

HISTORY OF RELIGIONS IN FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP

Compiled By Father Edward Jawidzik of St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church

For

Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission

Compiled In 2003 (Updated 2016)

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3 WATERWORKS RD.
PO BOX 541
FREEHOLD, N.J. 07728
PHONE 732-462-0826 FAX 732-462-7015

HISTORY

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1867. A new structure was completed in 1988. The church was relocated to its present location.

Bethel Church was an Episcopal form of church government where bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church appoint pastors. It is a worldwide church denomination with congregations in South America, Europe, Africa, Canada, Bermuda, The Caribbean Islands and the United States. Founded In 1787 By Rev. Richard Allen. This first leader was a former slave. The African Methodist Episcopal Church is divided into 19 Episcopal Districts.

It was under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Malcolm S. Steele that Bethel experienced its greatest progress, development and growth. Rev. Steele was appointed to Bethel in 1966 and served until his retirement in 2000.

COLTS NECK REFORMED CHURCH
72 ROUTE 537 W. P.O. BOX 57
COLTS NECK, N.J. 07722
PHONE 732-462-4555 FAX 732-866-9545
WEBSITE: <http://www.cnrc.info>--email: cnrc@monmouth.com

HISTORY

The First Reformed Protestant Church of Freehold, now known as Old Brick Reformed Church of Marlboro and was founded In 1699. Preaching in the area that is now Colts Neck; however was done in homes, barns and schoolhouses for the next 150 Years.

The Colts Neck Reformed Church was organized as a sister congregation of the Freehold Church on Tuesday, April 22, 1856. The Charter Members of the congregation, seventeen in number were drawn from a number of other churches in the county. The official name chosen for the new church was The Reformed Dutch Church of Colts Neck. The original building, 40'x 60', was constructed on donated land. The First Minister was Jacob S. Wyckoff who served from 1856 until 1864.

In August Of 1866, the first Harvest Home Supper was held. It is a tradition that continues today as the Annual Election Day Dinner and Bazaar. A significant event in the life of the congregation occurred in 1872 when a revival was held in Colts Neck. At that time, 78 persons were baptized, 102 were received on Confession of Faith and 194 souls.

The next 50 years show The emergence of certain “constants” in the life of the congregation: strong leadership in the Sunday School and in the growing Christian Endeavor Movement For Young People; women’s work with missionary support; strong preaching and pastoral care for the congregation, and attentive care for the congregation’s facilities.

In 1906, a chapel was added to the church building. The stained glass windows in the Sanctuary were installed in 1911. It was in the years immediately following World War II however that major changes were made in the church facilities.

In The 1960’s, the area began to expand. From 1963-1973 the congregation increased in size from 177- 456 members. In 1984 what had been a 20-year expansion program was finally completed. The final step in 1995 made the building handicapped accessible.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
272 JACKSONS MILL RD.
FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP, N.J. 07728
PHONE 732-431-5818

HISTORY

The Freehold First Assembly Of God Church dates back to a prayer meeting held in the (Now Historical Landmark) Georgia Schoolhouse in 1928. The original members of the congregation came from a group who gathered at the Fort Plains Mission and then eventually started their own membership in 1934. With only a handful of members, an initial building fund of \$7.50 and a tremendous faith In God, they were able to build the sanctuary located at the intersection of Jackson Mill Rd. and Georgia Rd. in 1937 under the encouraging leadership of Pastor Reba Norcross.

Today, Freehold First Assembly Of God has two services on Sunday mornings just to accommodate the much welcomed, ever growing crowd of parishioners.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
81 W. MAIN ST.
FREEHOLD, N.J. 07728
PHONE 732-462-1100

HISTORY

The Freehold Baptist Church was founded on November 28, 1834 by Rev. James Challis. The 92 members had been dismissed from The Upper Freehold Baptist Church. Their meetinghouse was at the site of the old cemetery on what is now Barkalow Avenue Freehold.

In 1844 with 157 members, they purchased property at the corner of Main Street and Manalapan Avenue. The new church was set back from the corner and completed in 1847. A parsonage was built on the corner in 1856.

The present Gothic-Style church was dedicated in 1890 on the original parsonage site. The parsonage was moved to the site of the former church. The Young Men's Room was added six years later. On November 16, 1900 the church changed its name to The First Baptist Church of Freehold. In 1990, the members celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the present church building and initiated a campaign to refurbish their 'Victorian Treasure'. It was completed in 1992.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
211 ELTON-ADELPHIA RD.- RTE. 524
FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP, N.J. 07728
PHONE 732-462-7545 FAX 732-462-9320
www.hopefreehold.org

HISTORY

In 1965, The Rev. Eugene Beutel drove through the Freehold Township area from his Parish in Neptune. He observed its rapid growth and saw possibilities for a new Congregation. He contacted The Rev. John Houck, Regional Director of American Missions of The Eastern District Of The American Lutheran Church. After a demographic study of the region and a look at population projections, 6 ½ acres were purchased and work began on the building and continued until November of 1966. In May of 1966 Rev. Albert W. Gibson, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Md, was asked to be the organizing pastor by the American Lutheran Church. He accepted the

challenge and moved with his family into the new parsonage. The 1st service was attended by 150 people and was held in the rain on September 25, 1966.

Hope Christian School was established in October 1967 for 4 year olds. This nursery school now has a Kindergarten class and enrolls children from 2 to 5 years old. The school is popular with a waiting list most times. It also offers before and after care for working parents.

In 1975 the Education Wing was constructed and in 1984 and 2016 a new kitchen plus a fellowship hall were added and the Sanctuary has been remodeled twice. Rev Gibson retired in 1997 as did Rev Dr. Medley in 2016.

FREEHOLD JEWISH CENTER
CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM
59 BROAD ST.
FREEHOLD, N.J. 07728
PHONE 732-462-0254

HISTORY

It appears that the earliest Jewish families settled in Freehold in the 1700's. The Freehold Transcript Edition of June 14, 1895 includes an account of the first Jewish wedding. However, Jewish social and religious activities were minimal until 1905 when the waves of immigrants from Russia and Poland brought most of the original founders of Freehold's organized Jewish community. With few exceptions, most of these Jewish immigrants settled in the area of Freehold known as 'Texas'. As soon as the necessary quorum for a minyan was reached a private house was rented at 20 First Street where services were conducted for some time. By 1909 a small hall at the corner of Main and Court Streets was rented for High Holiday Services.

In 1911 a charter was drawn up for the formation of an orthodox synagogue to be known as Congregation Agudath Achim Anshal, Freehold, N.J. A lot was purchased at First and Center Streets. The Freehold Transcript of June 18, 1911 records that contracts had been let for the erection of a building 32'X50". By the fall of 1911 the small wooden structure had been completed. Records indicate that the First Hebrew School began in September 1914. Within 5 years a second floor was added to this simple building and in 1920 the first Mikvah was built underneath the synagogue. The Sisterhood was formed in 1920. Social and cultural activities flourished with various groups meeting in the Synagogue. With the coming of the 1940's and the increase in membership from 40 to 100 a lot of 250'X175" was purchased at the corner of Broad and Stokes Streets. The groundbreaking took place in June 1947 and by 1950 the building was in general use. The membership had now grown to 184 families. In 1973 another major addition was undertaken to provide sorely needed facilities for the ever-growing membership. This expansion project was proven to be both aesthetically attractive and utilitarian with its spacious

Hebrew School Classrooms, a Rabbi's Office plus a general office. An addition was also added to the sanctuary doubling its size and through the use of movable partitions may be divided into 4 classrooms. Provided are inspirational High Holiday Services, traditional holiday observances, a daily minyan, a model Seder for the Sunday School Children and a flourishing and highly regarded Hebrew School with an enrollment of 240 children. The Congregation sponsors an adult education program and youth classes.

OLD BRICK REFORMED CHURCH

490 COUNTY RD. 520, P.O. BOX 153

MARLBORO, N.J. 07746

PHONE: 732-946-8860 FAX 732-946-9254

WEBSITE: www.oldbrickchurch.org

HISTORY

Old Brick Church is part of The Reformed Church In America which has the longest continuous ministry in the United States, and its roots in the early Dutch Community which contributed so much to our American Culture. The Congregation is composed of men, women and children from many Christian backgrounds. They welcome all to join them and share fellowship.

CHRONOLIGAL HISTORY AS FOLLOWS:

1699—Establishment of First Congregation—At Gabat House

1709—First Pastor, Beginning Of Record Keeping

1732—First Church Built On Present Site

1764—First American Pastor—Benjamin Dubois

1905—Installation of Stained Glass Windows

1955—Heat Installed In Church

1972—First Female Deacon—Joan Orr Preston

1991—Vacation Bible School Started

1999—300th Anniversary of Congregation

Old Tennent Presbyterian Church
Tennent Rd.
Tennent, N.J. 07763
Phone: 732-446-6299

History

The roots of Old Tennent Presbyterian Church reach back to the border region of Scotland over three hundred years ago. During the restoration period under Charles II, Scottish Presbyterians became the object of intense persecution. Caught between an autocratic crown and the avarice of landowners, an exodus began from this region that was to spread to the Highlands and Ulster and spans 200 years. New Jersey was one of the most diverse and tolerant of the Colonies and attracted many of these 'non-conformers'. By 1692, a small band of Presbyterians had built a tiny log church at 'Free Hill', about 5 miles from the present sanctuary. The guiding light through this time was the Elder, Walter Ker. It was he who was instrumental in aligning the infant congregation with the newly formed Philadelphia Presbytery. This body ordained Mr. Boyd as not only the first pastor of the congregation, but performed the first ordination of a Presbyterian in North America to the Ministry Of Word and Sacrament. It was also Ker who recruited the Tennent Brothers, John and William, Jr. to the free Hill Congregation.

Prosperity and the Great Awakening saw the congregation purchase the current property known as White Oak Hill. The current Georgian structure was completed in 1751 using elements of the earlier 1730 meetinghouse. This venerable structure has heard the thunderous words of The Great Awakening Preachers: Whitefield, Edwards, Brainard, Frelinghuysen and Burr. It has witnessed the First Communion of David Brainard's Indian converts. It was granted in 1749 The Charter Seal by King George II, along with the Presbyterian Churches of Allentown and Shrewsbury NJ. It sheltered the wounded on both sides of the Battle of Monmouth on June 1778. Restored, Old Tennent Presbyterian Church continues to function as the worship place of the Tennent Congregation, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church USA. Truly a singular treasure, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

St. Paul The Apostle Orthodox Church
24 Burke Rd.
Freehold Township, N.J. 07728
Phone 732-780-3158

History

Prompted by the inner working of the Holy Spirit, Bishop John Of Nyssa, in the Jurisdiction Of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, assigned Father David Moriak to organize and establish a viable Orthodox presence in the vicinity of historic Freehold and the shore area of New Jersey in July 1975. The fledgling mission was placed under the heavenly patronage of St Paul The Apostle as a zealous and vibrant inspiration to its communicants.

On October 5, 1975 the First Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the facilities of the Laura Donovan Elementary School in Freehold. On April 14, 1976 a parcel of land was purchased from the Elkins family as a permanent site for the new parish. St. Paul parish included diverse and varied orthodox nationalities that continue seeking their salvation within its holy embrace. In 1978 Father Kenneth Bachofsky was appointed to the parish and under his guidance improvements were made to the chapel, the icon screen installed and the garages converted into the kitchen and social hall.

On May 11 2000 Father Robert E Lucas was appointed pastor with the mandate to construct a church and complete the parish complex. A building fund was initiated and pledges secured. The parish is well known for its pirogue sales and periodic nut and poppy seed roll sales.

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
51 Georgia Rd.
Freehold Township, N.J. 07728
Phone 732-462-7429 Fax 732-409-3496

History

On June 18, 1971, the Most Rev. George W. Aur founded the new parish of St. Robert Bellarmine with Rev. Thomas F. Dentici as it's Pastor. Masses were held in local public schools from 1971-1975. On September 14, 1975, Bishop Aur presided at the blessing and dedication of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Family Center.

Because of the rapid growth of the Freehold Township area, a new church was constructed and dedicated by Bishop John M. Smith On December 7, 2002.

St. Rose Of Lima Catholic Church
16 Mc Lean St.
Freehold, N.J. 07728
Phone 732-462-0859 Fax 732-462-8173
Web Page: [Http://Www.Stroseoflima.Com](http://www.stroseoflima.com)

History

Sent from St. Paul's Princeton in 1850, Rev John Scollard traveled to the Freehold area to celebrate mass. On November 10, 1851, a piece of land was purchased for the building of a frame church. Rev. Alfred Young, pastor of St Paul's in Princeton served the parish between 1857 and 1860. Father Young purchased a plot of land to serve ASA Cemetery. After several mission priests, the Most Rev. James Roosevelt Baley Bishop of Newark, assigned Rev. Frederick Kivelitz as first resident pastor on January 9, 1871. Father Kivelitz traveled by saddle horse to serve the congregations of St. Rose and its missions that were scattered over an area of 125 square miles. He purchased a parsonage and built many churches for the missions of the church. Saint Rose of Lima Church was blessed on August 1882. The present rectory was completed in October 1931.

The dawn of a new millennium brought Rev. Richard Milewski to St. Rose of Lima Parish. Father Milewski's attention was directed toward keeping the liturgy vital which is central to parish life, expanding the involvement of the laity and building the spirit of community. His leadership deepened the spirit of faith, love and humble service that has been the keystone of St. Rose of Lima Parish community from the beginning.

Second Baptist Church
133 Throckmorton St
Freehold, N.J. 07728
Phone 732-462-2097 Fax 732-462-7482

History

The Second Baptist Church was birthed into ministry in the house of deacon David Paterson In 1895. As the mission grew, a larger facility was needed and a building was rented on Mechanic Street. By 1897 The Second Baptist Church was officially organized.

In 1904, the first church building was erected on Throckmorton Street and called its first pastor, Rev. D.H. Mitchell. In 1944, on the corner of Throckmorton and Haley Streets, property was purchased and the building was renovated into an edifice. During 1989, Pastor Paul M. McGuire began the work on a new church. The new edifice seats 550 people with an educational wing and banquet hall. Pastor McGuire had a vision for a daycare facility, Christian Academy, senior citizen facility and a homeless shelter. In 1999 the "I Beseech Thee Community Development Corporation", a non-profit corporation was instituted to begin this work. The labor continues.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
31 Throckmorton St.
Freehold, N.J. 07728
Phone 732-431-8383

History

The first service of this congregation was held on October 10, 1702, led by the Rev. George Keith in the Quaker Meeting House at Topanemus. This was a site very near the present village of Marlboro. The meetinghouse and the 1+ acres were given to "The Anglican Church established at Topanemus by the owner. Construction of the present site in Freehold was begun in 1771. Unfinished when the Battle of Monmouth was fought with the shell complete and steeple in place. It was used as a storehouse by the Providential Militia and returned to the congregation in the early 1790's. At that time the interior was completed and worship services began. Over the years the interior has been changed in response to liturgical changes in the Episcopal Church in America and the building as been enlarged to meet the needs of the congregation. The Parish House was added in the 1920's and serves as the primary location for the Christian Education Programs, Outreach Ministries Parish Meetings and Social Affairs.

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting
PO Box 92
Shrewsbury, NJ
07702

We have added this denomination to our pamphlet because of the important role the Quakers played in the shaping and history of Freehold Township and Monmouth County.

The History of the Quakers in New Jersey dates back to before Freehold Township was incorporated. It is as follows:

1664—First Quaker Meeting in New Jersey

1672—First Permanent Meeting House Built In Shrewsbury, N.J.

1695—Quakers purchased one acre of land at the corner of Kings Highway and the Burlington Trail. This is the current site of the Meeting House in Shrewsbury.

1701—A Meeting House and Cemetery were constructed on the above site.

1717—Quakers Purchase an additional ½ Acre Of land at meeting house site.

1727—1701 Meeting House Burns, replaced by brick structure.

1815—Brick structure burns

1816—Current Meeting House built-Area now called Route 35 And Sycamore Ave., Shrewsbury

1907—Shrewsbury monthly meeting cancelled for lack of members.

1942—Shrewsbury monthly meetings re-established.

1968—Fire damages east side of building - Indoor plumbing and central heat added

1996—The Meeting House is made handicapped accessible by the addition of a ramp.

They were once visited by George Fox, the founder of The Religious Society Of Friends.
The Meeting House is listed on the State and National Registries Of Historic Places.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF WEST FREEHOLD

Freehold Township began in the late seventeenth century. From that time until suburbanization brought great economic and spatial change in the mid twentieth century, agriculture dominated the landscape. For most of its history, the Township was made up principally of farmsteads; open fields, and wooded areas. There were a few small settlements occurring around a mill, store, tavern, or crossroads (such as Mount's Corner or West Freehold). This brochure will give you a general overview of this one particular part of Freehold Township and its impact on history.

The intersection of Route 537 and Stillwell's Corner Road/Wemrock Road now known as West Freehold. However, during the early days of settlement of the Township it was known as the Village of West Freehold or Mount's Corner, and some of its original structures are still here

On the southwest corner the structure we now know as Moore's Tavern and Restaurant was originally known as Mount's Tavern. Moses Mount, who served as a private in the American Revolution, is believed to have been the first tavern keeper. However it is conjecture that the Solomon Family may have been the original owner. Mount's petition (dated c.1798) for renewal of his tavern license is on file at the Monmouth County Historical Association, 70 Court St., Freehold. Moses Mount owned the tavern until 1835 when his grandson, John Mount became Landlord. In 1855 the property became known as the West Freehold Hotel and was run by William. H. Strong. The tavern has had several owners since that time including Samuel V. Hankinson in 1862. In 1908 John C. Moore purchased the property and renamed it Moore's Inn. The Moore family continued to operate it until 1979. During the 1990's the inn was moved back from the road and incorporated into the restaurant complex now known as Moore's Tavern and Restaurant. The bar area of the restaurant still houses part of the original tavern.

BURLINGTON PATH

In 1684 New Jersey's Governor Lawrie established a road connecting the two capitals of New Jersey. This road connected Perth Amboy (capital of East Jersey) and Burlington (capital of West Jersey). The road was named 'The Burlington Path' or 'The Great Road' and also had the name of the 'Old Indian Trail' as this was an important route for the Unami Clan of the Lenni Lenape tribe when they went to the seashore (Sandy Hook) to collect their winter store of oysters, clams, shells, etc.

Besides travel by horse the route was also used by a stagecoach company. The stage operated on regular schedules and took between three and four days to travel from Perth Amboy to Burlington in either direction. The stage did not operate in winter along this route until 1750. Around 1770 the trip between New York and Philadelphia took only four days one way. The Burlington Path followed the ridge or watershed along its route. In 1796, by an act of the State Legislature the name was changed to Monmouth Road as the trail led to Monmouth Courthouse/Freehold.

Coming from the eastern part of the county, the Burlington Path started at Long Branch and joined the Minnesink Trail at or near Middletown, then on to Tinton Falls through Colts Neck where it took a southwest course to Freehold, traveling down Main Street for a considerable distance. The Path then made various turns through the pines and farm country slightly south of town to Crosswicks. Upon reaching Crosswicks, the path divided, one branch went to the Trenton Falls and the other to the Delaware River.

Part of the Burlington Path, which was the main stagecoach path between Burlington and Long Branch (with a side trip to Sandy Hook) during the early days of Freehold Township, is located directly behind Moore's Inn, which was a frequent stop for passengers in need of lodging or food. The path itself ran in a diagonal from the Smithburg line (corner of Siloam Road. and Route 537) to this point in the township. From there it continued across the township through what is now Freehold Borough to Burlington Road and into Colts Neck ending finally in Long Branch and Sandy Hook.

In 1765 the stagecoach stops were:

Bordentown	Freehold
Allentown	Colts Neck Inn
Smithburg Tavern*	Tinton Falls
Mounts Tavern	Eatontown
Willow Tree Inn	Long Branch
Stone Tavern*	

*Smithburg Tavern-Joel Parker, who was twice Governor of the State of New Jersey, was born here. It was located on the corner of Siloam Road and Route 537. The building still stands today (2016) but has been reconstructed in some spots. Governor Parker served the State from 1863-1869 and again from 1873-1875.

*Stone Tavern-stood until 1968 when it was destroyed by fire. It was located about 4 miles southeast of the original Monmouth County Courthouse on what is now Gravel Hill Rd. The walls of the building were said to be 3 ft. thick. General Knyphausen used the tavern as his headquarters (British) on June 25, 1776, on his way to the Battle of Monmouth during the American Revolution.

General Henry Clinton's troops stopped at the Willow Tree Inn, Clarksburg and the Stone Tavern, in the vicinity of Upper Freehold Township near Stone Lake reaching Freehold on June 26, 1776, just 2 days before the Battle of Monmouth. He made his headquarters in the Covenhoven House on West Main St., Freehold. British Troops also commandeered Mounts Tavern and were situated on the Walker, Combs, Hartshorne, (Oakley) Farm at that time.

The word "tavern" referred to an 'inn' or 'hotel' as well as a place to get refreshment from the long trip. There are stories of horse/stagecoach races, which took place between Willow Tree Tavern and Stone Tavern. The driver that finished last had to buy drinks for all contestants in the race.

On the northwest corner of Route 537 (Monmouth Road) now known as Mount's Corner shopping plaza was the site of the Levi Solomon Farm, the first Jewish farm settlement in Monmouth County. This eighteenth century farm was located on the periphery of the Battle of Monmouth which took place on June 28, 1778, during the American Revolution. When the British marched into Freehold from Allentown they burned all the houses and buildings along the way. However, the owner Hannah Solomon, along with members of her family, saved their home and barn. In spite of the fact that the house was damaged, they repaired it and continued living there. Later Levi Solomon owned and enlarged the farmstead. About 1820 Mr. Solomon and Elija Combs were in possession of much of the land in the area of the Solomon farm including the property across Wemrock Road, now known as the Oakley Farm. The present owner, of the Solomon Farm, Bernard Hochberg, moved the barn and farmhouse of the Solomon tract to the rear of this property in the 1990's. It is hoped that they will be opened as an historic center in the near future. When the structures were moved an archeological search was done at the site and some artifacts from the Revolution were found near the original foundations. These are now in the possession of the Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission.

As you travel east on Route 537 you will be in the area where the village stores were located. About 1812 Job Throckmorton kept a store near the present day VanDerveer's garage. Sometime around 1834 Edmund Connolly opened a blacksmith shop in the same area. William Forman and J. Elmer VanDerveer, who then opened a wheelwright Shop next to the blacksmith shop, succeeded him. Thomas E. Combs opened a store in 1828 at the southeast corner of the intersection. Combs stayed there until 1835 when he moved his business to Red Bank. It is not known what kind of businesses Mr. Combs or Mr. Throckmorton operated. They were general stores.

We also know that there was a bakery on the northeast corner of the intersection and a post office in the village.

Traveling north on Wemrock Road, (originally called the North Road), you'll see the one-room West Freehold Schoolhouse. The land on which it stands was originally part of the 143acre Walker-Combs-Hartshorne (Oakley) farm. Ownership of the farm and land can be found as far back as 1686 when it was deeded from Proprietors of East Jersey to John Barclay (East Jersey Deed B40, 42). Chain of title brought the ownership to Rulif R. Schanck(Schenck) in 1832(Monmouth County Deed A3 147). It is written that Mr. Schanck conveyed one acre of his land for the school to the Trustees, Samuel Conover, John H. Mount, and William N. Thompson for a fee of \$25.00. In 1847, the original name of the school was West Freehold Seminary and Collegiate Institute. The school was also known as the Old Schanck School. The current and lasting name became the West Freehold Schoolhouse. The school was in continuous use from 1847 until 1936 when it was closed and all districts in the area consolidated and sent to the new West Freehold School on Route 537. There were 8 school districts in the township until 1936. They included East Freehold District #6, Freehold District #7, Paradise District #8, Georgia District #9(later named Pleasant Grove), Siloam District #10, West Freehold District #11 and Thompson's Grove District #12 and Aumock District #13. We find

evidence that these districts were educating a total upwards of 500 students per year toward the end of the 1800's.

Approximately one-half mile north on Wemrock Rd. is the Walker-Combs-Hartshorne Farmstead. This is now referred to as the Oakley Farm. The farm was officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places on October 4, 1990. The National Register is the official list of cultural resources significant in American History, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture. The farm was designated a landmark site by Freehold Township Committee, at the recommendation of the Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission on July 25, 1995. The farmhouse itself probably began as a 10' by 8' settler's cabin in the early 1700's, as evidenced by the fieldstone foundation and rough-hewn timbers in the crawlspace. Some of the timbers still have bark on them. The foundation is put together with a mud-based mortar. These are indications of early construction. After several owners and two additions to the house it stands today much as it did in 1924 when construction was finally completed by the Oakley Family.

As was mentioned earlier the chain of title for this property goes back to 1686, as follows:

- 1686 Proprietors of East Jersey to John Barclay (East Jersey Deed B40, 42).
- 1686 John Barclay to Robert Barclay (East Jersey Deed B41, 43).
- 1699 Robert Barclay to John Reid (East Jersey Deed G223).
- 1701 John Reid to John Bowne (Monmouth County Deed D159).
- 1706 John Bowne to Richard Clark (Monmouth County Deed F34).
- 1720 Richard Clark to George Walker (Monmouth County Deed G67)-Richard Clark's house was on this property at this time.
- 1729 Richard Clark to George Walker (Monmouth County Deed H39).
- 1748 George Walker, Sr. to George Walker, Jr. (New Jersey Will 01599).
- 1794 George Walker, Jr. to Aaron Forman Walker, Administrator (Monmouth County Will Liber 33, p.425).
- 1801 Aaron Forman Walker et al. to Elijah Combs (Monmouth County Deed N118).
- 1832 Commissioner of Monmouth County/Estate of Elijah Combs to Rulif R. Schanck(Schenck) (Monmouth County Deed A3 147).
- 1842 Rulif R. Schanck(Schenck) to Richard S. Hartshorne (Monmouth County Deed E4 258).
- 1873 Commissioner of Monmouth County/Estate of Richard S. Hartshorne to Acton Civil Hartshorne (Monmouth County Deed 250 409).
- 1911 Acton Civil Hartshorne to Charles Oakley, Jr. (Monmouth County Deed 904 286).
- 1997 Farmhouse and Outbuildings deeded to Freehold Township by the Estate of Elizabeth Oakley for Historic Preservation.

According to Monmouth County Inventory Records as of 1981 this farm was one of the oldest working farms in Monmouth County. The earliest recorded reference is that it began in 1720 as a subsistence farm. Typical farm products for the time period were meats and grains such as pork, beef, poultry, wheat, rye and Indian corn. The family provided labor for the farm. In the cases of George Walker and Elijha Combs, the labor

was provided by black slaves (Monmouth County Inventories I 1001, May 17, 1748 and 203, July 28, 1831). It has been said that the farmhouse was part of the Underground Railroad in the latter part of the 1800's to free the slaves.

Another noteworthy piece of property on Route 537 approximately three-quarters of a mile past the Route 9 intersection was known as Cincinnati Hall. It was the home of Dr. Thomas Henderson, a well-known and important Freehold citizen. This was the first house to be burned to the ground by the British during their march into Freehold in June 1778. The house was set ablaze on June 28, 1778 along with all other houses along that route that the British did not want to use as a headquarters. Dr. Henderson was an active patriot, a colonel in the Revolutionary War, a judge, surrogate, counselor, lieutenant governor, and had been elected to Congress (but declined to serve).

Thomas Henderson was born in Freehold in 1743. He graduated Princeton College in 1761. He then entered the office of Dr. Nathaniel Scudder where he studied medicine and was admitted to the practice. Dr. Henderson began his practice at Mt. Pleasant and later moved to the home on Route 537. After the war he rebuilt his home. In honor of the American victory and the creation of the Society of the Cincinnati, a veteran's organization of officers who served in the Revolutionary War, he built a new house on the old foundation and named it Cincinnati Hall. It remained standing until December 1989 when it was demolished due to neglect.

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2. **“A Century’s Progress in Education Values in Freehold”** lecture given before the Freehold Woman’s Club(Under the Auspices of the Educational Department-Freehold High School) 3/15/1944 by Lillian F. Lauler
3. **The Early Schools of Freehold, N.J. and Vicinity 1667-1928** written by Lillian Lauler Wilbur c.1969, Schuyler Pr.
4. Letter from Richard S. Walling, President, Friends of Monmouth Battlefield dated September 2, 2000.

THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FREEHOLD AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES

This brochure was especially written for the 275th Anniversary of Freehold by Mrs. Lillian Lauler Wilbur

ADMINISTRATOR

Jack A. Cowan, Jr.

ASST. ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. Abe Littenberg & Mr. Robert Ferrell, Municipal Building

CHAIRMAN-Country Fair Committee

Mrs. Charles Simms & Mrs. Fred Smith

CHAIRMAN-Parade Committee

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INDIAN TERRITORY

When the first European stepped on our shores from the Half Moon, Henry Hudson's Dutch sailing vessel, the entire country from what is now Perth Amboy to Little Egg Harbor was inhabited by a tribe of the Delaware Indians, probably the Navesinks. On a map made by Andrian Van DerDonck, this territory was labeled Matovaucon, probably the name of a branch of the Delawares who inhabited the shore section at that time. All lands west of the shore area was known as "free lands" or "free holds". Evidently the name Freehold was taken from the latter. We do know that the Dutch settled this section first. They came over mainly, at first, for trading purposes, and not because of persecution. Many settled on large tracts of land around what is now Freehold, and accumulated much land and wealth, long before Freehold was settled or became the County Seat. John Reid was a large landholder and dealt in real estate in a big way. He is said to be the founder of Freehold.

John Reid came over from Scotland in 1683 and settled first at Perth Amboy. He was quite a remarkable man. Before he came from Scotland, he had been a successful gardener and wrote a book entitled "The Scotch Gardener". He became a surveyor and did much surveying for the Scotch proprietors along the Raritan River. He held many important offices. He became a lawyer studying by himself, and the Surveyor General for the Province, and a very successful real estate agent. Many books have been written about him. One such book being reprinted twice, and now is in the hands of Rutgers University. He lived out his days in "Hortensie" on land granted him by the King of England for his surveying. He was a member of the Assembly, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Justice of the quorum, King's Attorney, Commissioner of Highways, and held many other official positions. No man of his day and generation made a deeper, wider or more permanent impression upon the Monmouth of his time than he did. So the founder of Freehold was a very important man.

In 1713, by an act of the Assembly, Freehold became the County Seat. Before this courts were held at Middletown and Portland Point (Highlands). No public building had been built for a Court House. The courts were held in taverns and various houses. This act of legislation fixed the County Seat at what is now Freehold "providing the building should be erected somewhere near "John Okerson's Tavern". The land for the Court House was conveyed to the Trustees by John Reid on August 26, 1714. John Reid at that time owned much of the land around Freehold and in Monmouth County. Some of this land, he purchased from Thomas Combs in 1714, and other lands he bought from the Indians. Five months later, he donated sufficient acreage for the building of the Court House.

Comparatively little is known about the settlers who came and lived in what was then known as Monmouth Court House for the next 60 years. What we do know is to be found only in the old records of deeds and wills. At the time of the beginning of the Revolution, we do know there were less than 100 inhabitants of both sexes and of all ages in the little hamlet. The first Court House was built in 1715, and later destroyed by fire in January of 1728.

It was not until the middle of the 18th Century that Monmouth Court House gained some importance. This was by the removal of St. Peter's Episcopal Church from Topanemus to Monmouth Court House.

Topanemus is an old Indian name, when translated means "an elk drinking from a cold stream, issuing from a spring". We do know that Lake Topanemus was made from many cold springs. Swimmers there tell us the water is always cold, and many people have been drowned or nearly so in its waters by getting cramps from the cold. Clear spring water always attracted the Indians. It also attracted the early Dutch and Scotch settlers, who chose this little hamlet to escape the persecutions from the Anglican and Scottish churches overseas and in New England. William Reape and his wife, early Quakers, were responsible for suggesting this spot for those persecuted.

Some of the old timbers from the Topanemus Church are supposed to have been used in the building of the new St. Peter's Church on what was then called Black Mills Road and Main Street. This old church met with many reverses in being built, and for several years was in a state of decay and no services were held there. It was not completed until May 8, 1838, at which time, it was consecrated. In 1809, Rev. John Croes took charge of three

churches—Middletown, Shrewsbury and the Freehold Church. However, he spent most of his time in Shrewsbury. At Monmouth Court House there were only 18 families and 15 communicants of the church. It has stood on the same site for well over 200 years. It is said that old St. Peter's was used as a hospital during the American Revolution. We do know that a lottery was held there on January 27, 1774 to help raise money for completion of the church. The drawings were held on Fishing Island in the middle of the Delaware River, opposite Trenton, New Jersey. \$12,000.00 was raised, subject to a deduction of 15%. Some of the managers and inspectors of the lottery were outstanding citizens of the day: John Covenhoven, Thomas Leonard, John Longstreet, Daniel Hendrickson, Samuel Forman, Elisha Lawrence and the Rev. Henry Wadell, rector of Christ Church in Shrewsbury.

Some of the earliest settlers living in and around Monmouth Court House we learn about only from old recorded deeds, wills, and the New York City and Philadelphia newspapers. The best papers were Rivington's "New York Gazeteer", (1740-1750), "The American Weekly Mercury", "The Pennsylvania Gazette", and the "New York Weekly Post Boy". In these papers, a number of advertisements and notes offering rewards (mostly of 3 pounds) for the return of run-away slaves and others taking French leave of their Masters. As an example: "A slave, Henry Rock, ran away from his master, John Henderson. Mr. Henderson advertised that anyone returning the said Henry Rock would have "40 Shillings and reasonable charges for his return". Also, Joseph Taylor suffered the loss of a Negro, Robin, who had a small wart on his neck, and was about 20 years of age. We also learn from the ad that he took a brown mare with him. The owner of the Negro said he would gladly pay 20 Shillings besides reasonable charges for the return of the Negro and 10 extra Shillings if he were returned with the mare. We do know that many early inhabitants had large land holdings and were prosperous farmers, elders of the church, and legislators. The church played a very significant role in the life of our early settlers.

Some of the settlers mentioned in the old records, deeds, wills and newspapers around 1838 were: Joseph Taylor; John Henderson; David Forman; Anthony Ward, clock maker; James English; Robert Newell; Dr. William Nicholls; Richard Lippincott; Peter Barkalieu; John J. Hanton, planter; Richard Salter; and Thomas Boel, yeoman.

Many of the large landholders recognized the value of fertilizing their holdings. They used marl, which is formed by the decay of tiny sea animals and was found extensively in Englishtown around 1675. A story is told that John Reid and Daniel Ellis, who owned much of the hamlet Monmouth Court House at this time, used it to develop some of their land holdings. Beyond what is now Manalapan Avenue there were no buildings, just huge out-worn fields yielding nothing but the seeds planted. They had marl brought in and spread on those fields and the next year the fields yielded 30 bushels of good wheat per acre. There were then just two residences west of the Scudder Mansion, which stood where the Pennsylvania Railroad now stands. One belonged to Daniel Ellis. He and John Reid later set this territory (which is now W. Main Street on the Burlington Path) out in lots and sold the lots for \$200.00 each. There were then only nine streets and alleys in Monmouth Court House. On only four of these streets were there any houses. They were Throckmorton Street, Main Street, South Street and McLean Street. The present Broad Street was just an alley.

In about the middle of the 18th Century, Monmouth Court House gained some importance by the removal of St. Peter's Church from Topanemus to Monmouth Court House on Main Street and Throckmorton Street. It is said that portions of the old church were used in the building of the new one. The church faced Main Street at that time. From time to time, St. Peter's Church was enlarged, by was not fully completed until 1838. By that time, other churches were built, the Baptist, Methodist and the Dutch Reformed churches. By 1834 there were 35 or 40 dwellings, 5 or 6 stores, 3 taverns, a printing office, 4 practicing physicians and an academy in Monmouth Court House.

There is an interesting tradition told by several historians to the effect that Washington, who was staying at the Village Inn, in Englishtown, came to Freehold on the evening before the Battle of Monmouth. He learned that the Masons were holding a meeting on the third floor of the O.R. Freeman building on Main Street. He went up and

was asked to conduct this meeting. Col. Lloyd and Moses Sproule were wearing their aprons at this time. It is said that Col. Lloyd's apron is still kept in the Lloyd family today, and that the Gilbert Applegate family has the apron that belonged to Moses Sproule. I have tried to check this tradition to see if there is any truth in it. Mr. H. John Witman, who is the present historian for the Olive Branch Lodge #16, wrote a history of the Lodge on its 100th Anniversary in 1949. There could be no minutes in existence here before 1849 when the Freehold Olive Branch Lodge #16 was formed; so of course, no mention could have been made of this tradition as being a fact. The Rev. Frank S. Symmes has also included this traditional story in his book on Old Tennent Church. We do not know of the truth of this, but, in all probability, it was true since Washinton was a loyal Mason and missed no opportunity for doing all he could for the Masons. The Revolutionary War and its response from Monmouth is a long story in itself. It is sufficient here to list a few of the brave leaders who made it possible for us to throw off the yoke of England and grow as an independent nation. Monmouth's share in the raising of troops at first was six companies. These companies were held in constant readiness on the shortest notice to march to any place where assistance might be required. Col. Nathaniel Hear, Lt. Col David Forman, and Major Thomas Henderson, Samuel Forman, John Covenhoven, Asher Holmes, Col. Elisha Larence, Lt. Col. Nathaniel Scudder, Captain John Smock, Col. George Taylor, Lt. Col. Jonathan Forman, Lt. Col. Joseph Salter, Joshua Huddy, the great martyr, Lt. Jonathan Holmes, Lt. Courtenious Schenck, Col. Gordon, and others of great importance too numerous to mention. Each man could well be the subject of a whole book in itself. The foes from within, the pine robbers, the Tory sympathizers, and the refugees had to be dealt with as well as the enemy without. The response to the call of George Washington and Gov. Olden was always overwhelming. Monmouth County and Monmouth Court House was a center of activity because of the exciting events enacted in the locality during the Revolutionary War period.

Ellis tells us that the War of 1812-15, which was declared on June 19, 1812, found a number of military companies under Monmouth County officers. Many from here entered the service, principally guarding the ocean and bays bordering Monmouth County. The Jersey Blues of Trenton played a large role in this war. Six companies from Monmouth Court House, New Jersey promptly tendered their services. One company was captained by David Craig of Monmouth Courthouse, and another by Capt. Benjamin Wardell also of Monmouth Courthouse. Some of the other Captains were William TenEyck, Robert Conover, Capt. Ditmar, James Newel, and Obadiah Allen.

The Civil War followed in 181-65, at which time Monmouth County took an honorable and patriotic part in preservation of the Union. The men of the Monmouth responded with patriotic devotion, not excellend in any part of the State or Union. In many instances, Monmouth County volunteers outnumbered the call. Some of the leaders from Freehold were: James S. Yard, Freehold editor and publisher of the "Monmouth Democrat"; Lt. Col. William S. Truax; Brigadier Gen. Theodore Runyan; Major Peter Vredenburg, Jr.; Capt. F. Lemuel Barckaleu; Capt. Enoch L. Cowart; Col. Edwin F. Applegate of Freehold, proprietor and editor of the "Monmouth Inquirer"; William R. Taylor; Lt. Col. Arrowsmith; General Schenck; Capt. Joseph T. Field; and Captain Green. Several of the regiments were inducted here at Camp Vredenburg, near Freehold and went from there to Washington, D.C. to join the Army of the Potomac.

Just how many men from Monmouth served, or how many died is not known exactly, but it is a sure fact that there were many. When the call came from Governor Olden of New Jersey and President Lincoln in Washington, D.C. for volunteers, the responses were always overwhelming. They travelled many miles and participated in many battles and skirmishes. Monmouth County played a great and valiant role in the Civil War as she did in the Revolutionary War.

BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS AND INDUSTRY AFTER THE WARS-

The first attempts at banking in Monmouth County were attended with disastrous results. The first bank to receive a Charter was the Monmouth Bank, chartered in 1824. The following year business commenced with William Bowne as manager and cashier. For safekeeping, the early funds and securities were locked in one of the Jail Cells. Little is known of its business, but the charter called for a capital stock of \$200,000, of which only \$20,000 was paid in. The bank was already regarded by the citizens with distrust, and it finally ceased to exist. The end of its first organization was marked with an advertisement in the "Monmouth Democrat" in February 1836 telling the public it was to be sold at public auction.

In the meantime, the citizens were pursuing their various trades and making money. There were large mills nearby doing big business, notably Hartshorne's Mill among others. In 1856 John Bawden furnished iron mill work for agricultural castings. Gilbert Combs had enlarged his facilities to make grate fenders. A single order for the building of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, California for \$20,000 for the iron work needed was the largest order of that kind in this country or in Europe. Alexander Low was making fine cabinets, coffins, and other fine articles, including earthen-ware products for the home. The six stores were thriving and the taverns were always busy. There were lawyers and physicians practicing here. The big farms on the outskirts of the town were planting and yielding good crops, which they sold principally in Philadelphia and New York. Consequently other banks throughout the county sprang up and prospered.

Some of our greatest lawyers during this period were: Richard Hartshorne, the first in the County; George C. Beckman; Chilim Robbins; Amazi C. McLean; Alfred Walling, Jr.; John S. Applegate; Acton C. Hartshorne; Holmes W. Murphy; the Lloyd Brothers and many others.

In 1801 'Freehold' was now the hamlet's official name. Since the old Topanemus Church was moved to the Village sometime after 1751, Freehold continued to grow, at first slowly, but later very rapidly until today there is no other town in the county to be found more progressive with its banks, municipal government, supermarkets, Monmouth County Museum, libraries, real estate developments, even to the point of using most of the lands surrounding Freehold and hemming Freehold in, as it were. It is the center of much activity. A new Court House has been built, the old Court House building being greatly enlarged and used as a Hall of Records. The town has always been somewhat conservative, and it is on a sound financial basis. During the years of the great bank debacle in 1928-1931, the town of Freehold was one of the few in Monmouth County which did not have to pay its workers in script.

Many taverns here have served the wayfarers and citizens over the years, but probably the most interesting and the most important tavern over the years is the one now called the American Hotel located on Main Street. It was built in 1824 when Freehold was still a hamlet and still called Monmouth Court House by many. It is well known throughout the state for its "horsey" décor old Currier and Ives prints, early English prints of the ancestors of many of the fine thoroughbreds in the American turf today, the collection of shoes from famous horses, photographs of famous horses in action at Freehold and Goshen. The first legal trotting races of the 20th century in New Jersey were held on Freehold's half-mile track. It has become a popular sport here, and meets are held every summer. That is what is responsible for the "horsey" décor of the hotel. This collection of horse memorabilia cannot be matched anywhere in the country today. There are also several famous historical paintings among them of the Battle of Monmouth and Molly Pitcher

There were always taverns in Freehold over the centuries, and if today's American Hotel, the area on which several earlier taverns were built, is any indication of what earlier taverns were like – they must have been remarkable places for the weary traveler and wayfarer in the early days of traveling by horseback, stage coach and horse and buggy.

It is interesting to remember that Freehold was located and built here because of a request by the legislature that the Court House be built near Oakerson's Tavern—so great was the Tavern's influence then—as now!

We are deservedly proud of Freehold, the County Seat, for not only its historical setting, but its beautiful old homes, lovely old trees, its many civic organizations, and last but not least, the Monmouth Battle Monument, which has been made a national shrine about two years ago. This monument is one of the finest, if not the finest of its size in the whole of the United States. It is well worth seeing and studying in detail.

THE MONMOUTH BATTLE MONUMENT

The monument was erected to commemorate the historic Battle of Monmouth. It is located in Freehold at the point of Monument and Court St. (in front of the current Court House). The land on which it stands was donated for this purpose by the heirs of the late Daniel S. Schanck. The Monument is constructed of granite and cost \$40,000, of which \$20,000 was contributed by the Federal Government, \$10,000 by the State, and the remaining \$10,000 by the patriotic citizens of the County of Monmouth including the school children who contributed small amounts towards the building of the memorial.

The corner stone was laid on June 28, 1878, that date being the centennial anniversary of the battle. The base of the monument is the shape of an equilateral triangle, to correspond with the plot of ground it stands on. Three spurs of Quincy granite form the base, above which is a large drum shaped block bearing scenes of the battle in bronze. Above this is the shaft, which is constructed of Concord granite, tapering up about five feet to the bronze coats-of-arms of the thirteen original colonies. Next is the main part of the shaft, consisting of three parts, joined by wreaths of bay leaves. The shaft is topped by a massive cap, upon which is a statue of Liberty Triumphant, making the monument about 94 feet in height. This statue was struck by lightning in 1913. The second one was posed for by Mary Anderson, a noted actress of that time, and is somewhat smaller than the one it replace. The top of the original Liberty Triumphant statue is now on display at Liberty Triumphant Park on Main St. next to the Hall of Records building.

The monument was designed by Emelin T. Little and Douglas Smythe and the construction was supervised by Edward E. Raft. The bronze tablets are about five feet high and six feet wide and are worthy of special mention. They were designed by Mr. J.E. Kelly and were cast at the National Fine Arts Foundry. They represent the five scenes of the battle described below.

1. Ramsey defending his guns. This shows Lt. Col. Nathaniel Ramsey engaged in hand to hand battle with the British Light Dragoons. His features and the equipment of the Dragoons are exactly as in battle, in fact, the "death-head" may be seen on the hats of the Dragoons.
2. Washington rallying his troops. Washington is shown riding at break neck speed and reorganizing his ranks after Lee's retreat. The model is worked to a scale and is absolutely correct.
3. Molly Pitcher--this is the scene in which the "Heroine of Monmouth" replaced her husband, who is shown lying at her feet, and swabbing the gun after every shot. A wounded soldier is using his right hand instead of his left in opening the gun. The Old Tennent Church is shown at the extreme left.
4. Council of War at Hopewell. This shows Generals Washing, Lee, Greene, Stirling, Lafayette, Steuben, Knox, Poor, Wayne, Woodford, Scott, Paterson, and Duportail in conference. Washington is listening to Lafayette, who is urging an immediate attack. The expressions on the faces of the officers explain their view.
5. Wayne's Charge--this shows "Mad Anthony" Wayne, in the last attack of the day, driving back the British, who were trying to carry away the body of Col. Monckton, their leader. In the background the Old Tennent Parsonage may be seen.

The monument was unveiled on November 13, 1884. The stores were beautifully decorated and two large arches had been erected on Main Street. The parade, consisting of many soldiers and noted people, passed through the different streets in the main part of the town and ended at Monument Park.

The exercises were opened by a prayer from Bishop Scarborough. Theodore W. Morris made the presentation speech, unveiling the monument. At the conclusion of his address, Governor Leon Abbett made the Speech of

Acceptance which was followed by an oration by former Governor Joel Parker. The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. George C. Maddock. When the monument was unveiled, The Continental Salute of thirteen guns was sounded, and, at the close of the ceremonies the National Salute of thirty-eight guns was fired. It has been estimated that from twenty-five to thirty thousand people attended the ceremonies.

The residents of Freehold have good reason to be proud of the Monument, because it is said by good authorities to surpass anything of the sort to be found in the United States.

The foregoing has been written especially for this booklet by Mrs. Lillian Lauler Wilbur. She devoted many hours in gathering all of the facts and figures about Freehold and its citizenry. The committee is most appreciative of Mrs. Wilbur's work and we acknowledge it with sincere thanks for a job well done.

We felt a renewed pride in our area as we read Mrs. Wilbur's words. The heritage that is Freehold is not just a casual façade but rather a real reflection of the area and its people—the valiance, as exemplified in our men and women answering our country's call in 'time of need; the diligence especially of our pioneers laboring under many hardships; the conservative and yet progressive approach to business matters—all of these are a real and true basis for a heritage that even after 275 years is still living and growing to make Freehold a pleasant and rewarding place in which to live.

SOME REMINISCENCES ON FREEHOLD BY TUNIS DENISE

What was it like around here 70 years ago? Through the eyes of a small boy back in those days we get a glimpse of some of the features which are in contrast with today's scene.

The road into Freehold from Colt's Neck and which is now County Route #537, was then a toll road operated by the Freehold and Colt's Neck Turnpike Company. It was a dirt road which was very, very dusty during the summer months and very muddy in the late winter and spring. Although this road probably had a light coating of gravel, from the local gravel pits, the ruts were sometimes hub deep after a spell of bad weather. In these times there were no automobiles at all; all transportation was by horse and wagon. The equipment, if such it can be called, provided by the turnpike company was for the accommodation of horse drawn vehicles only. There was a Toll House about a mile east of Freehold at the point where the Old Burlington Road joins the present Route 537. It was a little one room affair set close to the line of traffic so that the toll could be handled by the gate keeper without coming out of the house. The gat itself was a long pole, braced and hinged to a stout upright situated just opposite the toll house, so that it could be swung across the road to halt a vehicle when necessary. The toll charge was only a few pennies per mile so that the toll gate itself was very rarely used. The writer remembers many trips to Freehold with his grandfather when we stopped to pay the toll to a little lady by the name of Mrs. Hart who was the tollgate keeper at that time.

One of the township schools was at East Freehold where the township office and court were recently located. Here children from the eastern end of the township went to school. It was a one room building with a hall across the end where the entrance was made. Here was kept a supply of wood and coal for the school stove, a lot of hooks and a shelf for the coats and lunchboxes and a table for a water pail, holding the supply of drinking water for everyone. No individual paper cups but a long handled dipper was provided for the use of one and all.

The stove was a large pot bellied affair which put out a tremendous amount of heat when the drafts were opened up. Keeping the room warm never seemed to be a problem.

The teacher at that time was Miss Gussie Holloway, and a very wonderful person she was. Along with the teaching she attended to the stove and performed other janitorial duties. As a teacher, my recollection is that she had great ability and was an able disciplinarian. She handled seven or eight classes with no difficulty at all. The different grades would come to the front of the room and recite while the other pupils would be engaged in sort of a study period.

Some of the families who had children in this school at that time were Conover's, Antonides, Egan, Maghan, Holloway, McGowan, Kelsey, O'hara, Nolan, Moore, Wykoff, Smock, Hance, Smith, Denise, Sickle, Orby, Commin, and Malia. The school day began with a Bible reading and a Hymn. As a member of the lowest class the writer remembers the recitations of Maggie McGowan and Mamie Kelsey as demonstrations of great erudition and brilliance, and raised serious doubts in his mind about ever attaining such a level of scholarship.

One of the daily privileges granted by the teacher was the detail of two pupils to go across the road to Mr. Antonides residence to fetch a pail of drinking water. Sometimes the water carriers were quite small and they had to use the long pump handle. There was of course a little playing and the long handled dipper made an excellent tool for throwing water a great distance.

In East Freehold at the time of which we write there were two blacksmith shops and a carriage and wheelwright shop. The blacksmith shops were places of great attraction for the children. The writer never tired of watching what went on in Kelsey's blacksmith shop. The kids had to stand in the doorway, for the blacksmith couldn't be bothered with children underfoot while horses were being shod. The showers of sparks when the red hot shoes were being shaped, the smell of burning hoofs when the hot shoe was being fitted to the horse and the hiss and steam when the hot shoe was immersed in the half-barrel of water after the fitting process was finished, are not to be forgotten impressions.

The bellows were operated with a long handle which the blacksmith seemed to be able to use with apparently no effort or visible movement. It was always fun to see the blacksmith stire up the charcoal fire and use the bellows to get the hot fire necessary to bring the horse shoes to the red heat necessary for shaping and fitting the shoe to the horse's hoof.

The shops also fixed wagon wheels and repaired the simple farm machinery then in use. The mounting of a steel tire was something to watch; it was a real exhibition of skill and judgment. Farm wagons, which one mostly saw at blacksmith shops were invariably painted red.

The carriage shop was also a very interesting place but not very much frequented by the children. Mr. Holloway, the proprietor probably did not encourage juvenile audiences. It was at this time that solid rubber tires for buggies and light carriages came into use. It was considered a terrific advance and a great luxury at the time. A freshly painted buggy or surrey as Mr. Holloway turned them out was something to behold. The delicate conservative striping was the work of an artist. It had a nice new smell too, but not like the smell of a new automobile.

The Central Railroad of New Jersey played a more important part in the life of the community than at present. At East Freehold there was a nice little passenger station with a little stove and a part time Station Agent. There was even a few commuters in those early days who were driven to the station in style in a rubber tired run-about or buggy. The train service to New York was not bad.

A youngster in those days heard his elders talking about President McKinley, Admiral Dewey, Col. Teddy Roosevelt and "Remember the Maine".

The use of chewing tobacco was quite general and some home and all public places were equipped to accommodate tobacco users of this class. Among the popular brands were McAlpin Shorts and Battle Axe Plug.

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