken the administration of Mr. McCarter's perpetual care fund, and the Rumson Garden Club has assisted in the upkeep of the old cemetery. Although many of the old stones are completely illegible because of age and erosion, it is comforting to think of Rumson's early residents as resting peacefully in such a pleasant spot.

Chapter 18

Education in Rumson

PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 1820-1964

(1944—Charles A. Wolbach; 1964—Francis E. Hockey)

Public schools in New Jersey started in 1820 when the income from a State School Fund, created in 1817, was made available to townships. Public education was free only to poor children, the rest had to pay the "rate." Schools were not absolutely free for all children in the state until 1871.

There is no record that Shrewsbury Township, which included the Rumson area until 1907, accepted any state aid until 1829. A state law in this year made it compulsory for a township to set up school districts and to use the state aid. The assumption is, therefore, that the township created school districts in 1829, one of these being in the Rumson area. This assumption is verified by a statement in Ellis' History of Monmouth County, page 194, which states that a school was located on Rumson Road at Buena Vista Avenue before 1841. Teachers in this school were John S. Borden, Nathaniel Clark, Samuel Crane and Joseph Wardell, according

to Ellis. The late Edgar Smith of Fair Haven claimed that his father, Forman Smith, was the last teacher in the Rumson Road school and the first teacher in the Fair Haven school in 1841. From 1841 to 1849 all children in the eastern end of the township attended the Fair Haven school.

In 1849 a one-room school was opened in Port Washington, the name of the village which later became Oceanic and Rumson. A few, very elderly residents of Rumson described their experiences in this school when the first edition of this history was written in 1944. The school was located in Parmly's Woods on the east side of Bingham Avenue near Church Street. With the exception of several years, William Bruce was the schoolmaster from 1849 to 1879.

By 1879 Port Washington had outgrown the one-room school and the township built a two-room school at the northwest corner of Lafayette and Church Streets. This two-story frame building was replaced in 1893 by a brick building which had four classrooms and an auditorium. The frame building was moved to the south side of Church Street, east of Lafayette Street, and was used for many years by the Red Men's Lodge. When the Lodge disbanded some years ago, the building was bought by Mr. Friscia, who converted it into a home and workshop.

In the early 1880's Port Washington residents applied for a postoffice but were refused because another postoffice had the same name. The government suggested Brighton as the name for the postoffice, but the residents came up with Oceanic. Hence, this part of the township became Oceanic until 1907, when the name of the postoffice was changed to Rumson. The four-room school of 1893 included not only the elementary grades but also two years of high school work. Records show that three girls completed two years of high school in 1895. They were Jessie Bruce, Bessie Kuhn, and Ethel Wilson. During the years 1895 to 1933 Oceanic High School (Rumson High School after 1907) maintained a two-year curriculum with classes ranging from three to 18 in number. Most of the Rumson graduates completed their high school work in Red Bank, which had a four-year curriculum about 1900.

The township placed a second school in Oceanic in 1902 at Blackpoint Road. This two-room frame building was replaced in 1908 by a four-room brick building soon after the Borough was incorporated. At the same time a four-room addition was added to the Lafayette Street School. In 1925 the voters defeated a proposition to expand the Lafayette Street School to include a four-year high school. However, in 1928 the voters approved the purchase of a high school site on Ridge Road.



The Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

In 1933, the Board of Education, under the leadership of the late Bertram H. Borden, decided to build a new high school on the Ridge Road site. The school was built with the help of a loan and grant from the Public Works Administration, a Federal agency that helped to relieve unemployment by providing jobs in public housing. During the time that the high school was being constructed, the six-year high school functioned temporarily in the Lafayette Street School, grades five and six were located in the Presbyterian Parish House on Bingham Avenue, and the Kindergarten and first three grades assembled in the Blackpoint

School. On January 6, 1936, grades 7-12 moved into the new high school building and the pupils in the Kindergarten and first six grades occupied the Lafayette Street school. The Blackpoint school was not used for school purposes after 1936. For several years during World War II the building was used by Fort Monmouth and later a Youth Center was organized there. In 1956 the Blackpoint property was deeded to the Borough in exchange for Borough property on Forrest Avenue to be used as a grade school. A new firehouse now occupies the site of the former Blackpoint School.

The six-year high school, which operated successfully in Rumson from 1934 to 1956, offered a comprehensive curriculum for approximately 300 students. In the four upper grades approximately one-half of the enrollment consisted of tuition students from Fair Haven. During these years the high school could have accommodated more pupils, but the increased birth rate and new families after World War II soon predicted a rapid increase in the 1950's. Consequently plans for more school facilities resulted in several large changes in the schools.

In 1954 the voters of Fair Haven and Rumson approved the formation of a regional high school district for grades 9-12. This district took over the operation of the high school on July 1, 1956. Rumson Borough voters approved the building of a new school for the pupils in the Kindergarten and first eight grades in 1955. This new school on Forrest Avenue, named the Forrestdale School, was opened in 1957. A year later, in 1958, a six-room addition was made to The Forrestdale School. The regional high school more than doubled its facilities in 1958.

In order to relieve continued overcrowding, the construction of a separate building for Kindergarten through grade two classes was approved in October of 1962. While awaiting the completion of Forrestdale, its addition and later the K-2 unit, Kindergarten and first grade classes were at various times housed in the Presbyterian Fellowship Hall and also in Bingham Hall. This new Kindergarten-Grade Two building was occupied in April, 1964, and named the Deane-Porter School.



Forrestdale School. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

The Lafayette Street School, which was a school site from 1879 to 1957, was given to the Borough for a park and playground. The School building was demolished in 1958. The grounds have been neatly arranged for playground areas. Recently the Borough Council has named the playground Rogers Park in honor of the late Richard J. Rogers, who served on the board of education from 1909 to 1949, as well as in other Borough offices.

Principals and Superintendents, 1849-1964

1849-1879, William Bruce, Kate Hutchinson, Marie Coyle, Henry Dennison
1879-1894, Mark Riley, Mr. Champlin, Mr. Heritage, Mr. Osborn, Mr. Gaskill
1894-1897, George Morris
1897-1899, W. E. Soule
1899-1906, C. H. Walling
1906-1909, C. E. Dietz

1909-1918, L. B. Wheeler
1918-1934, S. H. DeQuier
1934-1955, C. A. Wolbach, Ph.D.
1955- , F. E. Hockey

Superintendent of the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School

1956- , J. F. Kinney, Ed.D.

Presidents of the Rumson Board of Education

1907-1923, James Bogle
1923-1941, Bertram H. Borden
1941-1949, Richard J. Rogers
1949-1955, William Moncrief
1955-1957, William B. Leonard
1957- , Elliot W. Sparkes

President of the Regional High School Board of Education

1956- , Arthur L. Adamson

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL
(1964—Sister Mary Arthur)

Holy Cross School was dedicated with impressive ceremonies on Saturday, September 18, 1941. The school was housed in the very beautiful building formerly used as the residence of Bernon S. Prentice. After the acquisition of the property, Mr. J. Sanford Shanley, architect, had assisted in redesigning the interior of the structure in order to prepare it for its new role. The first floor of the building contained the classrooms, with the second floor providing living quarters for the Sisters.

The most Reverend William A. Griffin, Bishop of Trenton, officiated

at the dedicatory exercises and gave the principal address. The Rev. Patrick Clune, Pastor of Holy Cross Church, was placed in charge of the school facilities and indicated his desire to establish a P.T.A. at once. Sister Marie Jeanne of the Sisters of Mercy of North Plainfield became the first Principal, assisted by Sister Mary Sheila and Sister Mary Eustace.

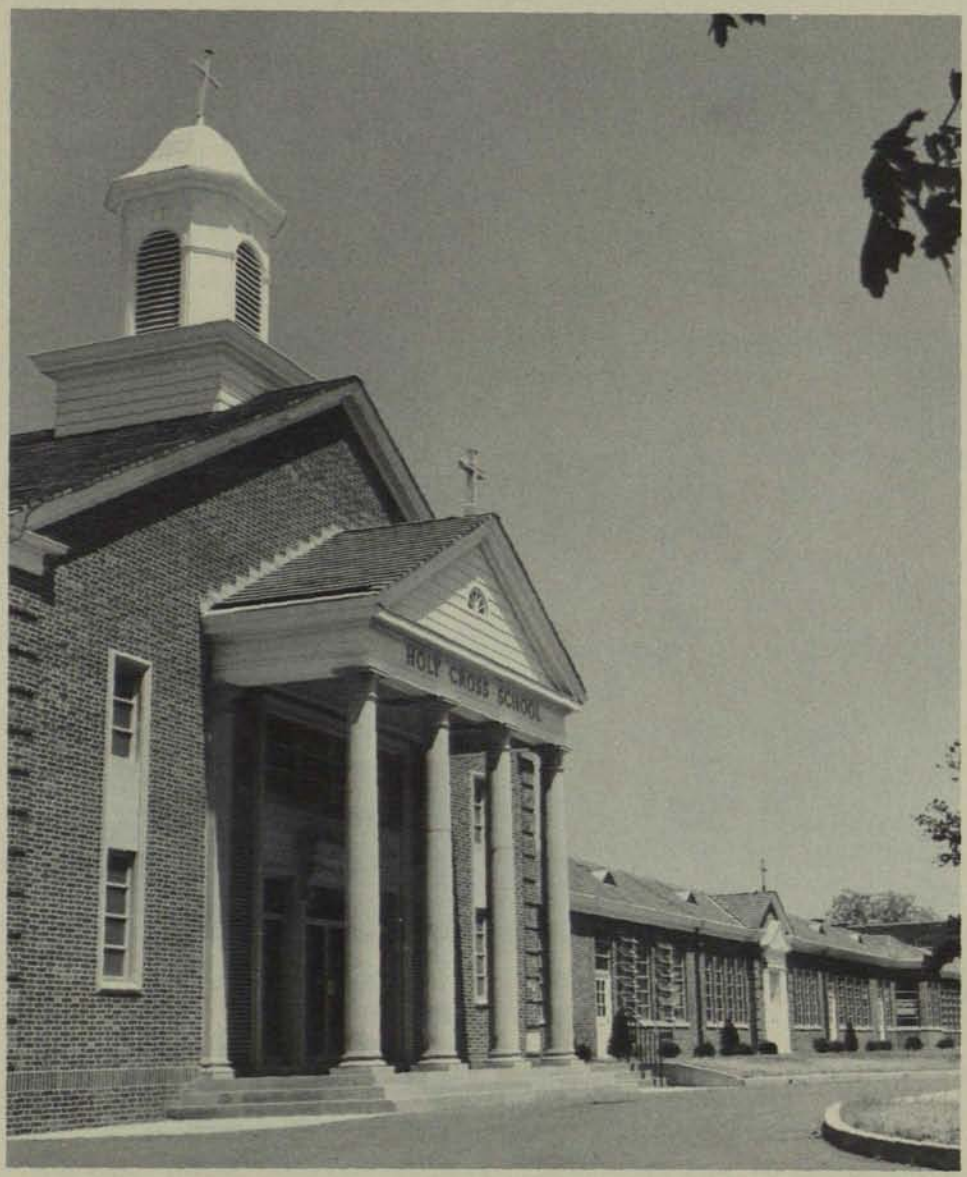
Holy Cross opened its doors in 1941 to seventy-four pupils who were distributed among the first to fourth grades. During the following two years, the fifth and sixth grades were added and the enrollment swelled to one hundred four. By the year 1946 enrollment burgeoned to such an extent that classrooms had to be improvised in the Parish Hall. This arrangement continued until 1953.

Through the combined efforts of Reverend Joseph Sullivan, Pastor, and the members of the Parish, a brick, Colonial-type one-story building containing nine classrooms, auditorium, kindergarten, library, principal's office, and clinic was erected on the Church property on Rumson Road and completed in 1953. The Parish Hall was then reconverted to its original purpose and utilized primarily as a gymnasium.

With the opening of the new school and the influx of new Catholic families to Rumson, enrollment rose sharply during the next few years, presenting the problem of shrinking classroom space. Sleeves were rolled up once again and plans were laid for the construction of an additional six classrooms, plus a new convent and chapel.

On September 23, 1962, the Reverend George W. Ahr, Bishop of Trenton, dedicated the new buildings. The last vestiges of the original school were demolished in the spring of 1963 in order to provide a more spacious play area for the children.

Today Holy Cross School has an enrollment of 492 students, and its faculty has risen from the original three to a total of fifteen.



Holy Cross School on Rumson Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

THE RUMSON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
(1964—Edgar B. Blake)

In 1926 The Rumson Country Day School was founded in Rumson by a group of parents who had decided to make their year-round homes in this vicinity. Known then as The Rumson School, it was incorporated as a non-profit institution and operated under the direction of a board of trustees from the locality. Mr. Johnfritz Achelis became the first president of the Board.



St. George's-on-the-Hill, 1873-1908. First building of Rumson Country Day School in 1926.

The School was originally affiliated with the Buckley Schools of New York and Long Island, emphasizing preparation for leading preparatory boarding schools. Its function was to provide a country day school program for boys and girls through the eighth grade. Harold S. Clark was appointed

the first headmaster and was to remain until his retirement twenty years later.

Mr. Edward Dean Adams gave for the School a generous plot of ground on the corner of Ridge Road and Bellevue Avenue. Standing on this property was a stone building, formerly St. George's Church before that parish changed its place of worship to the new structure on Waterman Avenue. This building was attractively redesigned as a school and still remains as the north wing of the U-shaped main building. Twenty-three pupils were enrolled for the first school year.

In 1928 there was added a new and larger building containing classrooms, a dining room, locker rooms, and a gymnasium. Cheston Simmons succeeded Mr. Achelis as president of the board of trustees, in 1938, and in 1942 the name of the school became officially The Rumson Country Day School. World War II, following hard on the heels of the depression and a recession, found 76 of the R.C.D.S. graduates in military service. Five made the supreme sacrifice.

In 1946 James M. Fox became president of the board of trustees and Mr. Clark was succeeded as headmaster by Edgar B. Blake, with the School since its founding and assistant headmaster since 1929. In 1951 O. Bergen Rapalyea became president, and plans for future development of the School were made. Space for three additional playing fields was provided in 1953 with the purchase from Mr. White of four acres of land to the north of what is now North Rohallion Drive. Also in 1953 a new dining room and additional kitchen space were provided. In 1953 J. Upshur Moorhead succeeded Douglas Newbold as president of the board.

In 1955 a south wing was built, completing the U of the Bellevue Avenue buildings. This added seven new classrooms, an assembly room, locker rooms, and new offices. At the same time the main building was remodeled to provide for a new science room, art room, library, and shop, with space on the third floor providing for three additional classrooms.

In 1956 Joseph F. Lord succeeded Mrs. Moorhead as president. A teachers' pension fund was established in 1956, and plans were made for



The Rumson Country Day School in 1964. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

funding past service benefits, which was finally completed in 1960. In 1957 the School acquired the four-acre Fahnestock property adjoining the playing fields to the east. Extensive remodeling was accomplished in the summer of 1958 on the house, built by Edward Dean Adams in 1928. This provided four primary classrooms, an office, a locker room, a playroom, a greenhouse, and quarters for the headmaster. On the beautiful grounds was located an extensive playground area for the younger children.

F. Bourne Ruthrauff became president of the board in 1959, and a successful drive was held to increase the School's library facilities. In 1960 the School became a charter member of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. Annual Giving, almost a requisite for the modern non-profit independent schools, was begun in 1960 and has been continued with increasing success by alumni, parents, and friends of the School.

In 1962 Francis Lobdell, himself an alumnus of The Rumson Country Day School became the president. In 1963 the third floor of the main building was remodeled, thus providing for three classrooms and bringing to eighteen the total of classrooms in the School. The construction of a new gymnasium-auditorium is scheduled to begin in 1965.

A strong faculty and loyal school spirit have always characterized The Rumson Country Day School. Most of its graduates have gone on to preparatory schools and colleges, where their records have nearly always indicated performances well up to their ability. Six Phi Beta Kappa members and a Rhodes Scholar have received their training at R.C.D.S. After thirty-nine years of successful operation, The Rumson Country Day School occupies a firm position of respect among its sister institutions throughout the country and of affection in the community and its environs.

THE OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY

(1944—Miss Esther Bruce; 1964—Mrs. William Gridley)

The Oceanic Free Library was built and given to the people of Rumson by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eugene Meeker on Thanksgiving Day 1920 in loving memory of their son who was killed while serving with the Lafayette Escadrille in World War I.

William Henry Meeker was born in New York City January 5th, 1894. He graduated from Pomfret School, where he headed the school publication The Pontefraet, in 1913, and entered Harvard University. There he was Editor-in-chief of the Crimson. He was to have graduated in June of 1917 but took his degree early so that he might joint the Lafayette Flying Corps. He enlisted June 3, 1917, and was brevetted a corporal on July 26th. He went to Paris, France, for further instruction. There, while doing a vertical spiral, his plane crashed and he was instantly killed September 11, 1917.

Before Mr. and Mrs. Meeker decided what form the memorial should take they asked for a mass meeting of the citizens of Rumson to ascertain if they would welcome a library. At the meeting 200 people asked for the privilege of becoming Charter Members. All this and more is in the book "History of Rumson 1665-1944" where among many fascinating articles there is a detailed account of the founding and early days of the library. A great deal has happened since that last writing. With the growth of

Rumson (in 1920 the population was 1,680; the last census counted 6,500) a larger building was badly needed. After careful consideration it was decided that the original building could not be adequately enlarged to meet the ever growing needs of the community. It seemed too bad to leave the first building designed by Mr. Meeker's friend, Thomas Hastings, but a great deal of thought went into the matter and we are glad that the building is now in use as a branch of The Sea Bright National Bank. It was decided that the former Hintelman store would lend itself to the proper alterations and as far as the population increase is concerned it is in a more central location. Mr. Arnold Tulp headed a campaign to go to the people of Rumson to help with its renovation. Everyone responded most generously and on October 26, 1959, the new building was opened



Oceanic Free Library. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

to the public. The architects were Moon, Iwatsou, and Macksond of Englewood, New Jersey, and the general contractor was Piri Malony of Rumson. It might be interesting to note that from one room and a reading room for eight we have expanded to an adults' reading room, a children's room seating 25, a reading and reference room seating 24, a magazine room, and audio room with records supplied by the Junior Service League which are circulated, a Librarian's Office, a staff room and an adequate work and processing room. The reference collection has increased 50% in the past five years, and over the 43 years of the library's existence the circulation has increased by 86,676, the attendance by 16,453, and there are now 4,806 borrowers. The full time staff consists of Miss M. Esther Bruce, who happily has been head librarian since the Library's first day, and Mrs. Laura Ryan, and the part time staff are Mrs. John Crolius, Mrs. John Robinson, and Mrs. Philip Kratz. The library is a memorial and therefore not supported in any way by taxes. The Borough is very generous in its help, but a great deal of the financial support comes from the Community Appeal. The library is open every day, with the exception of Sundays and holidays. The collection of books numbers over 15,000, available for circulation without charge. The current books, some of which are supplied by the County library, are placed in a rental collection and a small fee is charged.

During the crucial time when the library was moving Mr. Francis J. Nary was a very able president, and Mr. Thomas V. Jardine has been equally skillful in helping to solve the numerous problems of expansion. It is impossible to mention the many people who have played a vital part in the history of the library. A list of the past presidents may give an idea of some who have served so faithfully.

Mr. Robert N. McCarter	1921-1936
Mr. Hooker Talcott	1936-1942
Mr. John C. Borden	1942-1945
Mrs. George B. Cortelyou, Jr.	1946-
Mr. J. Edward Wilson	1947-

Mr. Van R. Halsey	1948-1953
Mr. J. Edward Wilson	1954-1955
Mr. John C. Borden	1956-1957
Mr. Francis J. Nary	1958-1959
Mr. Thomas V. Jardine	1960-1963
Mr. Peter Cartmell	1963-

The people of Rumson represent all types of interest and each generation brings a challenge. It is a free library in every sense of the word. The books are all placed on open stacks inviting all to browse or borrow. No child in Rumson need be "reading hungry." There is no limit on the number of books they may borrow. Over the years the Oceanic Free Library has earned its place in the life of the community. Its future is assured and the hope of its founders is being fulfilled.

Chapter 19

Civic Organizations

(1964—Sarkis Kavookjian and Leonard Friscia)

RUMSON FIRST AID SQUAD

At the Borough Hall on September 6, 1949, the Rumson First Aid Squad held its first organizational meeting under temporary officers John T. Black and John W. Carton, Jr. At that time the Squad consisted of seventeen members, all of whom had passed the first aid course of the American Red Cross.

After the constitution and by-laws were prepared and approved, at a meeting on December 12, 1949, the following officers were elected:

President—John T. Black

Vice President—Sarkis Kavookjian

Secretary—Paul Whitfield

Treasurer—James Alexander

The line officers were as follows:

Captain—James Fanning

Lieutenant—Sarkis Kavookjian
First Sergeant—Raymond McGirr
Second Sergeant—Walter J. Kerr

In February, 1950, the Squad was incorporated. The following were charter members:

James R. Alexander
John T. Black
John W. Carton, Jr.
James Fanning
Herbert S. Fowler
Sarkis Kavookjian
Walter J. Kerr
Henry S. Kruse
William Lagroterria
Thomas G. Mapes
Raymond McGirr
Harold S. Peters, Sr.
Walter Shinn
James Wagner
James Ward
Arthur Widmaier
Paul O. Whitfield

Presidents of the Rumson First Aid have been as follows:

John T. Black	1950-1954	James Wagner	1960-1962
John W. Parsons	1955-1957	William Strohmenger	1963
Arthur Widmaier	1958-1959	Sarkis Kavookjian	1964

At first, until the Squad could construct its own building, quarters were provided in the Borough Hall through the efforts of Mayor J. Edward Wilson. In 1951 the Squad built its own headquarters on Wilson Circle—a one-story building designed primarily as a garage. In 1957 there was added a second story, which now serves as an up-to-date meeting room for the Squad. For storage of supplies and equipment in 1964 an adjoining garage was constructed.

The purposes of the Squad are "the care, nurture, and maintenance of the injured, wounded, sick, infirm, and aged persons in emergencies, by the rendering first aid and transportation to hospitals or other places for medical treatment or care." The Squad consists of 25 members and such social, honorary, exempt, and physician members as may be determined from time to time.

Active members are required to be adult male persons who have reached 25 years of age and hold American National Red Cross first aid cards. Associate members are those persons who have signified their intentions of becoming active members by pursuing first-aid courses and who have been approved by the Board of Control.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of every month. Members give their time freely and turn out whenever they can in case of accidents, fires, and other emergencies. The Squad answered 41 calls during the first four months of its existence, but now it has greatly increased its service to the community, averaging in one year 300 emergency calls and over 100 fire and transporation calls.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING ASSOCIATION
(1964—Mrs. Robert Ilsley)

The first meeting of The Public Health Nursing Association of Rumson, Sea Bright, and Fair Haven was held on October 29, 1915, at Red Men's Hall, Rumson, with the Reverend MacKay, President, presiding. Among those attending were: Miss Nellie Porter, Secretary, Mrs. Raymond Hoagland, Reverend Dutton Dale, Father M. H. Callahan, Mrs. George Hendrickson, Mrs. J. J. Reed, and Mrs. Roland Fenimore.

The Association to this day has carried out the original purpose, which is to provide part-time skilled nursing care for the sick in their own homes, to assist in educating individuals and their families to protect their own health, and to render these services to all the communities regardless of race, creed, color, or the ability to pay.

Early in 1916 the first nurse was hired. Transportation was a serious problem, particularly along Black Point Road and in Sea Bright. This was solved through the generosity of Mrs. Thomas Achelis, who offered her Ford runabout *with a self-starter*. In 1923 a second nurse was hired, with financial assistance from Mr. Bertram Borden.

The original Certificate of Incorporation was signed in 1926 by five trustees: Mrs. Raymond Hoagland, Mrs. Robert McCarter, Mrs. Blaine Ewing, Mr. Hardin Crawford, and Mr. Bertram Borden. Through the courtesy of Mayor Barbour the Public Health Nursing Association acquired its present offices in the Borough Hall in 1927. An amended Certificate of Incorporation was signed in 1950 with three trustees: Miss Grace Porter, Mrs. J. Sanford Shanley, and Mrs. Robert Ilsley.

In 1951 the Dental Plan for the dentally indigent children came into being under the leadership of Mrs. Robert Ilsley and Mrs. E. Jackson Batchelar. The first clinic was held in Dr. Louis Mellaci's office. This still is a unique service in Monmouth County.

In 1954 the Public Health Nursing Association joined the Rumson and Fair Haven Community Appeal Drives to raise funds in lieu of yearly benefits.

The Family and Children's Society cooperates with our nurses by giving advice through their psychiatric case workers in local cases needing such attention. The Association has recently joined with three other associations in a demonstration project of a Homemakers Service for Monmouth County. This project provides a training course through Rutgers Extension Service for women who would enter the home when illness strikes and secure the welfare of the family unit.

The Association derives its funds through the Community Appeals, Borough Funds, charity funds, foundations and memorials.

At present the Board of Directors consists of two representative women living in each of the three boroughs or having children in one of the schools in the Boroughs. The aim of the Association remains the same: to bring better health to every person residing in Rumson, Sea Bright, and Fair Haven.

Some of our services are well baby clinics, dental clinics, post-natal advice, daily visits by our nurses to the schools, eye and ear testing in the schools, assisting in physical examination of pupils, home visits to the ill, and giving injections to those whose doctors prescribe such treatment.

Presidents of the Association are as follows:

1915 Rev. Mr. MacKay
1921 Mrs. Raymond Hoagland
1923 Miss Nellie Porter
1927 Mrs. John Ellis
1933 Mrs. George Dwight
1943 Mrs. Roger Gilbert
1943 Mrs. J. Sanford Shanley
1948 Mrs. Arthur Gibb
1949 Mrs. Robert Ilsley
1956 Mrs. George F. Burt
1958 Mrs. John H. Miller, II
1960 Mrs. Francis E. P. McCarter, III
1964 Mrs. Merrit Lane

Past Board Members

Mrs. Hal Armstrong
Mrs. James Auchincloss
Mrs. John Ballantine
Mrs. Robert Barr
Mrs. Charles Beattie
Mrs. Edgar Blake
Mrs. Bertram Borden
Mrs. Howard Borden
Mrs. Edwin Bransome
Mrs. Gray Bryan
Mrs. J. Fredrick Burghard
Mrs. Harold Clark
Mrs. George Coe
Mrs. Clay Crawford
Mrs. Eliot Coleman
Mr. Hardin Crawford
Mrs. Edward Crane
Mrs. Hyatt Cunningham
Mrs. Lefferts Dashiell
Mrs. Edgar Denise
Mrs. Clement Despard
Mrs. Gordon Donald
Mrs. Neilson Edwards
Mrs. John Ellis
Mrs. Harris Fisher
Mrs. Walter Force
Mrs. James Fox
Mrs. Eugene Gardella
Mrs. Arthur Gibb
Mrs. Roger Gilbert
Mrs. Frances Glazebrook
Mrs. Van R. Halsey
Mrs. Joseph Hunter
Mrs. Edgar Knapp
Mrs. Lloyd Lawrence
Mrs. W. B. Leonard
Miss Emily Ligier
Mrs. Leighton Lobdell

Mrs. Robert McCarter
Mrs. J. Hartley Mellick
Mrs. Manton Metcalf, III
Mrs. Jerrold Meyer
Mrs. James Parkes
Mrs. Cornelius Perrine
Miss Grace Porter
(Board Member for 44 years)
Mrs. William Potts
Mrs. William Riker
Mrs. George Robertshaw
Mrs. Nicholas Rutgers
Mrs. Harold Sandlass
Mrs. Carl Schoen
Mrs. Richard Scudder
Mrs. Edwin Stewart
Mrs. Bayard Stout
Mrs. Williamson Thomas
Mrs. James Van Nostrand
Mrs. Thomas Vietor
Mrs. Bennet Vroman
Mrs. George Werleman
Mrs. Robert White
Mrs. Stuart Young

BABIES' HOSPITAL

The History of Rumson (Oceanic) would not be complete without mention of the Babies' Hospital on East River Road from 1889 to 1933. In "The Stethoscope," news of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Vol. XVIII, Number 4, April, 1963, special attention is given to the 75th Anniversary of Babies' Hospital, which now occupies a twelve-story building at the Medical Center in New York City. The following are several quotes from "The Stethoscope."

"It opened the country's first 'summer hospital' for babies. The hospital's Summer Home in Oceanic, N. J., operated each year from 1888 to 1933 to get sick babies away from 'the stifling heat of the city.'

"In fact, according to the hospital's annual report of 1889: 'Great interest was awakened in the work among the residents of Seabright and Oceanic, to whom we are indebted for many kindly acts and a cordial invitation to return and continue our work in their neighborhood next summer.'

"(Not only did the Babies' Hospital return to its Summer Home in Oceanic the next year, but every year thereafter through 1933.)"

After the Babies' Hospital abandoned its annual summer activities, the buildings and grounds were not used for a number of years. In the early

1940's, Mr. Shaheen, a real estate developer, bought the whole area and converted the buildings to apartments.

THE RUMSON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
(1964—Eldon Harvey, Jr.)

In retrospect, the problems faced by the founder of the Improvement Association, Hugh Hartshorne in 1911, were not much different from what they are today. The purpose of the Association as announced to its sixty-four members (thirty-nine of whom had not paid their dues), was "the improvement of the property in the Borough and the fostering of an interest in the sanitary, educational, social and moral conditions thereof by the property owners and residents."

It is true that while problems of taxes, noise, speeding, etc. carry through the generations, the sources of anguish vary. For example, in 1917 petitions were made to the State complaining that "motor boats without mufflers were causing such early morning disturbances that summer rental values were fast dropping." In that same year President Frederick Talcott entered into voluminous correspondence with Vice President Cochran of the Patten Steamship Line in an attempt to effect some arrangement so that the Seabright drawbridge would not have to be raised at exactly 7:52 each weekday morning, thereby stalling "some twenty motors and eleven carriages which were rushing to make the 7:54 train out of Seabright." Alas for President Talcott, promises notwithstanding, the Patten steamers seemed always to blow for the bridge at the worst possible moment for the commuters. Forty-eight years later the traffic policeman at the High School in Red Bank seemed to synchronize his stopping of Rumson commuters with the green light, thereby creating a situation remarkably similar to the one in '17.

Those of you who are aware of the presence of insect life in the Borough will be interested to know that in 1915 a committee headed by Edward Dean Adams and Ira Barrows raised $8000 to initiate mosquito control

work "by draining all the marsh lands on the South Shrewsbury River." Quite an undertaking for those days and actually the start of our present day Mosquito Extermination Commission.

In 1913 traffic problems were already upon us, as we find that a committee chaired by Charles D. Halsey was appointed to "undertake a movement to establish a network of bridle paths and private lanes for the use of equestrians and pedestrians with the view of making it possible to enjoy riding and walking through our Borough free from the danger, noise and dirt caused on the highways by motor vehicles."

One of the Association's great successes, some thirty-six miles of connected bridle paths, complete with gates opened and closed by the rider and maps to avoid getting lost, were completed in the wilderness of Rumson.

Less lyrical but equally important five years later, the Association sponsored a bond issue to raise $115,000, of which $30,000 was contributed by the State, to pave Rumson Road from the Avenue of Two Rivers to Harding Road. Along with improved roads traffic steadily increased to the point where it became apparent that one motorcycle policeman was not sufficient for Rumson's needs. The force was accordingly doubled by the Association's gift of a new Harley Davidson in 1923.

After World War I, through the efforts of Edward Dean Adams, a War Memorial Fund was subscribed by the citizens of the Borough and the resultant plaque became a permanent part of Victory Park, donated to the Borough in 1920 by Bertram Borden. Commemorating a still earlier war which occurred in 1775, the Association donated two bronze historical markers to the Borough in 1958, the one at the house of the Rumson Fire Company, marking the Battle of Black Point and one at Sea Bright Bridge Park, denoting the site of Huddy's Leap. The design of these last two monuments was largely the work of former Mayor and past President of the Association, Louis Hague. By 1953 a committee headed by Alfred King had succeeded in erecting the five entrance signs to the Borough that you see today.

The thirties brought hard times to Rumson along with the rest of the country and, following the precepts of Harold Ickes and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Association endeavored to stem the tide. An unemployment exchange was set up in the Borough clerk's office and the Association sent notices to all its members urging them to "continue to give jobs to residents of Rumson on their summer estates rather than to outside workers." A contribution of one thousand dollars to relief was also made by the Association. At this time it is interesting to note that, unlike today, members of the Association owned almost 80% of the real estate in Rumson, development being largely a matter of the future.

Along with the Depression came that animal with the insatiable appetite, the Japanese beetle. The Association joined battle with this common enemy and sprayed and burned with great fervor and at much expense.

The Association has since its inception been concerned with tax surveillance, and in 1938 President Charles Harding raised twelve hundred dollars amongst members of the Association to employ the Tax Foundation of New York to make a general audit of the books of the Borough. Much information of value was obtained, and many reforms and suggestions were adopted by the Borough.

In 1943, partly because of war transportation problems, the Association did much to foster the enactment of Rural Free Delivery Mail Service.

Although numerous efforts were made to "publicize" the Rumson area in the thirties and even to hire paid publicists in the interests of increasing business, rapid development after the War led in the fifties to what has been termed the socio-economic activities of the Association. Problems of population growth have led the Association much more into the areas of zoning, proper school development, and more recently, into juvenile delinquency. Taking up these problems in order, we see the Association engaging in 1957 the services of the Rutgers Planning Service, which explained scientifically the problems of growth facing the Borough and how we could best utilize our land areas.

In the fall of 1956 a rather important meeting of the minds between

taxpayers and the Regional High School Board was aided by an Association sponsored forum discussion at the High School. Moderated by former Mayor Van R. Halsey, this panel did much to encourage the voters to approve a revised referendum to build the new Regional School.

As might be expected, with the rapid growth of the Borough, a growing series of misdemeanors wrought by teenagers, ranging from the burning of barns to the mass crashing of private parties, to the defacing of private homes, seemed to indicate substantial and increasing problems with our youth. Conferences with the Juvenile Committee confirmed this, and your Association faced this problem by establishing a local chapter of the Friend of the Boys Organization in Rumson. Started by Rumson Improvement Association's Vice President, Vic Edelman, former head of the YMCA in Red Bank, this chapter was incorporated and has already done much to alleviate juvenile problems by assigning what are in effect foster fathers to be responsible for their "boys."

In retrospect, therefore, Borough problems over the past fifty odd years do not seem to have changed as much as one might expect. Taxes, the beautification of the Borough, traffic problems, whether it be from paddle wheelers or visitors trying to launch their outboards, the pattern of your Association's activities revolve in full circle. To help tie together our past and present, the Association agreed in 1962 to underwrite and sponsor the History you are now reading.

THE RUMSON GARDEN CLUB
(1964—Mrs. Randolph Beardsley)

In 1914, Mrs. Howard S. Borden and seven of her friends who had a great love of flowers and gardening formed the Rumson Garden Club. Through the years the membership has grown to one hundred persons whose purpose has been to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, in the fields of horticulture and landscape design; to

encourage beauty and form in the arranging of flowers and foliage indoors; to teach conservation of natural resources, including the protection of native plants; and to initiate and support civic improvements in line with the aims of the Club.

For the past fifty years the Rumson Garden Club has been active in fulfilling its purpose. In 1916 the Club became a member of the Garden Club of America and in 1926 a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Among the past activities of the Club were the large and colorful flower shows that were held at the Sea Bright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club and on some of the large estates in Rumson. These shows attracted great public interest and were always well attended. Many Garden Club members have won awards in horticulture and flower arranging at the International Flower Shows in New York City. The Club has sponsored many house and garden tours in Rumson and the vicinity to raise money for its civic projects program.

During World War I members sponsored school children's gardens, providing housing, and arranged for training of Farmerettes and the Woman's Land Army in the area. During World War II, members took part in a general year-round program at Fort Monmouth and Fort Hancock hospitals as well as providing special decorations at five service hospitals in the area. A privet hedge was given to the Army Y.M.C.A. at Fort Hancock, and plants and stands were supplied to the recreation room at Fort Monmouth. Funds were raised for the benefit of the British and Monmouth War Relief and for the Red Cross.

At the end of the wars, the Club resumed its civic works program, which has included plantings at:

Rumson Borough Hall
Forrestdale School—Rumson
Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School
Rumson Post Office
Oceanic Library

Marlpit Hall—Middletown
Woman's Exchange of Monmouth County—Little Silver
S.P.C.A.—Eatontown
Scenic Drive (Mount Mitchell)—Atlantic Highlands
Highway #36—Atlantic Highlands
Sailor's Grove—Fort Hancock
Monmouth County Parkway
Molly Pitcher Well—Freehold
Monmouth Medical Center—Long Branch
Blue Star Highway
Magnolia Gardens—Philadelphia
The Close of the National Cathedral—Washington, D. C.
Rumson approach to Sea Bright Bridge

For the past eight years members have made Christmas wreaths and table decorations for the John L. Montgomery Home in Freehold.

The Club has been active in many campaigns, particularly for the control of billboard advertising on our highways and for the eradication of tent caterpillars. It has worked for the preservation of Mount Mitchell, contributed to the purchase of the Great Swamp in Morris County, and shared in the planning for the preservation of the natural beauty and wild life of Sandy Hook State Park.

Founders—1914

*Mrs. Howard S. Borden
*Mrs. Carl F. Boker
Mrs. Harden L. Crawford
*Mrs. Charles D. Halsey
*Mrs. George D. Hodgman
*Mrs. Alfred H. Porter
*Miss Grace Porter
*Miss Nellie Porter

Presidents

*Mrs. J. Frederick Talcott	Mrs. Robert D. Hartshorne
*Mrs. Latham C. Reed	*Mrs. Marshall Blankarn
*Mrs. James W. Cunningham	Mrs. William C. Riker
Mrs. Harden L. Crawford	Mrs. Gray McW. Bryan
*Mrs. George Gray Ward	Mrs. Hooker Talcott
*Mrs. E. A. S. Clarke	Mrs. Frederick Frelinghuysen
*Mrs. Robert H. McCarter	Mrs. John L. Riker
Mrs. Andrew V. Stout	Mrs. George F. Burt
*Mrs. William B. Potts	Mrs. J. Marshall Booker
*Mrs. Samuel Riker	Mrs. Robert C. Lawrence, Jr.
Mrs. Edgar A. Knapp	Mrs. Oliver A. Vietor
Mrs. Arnold Wood, Jr.	Mrs. Randolph H. Beardsley

* deceased.

(The following article is an address given by Miss Sofia Morton Shippen at a meeting of the Rumson Garden Club many years ago. Miss Shippen's father, the late William W. Shippen, built the first full-sized house in Sea Bright in 1869. A very bad storm in 1915 undermined the beach nearby, and the house was moved across the river on barges and relocated on the Rumson side. For many years Miss Shippen was an active, interested member of the Rumson Garden Club.)

Seabright was the beginning of the summer settlement, the little fishing village originally called Nauvoo, but always spoken of as "the huts," for the first houses were little else as the men only lived there in the summer. They were built against a high bank covered with beach plum bushes which we were not allowed to pick; they belonged to the fishermen's wives. We must wait to go to Sandy Hook, free then to all.

We had the first real garden on the land near the river. Every grain of soil was brought by carts from inland, and then Mrs. Louis Fitzgerald, a near neighbor on the beach did the same. We still have some rose bushes brought from our place in Hoboken, and our yellow iris came from Mrs. Fitzgerald's place on the Hudson. But we never really thought of "The

Beach" as producing flowers, those came from "Inland." What is now West Park was the cow pasture, for, of course, everyone had a cow, driven over the bridge every morning. I wonder how many people who cross the River know that it was built as a toll bridge under the name of the "Jumping Point Drawbridge Company," and that the tradition is that after the battle of Monmouth, part of the British forces crossed there to reach the men-of-war waiting for them at Sandy Hook. The rest went by way of the Middletown turnpike and the road by All Saints Church; the battle was fought in terrible heat, and we were always told that, the next day, the body of an English soldier was found by the spring below the church, dead from heat and thirst. The cow pasture reached to the wood opposite the tennis club, and in the shade of the trees we gathered forget-me-nots in spring and fringed gentian in the fall, and all summer, the other wild flowers for which New Jersey is famous.

The bank on the other side of the road originally went up at an acute angle, and when Mrs. Neeser built the house now owned by Senator Barbour, she thought of it as entirely hidden from the road, but she went to Europe leaving the plans with the contractor, who could not imagine any one so foolish as not to want to see the passers-by, and so graded it smoothly up, removing the top soil in the process and making gardening more difficult. When Mr. Vietor bought the woods opposite to the tennis club, there was a small stream running through it and the ground was almost a swamp. Everyone assured him that draining would kill the trees, but he said the tops would die and have to be cut off, and then the trees would do better than ever, and time has proved he was right.

The only house on the bluff was the Hartshornes'; it still stands across the road, but so changed that it is not recognizable. They had gardens, real ones with flowers, fruit and vegetables, and our first summers were much helped by their kindness. The old right of way to the river ran through their place, a continuation of Hartshornes' land, and the hollow and the cedar trees bordering it can still be seen in the Deerings' place.

The Rumson Road was a country highway running between farms and

bordered by beautiful wild flowers. Most of the farms were owned by various Hances, an old Quaker family that still has many representatives in the county. The Van Ingens' house is one of the old farm houses done over, and on the road side below the Thomas McCarters' stood another one, the place we used to get our butter when old Mr. Hance was willing to sell it. It was drawn up cool and firm in a bucket that was dropped halfway down the well, and sold only to good Jersey folk; he "didn't care to have dealin's with Yorkers" was his first response to our efforts to get his delicious milk and cream.

Across the way where are now the Rutgers' and Butlers' places, an old Irishman, Mike Kennedy, started the first dairy farm and milk route. He bought the land cheap, and as it began to grow in value people came with better and better offers for it. Old Mike was ready to sell, but Mrs. Kennedy could not be persuaded to sign the deeds. She assured us that her uncle signed away his property in the law courts of Dublin and she would put her name to no paper. There seemed no way out till some clever lawyer told her that when a wife in New Jersey agreed to selling of a piece of property she was entitled to the present of a black silk dress and he would see that she got it. The temptation was too great and she signed the deeds, and I hope the wives here will note this legal fact and stand up for their rights, if they have the chance.

Mrs. Caesar's place was an orchard, peach or apple, and the house Mrs. Sanderson afterward owned was built by the Maitlands. Mrs. Maitland always spoke with pride of her "garden" but she meant the beautiful sweep of lawn and magnificent trees that still exist.

The old Treadwell place that now belongs to Mrs. Harry Caesar [now belonging to Joseph C. Hoagland, Jr.] never had a garden, but probably the first flowers down our way were grown at Bingham Hill, the Parmly place. The beautiful old house was built by Mr. Bingham as a shooting lodge, in pre-Revolutionary days. He drove over with his guests from Philadelphia, and the shrubs and perennial plants that are still there must have been planted very early if not in Revolutionary days. It was part of

the Wardell estate, when Will Bingham bought it. He built the house, and there his daughter was married to Lord Ashbuurton. This is the Lady Ashburton, who is conspicuous in Carlyle's biography. The house was bought by Dr. Ehrick Parmly and the family still own it. The Robert McCarter place was a peach orchard, well remembered for the excellence of its peaches and the strength of its mosquitoes; both have now disappeared.

On the North Shrewsbury the Wards had a house at Oceanic. Mrs. Clarke tells me that their garden consisted of a large urn filled with fuchsias and vines and surrounded by coleus, also a great many tuberoses.

Wright's Point is the old name of the place of Mrs. Scudder. There were no beautiful gardens, but old-fashioned bushes of small red roses, and large clumps of phlox were the decoration of the little white farm house that stood at the Point when Mrs. Strong bought the property. The Potters and Duryeas owned the places now belonging to the McKims and the Woods. They did little in the way of flowers, but their standard of landscape gardening was high as these places still show.

Of course, the family that has held property down here longest are the Hartshornes, and the Sequoia that Mr. Hartshorne planted on the grounds of "Portland" is, I believed, the only one in the county. This is what I originally wrote, and now Mrs. Howard Borden tells me they have one at "Old Oaks" and Mrs. Lobdell says that her father planted several on his place.

The oak behind the house where Mrs. Robert now lives is a rival to the famous one at Salem.

THE RUMSON WOMAN'S CLUB
(1964—Mrs. J. Russell Draper)

A member of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, this group attracts its membership not only from Rumson but from many surrounding towns, including Sea Bright, Fair Haven, Long Branch, and Middletown. Its contributions are notable. Funds derived from fashion show-card

parties, cake sales and variety shows have been turned back into donations to local hospitals, various children's centers, and food and clothing for the needy.

Within the framework of the Club are many departments which enrich the members as well as the community. The American Home, Drama, Music, and Garden Departments have vitality and purpose and the popularity and progress of activity have highlighted the quarter-century lifetime of the Rumson Woman's Club.

The Club was organized in 1938, when a small group of local young women met once a month in each other's homes. As the group enlarged, they met in a garage nestled in Parmly's Woods and from there they moved to the old Blackpoint School, and in recent years their home has been Bingham Hall. The Club was federated in 1955.

The charter members were Elizabeth Sinclair Van Brunt, Irene Walker McCue, Catherine Sinclair Sonntag, Gladys Niederer Lang, Ruth Mellish Ciejka, Sue Byers Bentley, Mary Malone Olsen, Ellen Sinclair Perl, Cora Boman Silow, Erene Riley Morton, and Louise Lemig Russell.

Past presidents have been Mrs. Robert Zerr, Mrs. Louis Mellaci, Mrs. Thomas Vetterl, Mrs. Francis Nary, Mrs. Charles Eichler, Mrs. John Ryan, Mrs. Jacob Perl, Mrs. John Ellis, Mrs. Anthony Mellaci, Mrs. Robert Kilzen, Mrs. Daniel Murphy, Mrs. Otto Perl, Mrs. Charles Sully, Mrs. Leonard Dean, Mrs. James Van Brunt, Mrs. Joseph Ciejka, Mrs. Albert Noonan, Mrs. Robert Newman, and Mrs. David Warner.

Chapter 20

Recreational Areas

VICTORY MEMORIAL PARK
(1944—Charles Allas)

The Victory Memorial Park was dedicated on July 4, 1920, as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Borden in memory of the men of Rumson who served their country in the great World War.

At the time the park was dedicated, a stone monument which is inscribed as follows was erected: "In the great war these men of Rumson gave their lives. Samuel Harriot Compton, George Holton, Angelo Lagroteria, William Henry Meeker, John Nelson, Edward Reid, and Ellsworth Rex."

The following also served under the flags of our country and its Allies:

George T. Achelis
Jonfritz Achelis
Thomas Achelis
Charles W. Allas
Andy M. Anderson
Andy S. Anderson
James C. Auchincloss
Theodore H. Banks, Jr.
Fred K. Barbour
Augustus Benneward

Otto Benneward
John C. Borden
Alfred R. Brighton, Jr.
Oliver C. Brighton
Harry C. Brill
Edward T. Brown
William Bruce
Jacob Buchanan
John P. Butler
Dennis K. Byrne
Patrick J. Byrne
Charles U. Caesar
Henry I. Caesar
John Carlson
John F. Carton
Burton B. Chandler
Frederick B. Chandler
George K. Churchill
Thomas C. Clarke
William P. Compton
Frank Conklin
Warren Conklin
Patrick Corrigan
Edward Cosher
William Coyne
Edward Crozier
William Daly
Michael Doyle
Harvey Durand
J. Barton Enright
Henry Feeney
Victor Fenton
John Flatley
Richard Flatley
Frank Foderaro
Emil Freitag
Louis Freitag
Rouro Fruntiara
Walter D. Gelshenen
William H. Gelshenen
John Grogan, Jr.
Matt Grogan
C. Van Rensselaer Halsey
Charles D. Halsey
Charles B. Harding
Hugh Hartshorne, Jr.
Robert D. Hartshorne
Joseph C. Hoagland
Porter Hoagland
Raymond Hoagland, Jr.
George Hookham
Addison J. Howland
George W. Howland
J. Edward Howland
Victor Hulse
Richard B. Hutton
Arthur Jacquest
Albert Jennings
William C. Jennings
Harry Johnson
J. Ford Johnson, Jr.
Ralph Johnson
J. Prentice Kellogg
John J. Kennedy
Reuel B. Kimball, Jr.
John H. Koster
Charles P. Kuper
J. E. William Kuper
Ralph Longstreet
James F. Marchant
George W. C. McCarter
Thomas N. McCarter, Jr.
Donald F. McCord
William McIntosh
Daniel A. Mears
William Metzdorf, Jr.
Harry I. Millward
Leroy W. Millward
John Mount
H. Terell Van Ingen

Lewis Vince
Rouro Vonzorzona
Charles B. Ward
Frank Ward
Lewis E. Waring
Lewis T. Wilson
Robert Wilson
Thomas Mount
John H. Naughton
John G. Neeser
Bernard Oakes
Robert W. Neeser
Thomas O'Brien
Henry E. Owen, Jr.
Robert Parker
Latham D. Pearsall
Otto Peterson
Eugene D. Polhemus
Walter Pomphrey
James Porter
Bernon S. Prentice
Bennett Preston
Barron Rex
Harry M. Riegelman
Philip Roberts
Finlay Robertson
Richard Roche
Pierce L. Romaine
Ralph B. Romaine
Victor Romaine
Lloyd B. Sanderson, Jr.
Robert M. Sanderson
John Shay
Daniel Shea
Claude Shropshire
Tony Sorg
Joseph Sorrentino
Van Allen Soule
Harold Sutter
Vivian Sutter
Hooker Talcott
James Talcott, Jr.
Edward Taylor
Howard Tilton
William Turner, Jr.
Kinsley Twining
Roy Wilson
Carl Woolley
Henry O. Woolley
Arnold Henesey
John McDonald
Fred M. Warburg
George Edgar Seaman

The amusements of the park are swings, see-saws, a sliding board, tennis courts, a handball court, and a rope swing.

There are also free bath houses and showers for the residents of Rumson.

The park property, formerly occupied by the Oceanic Inn, was known as a campers' site for people who came down for the summer season. The inn and property were then owned by Mr. Ligier, from whom Mr. Borden purchased it. After the property had changed hands, the inn was torn down and the property made ready for use as a park.



The Flats about 1910, now the site of Victory Park. Here are gathered a group of Rumson residents before a day of fishing.

Honor Roll—World War II

(From World War II Memorial in Victory Park)

Achelis, John
Adams, Hugh M.
Adams, Thomas S. Jr.
Allas, Charles A.
Anderson, Bruce E.
Andrews, Donald S.
Applegate, Donald E.
Aumack, Millard F. Jr.
Baigent, Frank W.
Baker, Newcome C. Jr.
Ballantine, John B.
Bauer, Francis J.
Bauer, Henry L.
Betts, Charles E. Jr.
Betts, Francis J.
Betts, Royal C.
Black, John Thomas
Boeckel, James W.
Bond, Victor C.
Borden, Arthur B.
Borden, William H.
Bouk, Junior F.
Bowe, John F. Jr.
Boyle, Frank J.
Boyle, John E.
Bradley, Frederic C.

Bradley, Harry C. Jr.
Bradley, William F.
Branin, Lewis Foster
Bremner, John R.
Briggs, Charles D.
Brighton, Alfred E. III
Brighton, Leslie C.
Brighton, William O.
Brown, Thomas
Bruckner, John H.
Burkart, Charles L.
Bush, Herbert E.
Butt, H. Fairfield III
Byrne, Patrick J.
Byrnes, Charles A.
Cadwallader, John A.
Campanella, Edward D.
Campanella, Joseph J.
Campanella, Perry R.
Campanella, Richard R.
Canale, Ignatius J.
Cantillion, John W. III
Capshaw, Leigh Richmond
Carew, Jere J. Jr.
Carle, Edward H.
Carroll, Daniel J.
Carter, John E.
Cartmell, Peter
Carton, John W. Jr.
Casagrande, Stephen
Casler, Clinton B.
Catanzariti, Frank J.
Champlin, William E.
Chapin, John S.
Churchill, Harold B.
Ciejka, Joseph
Clark, Francis E.
Coakley, Kenneth R.
Coe, George V. Jr.
Coleman, Eliot W.
Coleman, Sheldon T.
Connett, Harold J.
Connett, William T.
Connor, John J.
Connors, John J.
Cooke, Stephen J.
Cornell, Francis V.
Corrigan, John J.
Costigan, Charles R.
Costigan, Edward F.
Costigan, James R.
Costigan, William D.
Cotney, Elizabeth M.
Cotney, John W.
Courtney, Joseph H.
Covert, Charles B.
Cowan, James H.
Coyne, Russell C.
Craig, Cornelius E.
Craik, Douglas W. Jr.
Crawford, C. Clay
Crawford, Harden L.
Cunningham, Hyatt E.
Daly, Katherine M.
Daly, Raymond J.
Deisler, John Daniel
de la Motte, Conrad T.
Delaney, James C.
Delaney, John J.
Delanoy, John E. Jr.
DeMarks, Earl
Desmond, Frank J. Jr.
Desmond, Joseph V. F.
Dommerich, Louis F.
Dowlen, John
Duffie, D. Bennett
Duffy, Francis J.
Durstewitz, Joseph F.
Dwight, George
Easley, James K.

Ebert, George A.
Edwards, Robert C.
Edwards, William H.
Eggert, Nathan L.
Eichler, Charles David
Eli, Charles Wichmann
Emery, Wellington B.
Enstice, Lyall Robert Jr.
Fanning, William J.
Feldman, Joel
Fensler, Kathleen R.
Fensler, William E.
Finch, Edmund G.
Finch, Rufus C. Jr.
Finegan, William J. Jr.
Finlay, Bernice S.
Flatley, Thomas J.
Foderaro, Frank S.
Foderaro, Rocco
Ford, Arthur J.
Forrester, Robert R. Jr.
Foulks, Charles R.
Friscia, Frank J.
Gahn, Donald C.
Gahn, Harold J.
Galbraith, William
Gallagher, Allen F.
Gardella, Ernest A. Jr.
Gardella, John A. Jr.
Gardner, Charles A.
Gardner, Harry A.
Gardner, Paul V.
Gerstle, Ralph T.
Gervay, Richard T.
Ghezzi, Joseph J.
Ghezzi, Victor J.
Gibb, Arthur
Gilbert, Roger
Glazebrook, Francis H. Jr.
Glazebrook, G. Truxton
Goodnough, Rex E.
Gosling, Richard Woodley
Grause, George F.
Greene, Norman A.
Greene, Philip E. N. Jr.
Hackett, James P.
Hackett, John D.
Hackett, Thomas F.
Hall, William M.
Hallanan, George H. Jr.
Halligan, Harold James
Halsey, Charles B. Jr.
Halsey, Courtland V. R. Jr.
Halsey, Stephen Simmons
Hammond, Edward C.
Hammond, Joseph C.
Hand, Raymond C.
Harding, Charles B.
Hawkins, Joseph J.
Hay, Francis W.
Heinen, John Benno
Heller, Edgar W. Jr.
Heller, Frederick
Heller, Nancy Gaddis
Hemschoot, Edward
Hemschoot, Thomas G.
Hensler, James R. Jr.
Hensler, Raymond
Hicks, David T.
Hill, Alfred R.
Hill, Louis W.
Hiltbrunner, Walter
Hintelmann, William H. Jr.
Hitzwebel, Henry A.
Hoag, William H. Jr.
Hoagland, George S.
Hoagland, Joseph C. Jr.
Hoagland, Porter Jr.
Hower, William F.
Howland, George W. Jr.

Howland, Jessie E.
Hoyt, Anson Garner
Hubbard, Halsey F.
Hudson, C. Alan Jr.
Ivins, Stanley G.
Ivins, Willard F.
Jacobs, Philip L.
Jacobs, Ronald S.
Jarvis, Lawrence
Jeffrey, Edward F.
Jeffrey, William J. Jr.
Johnson, Edward L.
Johnson, Walter E.
Jones, Howland B.
Kampf, Harold H. Jr.
Kanehl, Charles John Jr.
Kaplan, Monroe
Kaplan, Seymour S.
Karinja, Samuel T. Jr.
Kaye, H. Austin
Keator, Randall M. Jr.
Kennedy, Joseph Patrick
Kennedy, Martin Gerard
Kenny, Robert E.
Kerr, Albert A. Jr.
Kerr, Harold W.
Kerr, Stanley A.
Kerr, Walter J.
Kettel, Harry L.
Kirk, William M.
Knight, Herbert
Knudson, Leonard G.
Laird, Samuel W. Jr.
Lamborn, Robert M.
Lamborn, R. Park Jr.
Lang, George J.
Lang, Thomas J.
Layton, Arthur E.
Layton, Edgar
Layton, Kenneth J.
Layton, William E.
Lazaro, Mary C.
Lemig, James A.
Leonard, Lester C. Jr.
Leonard, William B.
Lindhard, Povl B.
Lissner, Lloyd J.
Litts, Harry T. Jr.
Lobdell, Francis
Lohr, Willard A.
Lord, Joseph F.
Love, Francis H. Jr.
Luick, Woodrow W.
Lundin, Arnold W.
Lundin, Richard
Magruder, George Lloyd
Magruder, Joseph Hull
Magruder, Lloyd Burns
Magruder, Lloyd Burns Jr.
Malloy, Frank T. Jr.
Malloy, John H.
Mapes, Thomas G.
Marten, George J.
Marthens, Leonard M.
Martin, George H. Jr.
Meehan, Charles R.
Mellaci, Anthony J.
Mellaci, Louis F.
Mellish, Arthur G.
Metcalf, Manton B. III
Metcalf, Richard G.
Meyer, Victor J.
Moeller, Richard H.
Moeller, Richard R.
Monsen, Erling J.
Moran, James F.
Morreale, Patrick
Morris, Albert R.
Morris, Charles A.
Moss, George H. Jr.

Mulhern, John J.
Murphy, Arthur F.
Murphy, Daniel J.
Murphy, John J.
Murphy, John T. Jr.
MacDonald, Grant T.
MacIntosh, Charles
MacIntosh, Thomas M.
MacKenzie, Carroll A.
MacKenzie, William D.
McCarter, Francis E. P.
McCarter, Uzal H.
McCarthy, Harold W.
McCarthy, John J.
McCarthy, Thomas M.
McCartin, James A. Jr.
McClelland, Alvin B. Jr.
McCormick, Lawrence P.
McCue, Alfred R.
McCue, George R.
McCue, Raymond T.
McDonald, John Jr.
McDonnell, Lawrence E.
McGirr, Raymond Jr.
McKnight, Austen B.
McLaughlin, John Joseph
McMullen, Randolph B.
McSorley, Edward M.
McVitty, William D. I.
Nary, Francis J.
Neilson, C. Frederic Jr.
Newman, Arthur J.
Newman, Robert S.
Nicholas, Gus
Nicholas, Raymond P.
Noonan, Albert T.
O'Brien, Charles E.
O'Brien, Frank W.
O'Brien, John H.
O'Brien, William J.
Olson, Charles J.
Olson, Peter
Ormsby, James A.
O'Rourke, Edward M.
O'Sullivan, Joseph DeW.
Park, Richard A.
Parkes, James S.
Patey, Andrew S.
Patterson, Albert J.
Patterson, Lester Jr.
Perl, Jacob F.
Perl, Otto B.
Peters, Edwin C.
Peters, Harold J. Jr.
Pfeiffenberger, William J.
Phelan, Thomas F.
Phelan, William P.
Pickard, Joseph
Pierce, Carl L.
Pomphrey, Edwin L.
Pomphrey, Fred A.
Pomphrey, Walter J.
Poole, Harmon A. Jr.
Porter, Raymond R.
Prichard, Allyn Henderson
Prichard, Anne L.
Prichard, Glenn David
Prichard, Howard Milton Jr.
Pryor, Arthur
Pryor, Elmer
Quinito, Arthur G.
Ragsdale, John W.
Raleigh, Eugene T.
Raleigh, Maurice F. III
Reilly, Charles F.
Reilly, William J.
Renwick, Charles H.
Riker, John L.
Riker, Robert A.
Riker, William C.

Riker, William I.
Robb, Alexander Duffield
Rogers, Richard J. Jr.
Romenko, Fred C.
Royer, Leon E.
Russek, Henry S.
Russell, Richard J.
Russell, Wallace F.
Russell, William E.
Ryan, John J.
Sammon, John J.
Scalzo, Ralph
Scalzo, William G.
Scheidt, Melvin J.
Schmitt, Joseph H. P.
Schmitz, Joseph P. Jr.
Schultz, Edward H.
Scudder, Edward W. Jr.
Scudder, Richard B.
Seggerman, Harry G. A.
Seggerman, Kenneth M. Jr.
Serra, Dominick R.
Sexton, Vincent R.
Seymour, Theodore F.
Shanley, Joseph Sanford Jr.
Shay, Daniel E.
Shay, Harold A.
Shay, James G.
Shay, William J.
Shea, Daniel M. Jr.
Shea, Edward J.
Shea, James Kenneth Jr.
Shea, John E.
Shea, Paul J.
Shea, Thomas A.
Sheehan, Harold M.
Sherman, Edward M.
Sherman, Michael
Silvers, George Hartman
Simon, Frank H.
Sinclair, James D.
Slocum, Joseph B.
Smith, William A.
Sorrentino, Thomas
Soule, Orrin G. Jr.
Sparling, John C.
Stanley, John J.
Stanley, Matthew M.
Stanley, Patrick B.
Stark, Richard S.
Stevens, Kenneth F.
Stevens, Thomas C.
Stewart, Edwin Jr.
Stewart, Harry A.
Stout, Bayard D.
Strohmenger, Edward G.
Strohmenger, Otto J.
Sundermeyer, Harry J.
Sutherland, Robert
Sutter, Andrew H.
Swenson, John A.
Symington, Wilbur F. Jr.
Tanner, James J.
Teeter, Albert A. Jr.
Teeter, John O.
Thomas, Williamson
Tilton, Howard Jr.
Tilton, Raymond R.
Titus, J. DeWitt
Titus, Norman E.
Titus, Norman E. Jr.
Toomey, Porter F.
Toop, Frank W.
Toop, James H.
Tunney, Joseph
Tulp, Arnold
Tyler, John W.
Unrigh, Frederick L.
Untermeyer, DeWitt Edward
Untermeyer, Marguerite Graves

VanBrunt, Alfred T.
VanBrunt, Chester Arthur
VanBrunt, Harold Stanley
VanBrunt, James I.
VanBrunt, John C.
VanBrunt, Martin J.
VanBrunt, Vernon
VanBrunt, William
Van Vechten, Margaret L.
Vanderwerken, Joseph
Vaughn, John M.
Vaughn, Stanley M.
Vinci, Nicola
Vital, William F. Jr.
Walsh, Frederick H. Jr.
Ward, James W.
Ward, Richard H.
Ward, William E.
Wardell, Ivins H.
Warrack, George Jr.
Watson, John H. III
Waud, Sydney P.
Weil, Samuel Aaron
West, Alfred R.
West, Harold W.
West, Percy A. Jr.
West, Warren
Whalen, Cornelius M.
Whalen, Robert J.
Whalen, Theodore J.
Wilkinson, Donald T.
Wilkinson, Edwin
Wilkinson, Theodore R.
Williams, Anthony
Williams, Patrick J.
Wilson, John T.
Wilson, Robert T. Jr.
Wolbach, Charles A. Jr.
Woodward, Charles J.
Wyckoff, Frank G.
Young, James Kent H.
Young, Robert H. McC.
Young, Stuart A. Jr.
Young, William M.
Ziegler, Joseph G.

In Memory of Those
Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice

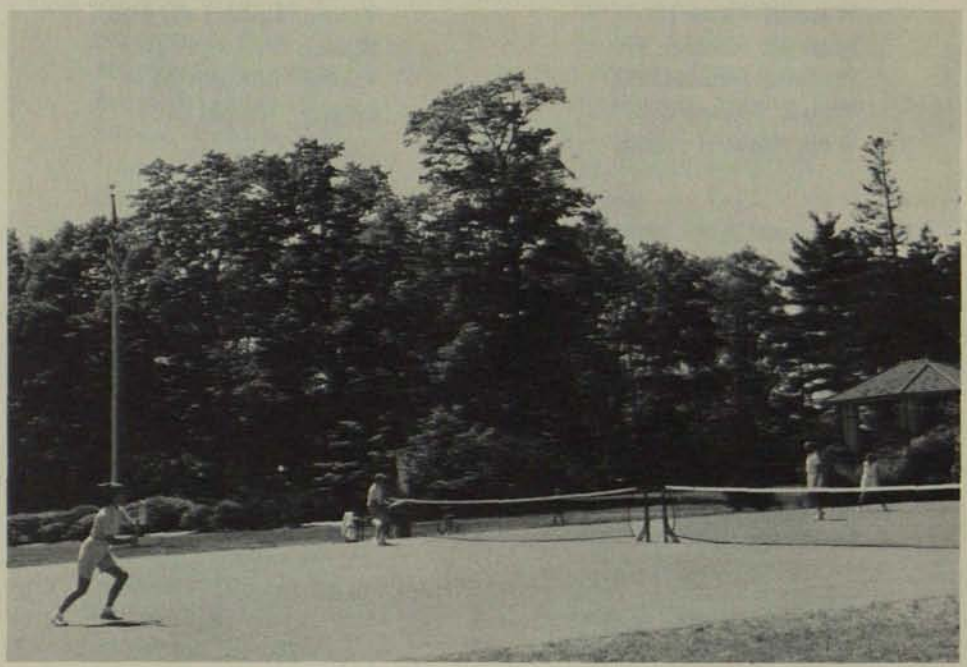
Bruckner, Curt A.
Corbett, Thomas W.
Evans, Howard Ralph
Hand, John R.
Kanses, Edmund S.
Knapp, Edgar A. Jr.
Leighton, Jesse S. Jr.
Moran, John P.
Mullin, Thomas J.
Naughton, John F.
Naughton, William J.
Patterson, Harold J.
Plum, E. Gaddis
Whalen, William Jr.

VICTORY MEMORIAL PARK FOUNDATION

Victory Memorial Park Foundation was organized in 1920 as a corporation, and it was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Bertram H. Borden, through trustees, for the benefit of the community of Rumson and dedicated to the men from Rumson who served in the First World War.

The activities of the Park were originally supported by the income from the endowment, which added equipment from time to time; built the tennis courts, the bathhouses, and playgrounds for the children; and gave regular scholarships since 1926 for the advanced education of one graduate of the Rumson High School designated by the faculty and approved by the trustees. It also set up a medical and surgical fund by which the children of Rumson have been materially helped toward better health.

For many years the community gathered at the living Christmas tree,



Tennis courts at Victory Park. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

which was illuminated for Christmas carols, and the children were told that the tree was growing with them each year. As the community sang, the words of the carols were projected on the screen by lantern slides and the singing was accompanied by the school band.

In 1946 Victory Park was deeded to the Borough, and the endowment of the Foundation was added to that of the Mary Owen Borden Foundation. Now Victory Park is Borough property, operated for the benefit of Rumson residents. The Borden Foundation continues to give a scholarship each year to a chosen graduate of the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School. The $2000 given in 1926, because of increasing costs and inflation, has now been raised to $6000, and the Borden Foundation continues its many benefactions not only in Rumson but throughout the County.

ROGERS MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND

The former Lafayette Street School building was determined obsolete by the Board of Education and demolished after the erection of the Forrestdale School. On July 9, 1959, the property was deeded to the Borough of Rumson for use as a playground. The Borough Council constructed two all weather tennis courts, a combination basketball, badminton and volley ball court, shuffleboard court and horseshoe pitching court. The playground was then dedicated to the memory of Richard J. Rogers—former postmaster, Councilman, and president of the Board of Education—and officially named the Rogers Memorial Playground by resolution of the Borough Council on October 12, 1961.

SEABRIGHT LAWN TENNIS AND CRICKET CLUB
RUMSON, NEW JERSEY
(1964—J. Upshur Moorhead)

Lawn Tennis in this country started in the fall of 1875 when a tennis set was imported from England by the Staten Island Cricket & Tennis

Club for installation on its grounds. (This Club was disbanded about 1920.) When this new apparatus reached the customs officials in the Port of New York, they did not know just how it should be classified, so it was admitted duty free! Only a few months after this, the residents of Sea Bright became interested in the game and they placed orders for equipment, which was delivered in the spring of 1877 and used on the courts of Messrs. Robert Rutherford, James W. Alexander, and William W. Shippen. This marked the beginning of the Seabright Tennis Club. On July 25, 1878, the first formal meeting of the Seabright Tennis Club was held at the residence of Mr. Robert Rutherford, and a definite organization was decided upon. Interest in the game increased steadily and other and better courts were built, till we find in 1880 that tennis activities were chiefly centered around the courts of Antonio and Alfonso de Navarro, situated on the Rumson Road.

During these years cricket was gaining in popularity, and in 1886 Messrs. George C. Kobbe and Herman Clarke proposed the formation of a joint tennis and cricket club, to be known as the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, with its own club house and grounds. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up which provided for "the practice of Lawn Tennis, of Cricket, and of Baseball, by the members of the Club, and the encouragement of the practice among others in the state of New Jersey." Mr. John L. Riker was elected president. The present site of the Club was selected as the location and a modest club house was built. The grounds were ready for use late in 1886, and in 1887 the season was definitely opened with three turf tennis courts and one cricket crease. The first cricket match was played with the Staten Island Cricket & Tennis Club in 1885. About 1887, the Zingari Cricket Club, one of the most famous cricket clubs of England, paid a visit to this country and played against the Seabright team. As a result of the friendly relations established by this visit, the Zingari Club gave its colors—black, red and gold—to the Seabright Club and these have been the Club's colors ever since that time. The cricket crease, at present used for the second tier of tennis courts, was considered one of the best in the country, the turf having been imported from England.

Archery was also indulged in with some interest, and the bull's eye target was adopted as the Club insignia. The interest in cricket continued till about the year 1890, when tennis became more popular and more courts were laid out.

Between 1895 and 1900 the Club was not so active, but in 1900 interest was revived, additional tennis courts were laid out and many new members were elected. In 1902 two squash courts were built, connected to the Club house, and in 1910 the fourth tier of courts was prepared and opened for play.

From time to time alterations have been made in the Club house, till in 1923 it was necessary to make extensive repairs and improvements. The interior of the house was completely renovated, the roof entirely reshingled, and the upper balcony built.

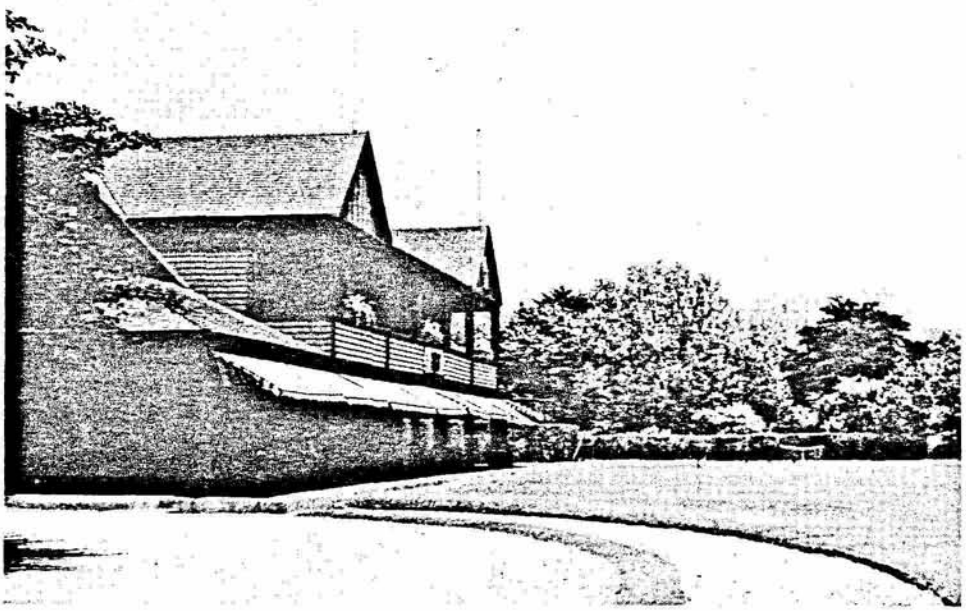
The Club has a record of which its members may well be proud, a record becoming to the oldest tennis club in the country today; and this record is due to the spirit of cooperation which has always existed in the Club. Officers and members from the very beginning have worked in harmony with one end in view—the welfare of the Club; an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and fair play has always prevailed. Additional honor has been brought to the Club by the fact that its officers have held responsible positions in the United States Lawn Tennis Association and have played no small part in the development of the sport in this country.

The first Invitation Tournament was held in 1884 and since that time, with the exception of three years, was held annually until 1950. The Invitation Tournament was for many years one of the most important tennis events in the country. At first only men's events were held, but in 1920 it was decided to hold a women's tournament as well, and then the Invitation Tournament was made up of five tournaments—men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles, all running simultaneously and finished within the week. The greatest singles players and the most famous doubles teams in the history of the game, both here and abroad, have played on the Club's courts.

Another feature of the Club is the collection of photographs and memo-

rabilia on view in the Club house, assembled and presented to the Club by a former president, Bernon S. Prentice. At this time there are more than three hundred pictures in the Club house. These include photographs of all the prominent players, men and women, who have competed there. There is also the old tennis racquet won by Miss Anna Shippen and Frank L. Henry in 1880, which was the first prize offered by the Club in mixed doubles, and the cricket bat used by George Knight of the Longwood Cricket Team when they played a match with our Club in 1887. The collection in itself is indeed not only a record of the Club's growth but of tennis in this country.

The Club tennis teams for the past few years have been increasingly active. The men's team has played annual matches with The Rockaway Hunting Club since 1916 and with The Prettybrook Club of Princeton since 1947. Other matches have been played with the Yale, Oxford and Cambridge teams.



The Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, on Rumson Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

Since World War II, the ladies' and juniors' events have taken on an increasing importance and there is a greater playing interest in these groups than at any time in the Club's history. In 1947 Mr. Bernon Prentice gave the Club the strip of land adjoining the Club to the east, and six clay courts were installed there which, with the exception of the old board court, were the first non-grass playing surfaces in its history. In 1960, to accommodate the growing demand for more playing surface, the fourth tier was converted to six Teniko fast-drying, composition courts. There are two all-weather courts, also, one of which, the "Presidents" court, was generously donated several years ago by families of former presidents of the Club. At the present time there are 700 members in all categories, the largest in the Club's history; but, more important, a greater proportion of these are playing members than ever before.

THE RUMSON COUNTRY CLUB
(1964—John B. Russell, III)

The Rumson Country Club was incorporated in the State of New Jersey in 1908. Its Charter was issued to seven members of the community —Edward D. Adams, George F. Vietor, Thomas N. McCarter, J. A. Haskell, Howard S. Borden, Samuel Riker, Jr., and J. Prentice Kellogg. Its objectives were "the development of outdoor sport and physical exercise and the recreation of the members thereof."

To this end the present property was acquired and a large three-floor clubhouse was built overlooking the South Shrewsbury. The Club flourished and in due time its facilities included tennis courts, squash courts, polo fields, shooting ranges, sailing facilities, and an 18-hole golf course. By 1925 there were approximately 450 members. The tennis courts boasted such players as Bernon S. Prentice, Holcombe Ward, and Stuart Young, all of whom were active in the national tennis world. It was not unusual to see polo matches between top ranking teams, often starring ten-goalers of the caliber of Thomas Hitchcock, Jr. and Devereaux Milburn. The



Seabright Golf Club at end of Ward Avenue on Shrewsbury River, predecessor of the Rumson Country Club. Pach photo from Moss Archives.



Main entrance to the Rumson Country Club. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



The clubhouse, Rumson Country Club. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



Boat basin area at the Rumson Country Club. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

brush walk in the shooting range was one of the first and best of its kind in the East.

The Club survived the first World War, the depression years of the early 30's, and most of World War II, but it could not get through the morning of February 7, 1945. At 6:45 A.M. a fire broke out in a furnace room and by evening the main clubhouse had been destroyed. It was not until May of 1947 that new and smaller quarters were finally established, not on the old club foundations but in the center of the club property on higher ground. It is interesting to note that the new (and present) clubhouse had been the home of Mr. Edward W. Scudder and had been located at the foot of Oyster Bay Drive in Rumson. Its move over water and land was something of an engineering marvel.

As a direct result of the fire, tennis and squash were dropped from the list of Club activities. For a number of reasons, polo was also eliminated. The membership was decreased in relation to the reduced facilities. Golf became the principal athletic activity. However, in recent years increased emphasis has been placed on outdoor operations, and today the Club enjoys a much improved sailing and boating area plus two paddle tennis courts, which were added to provide a companion winter sport for trap shooting. It remains the only fully staffed year-round Club in the community.

Chapter 21

BOROUGH PROPERTIES

BINGHAM HALL—COMMUNITY CENTER

On April 23, 1956, the Borough of Rumson purchased Bingham Hall from the First Presbyterian Church for $11,000. As noted in the first edition of the History of Rumson and in a brochure that was published at the 100th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in 1961, Bingham Hall has a distinguished historical background as a community church (1842-1961), Presbyterian Church (1861-1886), parish house (1886-1956), and a meeting place for many community activities.

When our community was known as Port Washington, Thomas Hunt built the church in 1842 so that his guests at the Port Washington Hotel (demolished in 1963) would not have to go to such far away places as Shrewsbury, Red Bank, or Long Branch to attend divine services. A handful of Presbyterians acquired possession of the church in 1861 and held weekly service thereafter until 1886, when a new church was built on River Road. From 1886 to 1956 the Presbyterians owned the old building and used it

as a parish house for Sunday School, church groups, and other community activities. Many of our older residents who are natives of Rumson may recall some of the activities they attended there as youngsters. In this ancient building were held many important meetings, some of which culminated in the organization of the public nursing association and the Oceanic Public Library.

The transfer of ownership to the Borough does not change to any great extent the use of this structure. As a community center the building is used for meetings, clubs, emergency school room (1934-36 and again in 1963-64), and other activities.

ADDITIONAL BOROUGH PROPERTIES

For use as a park in 1945 the Borough Council purchased for $4500 from the late Michael Jacobs a tract of land comprising approximately twelve acres bounded on the north by Narumson Street, on the east by Forrest Avenue, on the south by Black Point Road, and extending to the west beyond Park Avenue. At the request of the Board of Education this property was deeded to the Board as the site of the Rumson elementary school buildings. It now serves a dual purpose as the site of the Forrestdale School buildings and as a playground.

Wilson Island, situated in the Navesink River northeast of the Borough Hall property, is a sand island created of the material pumped up during the dredging of the channel by the Federal Government. Approximately three acres in size, it was acquired by Rumson on February 9, 1948, from the State of New Jersey for recreation purposes.

On July 7, 1956, the Borough of Rumson acquired approximately six acres of land on both sides of the Rumson approach to the Sea Bright Bridge from the Board of Chosen Freeholders, without cost. This property is used as a natural park, a small portion of which is equipped with swings, slides, and seesaws for small children. A bronze tablet on the bluff commemorates the famous "Huddy's Leap."

In 1962 the Borough Council acquired the former Telephone Exchange Building on Center Street at a cost of $12,500, planning to convert the building for office use by the Borough government.

On February 27, 1964, the Borough purchased about eight acres of property at the southerly end of Riverside Drive, extending for about 500 feet along the Shrewsbury River and about 900 feet inland. The Borough took title to this property for park purposes in June, 1964.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Huddy's Leap

Situated on the bluff overlooking the Shrewsbury River in the Borough park southwest of the Sea Bright Bridge is a bronze marker erected in 1957 by the Rumson Improvement Association and commemorating the famous Revolutionary War episode. The legend reads as follows:

HUDDY'S LEAP

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1780, CAPTAIN JOSHUA HUDDY WAS CAPTURED AT COLT'S NECK BY A BAND OF TORIES. WHILE BEING CONVEYED ACROSS THE RIVER TO WHAT IS NOW SEA BRIGHT, THE BOAT WAS FIRED UPON BY COLONIAL FORCES. ALTHOUGH WOUNDED, CAPTAIN HUDDY ESCAPED BY JUMPING FROM THE BOAT AND SWIMMING TO THE WESTERN SHORE. SUBSEQUENTLY HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH AND HANGED ON APRIL 12, 1782, AT THE HIGHLANDS.

Battle of Black Point

In 1957 on the lawn in front of the Rumson Fire Company's headquarters at the corner of Black Point and East River Roads the Rumson Improvement Association erected a bronze tablet commemorating another episode of the American Revolution. The legend reads as follows:

BATTLE OF BLACK POINT

ON JUNE 10, 1779, A BRITISH RAIDING PARTY UNDER LIEUTENANT JAMES MOODY MARCHED FROM TINTON FALLS TO BLACK POINT. WHEN EMBARKING FOR SANDY HOOK, THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A DETACHMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY. THE AMERICANS LOST ELEVEN KILLED OR WOUNDED, INCLUDING CAPTAIN CHADWICK AND LIEUTENANT HENDRICKSON. THE ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN OFF UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE, BOTH FORCES RETURNING TO THEIR OWN LINES.

Tennis Club

On the north side of Rumson Road opposite the Sea Bright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club the New Jersey Tercentenary Committee has erected a marker bearing the following legend:

SEA BRIGHT

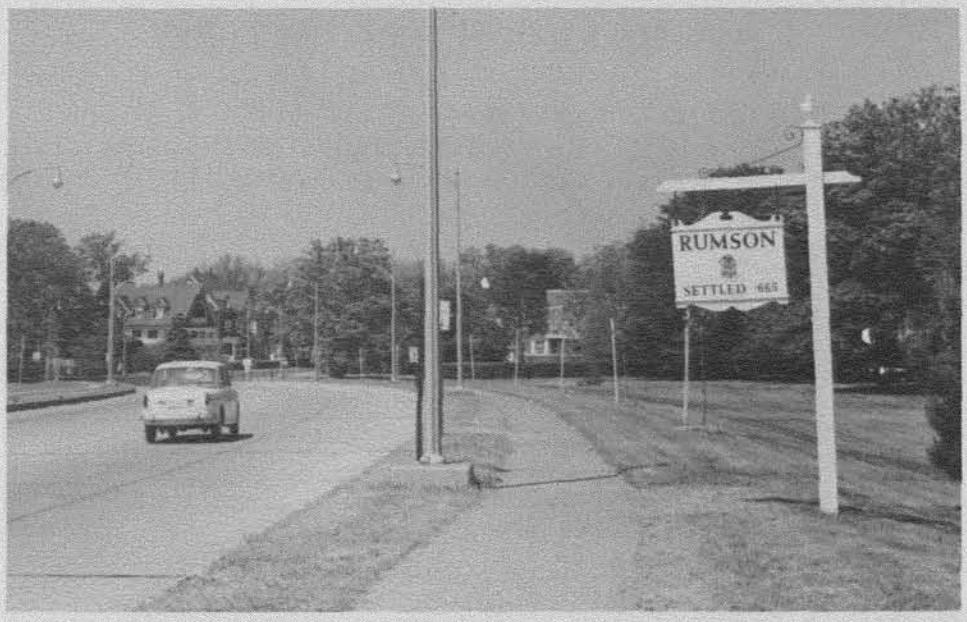
OLDEST TENNIS AND CRICKET CLUB IN THE UNITED STATES. FIRST MEETING HELD IN 1878. CLUB HOUSE AND COURTS WERE BUILT IN 1887.

Passage Point

On the north side of Hartshorne Lane opposite the former Tredwell estate the New Jersey Tercentenary Committee has erected a marker bearing the following legend:

PASSAGE POINT

DEVELOPED AS A PLANTATION IN 1689 BY GOVERNOR MORRIS, COUSIN OF LATER GOVERNOR. SLOOPS WERE LOADED HERE WITH TINTON FALLS IRON.



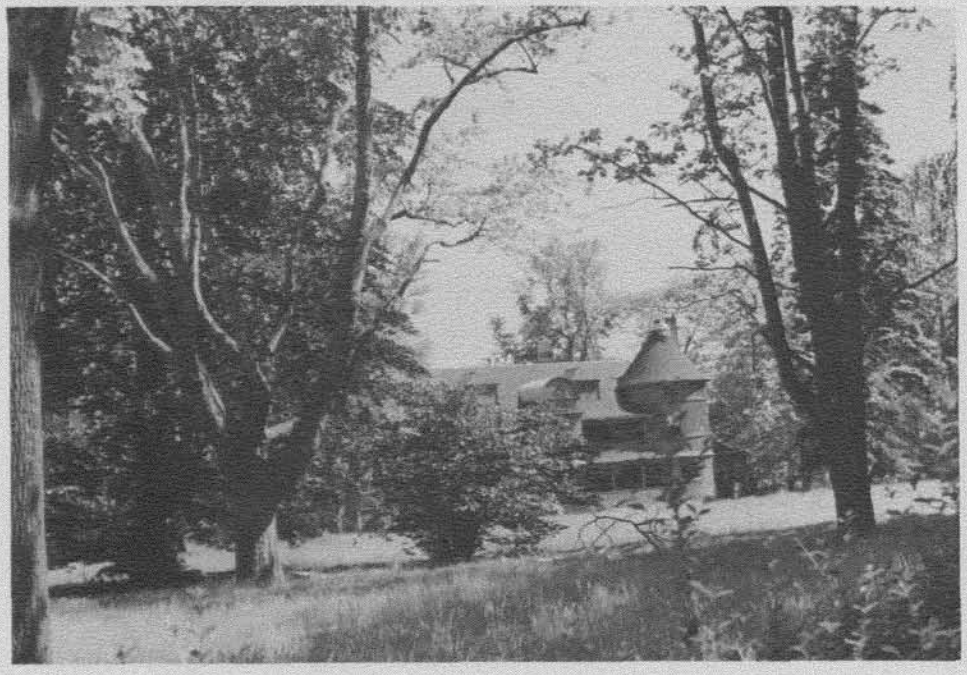
Rumson Road looking west from Seabright bridge. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



Shrewsbury river and view of Rumson taken southward from Seabright Seabright bridge. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



Polly's Pond. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



One of the few old homesteads still standing on Rumson Road. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



An attractive home in one of the older residential areas. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



Oceanic bridge, with remains of predecessor bridge in foreground, now used as a fishing pier. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



Boat basin area on Navesink River, just west of Oceanic bridge. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



River House Inn, as rebuilt in 1964. Courtesy Bill Robinson.



The Rumson Inn. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

Chapter 22

Post Office

According to the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D. C., a post office was established in "Oceanic," Monmouth County, New Jersey, on April 20, 1871. Its name was changed to Rumson on January 28, 1919. The names of the postmasters for the community and the dates of their appointment are as follows:

Samuel Harvey	April 20, 1871
Thomas A. Harvey	January 15, 1879
James P. Bruce	December 20, 1880
James Enright	August 11, 1885
Henry H. Striker	April 22, 1889
James Enright, Jr.	June 29, 1893
John C. Brill	July 26, 1897
Henry C. Striker	July 9, 1900
John Hintelmann	March 16, 1908
William Murphy, Jr.	December 1, 1914

William H. Allas	January 19, 1917
Richard J. Rogers	June 1, 1921
James E. Porter, Jr.	January 16, 1934
Paul G. Peterson	November 20, 1954
Oscar N. Benson	July 1, 1962

The post office occupied quarters in various buildings throughout Oceanic, or Rumson as it became known later, among them the present Memorial Borough Hall. On April 30, 1960, the new building erected on Hunt Street was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, sponsored by the Rumson Improvement Association. Special addresses were given by the Honorable James C. Auchincloss, Congressman and former Mayor of Rumson, and by Mr. Marion Harrison, Acting Associate General Counsel of the U. S. Post Office Department.



The Rumson Post Office. Courtesy Bill Robinson.

This new Post Office is the result of a consolidation of the hamlet of Locust and the boroughs of Rumson and Sea Bright mail services. The consolidation took place February 1, 1960, making the Rumson Post Office the central plant, with Sea Bright a classified branch, and Locust a contract branch. The offices employ 15 people and maintain two mounted and three regular foot routes which will serve approximately 8,000 people in the three communities.

Chapter 23

Civil Defense

(1964—Ignatius J. Canale)

The New Jersey Civil Defense Committee was activated by Governor Driscoll on March 3, 1950. Shortly thereafter the Rumson Municipal Civil Defense Committee was organized. In August of that year, the Rumson Borough Council formally appointed Harry C. Cronan Civil Defense Director for the Borough. The following men composed the first Civil Defense Council: Mr. Henry Kruse, Mr. Dan Shea, Mr. Walter Carle, Mr. John Murphy, Mr. John Black and Mr. E. Polak.

Mr. Cronan continued as Director until his election to the Borough Council in 1957, at which time the Mayor and Council appointed Mr. Ignatius J. Canale Director. Mr. Canale is the present incumbent. He is assisted by the following Civil Defense Council members: Mr. William Zerr, Mr. James Coleman, Mrs. Brenda G. Ritchie, Mr. William H. Hintelmann, Jr., Dr. Charles Paterno, Mrs. Frank H. Love, Mr. James Shea, Sir Frederick Hervey-Bathurst, and Mr. Thomas Gilligan.

The Civil Defense Council has been recently provided headquarters by Borough Council in the fall-out proof basement of the old telephone company building on Center Street. The building has been purchased by the Borough. Civil Defense Headquarters is equipped with radio telephone, survival equipment and radiological equipment, all in sufficient quantities to insure independent operation, if necessary, for a month.

The Civil Defense Council has equipped the Police, Fire and Street Departments as well as the First Aid Squad with necessary radiological equipment and has integrated these facilities in over all Civil Defense Plan of Rumson, Monmouth County, and the State of New Jersey.

The Public Shelter program presently includes Shelter Areas in the Rumson-Fair Haven High School, Holy Cross Parochial School, and Civil Defense Headquarters. All shelters have been stocked with food, water, first aid equipment and radiological equipment in sufficient quantities to sustain life for at least two weeks.

In all of its endeavors, the Civil Defense Council has been encouraged by the assistance and cooperation of the Mayor and Council and the people of Rumson.

Chapter 24

The Islands of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers

(1964—Lea Adamson)

When settlers in the seventeenth century made their way to the Highlands of the Navesink and to the Rumson Peninsula by water from New York and by land through Freehold and Middletown, they found an area of great natural beauty. Fish, fowl, shellfish, and wildlife were plentiful, and they could understand why the friendly Delaware and Navesink Indians traveled to this part of the shore for summer fishing and farming. Gradually the settlers took over the land, first as farmers, then in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century as vacationing wealthy summer residents from New York, and finally as suburban year-around residents, some commuting daily to New York City, but most locally employed.

One of the many assets of Rumson's geographic location is its rivers, the Navesink to the north, and the Shrewsbury to the south. These rivers

are tidal. High tides occur at Red Bank, the innermost point on the Navesink, 2 hours and 5 minutes later than at Sandy Hook, and 3 hours and 25 minutes later than at Sandy Hook at Pleasure Bay, the innermost point on the Shrewsbury.

An outstanding feature of our rivers is their many islands. These islands are of two types: spoils, or man-made islands from dredging; and marshy, low-lying islands. There seems to be no written history of these islands, but their development may be traced from various early maps of this area and by talking to people who are interested in the history of Rumson.

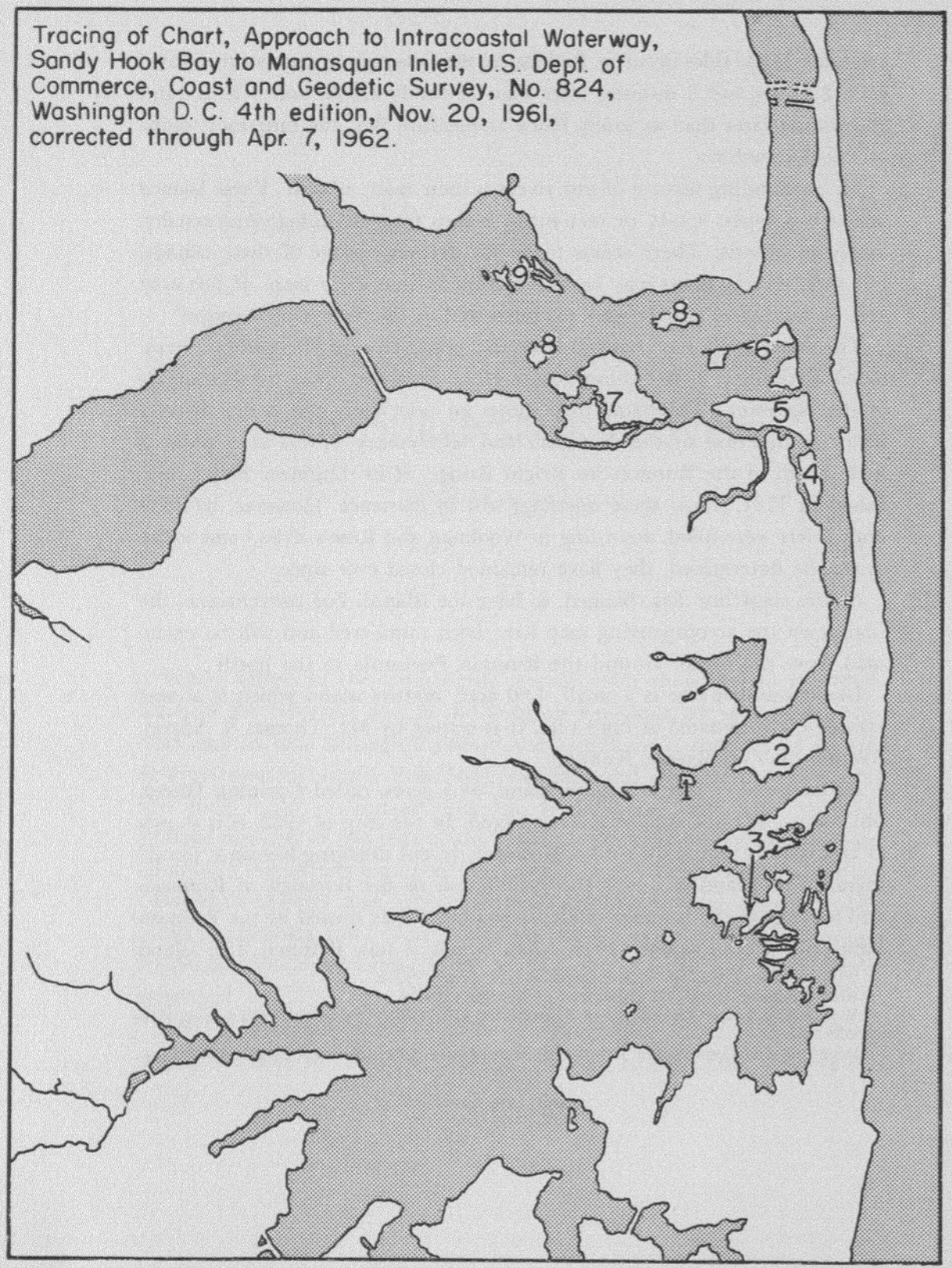
The coast itself has changed over the years. One of the earliest maps, dated December, 1778,[1] shows Sandy Hook detached from the Highlands of the Navesink. This same map shows an inlet from the ocean directly into the juncture of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers at a point a little north of the Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge. Hills' Engineer Map,[2] published in 1781, shows these openings still in existence. However, by 1879 both inlets were filled, according to Woolman and Rose's *Atlas*,[3] and so far as can be determined, they have remained closed ever since.

As the coast line has changed, so have the islands. For convenience, the islands on the accompanying map have been numbered and will be examined from the south, around the Rumson Peninsula to the north.

Island number one is a small, 1.60 acre, marshy island which is almost completely inundated at high tide. It is owned by Mr. Thomas S. Adams, Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson.

Island number two is a large island, 34.5 acres, called Gunning Island, but known to old-timers as Riker's Island. In the map of 1932, it is shown as two islands joined by a dike. However, recent dredging has since joined them.[4] The island is under the jurisdiction of the Borough of Rumson, and belongs to the Scudder estate. It was previously owned by the Rumson Land and Development Corporation, which is now defunct. The island

[1] William Faden's Map of "The Province of New Jersey," 1778.
[2] Hills' Engineer Map, 1781 (Dedicated to General Clinton).
[3] Woolman and Rose, *Historical and Biographical Atlas of New Jersey Coast Illustrated*, 1879, pp. 122-123.
[4] Department of Conservation and Development of New Jersey, *Navesink Sheet*, 1932 edition.


Tracing of Chart, Approach to Intracoastal Waterway,
Sandy Hook Bay to Manasquan Inlet, U.S. Dept. of
Commerce, Coast and Geodetic Survey, No. 824,
Washington D. C. 4th edition, Nov. 20, 1961,
corrected through Apr. 7, 1962.
9
8
8
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was built up six to eight feet when Oyster Bay, known formerly as Polly's Pond (after its owner), was dredged in 1947 by the State of New Jersey. On the south shore is the wreck of part of a barge and the remains of an old dike.

Sedge Island, number three, and the chain of marshy islands to its south will be considered together. Sedge Island was known at one time as Schrimser's Island. These islands are located in the Shrewsbury River between Low Moor and Galilee, names given to areas in Sea Bright. In 1781, an English officer by the name of John Hills dedicated a map to General Henry Clinton. According to him, Sedge Island was a distinct island. A Geodetic Survey May of 1845 shows it as marsh area connected to what is now Monmouth Beach. In the map of 1879, the group is pictured as a chain of distinct islands.[5] When the back channel to Mihm's Boat Works was dredged, the sand was dumped on Sedge Island, building it up. The other islands to the south, however, are, for the most part, marshy with shallow water between them. After our recent storm in March, 1962, when Sea Bright and Monmouth beaches lost a great deal of sand, Mihm's channel was redredged to fill in the beaches. This work is still in progress.

Sedge Island and the islands to its south are claimed to be owned by Arthur Axelson of Sea Bright. Two years ago, when Mr. Axelson was considering building a marina on these islands, a title search was made and it was found that these islands are under the jurisdiction of Ocean Township, of which Sea Bright was once a part.

The small island, number four, separated from the northeast section of the Rumson Peninsula by a narrow channel, is a spoil island. It was built up by the sand from the dredging of the main channel. It has an area of 8.75 acres. The lower two-thirds, 5.5 acres, is owned by Mr. James Ian McQuilken, and the rest is owned by Mr. Alexander H. Beard. Title to these lands is the result of the riparian rights of the owners of Rumson property adjacent to the spoils islands.

[5] Woolman and Rose, 1879.

The fifth island, just to the north, is a large one, totaling 34 acres. It is separated from the mainland by a shallow channel which is navigable at high tide. This low, marshy island is also owned by Mr. Alexander Beard. It was shown as a part of the mainland in 1879, but as a distinct island in 1932.

Above this island are four more islands, which have been grouped together for convenience and designated by the number six. These were built up by dredging. The lowest has 2.40 acres, the one above that has 2.06 acres, and the long, needle-shaped one has 3.65 acres. The square-shaped island to the west has 2.60 acres and is occupied by about ten small summer houses. It is owned by Mr. Federio G. Adams.

Island number seven, the property of a corporation named Barley Point, has a total acreage of 41.15 acres. It is actually a little community of about ninety families, who have built summer shacks on it. A private road and bridge link it to the mainland. Two years ago, electricity was brought into Barley Point for these homes. In 1781, Barley Point was recognized as an island, rather than a marsh, by John Hills in his Clinton Map. Barley Point existed as tidal marsh in 1845, cut off by a narrow channel from the mainland. The present stream through the marsh did not exist then. About five years ago, channel dredging built up the island further.

Mrs. Ernest Kahn, who owns part of the marsh to the south of Barley Point, says that in 1946 and 1947 two airplane pilots, living in a shack west of the Barley Point Road, dug out the stream to the east of the road in order to make a channel for their fishing boats. She also says that there is good swimming at the bend of the south channel of Barley Point, because of a clear white sand bottom in contrast to the usual black ooze.

The island to the northeast of Barley Point and the island to the west, affectionately known to all as Starvation Island and Wilson Island, are both spoil islands, built up by sand from the dredging of the main channel. These islands are both designated by the number eight. The first island is covered by reeds and marsh-grass, but Starvation Island lives up to its name. It is made up of practically all sand and is perfect for picnicking.

This fact is attested to by the large numbers who swarm there on summer week-ends.

The islands to the south of the Highlands of the Navesink, number nine on the map, are made up of tidal marsh. They have been there since 1781 at least, when they were pictured by John Hills.

Three dikes are shown in the 1932 Geodetic Survey Map. One is located at the place where the channel forks, one branch going to the Navesink and one to the Shrewsbury River. Its purpose was to prevent the tides from eroding any of the Rumson mainland. Large rocks from the dike, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds, can still be seen at low tide. This dike has caused many accidents to pleasure boaters who try to shortcut the channel from one river to the other.

Another dike can be seen at the entrance to Mihm's Channel. Two clusters of pilings are above water at the entrance.

Finally, there is a dike which joined the two small islands which were recently formed into one, Gunning Island. Remnants of this can still be seen near the wreck of the barge on the south shore.

There is an abundance of plant and animal life on these islands. A tough wiry grass, commonly called "salt hay," grows about one foot high along the shore. Interspersed in it is a primitive, fleshy succulent called glasswort. It is about one-half foot high and turns red in the fall. Above this level is found the marsh elder, a sturdy, small shrub, with a woody stem. Above this is the phragmitis, or common reed grass. It is tall, up to ten feet high, and has alternate leaves, twelve to twenty inches in length and two inches wide. Topping it is a plumed, fruiting cluster, brown in color. This reed is used extensively in camouflaging duckblinds in the fall. Further inland is the bayberry, a bush whose waxy berries can be used to make candles.

Many varieties of animals inhabit the islands and their immediate waters. Rabbits, pheasant, muskrats, water fowl, and song birds are found on these islands. Clams, mussels, water snails, blue-claw, and horseshoe crabs abound in the shallow mud and sand bottoms surrounding them.

This report would be incomplete without a picture of some of the recreational facilities and uses of the islands. Duck blinds can be seen dotting many of the marshy islands. There is also good pheasant and rabbit hunting on the islands, particularly Gunning Island. Bathing, picnicking, and camping are all popular during the summer months. There is great natural beauty in the islands, some of the few remaining places in New Jersey upon which Man has not encroached.

Chapter 25

Rumson Census Figures

(1964—James A. Hill)

Although what is now known as Rumson was settled in 1665, it was included in Shrewsbury Township until its incorporation as the Borough of Rumson in 1907. Therefore the first census of the Borough as we know it today was not recorded until 1910, and it was 1940 before complete facts about housing, occupations, etc. were officially acquired.

Perusal of the data available will reveal many interesting facts. Rumson's population has steadily increased from 1449 in 1910, to 4044 in 1940, to 6405 in 1960, with the women outnumbering the men in every census. The median number of years of schooling has increased from 9.4 in 1940, to 11.9 in 1950, to 12.5 in 1960.

The number of housing units in 1940 was 1086, which increased to 1363 in 1950, and then jumped along with the population increase to 1920 units in 1960. During this period the number of persons per unit was decreased from 3.39 in 1940 to 3.2 in 1960. We have no figures about the increase in number of swimming pools!

Census employment figures indicate 809 men and 349 women employed in 1940, 1113 men and 417 women in 1950, and 1562 men and 618 women in 1960. It is interesting to note that the median income in Rumson was $3,769 in 1950 and $9654 in 1960.

Some interesting trends are revealed in the occupational charts as indicated by the table on the next page.

Occupations	1940		1950		1960	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Professionals and Technicals	53	41	180	53	308	79
Farmers and Farm managers	11	4	19	1	....	....
Managers and Officials	142	7	243	23	482	30
Semi-Professionals	20	....	....	....	....	....
Clerical	127	29	80	113	63	204
Sales	104	1	120	35	202	46
Craftsmen	9	18	186	9	207	8
Operatives	48	172	96	30	93	20
Private household workers	47	39	11	97	12	102
Service	14	....	55	41	67	75
Farm laborers	134	....	104	2	86	....
Not reported	10	8	9	13	42	36



