

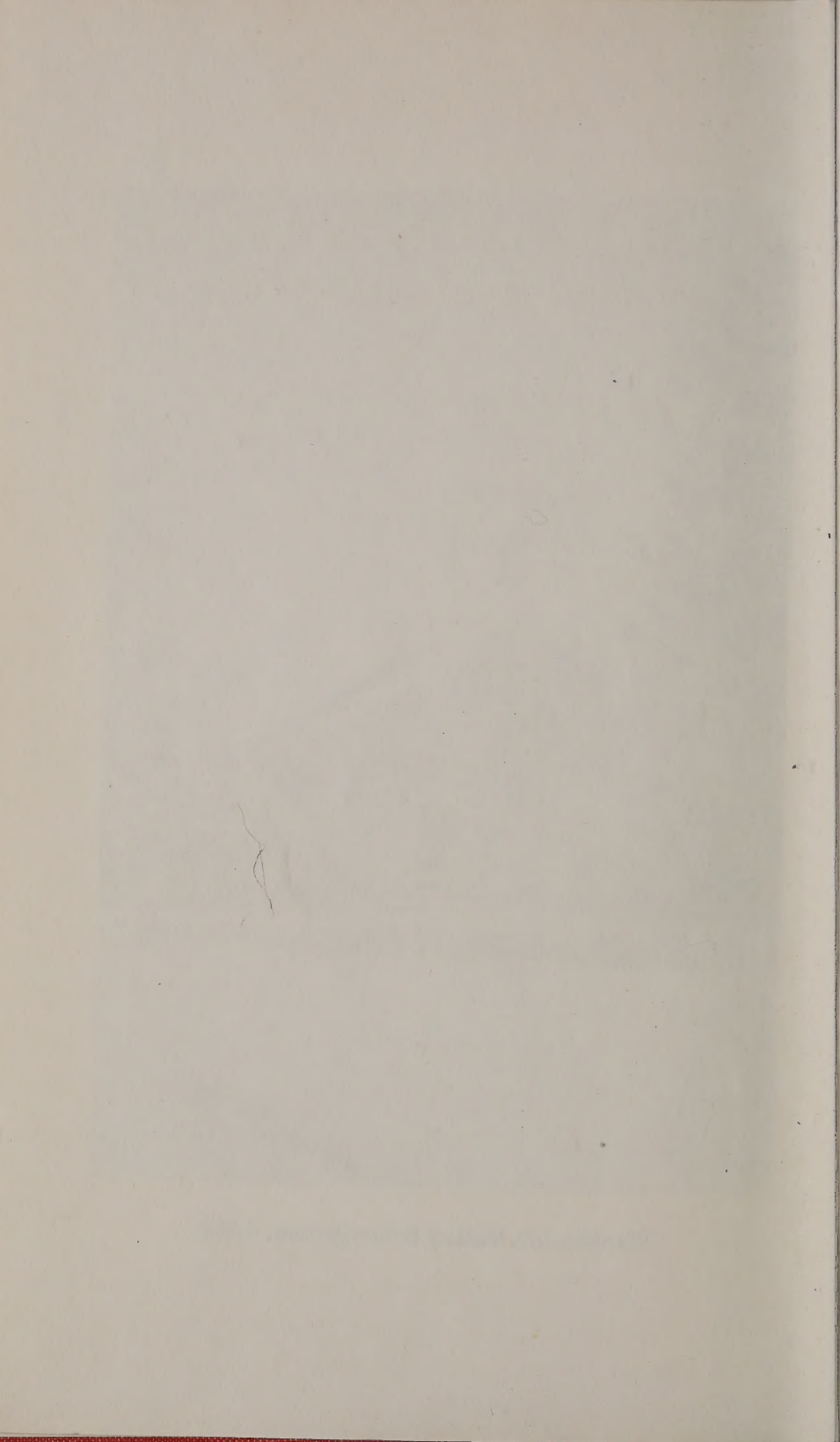
WASHINGTON VALLEY  
AN INFORMAL HISTORY





WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL HOUSE 1813







# WASHINGTON VALLEY AN INFORMAL HISTORY

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

by

Barbara Hoskins  
Caroline Foster  
Dorothea Roberts  
Gladys Foster

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF  
FORT WAYNE - MALLEN CO., IND.

1960

© 1960

By

Barbara Hoskins - Caroline Foster

Dorothea Roberts - Gladys Foster

Washington Valley

Morristown, New Jersey

WASHINGTON VALLEY  
MORRISTOWN, N.J.  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOR THE  
EDWARDS BROTHERS COMPANY

Edwards Brothers, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



1529117

Dedication

“To the women of the Home Economics Club  
who rescued this project from oblivion.”





## FOREWORD

Washington Valley, green in summer with its bowl-like contour masked by trees, lies three miles west of Morristown, New Jersey, in a valley spreading out along the banks of the narrow Whippany River. Bounded by hills and mountains, Ludlow Mountain on the north, Snake Hill, Roundtop and Cooper's Hill on the northeast, the cup formation is more marked in winter when the far views of the hills are revealed, circling the Valley on all sides.

Many small brooks wander through the meadows into the Whippany River which is the lowest area of the Valley floor. Bear Brook and Mine Brook follow the same courses they have taken for centuries though their names have been discarded and forgotten.

The area which is approximately three square miles, encompassing some two thousand acres in Morris and Mendham Townships, is naturally beautiful with massive oak trees, shag-bark hickories, and flourishing maples which in the fall of the year put forth a famous blaze of color. In spring the dogwoods on the hills are interlaced with the light green of other trees. A few blossoming apple trees line the roads though most of these have gone into decay with the departing farmers.

Near the bridge over the Whippany River tempting views invite the eager walker or spring fisherman to set foot upon a narrow wandering path or the abandoned roadbed of the old railroad which traverses the Valley. In May the grass is dotted with thousands of pink spring beauties, yellow adder-tongues and purple violets. In June the edge of the swamp is bright blue with wild iris in the fields, along the fences and in the hedge-rows clumps of white roses perfume the late spring air.

This is the area which in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-nine seems to be on the edge of its final step from a rural to a suburban community. Thirty years ago Washington Valley was a farm area with only a few fortunate New York commuters who enjoyed the privileges of the country. The farmer residents made a living by selling milk to near-by dairies, and every pasture in the Valley had a herd or a single family cow. Now two herds of cows constitute the last of the active farms of the region

The sounds of the Valley were rural sounds: sheep bleating, cows mooing, and roosters and hens clacking. The roads were tranquil and disturbed only occasionally by a slowly moving car which raised the dust on Gaston Road, since a section of it was dirt until nineteen hundred and thirty-eight. At sundown or during the early morning hours autos had to slow down for Web West as he herded his cows along the road from his pasture to the barn. Darkness shrouded the roads at night and late strollers,



taking exercise before bedtime, often encountered a parked car of lovers in the shadows of the mammoth old trees. During the day it was possible to walk along the roads many miles with unleashed dogs for the pure enjoyment of country hiking to stare at the buds of spring or the brilliant colors of autumn. Neighbor met neighbor upon these walks or stopped to chat by the mail-box.

Today in nineteen hundred and fifty-nine these pleasures are gone, sacrificed to the ever-present automobile speeding in and out of the Valley. The bells can still be heard from the Benedictine Monastery off Mendham Road above the Valley and these melodic sounds blend with a great abundance of bird song, but the barnyard noises which broke the early morning quiet of other years are over. Deer still come from the woods at sundown to feed in the open fields and squirrels race across the road near the bridge on the Whippany River, but the era of true rural life is at an end.

It seems, therefore, a propitious time to look back into the origins of Washington Valley before all knowledge of its past history is lost. It is the aim of this volume to set down the history of this area from its beginning as a settlement in 1749, through the Revolutionary War years and into the first half of the nineteenth century. Special emphasis is given to the early families who once made the Valley their home. Though there are many gaps in the record, perhaps even an incomplete picture can rescue from total

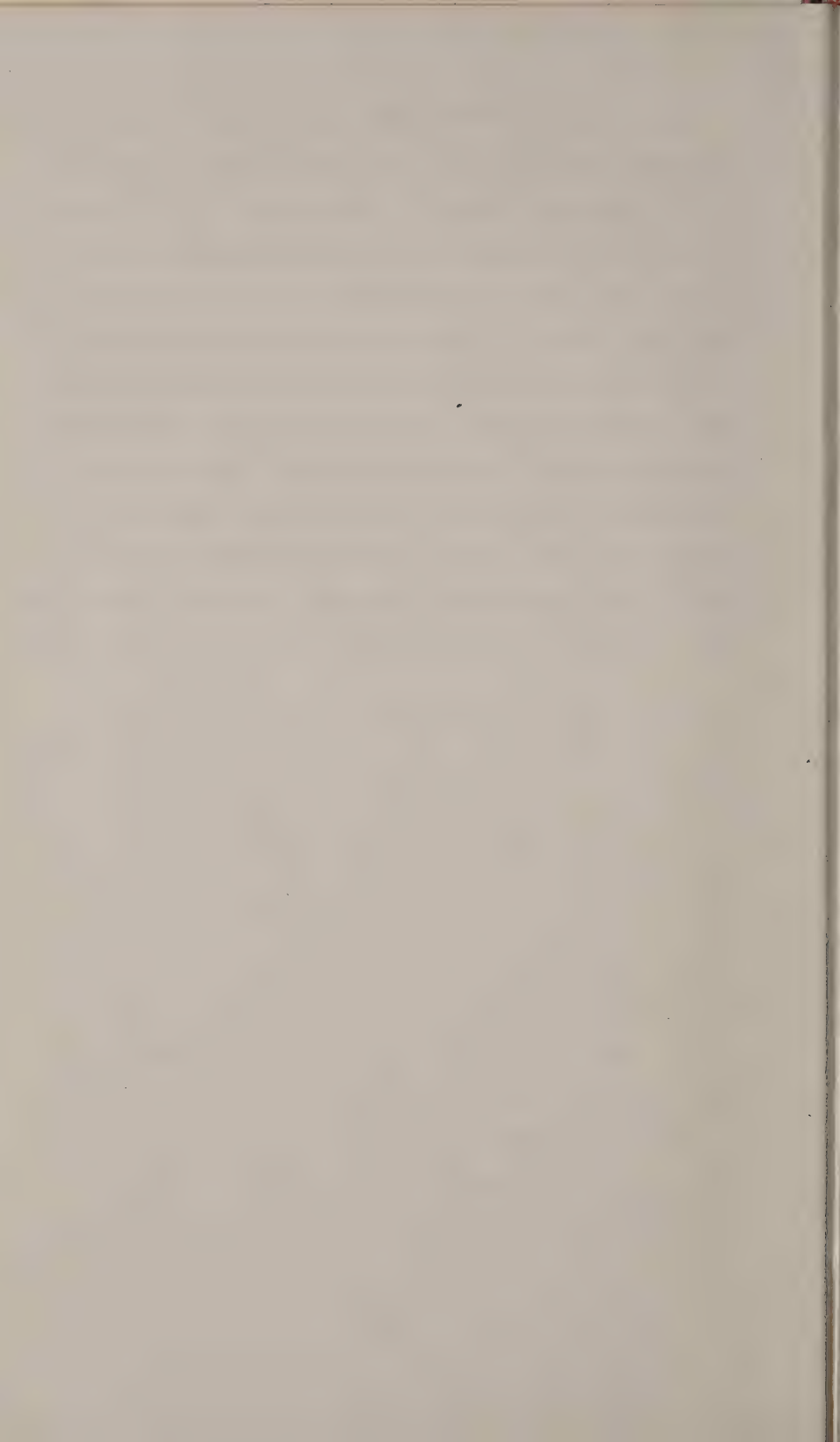
loss some of the interesting facts concerning the past.

No information on the Washington Valley area had been gathered until 1949-1950 when a committee, with the aid of Miss Alice Smith and Mrs. Frank Gould, made a small beginning and presented their findings to the Washington Valley Community at the schoolhouse. In 1957 the Home Economics Club of Washington Valley decided to gather and print all the available information and further search for historical material was renewed by Barbara Hoskins, Chairman, with the help of Caroline Foster, and Dorothea Roberts, who also made the illustrations. In the preparation of the published text Gladys Foster has performed the functions of editor.

The source material of the text has been found in many places: in the Morris County Hall of Records where deeds to land titles are recorded; in the Surrogate's Office where wills and inventories are filed; in the Morristown Library where genealogical information is available; at the Morris County Road Commission which has information on "road returns;" in the Mendham Township Hall where old Township Minutes can be found. Old minute and account books have provided excellent source material. In addition, visits to old graveyards have yielded facts, letters have been written to old residents, and long talks have been held with those who could give from their memories clues to the history desired.

We are grateful to Miss May Leonard and her staff at the Morristown Library for their willingness to assist us and their constant interest in this project; to Dr. Francis Ronalds and his staff at Washington Headquarters for their aid and their permission to photostat unrecorded deeds; to Mr. Robert Curtis for the use of his files on old roads; to Mr. Norman Gould and Mrs. Hattie Moody Parsons, and other former residents of Washington Valley, for pictures and personal data on old families; to Mr. Carl Scherzer, Mrs. Charles Briant, Mrs. Wallace Driver Mrs. Martha Garrabrant Hopler, and to the Misses Beatrice and Ethel Black; to Mae Buchan who graciously typed the manuscript; and to Margaret Plympton who aided with the research.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD	v
PART ONE—THE RECORD	
1. INDIANS AND THE MINISINK TRAIL	1
2. PROPRIETORS	5
3. EARLY SETTLERS	13
4. ROADS	29
5. AMERICAN REVOLUTION	37
6. ARNOLD TAVERN	61
7. AFTER THE REVOLUTION	69
8. THE SCHOOLHOUSE	77
9. THE RAILROAD	103
10. HOME ECONOMICS CLUB	107
PART TWO—OLD HOUSES AND FAMILIES	
INTRODUCTION	113
1. THE ARNOLD HOMESTEAD	119
2. THE CONDUCT-WHITEHEAD FAMILIES	137
3. JOB LOREE, FRENCH HUGUENOT	149
4. THE LOREE HOUSE	153
5. THE AXTELL FARM	163
6. THE BEACH FARM	169
7. THE LUM FAMILY	173

8. THE PIERSON HOUSE	177
9. THE LUDLOW FARM	179
10. JONAS GOBLE	185
11. SAMUEL ROBERTS FARM	189
12. FOSTER FARMS	199
13. ELIAS HEDGES	227
14. THE GASTON HOUSE	231
15. THE GUERIN FARM	241
16. EBENEZER CONDICT HOUSE	247
17. REUBON WOOD	253
18. SAMUEL ALWARD PLANTATION	257
19. THE JOHN ALWARD HOUSE	265
20. PHINEAS CHIDESTER HOUSE	269
21. ROBERT ROFF FARM	275
22. JOHN SMITH HOUSE	281
23. JACOB SMITH HOUSE	287
24. THE "DISTILLERY LOTT"	295
25. JOHN MORRIS HOUSE	303
26. ZENAS SMITH GOULD HOUSE	307
27. WILLIAM GOULD HOUSE	311
28. SAMUEL A. LOREE	315
29. REBECCA VAN SYCKLE	319
30. JONATHAN RAYNOR FARM	323
31. EZRA HALSEY	325
BIBLIOGRAPHY	327



## INDIANS AND MINISINK TRAIL



Time was when the only access to Washington Valley was by way of the Indian road, the Minisink Trail. Over the years the Indians had found the easiest route from their village on Minisink Island in the Delaware River, ten miles south of Port Jervis, to the Atlantic Coast. This natural roadway is a result of geological history.

A geological map of New Jersey shows clearly the southern limit of the great ice sheet which covered the northern area of the United States. This ice sheet was from one to three miles in thickness and was halted in its southern sweep by the higher temperature of the region into which it was moving. Great deposits of rock and gravel were left where the glacier was brought to a standstill. The result in New Jersey was a pathway from the Atlantic Coast to the Delaware River, marked by the absence of deep valleys and high hills. This line of deposit stretches from

Perth Amboy and touches the following towns in its windings across the state: Plainfield, Westfield, Springfield, Summit, Chatham, Madison, Morristown, Denville, Rockaway, Dover, Netcong, Hackettstown and Belvidere, a list which sounds very familiar to the commuter on the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroad.

The Indians chose to travel this flat area prepared by the terminal moraine of the glacier. The constant passage of Indians along this trail formed a well-beaten path which was called the Minisink Trail. It passed along the northern edge of the Valley by what is now Sussex Avenue and a branch of it, now Mendham Road, bounds Washington Valley on the southeast. Indians in single file travelled this trail throughout the entire year. They travelled ten feet apart, the warrior or the hunter ahead while the squaws carrying the burdens plodded behind.

These Indians who inhabited New Jersey during the seventeenth century when the first settlements of Europeans appeared in the state called themselves Lenni-Lenape, but the colonists named them after the river along which they lived—the Delawares. In the northern part of New Jersey were the Minsi, or the people of the “stony country.” These were the Indians who used the trail through Washington Valley to make their annual pilgrimage to the shore for the gathering of shell-fish.

Traces of their encampments in the Valley have been found by Arthur Peach, Indian authority. One small camp-

site was located on the southeast slope of the hill off Whitehead Road on the property of Mrs. Roy Tucker. It is probable that during the summer months the Indians planted corn and cultivated it in the open fields. The discovery of arrowheads in the vicinity showed that they hunted wolf, elk and wild turkey. Used mussel shells were found in the subsoil showing that they gathered mussels from the Whippany river. Their method of fishing with the weir was probably useful in the river. They made a V-shaped dam of stones with a point heading downstream. Then the fishermen would start upstream and drag a net of knitted Indian hemp, weighted with stone sinkers. Thus the fish were driven into the narrow shallow water of the weir where they were speared or clubbed or caught with the bare hands.

Another larger encampment was on the southside of the river near Howie's farm. In this region arrowheads made of stone not native to the Valley have been found. Since these were possibly made by Iriquois or Mohawks, it is believed their owners might have been guides to the British as they explored this part of the state.

The Indians and early colonists were in contact only sporadically and their relationships were friendly, but as the colonial settlements grew the Indians departed for territory farther west. In 1757 the Minisink were affected by the drawing up of a constitution of a New Jersey Society for Helping Indians. Land was purchased in Burlington County and the Indians were transferred there after surrendering



claims to all their land. One hundred families were placed on this reservation and the Governor named it Brotherton. In 1801 the Brotherton group moved on to New Stockbridge, New York, where they remained until 1822 when they went to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Any present descendants of the Delawares are farther west in Oklahoma and in other scattered Western reservations.

However, there was one lone survivor who stayed on in Washington Valley until the year 1890. He lived on Gaston Road on what was known at that time as the "Jack Lot" opposite the Gaston House.

## PROPRIETORS

While the Indians were still roaming the state, the British Crown was setting up a system of "proprietors" to purchase land from the Indians and, in turn, sell it to those who wished to settle in this new territory. They made migration to the New World attractive in the following advertisement published in England:

"All persons inclining unto those parts must know that in their settlement there they will find their exercises. They must have their winter as well as summer. They must labor before they reap; and, till their plantation be cleared they must expect the mosquitoes, flies and gnats may, in hot weather, give them some disturbance where people provide not against them."

One of these proprietors was William Penn, who once owned a portion of Washington Valley as part of a three thousand seven hundred and fifty acre tract extending from the Valley into Mount Freedom. He also owned other tracts, totaling fifteen thousand acres of Morris County as a part of his parcel of one-tenth of the entire state.

Prior to Penn's acquisition of this holding, the state had been settled in 1618 by the Dutch who were later expelled by the British in 1664. King Charles II gave to his brother, James, Duke of York, a patent for an area of land to be

named Nova Caesarea after the channel isle of Jersey in England. The Duke of York was not particularly interested in this gift of new land, and conveyed New Jersey and the powers of its government to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret for ten shillings and an annual rent of one peppercorn per year when demanded.

The territory was divided haphazardly between these two men; Lord Berkeley took the area to the south which was later called West Jersey. Later, due to his old age he sold his share in 1673 to the English Quakers, John Fenwick and Edward Byllinge. They soon became involved in financial troubles and their interests were sold to William Penn and two of his associates who took over the area and established a capital at Burlington.

Sir George Carteret managed the affairs of the remainder of the colony. Because of the poorly defined division of the area, many problems arose. In 1676 Carteret and Penn and his associates met to clarify the division lines and entered into an agreement, the Quintipartite Deed. This agreement officially divided the state into East and West Jersey by drawing a line northwest from Little Egg Harbor to a point just north of the Delaware Water Gap. Carteret retained East Jersey, and West Jersey became the possession of William Penn and his associates.

When Sir George Carteret died in 1679 all of East Jersey was conveyed to twelve purchasers, one of them William Penn. These, in turn, sold to twelve associates who together

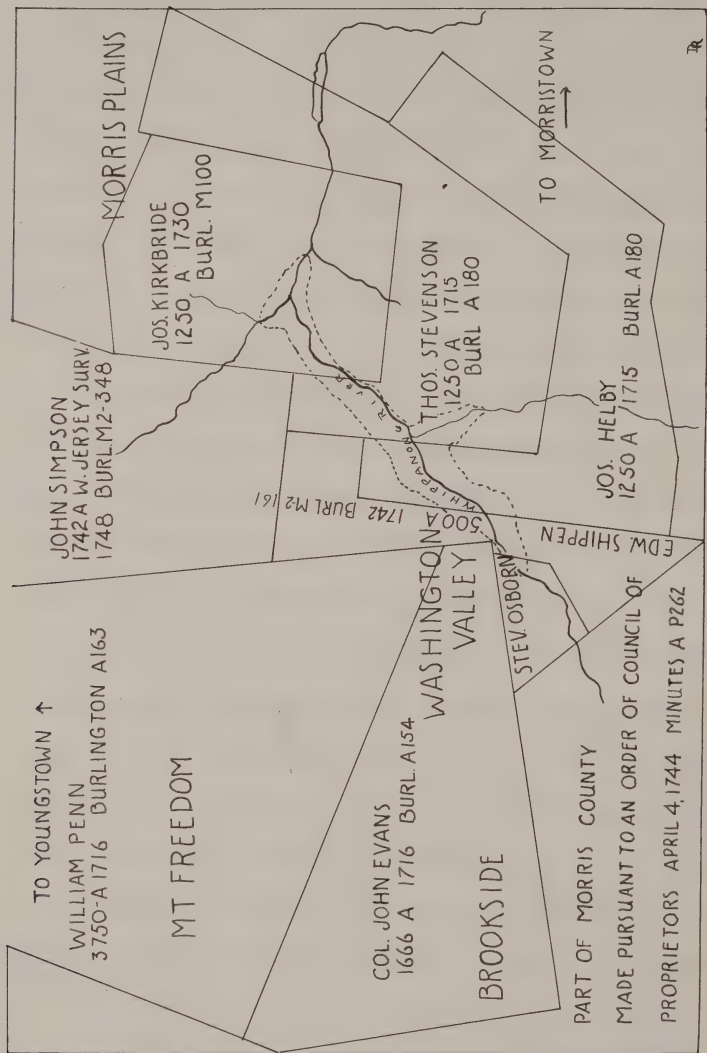


with them selected Perth Amboy as the capital of East Jersey.

Since the land had little value unless settlers could be induced to live upon it, Penn and the others drafted in 1677 the "Concessions and Agreements of the Lord Proprietors," stipulating that the province should be divided into parcels of land, each part to be subdivided into seven sections, one to be reserved for the Lord Proprietor, while the remaining six were to be distributed free, except for "quit-rents," among any who came to occupy them. In this way all the persons arriving in the province within a certain limited time were entitled to receive grants of land of from thirty to one hundred and fifty acres, depending on the size of the family and the number of slaves and other considerations. The rent was to be a half penny per acre annually. These concessions resulted in a sudden migration to New Jersey.

Originally the proprietors were to govern the colony as well as sell the land, but by 1702 they were forced to give up their governing power due to public dissatisfaction and New Jersey became a united Royal Colony. The two capitals were maintained at Burlington and Perth Amboy. The Legislature met alternately in the two cities until after the Revolution.

The original division line of the colony placed Morris County, which was at that time the upper part of Burlington County, in West Jersey. Therefore, purchasers of the land in Morris County, prior to 1743, secured their titles



"A Sketch of Morris County showing the Enroachments of the West Jersey Proprietors east of the Quintipartite Line." Washington Valley section reproduced.

from the West Jersey proprietors. In 1743 a new line, the Lawrence line, was run and Morris County became a part of East Jersey, so that after 1743 titles to property in Morris County came from the East Jersey proprietors.

The lord proprietors, though forced to give up their governing authority, retained their land rights, and to this day the successors of William Penn and his associates maintain small offices in Burlington and Perth Amboy to effect an occasional sale of unclaimed land to which they are still the rightful owners. This organization is the oldest proprietary body in America.

The map on the opposite page is taken from "A Sketch of Morris County showing the encroachments of the West Jersey Proprietors east of the Quintipartite line." It shows the holdings of the seven men who owned land in Washington Valley in 1744, one year after this area became part of East Jersey. In every case their holdings extended beyond the confines of the Valley. None of these seven men ever settled upon his land.

William Penn owned the largest tract, three thousand seven hundred and fifty acres, granted him in 1716, a portion of it extending into the Valley near its center. The north-south boundary of the Penn Grant ran slightly to the east of Snake Hill, past a "noted Oak Corner" as phrased in old deeds, crossed School House Lane, terminated somewhere at an angle to Whitehead Road, then turned northwest, leaving the Valley on the north boundary of land, formerly

Job Loree's, somewhere on upper Tingley Road. It would be pleasant for dwellers in Washington Valley to be able to boast that William Penn walked over his property before purchasing it, but such is not the case for he died in England in 1718 without ever seeing it.

Colonel John Evans was deeded by the Council of Proprietors one thousand six hundred and sixty-six acres in 1716, adjoining Penn's on the southwest toward Brookside. Thomas Stevenson was deeded one thousand two hundred and fifty acres in 1715, covering that section of the Valley nearest Morristown, including the Foster farm. Stephen Osborn owned a small piece on the southwest boundary of the Valley. He lived in Whippany on lands adjoining Stephen Arnold's, who later owned land in the Valley. Edward Shippen with five hundred acres may have been the same man who later became the first Mayor of Philadelphia and whose pretty daughter, Peggy, became the wife of Benedict Arnold. The remaining landowners were Joseph Helby and John Simpson.

These men divided and subdivided their holdings many times. In the preparation of this study hundreds of deeds have been searched, but only one was found which has a more or less direct link with a proprietor. In that one deed, one hundred and fifty acres, located on School House Lane, were conveyed in 1756 by a son of William Penn, "Thos. Penn et al by attorney" to Samuel Arnold.







*Pacsimile by F. Spencer-Smith, Lawrenceville, N.J.*

Robert Morden Map. By permission of F. Spencer Smith.

## EARLY SETTLERS

The first settlers in Washington Valley came to the area in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, between 1725 and 1750. An exact date for the first settlers or "squatters" as they called themselves cannot be given. It can only be estimated on the basis of what is known of early New Jersey history.

In the year 1682 New Jersey had a total population of five thousand people living in the towns and on the "plantations" or farms. Robert Morden's map, published in England in 1688, shows the importance of waterways to the early colonies. All but one of the early settlements were located on the bays or edges of rivers and creeks. The only information which they had of the back country or "wildernesses" was what could be gained by following the streams in boats. Except for the Indians and an occasional trapper, the "wildernesse" surrounding Morristown was not explored until the second decade of the eighteenth century.

In 1688 there was an influx of new settlers from New England, principally from Massachusetts and Connecticut, into the settlements of Newark, Elizabethtown, Woodbridge and Piscataway in East Jersey. They desired more freedom

than was allowed in the typical Puritan way of life in New England and they came as pioneers into the "Jarsy" settlements.

As the years passed the interior of "Jarsy" was explored, so that by 1715 small settlements had been made at Whippany and Morristown on the east of the valley and at Ralston and Roxiticus, later Mendham, to the west. With the slow growth of these settlements the land lying between these small villages was sold and the first settlers came into the Valley, some from the direction of Morristown on the east; the others from Mendham on the west. Two townships, one called Morris and the other Mendham, came into being. An actual division line was made between these two townships in 1749 and has remained through the Valley without change for two hundred and ten years.

Some impetus must have been given to the sale of land in Washington Valley in 1749, for according to the records three families—the Arnolds, the Condicts and the Lorees—purchased land in that year and began the actual settlement of the Valley. Some small "squatter" homes may have been in existence shortly before this date, but no record exists for verification of this statement.

From descriptions of the surrounding areas, a picture of Washington Valley at the time of the first settlers can be constructed. A vast forest covered the entire area with only those areas cleared of trees around the Indian encampments and along the open trail. The silence was broken by



the rushing water in the brooks and in the Whippany River, all of which were larger and more turbulent in those days when they flowed through well-treed regions. In the woods were panthers, bears, and wolves; on the mountains, copperheads and rattlers. Evidence that protection from wild animals was needed is shown by the passage of a law in 1730 offering a bounty of twenty shillings for wolves and sixty-five shillings for panthers in Morris County. This bounty was increased in 1751, some years after settlement of the Valley. Sheep and cattle had to be brought into pens for the night to protect them from animal marauders.

In the year 1752 there were about four hundred and fifty "freeholders" or real estate owners in Morris County. Nearly two-fifths were residents of Morristown. This list of freeholders contains the names of five men known to be landowners and residents of Washington Valley in 1752: Samuel Armund, William Armuld, Robert Arnuld (all variations on the name of Arnold), Philip Condict and Ezra Halsey. Three other names appear on this list of 1752: Jonas Goble, Samuel Robarts and Isaac Whitehead, all known to be landowners of the Valley though deeds are not available to prove their early ownership. No freeholders list, as far as can be discovered, was kept for Mendham Township, but it seems certain that in the Mendham Township section of Washington Valley the following families were located by 1760: Samuel Loree, Job Loree, Ezekial Beach, Henry Axtell, and possibly Nathaniel Armstrong

and Gilbert Ludlum. The number of families present in the Valley was fourteen if this information is correct.

Before a house could be built by these early settlers it was necessary to make a clearing by cutting down the forest trees and leaving the stumps to decompose. This clearing was usually located at one corner of the farm, rather than in the center, and so the oldest houses were built in a corner near the road. A cellar was dug in order to provide a warmer house and a place for frost-free storage. The cellar floor was of dirt, but the walls were of stone brought from the fields and laid together with mud or a clay and hair combination. Only one of the early houses in the Valley was built without a cellar. The house itself was built of wood or wood combined with stone. It was not until sixty years had passed after the settling of the Valley that the Smith house and the Schoolhouse were built of brick. The first houses consisted usually of two small rooms downstairs and a loft above reached by a staircase. The absence of partitions in the loft provided space for the many children to sleep. As a family prospered, a "lean-to" was built on one side of the house or to the rear. When real prosperity came, a new addition was added, often larger than the original house itself. Nearly every old house in the Valley has followed this pattern as it grew.

As soon as the settlers had cleared their land of stones and built their houses, they planted a field or "patch" of flax. In May the seed was broadcast like grass seed. In

June the pretty drooping blue flowers of the graceful plant must have made the Valley a beautiful sight. As soon as the flax was ripe in early July, it was pulled up by the roots and the seed heads were removed for the next year's new crop. The flax was then cleaned and broken by a flax brake to separate the fibers. The clean fibers were made into bundles and "hackled," a process which pulled the fibers into continuous threads—a dusty, dirty job. After many manipulations the flax was ready for the housewife who spun the fiber into long even threads, and the threads into skeins. A complicated, time-consuming process of bleaching was the final step before the thread was ready to be put on the spinning wheel.

Corn was planted much as the Indians had done while they were in the area. There was the same arrangement of planting in hills, the same number of stalks per hill, with pumpkins often planted between. The price of corn varied as the money changed in value, from two shillings a bushel in 1751 to one hundred shillings at the beginning of the War for Independence.

Wheat was grown on every farm until after the Revolution when it was attacked by a destructive insect, the Hessian fly, which curtailed its production greatly. Rye grew well and probably much bread was made from it.

As soon as they could the settlers increased the numbers of their livestock, and flocks of sheep and horned cattle were seen upon the hillsides. The more fortunate

farmers owned oxen which they used for ploughing their fields and hauling heavy loads of wood down from the mountain.

Water was not for drinking if something better could be had, and soon young orchards of apple trees were planted on each farm. Casenove, a French visitor to the Morristown and Mendham area, reported in his *Journal* (1794) that an acre of land planted with from sixty-five to seventy apple trees, twenty feet apart, produced in good years two hundred and fifty bushels of apples. Eight bushels of apples made one barrel of cider, each barrel containing thirty-two gallons of cider which, when fermented, made four gallons of "spirits." A gallon of "spirits" sold for six shillings or about seventy-five cents per gallon. Some years after the Revolution an excise tax was put on cider spirits. Casenove reports that "the excise, instead of stopping the distilleries, has attracted attention to the advantage of this manner of making the best of this poor ground (for grain) and so good for apple trees." A great export of spirits to New York and from there to the South took place, and the farmers of the Valley thrived on the situation.

In order to supply needed services for the community other occupations had to be combined with farming. The people of the Valley became almost self-sufficient with the establishments of blacksmith shops, grist and saw-mills. Trades were carried on by carpenters and joiners,



cordwainers or cobblers, weavers, tailors, hatters, and distillers.

A system of barter and exchange of labor was set up very early in the Valley and continued for nearly a hundred years. Neighbor helped neighbor plant and harvest his fields, cut and haul his wood with oxen or cart when needed, or supplied such special services as cleaning grain at the grist mill or tanning leather in exchange for a day's work in the field or handiwork such as the weaving of "flannel," "kersey," "satinet" and "carpet" done by the women of the family. Account books were carefully kept by each farmer and at the end of a year or several years, books would be balanced against those of his debtors and the amount owing would be recorded. For example, Amzi Carey listed the debts of Zenas S. Gould while Gould listed the debts of Carey to him beginning June 1, 1833. On February 17, 1835, they met to settle their account and found Gould in debt to Carey for the huge sum of four dollars.

The following is copied from the account book of Stephen Ludlow. The date of the earliest entry is August 20, 1793. It was kept through the year 1870. The record was kept in pounds, shillings and pence until May 25, 1854, when it was changed to dollars and cents.

Robert Rolf—Dr.

		¼	S	P
1796				
Dec. 5	To helping you butcher two hogs		2	6
1797				
May 4	To two hundred of hay at 3 per hundred		6	
Augt. 1	To a half gallon of spirits		3	6
Augt. 15	To a half gallon of spirits		3	6
Dec. 2	To helping you butcher a half day		3	
1798				
April 5	To twenty bundles of straw		3	4
1799				
March 26	To six pounds of flax		6	
1800				
April 8	To the use of my hors to move Ezra Owen		3	6
Sept. 9	To the use of my oxen to goe to Springfield		4	
Sept. 19	To two pounds and three quarters of Veal at 5		1	1
Nov. 22	To helping you butcher a beef		2	
Dec. 5	To helping you butcher your hogs		3	
1807				
April	To the use of my oxen and wheels one day		4	6

On the opposite page of this ledger are two entries:

1800

Janu. 17 Then settled with Robert Rolf and  
Due to him 11 shillings

1807

April 6 Then settled with Robert Roff and  
due to him 2 shillings  
10 pence

(Robert Rolf lived on Washington Valley Road on land now owned by Stanley M. Babson, Jr.)

Records show that a number of these early families owned slaves who helped to clear the land and till the soil on their masters' plantations. The slaves in the Arnold family were housed along the brook that flows through the meadow in back of the Harland Foster house. The Condicts probably owned slaves, while the Whiteheads who succeeded them housed their slaves in the house now belonging to Miss Dorothy Lusk on Washington Valley Road. Samuel Roberts and his successor, Jonathan Ogden, owned three slaves each. Samuel Loree's slaves lived close to the house on the site of the present driveway of the E. T. Look property.

After 1804 an "Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery" was passed. This Act decreed that "every child born of a slave within this state, after Fourth of July next, shall be free, but shall remain the servant of owner or mother." By 1830 few slaves remained in the Valley though some were retained as servants in the old families. Caesar,



Presbyterian Church in Morristown.



Pompey, Cato and Yorke were names frequently given to slaves. They were often baptized in the same church as their masters and were free to marry "with their masters' consent."

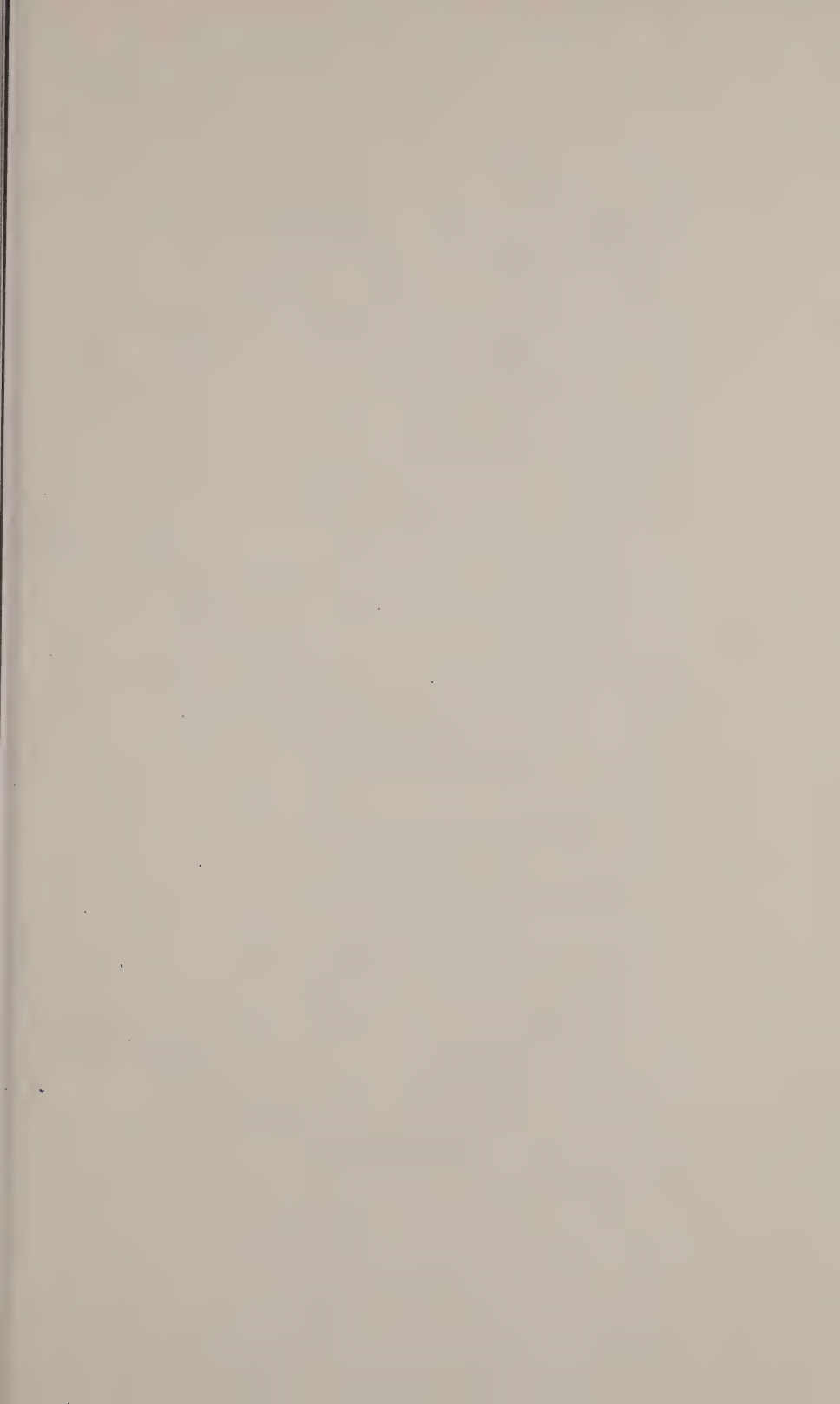
Most of the Valley families were large as each family had from six to ten children, one or more slaves or indentured servants, and aged and indigent people for whom they were caring in addition to the adults of the family. By present day standards the death rate among children was high, but having once survived the hazards of childhood, the inhabitants of Washington Valley lived often to a great age. Eighty years was a common occurrence and Sarah, wife to Isaac Whitehead, Sr., endured to the awesome age of one hundred and four.

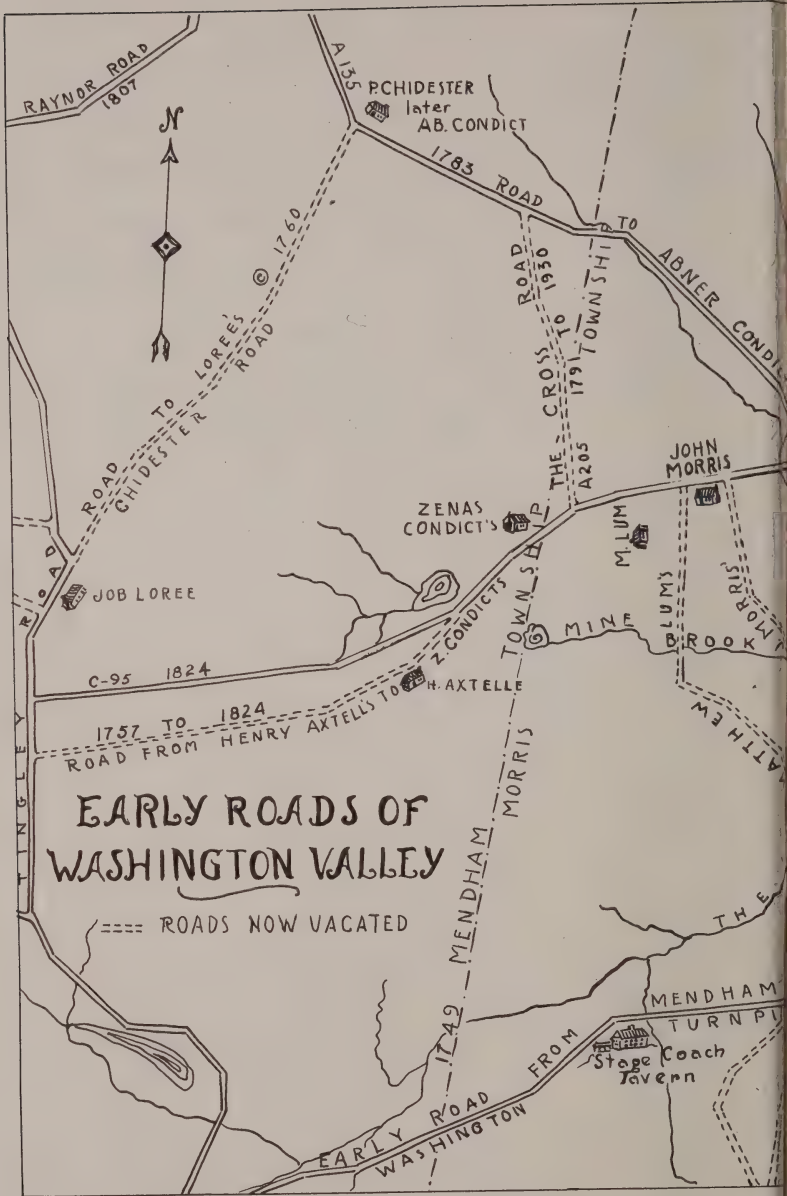
On Sunday mornings the Valley people laid aside their chores of household and field and went to church, traveling on horseback or by chaise and surrey. The majority attended the First Presbyterian Church on the Green in Morristown. This old church came into being in 1742 and its first pastor was the Reverend Timothy Johnes. A number of persons from the Valley were communicants of the church but several were "half way members;" that is, persons who renewed their own baptismal vows upon presenting their first child for baptism, but did not, at that time, enter upon the duties and privileges of full communion.

Today in 1959 the headstones of many of these settlers can be seen in the cemetery behind the present church.

The Gobles and Fairchilds were among the early members of the Baptist Church originated in 1752. The first church was located about three miles south of Morristown on the road leading to Basking Ridge, but was relocated in 1769 on the Morristown Green.

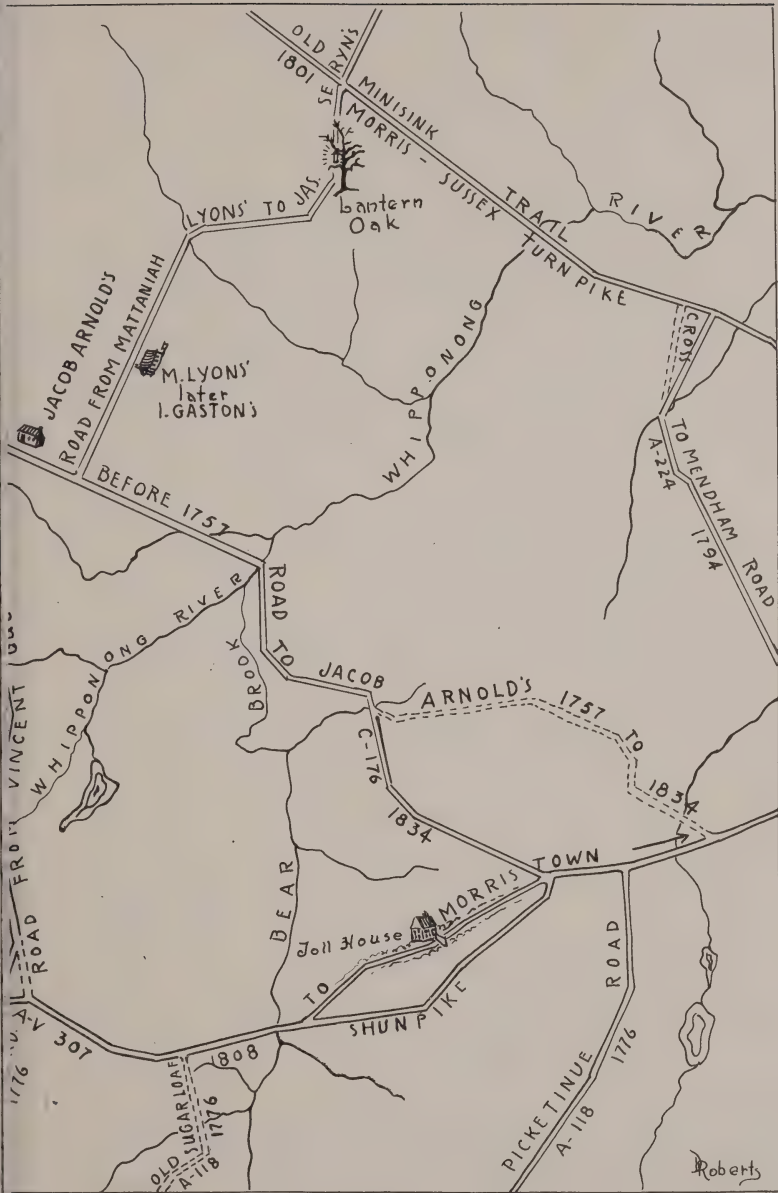
The Lorees, Axtells and Beaches, Mendham Township families, attended church in Mendham and are buried in the cemetery behind the church on the hilltop.



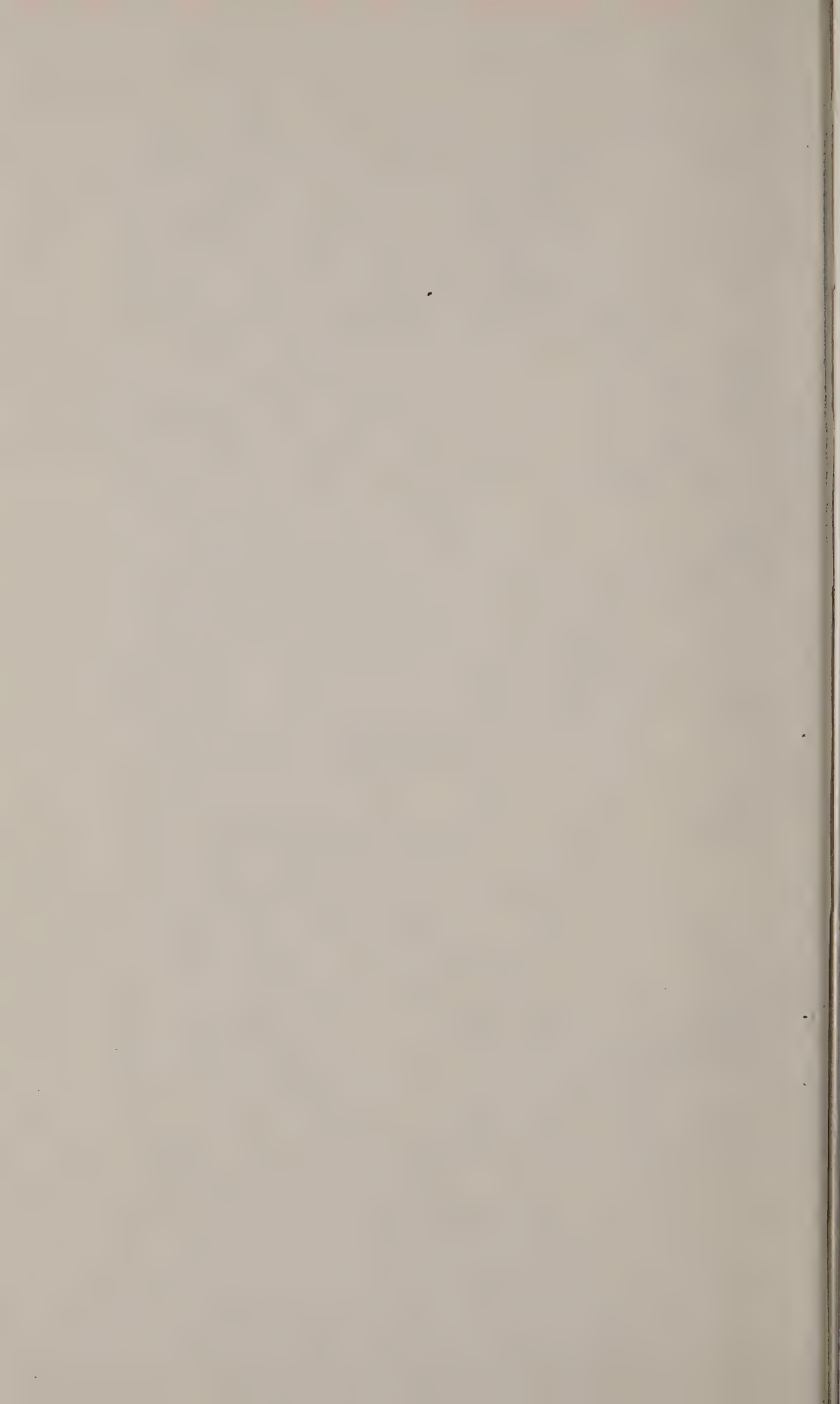


Old Roads





Old Roads



## ROADS

These early families were as dependent upon roads as are the modern dwellers within the Valley. Records of the decade from 1750 to 1760 show that the settlers were serving as Road Commissioners for the County whose job it was to lay out new roads and change the routes of existing ones. Overseers of the Roads acted to keep the roads in a state of repair.

Present day Washington Valley is bounded by Sussex Avenue, Mendham Road, Tingley Road on the west and Mt. Pleasant and Raynor Roads on the northwest. (see map)

Tingley Road which leads to Brookside from Washington Valley Road was in use as early as 1740 and on its southern branch Nathaniel Tingley operated a blacksmith shop. Job Loree also had a blacksmith establishment on Tingley Road. Upper Tingley Road, now partially vacated, was the scene of much activity in former days when iron ore from Succasunna was carried along its path by men on horseback to forges in Mendham Township.

Mount Pleasant Road, together with Raynor Road, formed the Mount Freedom Shunpike, probably intended to avoid a payment of tolls at the tollgate on Sussex Avenue, as local citizens preferred a detour to paying a toll.

Raynor Road was built at the instigation of Jonathan Raynor who lived in the Valley at the intersection of School House Lane and Raynor Road. He was finally successful in 1807 in getting the Road Commission to lay out a road from his farm to Sussex Avenue.

Sussex Avenue followed closely the route of the "Old Minisink Trail" which had been well-travelled by the Indians when they made their journeys from the camps along the Delaware River to the Jersey shore to catch and dry shellfish in the summer. In 1801 Sussex Avenue was made a part of the Morris Turnpike which ran from Elizabethtown in Essex County through Morristown into Sussex County.

Another part of the Minisink Trail was a branch which is now Mendham Road. In 1806 the Washington Turnpike Company, which may have given its name to Washington Valley was chartered, and the highway for which a toll was charged was known as the Washington Turnpike, later to be called the Hitt Turnpike and finally the William Penn Highway. One of the toll gates was located at the top of the hill near Paul Rochelle's modern residence. Travelers who wished to avoid the toll took the "Shunpike" or "Old Mendham Road." A stagecoach from Easton to New York began operating along the Washington Turnpike in 1828. Prior to 1834 the old Sayre house on the south side of Mendham Road, now lived in by the Fletchers, was a tavern. At that period the house, since moved back, was



on the road and across from it on the north or Valley side was a wagon house, large enough for four stage coaches.

Within the Valley, carrying the heavy traffic of the nineteen hundred and fifties are four main arteries: Washington Valley Road, branching from Mendham Road or the old Washington Turnpike; Whitehead Road which together with Gaston Road was probably an Indian trail connecting Sussex Avenue and Mendham Road; and School House Lane.

Washington Valley Road was probably laid out in 1757 though people were living along its path prior to that time. Its width of four rods was the same as at the present time. Except for its point of entrance and exit, the road follows the old course. Prior to 1834 the road entered the Valley a quarter of a mile to the east of its present entrance, and a portion of it can still be seen as the driveway to Caroline Foster's house. It continued over the hill and came out on its modern route between the homes of James Howie and the old Smith-Gould house. It was called in those days the "road from Jacob Arnold's." At the Mendham Township end of the road it made its exit, prior to 1824, along a more southerly course than it does today.

The following excerpt from the Minutes of Mendham Township located in the Township Hall vault, Brookside, describes the authorization of Washington Valley Road from Tingley Road to the Schoolhouse:



School House Lane



"Road to Jacob Arnold's," driveway to Foster Farms.

November 30, 1757

Road Commissioners of Morris County authorized a 4 rod road "beginning at the end of the road that comes from Cap't Clark's gristmill and running a strait to the northeast part of William Leonard's field and then on the Bear Ground to a marked Black oak tree standing on Wm Brown's line near brook and from thence strait to Wm Brown's and from thence as the trees are now marked and road partly cleared to Wm Arnold's field and straight across field to a saxafrax marked and keeping straight across the lane and field, keeping straight to a marked white oak standing near Philip Condict's corner and from thence down the line to the southwest corner of Wm Arnold's new fence emptying into the 4 rod road that goes by Samuel Arnold's to Morristown as the fence now stands ending at a small brook."

Whitehead Road, named for the family which owned a farm on both sides of it for over a hundred years has had three different roadbeds. The entrance remained the same, "beginning in the road leading from Morristown to Mendham near Josiah Guering's Blacksmith Shop, in line of Robert Arnold" but its termination point joining Washington Valley Road was further west, probably near Miss Lusk's originally, and later near the Marschall house. In 1800 it was changed to follow its present course to the Schoolhouse. In 1903 its entrance point, still visible as the dirt road

leading past Robert Rochelle's modernized old schoolhouse, was changed to its present position.

Gaston Road, like Whitehead Road, was named for its most prominent land owner, Isaac Gaston, who settled there in 1801. Because of its winding nature it seems little changed from the Indian trail which it may have been originally. Unlike the other roads only one old house, the Gaston house, is located on it. Old residents recall that the beautiful oak tree in front of Mrs. George Tate's home was called the "Lantern Oak." According to the story a lantern was hung on this oak to light General George Washington on his way from his camp in Jockey Hollow to a lookout point near the present Morris County Welfare House.



"Lantern Oak"

School House Lane, a name given in recent years to this road branching at the schoolhouse, was formerly referred to as the "road to Abner Condict's" whose house is now owned by Dr. George Mangun. This old road was often in use because nearly every Valley family owned "wood lots," some

as large as one hundred acres on Raynor and Mount Pleas-



and roads. Access to these wood lots was supplied by the "road to Abner Condict's."

Two other roads were in use in the earlier days. Washington Valley Road and School House Lane were connected by a well-used crossroad, "Without a Name." The old "Driftway," formerly called Chidester Road or the "road from Loree's," originated on upper Tingley Road, crossed northeast along the foot of Ludlow Mountain in back of the Ludlow Farm and stopped there, but a trail continued out onto School House Lane, near the present Mangun house. Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Job Loree and Gilbert Ludlow were road commissioners for Mendham Township in 1760, the year in which the road was built to provide better access to Loree's blacksmith shop and Ludlow's gristmill.

It was along these roads that the early settlers built their homes, travelled to and from the two towns which had given them origin, Morristown and Mendham, and went on Sunday to the church which played a large part in their lives.

1529117



## AMERICAN REVOLUTION



In 1775 the fervor and excitement of the growing rebellion against the English domination of the colonies reached into the Valley. Jacob Arnold whose tavern was a headquarters for conversation and opinion must have brought to

his home on Washington Valley Road the echoes of mutinous words spoken for the cause of freedom on the Green.

From an old book of the period, the following entry attributed to William DeHart is taken. It shows the feeling of the times two weeks after the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

### “Morristown, New Jersie 1775 Arnold Tavern

On May First in the yere seventeen seventy V, nine delegates were chosen as representatives of Morris County- For the purpose of making some preparation for the struggle for liberty-and independence. Their was on

that day a great many people assembled at Morristown from all parts of the County. Col. Hathaway had a small cannon which he had brought from Newark which was bought from Captain Samuel's by public subscription, and was to be used on patriotic occasions. The cannon was used at one time by the Sloop Liberty owned by Mr. Stevens of Newark, and had a very interesting history—after this meeting had adjourned the crowd having been well supplied with apple brandy—were all for fighting and tar and feathering all the Torys that were suspected living in the town. However after much talking, threats, as to what they would do—and the Colonel had burnt up the powder which had been bought by other people's money—and was to be used for the defence of the town—and not for a drinking celebration—after a great deal of howling and a few punches, order was restored. Mr. David Thompson addressed the crowd which was on the Green and told them what the delegates were going to do at Trenton of the twenty third day of May—it was to be liberty and self government or all would fight to a man. There was one patriotic woman in the crowd who yelled out 'I say judge, don't yu'ins figger on any of us wyems we are just as good as a lot of no account men.'

“William Wind was in the crowd and Mr. Thompson called upon him for a few remarks but there being so much disturbance it was impossible for anybody to hear him whereupon he said his name was Wind but that he



could not make enough of it to be heard by that crowd, so he guessed he would hold it for Trenton."

The following men in Washington Valley served during the Revolution:

**From Morris Township:**

Jacob Arnold

Robert Arnold, and sons, Sylvanus and Ziba

William Arnold

Philip Condict and sons, Zenas and Abner

Peter Fairchild

Jonas Goble

Vincent Guerin

Ezra Halsey

Elias Hedges

Mattaniah Lyon and two sons, Isaac and Moses

Jonathan Ogden

Samuel Roberts

John Smith and son, Jonathan H. Smith, were members of the Continental Army, but were not residents at that time as they were still living in Caldwell.

**From Mendham Township:**

Samuel Alward

Henry Axtell

Benjamin Blackford

Phineas Chidester

Job Loree

Mathew Lum, Jr.

Jonathan Raynor

Nathaniel Tingley

Onesimus Whitehead and son, Aaron

Reubon Wood

This list has been compiled from many sources, principally Stryker's "Index of Official Register of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War" but also from D. A. R. records, family records and from Tax Ratables where men are occasionally listed with the Militia captain under whom they served.

These volunteers were men of character and some means, strongly attached to their church and respected in their community. Their fields had been cleared of trees, their farms were prospering, and their children were growing up in the homes they had begun in the Valley. All was well except for the dispute which the colonies were having with the mother country, so when the call to arms came in Morris County, they responded and served with the Continental Army, the Militia or the local organization, the Light Horse Troop which was later commanded by the Valley's leading citizen, Jacob Arnold.

In October, 1775, the first call for troops for the Continental Army was made in New Jersey. Each private was to enlist for one year, supply his own arms and receive five dollars per month in pay. When the Militia was organized, those Valley men who had enlisted in the Continen-

tal Army were incorporated into the Militia and served henceforth in that organization. The Militia was to be ready at all times to march to any point where assistance might be required. The men of the Militia were not in constant service, but could return to their homes and fields when the particular duty for which they had been alerted was over. Twenty-seven men of the Valley served in this organization, either as foot soldiers or as wagoners.

In a letter written by Captain Jacob Arnold of Washington Valley on March 27, 1778, to his Excellency William Livingston, Governor of the Colony, he deplors the fact that his predecessor, Captain Thomas Kinney, received less than half of the funds promised for the Militia. Part of his letter read:

“. . . and further your Petitioner Begs Leave to Lay before your Honours that sence he has been Honour'd with Command of said Troop he has found by Exp. that It is very Expensive providing and Maintaining Horses fit for that Service and Humbly of the Opinion that the Pay ordered for their Services in no ways adequet to the Expense and begs that the Honourable House would Reconsider the Matter . . .

Jacob Arnold”

A third group, the Light Horse Troop, was formed in 1775 and served throughout the war. This unit was an independent organization raised entirely within Morris County in which each member was to supply his own horse and

equipment. Its prime duty was to serve as scouts and express carriers, a duty which they performed faithfully and well. Thomas Kinney was the first Captain of the Troop, but was soon succeeded by Jacob Arnold of Washington Valley, and the troops became known as Arnold's Light Horse, the term usually found in reference to them in historical records.

In the early days of the war, and in all parts of the colonies neighbor looked upon neighbor with suspicion, wondering if their sympathies were really with the "cause" or if they had Tory leanings. Some Tories did all in their power to aid the King's Army. At one time there were thirty-five Tories confined to the Morristown jail. Two were hung; the rest were branded and released. Other Tories took a course of passive resistance and refused to take the "oath of adjuration and allegiance" to support the Patriot cause. Many Tories left the country and their estates were confiscated and advertised for sale in 1778 at the home of Captain Jacob Arnold. It was in this way that Ezekial Beach, the only known Tory in Washington Valley, lost his land and home.

Much excitement was contributed to the lives of Morristown residents when General George Washington made Morristown his headquarters for the two winters of 1777-78 and 1779-80 in order to protect the valuable iron mines in the neighborhood, and avail himself and his Army of the protection of the hills against the enemy in New York.

During the winter of 1777 his troops were stationed at Loantica, now Spring Valley. The General of the Armies made his headquarters at the Arnold Tavern where he was regaled with Washington Valley hospitality by the innkeeper, Jacob Arnold. (See following section Arnold Tavern.)

During the extremely cold winter of 1779-80, Washington made his headquarters at the Ford Mansion in Morristown while his troops encamped in Jockey Hollow. His officers, meanwhile, were usually billeted in homes in the area. General Henry Knox, one of Washington's most trusted officers and Commander of the Artillery throughout the war, may have maintained his headquarters in the old farmhouse "on the road to Jacob Arnold's," now part of Foster Farms. Research seems to bear out this statement though definite proof is not available. It is probable that other residents of the Valley were hosts to some of Washington's men. Privates in the Army were temporarily quartered in two homes of which we have a record. Abner Condict of Mendham Township presented a claim to the Government for "quartering 4 soldiers 2 months" and Robert Rolfe, of Washington Valley Road, for "firewood for 5 soldiers quartered in his home 3 weeks" during the winter of 1779-80.

On January 8, 1780, Joseph Lewis, Quartermaster of New Jersey, wrote: "We are now as distressed as want of provision and cash can make us. The soldiers have been reduced to the necessity of robbing the inhabitants to save their own lives."



That this is true is evidenced by a record entitled "Damage by the Americans in New Jersey, 1776-1782" to be found in the State Library in Trenton. This is an inventory of small claims by New Jersey citizens against the Government for damage suffered at the hands of the Continental Army. Of the one hundred and sixty claims filed in Morris County, fifteen are for Valley residents. All claims were for the same period, 1779-1780, the winter the troops were quartered at Jockey Hollow. In those days the Valley was easily accessible from Jockey Hollow by way of Sugar Loaf Road, now unused, though still visible from Lewis Morris Park.

Robert Arnold, who owned land along Whitehead Road and in the area of Sugar Loaf Road, presented an inventory (No. 40 in the Record of Damage) for "swarm of bees, 3 axes, 40 acres of pasture land and 3 acres of rye" for a total claim of £22.2.6. His son, Ziba, was his witness that the Army had used the forty acres of pastureland for pasturing their horses. Job Loree on Tingley Road found the hides of his "2 calves, 2 steer, 1 heifer" some distance from his house toward the camp and believed they were stolen by the Pennsylvania line. (No. 47) Food and men's clothings were the usual objects of theft, but occasionally items such as "worsted gowns, shifts (women's petticoats), and tablecloths" were taken.

In addition to the pillaging done by the soldiers, the people of Washington Valley and the towns throughout the

county were called on to provide food and provisions for the Army in Jockey Hollow. For this they were paid handsomely (i. e. fifty dollars per bushel for wheat; thirty dollars for corn), but the money was in Continental bills or certificates which were practically worthless. A man such as Jabez Conduct of Whitehead Road was considered as great a patriot as his father and brothers who were serving in the Militia because he provided food for the Army throughout the winter. The pay of the men in the service was poor. Officers of the Jersey troops declared that "four months pay of a soldier would not procure for his family a bushel of wheat; that the pay of a colonel would not purchase oats for his horse."

The township taxes became a difficult problem for many as money was scarce and the farmers could not devote their full time to their farms, thereby decreasing their productivity. The Tax Ratables for both Morris and Mendham Townships, on microfilm at the Morristown Library, present an interesting record of the items in 1778 upon which each landowner was assessed: the number of acres, both improved and unimproved; the number of horses, cattle and hogs; the number of wheeled vehicles (wagons, sulkeys or chaises); the number of slaves; and the amount of "money out at interest." The "total whereon to levy" was determined; then "two shillings and nine pence on the pound makes the rate."

The pound sterling was probably worth about three dollars and fourteen cents at that time. For example, Samuel

Roberts in Morris Township paid a total tax of ten pounds, seventeen shillings and one pence on one hundred and fifty acres valued at fifteen hundred pounds; twelve cattle, five horses and two hogs, one chaise; and money at interest, five hundred and five pounds. Elisha Beach in Mendham Township had eighty acres valued at eight hundred and forty pounds; five horses, two cows and three hogs on which he paid a tax of one pound, thirteen shillings and four pence.

To complicate matters for the tax commissioners, many property owners were paying their taxes with counterfeit monies. It became very difficult to get anybody to serve in the office of tax collector, for even the leading citizens were dealing in counterfeit. As a result, the commissioners voted the "countie" would stand all losses from bad money received for taxes. A quotation referring to this period states: "Morris Countie is particularly adapted to counterfeit business. Its mountain fastnesses were as kindly to these criminals as later to the patriot armies of Washington." If these criminals were caught, the punishment was execution.

There is no record of the part of the women during the war in spite of the loud-voiced speaker upon the Green who asked Judge Thompson what the "wyems" could do. Yet the burdens of the war were not to be escaped by any members of the family. Often the women were left alone in charge of the farm as the men left on militia duty. There were

fears for a husband's and brothers' safety and the fears and apprehensions of attack by the Red Coats who, with the exception of a few marauding parties, never succeeded in invading Morris County. The dread disease of smallpox was rife and spread from the soldiers' camps to the surrounding neighborhood. Nursing the sick, feeding soldiers who unexpectedly came to the door looking for food, knitting stockings and making warm clothing for the soldiers in desperate need were tasks added to the normal duties of a housewife and mother. Under these circumstances it is plain that the women of the Revolution were brave supports to the fighters for the cause of liberty. No later war has come so close to the denizens of Washington Valley.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the research done in the preparation of this history of Washington Valley, an interesting find was a religious book, published in London "at the Rose and Crown in the Poultry" in the year 1760. In the margins and flyleaves of this ancient book, are hand written entries on many subjects, the old brown ink faded but still legible. It is a possibility that this book belonged to the David Thompson family and could have arrived at their "old stone house" just west of Mendham center on Mendham Road, prior to the Revolution. This house was in almost continuous possession of the Thompson family from before the Revolution until its purchase in 1958 by Mr. and Mrs. Lars Hedstrom. David Thompson, Sr., commanded the Third Company of Militia during the War. He was chairman of the Committee

for Correspondence for Mendham Township, a delegate to the Provincial Congress, County Judge and a Justice of the Peace. He was Deacon in the Presbyterian Church in Mendham and "eloquent in prayer."

In the old book, an entry attributed to David Thompson, Jr., states that "Writing paper is scarce as Red Coats are here." For lack of paper he may have been obliged to use the margins and flyleaves of this book for writing up his experiences. Other handwritings appear in the book. A writer of later date states, "I have copied at different times in much haste some writings found here and there and most of them so old and torne and in small pieces badly blurred which were in some cases impossible to read but what I have put down in this Book and some others is the same as written by them."

Quoted here are five excerpts from the notes in this ancient book, the actual date of entry unknown. We can make no claim for the authenticity of the following recorded events though the people mentioned in them did exist. These excerpts are presented here primarily for the colorful and vivid picture they give of the war years as it affected a family in a nearby community.

An entry for January of 1780 states:

"Copy of a letter from Dave Thompson to his mother at Roxiticus."



“Kimball Mountain (Jockey Hollow), January 8, 1780.

. . . The snow on the mountain is about three feet deep and the weather awful cold. Last night I near froze to death in my blanket which is full of holes and I am almost necked. If I only possessed a pair of socks or stockings as they are called in camp I would not feel the cold so much. I gave the only ones I had to poor Bill whose feet are very bad. You have no idea how much suffering there is on Kimball hill—since I commenced this letter the snow has fallen to the depth of six or seven feet—for the past eight days we received but four pounds of meat a man and that is very little for such cold weather. Bill had a candle-dip which was sent to him by Millicent—that last night he did eat without any salt. There is very little of that article in the Army yet. I do hear they have plenty at the Ford house. Miss Ball was at the dance at the Tavern and we were wondering how she managed to make so many fine clothes.

“Labor that we perform is mostly building huts or repairing those that are in the worse condition—we have found large quantities of brick clay—back of the clearing—and use that with good results in stopping up the cracks in the roofs of the huts. Mr. General Washington and his lady are at the Fords. I did hear say that he was most sorry for the troopers.

“We went on a foraging trip last week and visited Mr. Day, Tuttle and Farrands—we had a very exciting

scrimmage. Bill has two cocks and some potatoes—the rest of the men had about equal success—if Mr. Washington or Mr. Lewis should hear of this we might expect serious consequences.”

“June 28, 1780. . . Coz Steve was killed today. Beth said she had told Miss Wicks that something would surely happen to Steve. She told us all that she saw Steve lying in the bushes and when she spoke to him he did not reply. She woke from this terrible dream in a fit of fever and told mother what she had seen but mother was much upset about it but told Betty she was a foolish child and not to dream any more such nonsense—providence must surely communicate with some. Steve was brought to Morristown headquarters last night by Dr. McW. and Col. Lamb. The doctor was very much disturbed and said who next will be butchered by those damn Red Coats.

“Father was at the Bridge—some little distance from Steve when he fell—he tried to reach him but was prevented until after the Devils had left. Steve was shot in the lungs and must have lived only a short time. His Ganger (?) and Boots were stolen off his feet and his body was bruised quite considerably—one leg was pierced by shot and ball—and there is quite some hint that the Toreys of Springfield three in number are marked men. They are accused of helping to fire . . . houses. Father shot at Ben Sayre and he is in hope that the shot did its

damage—he has not been seen since.”

“Long Hill, June 25. . . . Steve was sent home today. Dr. Cadwallader said prayers and spoke very soothingly on the trials of this bloody war—those of us here in this part of the county are giving most all we have to sustain life for those depending upon us—father is very glum but the good doctor sustains us. The whole household is sad—will there never be hope and rest from this hellish murder and the giving—what we don’t give with all our hearts and souls to the poor orphans is stolen from us. Miller and DeHart have joined the enemy at York.”

Another entry states:

“It has been quite some time since I scribbled anything in this old Book—Mother swears by these words of God and surely would chase me to the woodpile if she ever has another occasion to feel the want of them. Dominie Ogden has given her a very large Bible and I think she has forgotten about this. Writing paper is scarce as Red Coats are here although our sharpshooters are posted every day in the large trees at Corners. All that you can smell today is mush boiling in the old fireplace at the Thompsons stone house—mush and milk—mush and milk—my how the soldiers must hate it. Mother is very much worried about our horses as that is about all we have left. Elizabeth’s three year old is to be used as a pack horse. She is upstairs crying her eyes out. Elizabeth has been for three long years

planning what nice times she was to have when the colt was old enough for her to ride.

“Aunt Lydia is in a huff—Mother and Eliz. wrangling about the colt and I think the barn is the best place for me.

Dave Thompson”

The following letter was written in New York on August 27, 1780, and is found on a loose page in the Thompson book:

“My lovely Sister Beth—

“Your admirable Aunt Ruth is not all Tory as you may sometime suppose. She calls all of the family in Bergen a most wretched mess of rebels—but however as that may be I am longing to see you, Sister dear—oh what lovely times we used to have together before I was sent to this dreary school. The Rebel as I am always known. How I hate all Tories even to our King and Master—oh if you could only see under the surface of this detestable society of York—nothing but spies. Spyes and some more spies constantly around—even Aunt Ruth is forever suspicious that something is amiss—even my letters are opened and if not approved by her—alas I see nothing of them. Aunt Ruth has received some copies of the Cowpen and is raven mad and will answer your friend Mr. Lee and Col. Steve in some kind of a satire on their unnatural behaviour.

Cowards she names them—can it be true Sister Beth that Mr. Lee Thompson and McWorter are cowards—I can hardly believe that they are. You well remember sister the time we all went to Morristown to visit the huts. How gallant the doctor was when the sled capsized at Chatham.

“Once you remember Sister Beth—Mr. Washington paid me quite a compliment while tilting my chin—said I was a likely maid and well-fitted to be the balance wheel of any officer in the Continental Army. How I blushed and how Miss Ford Miss Ball Miss Bonnel was my true friends and took me off to have some ices. Oh sister Beth that was an assembly to well remember and how I long to live it over again.”

This letter was unsigned and never sent. Possibly it was not within the power of the writer to get it past Aunt Ruth!

This excerpt from the Thompson Bible illustrates the fervor with which the Assemblies at the Ford Mansion were attended:

“Roxiticus, 1779 . . . While I was driving the cattle to water at the Drakes clearing—I met up with a nigger girl about some 16 years of age—she being dressed in clothes something better than compared for our parts and not knowing her—I hailed her—whereupon she started to run towards the Pitney’s—thinking she was



some girl on her way to see Alex, Mr. Pitney's slave—I let her go. On coming out of the scrub field, I again saw the girl sitting on Drake's stone fence—acting very suspicious—so I concluded that I would overtake her and find out who she was, and where she wanted to go—it was getting dark and had some indication of storm—and her kind was supposed to be at home at that time of day. I started for her whereupon as before she started running—and I after her. She could run like our hound Bess—over stumps, bush heaps and everything that did come in her course—finally I caught up to her and grabbed her by the arm—at the same time I asked her who she was and where she came from but she would not answer me—so I took her by some force home to our folks. She fought like a she-devil—Howsomeever I got her to the house—Mother and Lydia saw me coming and ran out to meet me—whereupon the wench did quiet down. Mother took her into the house and spoke to her kindly—but not a word would she answer—Our black man came in—but she was the same with him—she not being from these parts Mother decided that she had run away from some plantation—after some talk Mother decided to lock her up in the garrett without anything to eat—that is Mother's guide to punishment—for those that are stubborn she always says—the Dark and rats will always bring young people to their senses—she must be right for in a little while the nigger did go on something awful—father was for shooting her but

mother lighted a dip and went up the ladder. She did remain some little time—but after much talking they both came down—and went in the outside shed to get away from a lot of soldiers who was around. After some time Mother called to me and said she had found out everything from the girl and that I should saddle the horses and then to come to her—which I did—as I started to the house I heard somebody coming up the lane on horseback. To my surprise it was Tempe Wick and Miss Burnet who had come over to see Elizabeth. We all went into the house together. Mother had the wench in charge and just as soon as Tempe saw her, she called her by name of Charlotte and asked if Mrs. Washington was here—Mother said no and why did she ask her that question—whereupon Tempe replied that the nigger girl did belong to Mrs. George Washington as she had seen her at the Ford House where Mrs. Washington was with Gen Washington. Tempe when she heard the wench had run away from such a good and kind mistress was for beating her good and plenty—but Mother's kind heart won out and the wench was not harmed yet I felt like beating her for all the trouble she had caused me—afterwards I often thought what would resulted if Tempe had grabbed hold of the girl—as she did not weigh over ninety pounds and Tempe like our steers—big of bone and full chest—many of the times at the old stone house has Tempe floored me. After the folks had talked gentle to me, Mother thought that the girl should be sent

home that night—and me being the oldest I should go— I was tired and wanted to put it off till morning but Mother would not listen to any delay—and as I had two horses ready I should start at once. Mother must have known before Tempe came all about the girl and that was in her mind to send the girl back to Morristown when she first asked me to get the horses ready—after some more stories about stockings and great coats for the soldiers and provisions mother could give—it was decided to start Tempe and Miss Burnet to go with me as far as the lower Ledel road which would land them near her house—All of the soldiers was very fond of Miss Wicks so there was no danger. I put the girl and our Black boy on the grey mare—as he would ride the mare back home. We left the girls at the Mill dam and kept on to Morristown—when we arrived near midnight —we were often held up by the pickets and had some hard time explaining our errand—after some excitement we arrived at the Ford home and was much surprised to see it all lighted up so late at night—yet I was very glad as I was wondering how I would be received at that time of night. Howsoever we were welcomed by everybody present—it seems there was some kind of assembly going on to raise funds for the Army. Miss Ford was the first one to receive us—when we stopped the horses near east side of the house the front being with cannon and such like—Mrs. Ford no sooner seeing the girl—than she sailed into that wench and in her excitement pulled

Black Dan and the girl to the ground—I think I was more scared than the nigger. By this time everybody was outside all excited somebody having said the Red Coats was here—but when they found out what it was all about they did laugh and went into the house which was well filled with our friends. After the girl was put away I had the pleasure of meeting Gen Washington, he asking me to step inside his den—I gave the horses to Black Dan and went in—after some talk about our family and others in our neighborhood—and what prospects there were for some relief of the soldiers—I explained to him the conditions. About this time Mrs. Washington knocked at the doore and was admitted—some few persons following her—she thanked me most generously for having been the means of returning the girl to her—she offered to pay me for all our trouble which I of course refused telling her it was of small importance and I was pleased to have been of some service to her. Both the General and Mrs. Ford asked me to join them in the Assembly room—but being in top boots and altogether dirty—I bid everybody good night and Black Dan and I started for a hard ride for home the roads being in bad condition. It was daylight when we came up the lane.

“This was a night of great excitement for me having never before seen so many ladies in such costumes it surely did not look like hard times. Mother said it was not necessary for everybody to be so finely dressed—

and that it would look better if they would be more simple in their dress—of course shê had forgotten about her own relations at Bottle Hill and Hanover having sold all their hogs and small stock so that the girls could attend the next assembly. Mother was very much interested in my trip to Morristown and kept asking how Mrs. Washington carried herself and what the color of the dress she wore—also did she powder her hair—was her dress too short—did her petticoat show—what men was there—just as if me a poor farmer and all our family doing all we would to help the good and just cause along—with not only our strength but giving most of what we raised—could know everybody in Jersie. Mother is certainly interested in the Assemblyes—it most certainly speaks well for Elizabeth—she may consent to her going to the next dance. . . .”







Arnold Tavern

Arnold Tavern

## ARNOLD TAVERN

Probably the resident of Washington Valley best-known to the dwellers in Morristown during the Revolution was Captain Jacob Arnold, proprietor of the Arnold Tavern where Washington sojourned during the winter of 1777-78. Jacob had received the Tavern as a young man and ran it with great success.

This noted hostelry in Morristown's history stood on the west side of the Morristown Green. Tradition says it was erected by Samuel Arnold, Jacob's father, around 1750. Samuel's age at this time would have been twenty-four. At the age of thirty-eight he died, in the year 1764. By his will his lands were left to his son, Jacob, though no specific mention is made in his Last Will and Testament of the Tavern on the Green. Jacob's mother, Phoebe, apparently turned the management of the Inn over to Thomas Kinney, prominent in county affairs and a large land-owner of the time, until Jacob was old enough in 1775 to assume the proprietorship. Jacob retained ownership for fifteen years until 1788 when Benjamin Freeman became the new proprietor. In 1811 the Tavern again changed hands when it came into the possession of Lewis Hayden. He kept it until 1834 when James Wood and Colonel Joseph Lovell became the new owners. From 1855 to 1863 Captain William

Duncan was the tavernkeeper. From 1863 until 1886 it was owned by Mr. Philip Hoffman. The first floor was rented out for stores, Adams and Fairchild, Groceries, and P. H. Hoffman, Sr., Clothiers, while the second and third floors were used as small apartments.

In Jacob Arnold's time the building looked as it does in the printed sketch. It was a big wooden building with huge tiny-panelled windows and a veranda the length of the front. Inside a wide hallway ran from front to rear through the center of the building. On the southern side were front and back parlors. To the right of the entrance on the northeast was the bar room while back of the bar were the dining room and kitchen.

The Marquis de Chastellux in his TRAVELS IN NORTH AMERICA refers to the Arnold Tavern in describing his journey through New Jersey in 1780 as follows: "I intended stopping at Morristown only to bait my horses, for it was but half past two, but in entering the inn of Mr. Arnold, I saw a dining room adorned with looking glasses and handsome mahogany furniture, and a table spread for twelve persons. I learnt that this preparation was for me, and what affected me more nearly was to see a dinner corresponding with appearance ready to serve up. I was indebted for this to General Washington and the precautions of Colonel Maryland, who had sent before to acquaint them of my arrival. It would have been very ingracious of us to have accepted this dinner at the expense of Mr. Arnold,

who is an honest man, and who has not a particle in common with Benedict Arnold. It would have been still more awkward to have paid for the dinner without eating it. I there instantly determined to dine in the comfortable inn."

Above the dining room, parlors and bar room were the bedrooms and the ballroom on the second floor. In this ballroom Assemblies were held during the winters when the Tavern was Washington's Headquarters. Access to the second floor was by a broad winding stairway which must have assumed a festive appearance with lovely ladies and officers of the Army going up and down when the Assemblies were held. In addition to its social use, the ballroom was the meeting place for the Army Masonic Lodge and for the Light Horse Troop of which Jacob Arnold was the Captain.

While Washington lived at the Tavern he occupied the two bedrooms over the bar room. His front room was used for an office and the one back of it for his bedroom. Here upon the second floor he received his officers and the many distinguished visitors from abroad.

Upstairs, on the third floor, there were additional small bedrooms, probably five in number. Painted upon the floor of one of these rooms was a large checkerboard beneath which was a storage place filled with guns, hidden between the floor and the ceiling below. If a suspected enemy arrived at the Tavern, the soldiers busily played at checkers upon the floor that the unsuspecting foe might not know

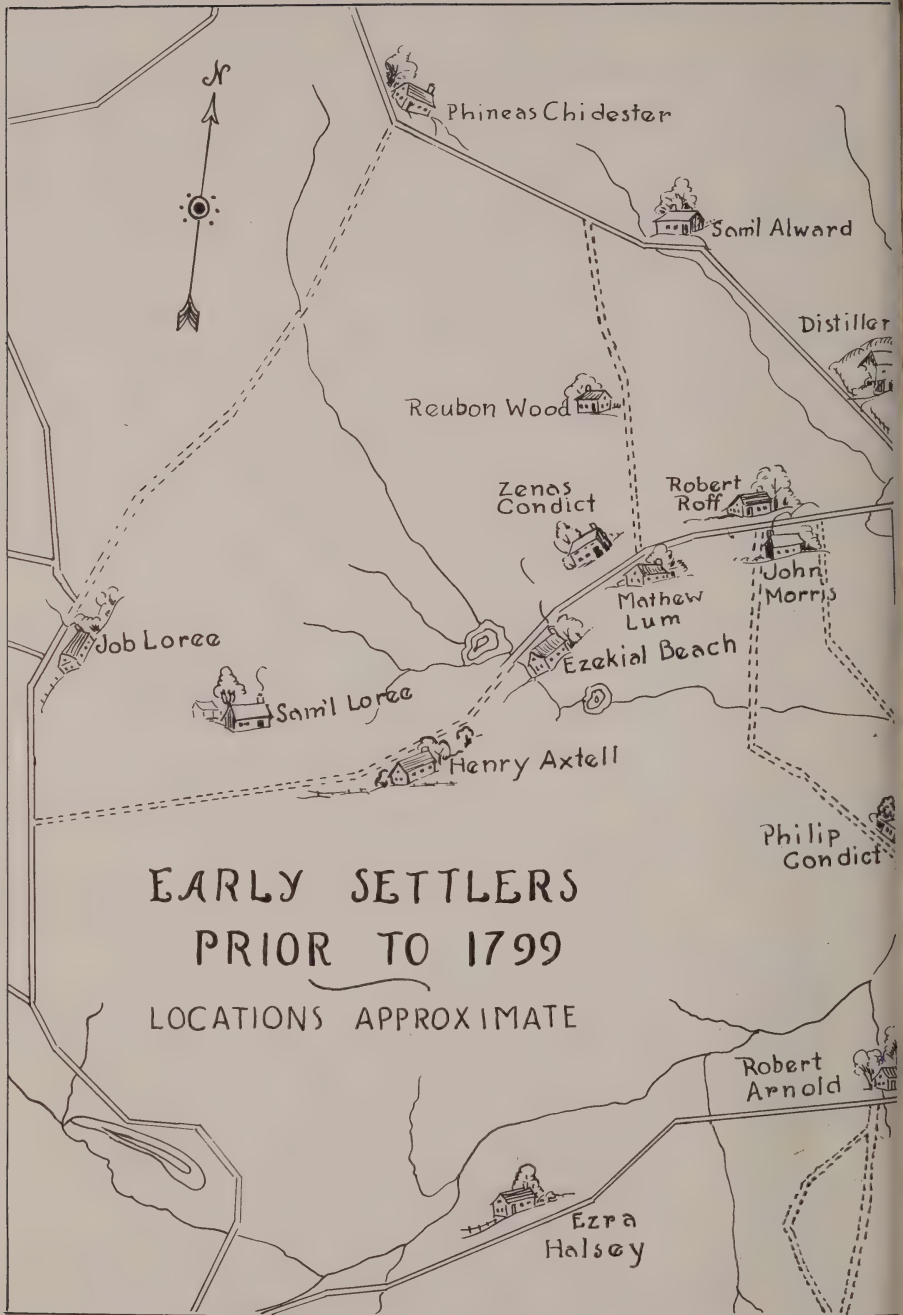


guns were hidden below their seemingly engrossing game.

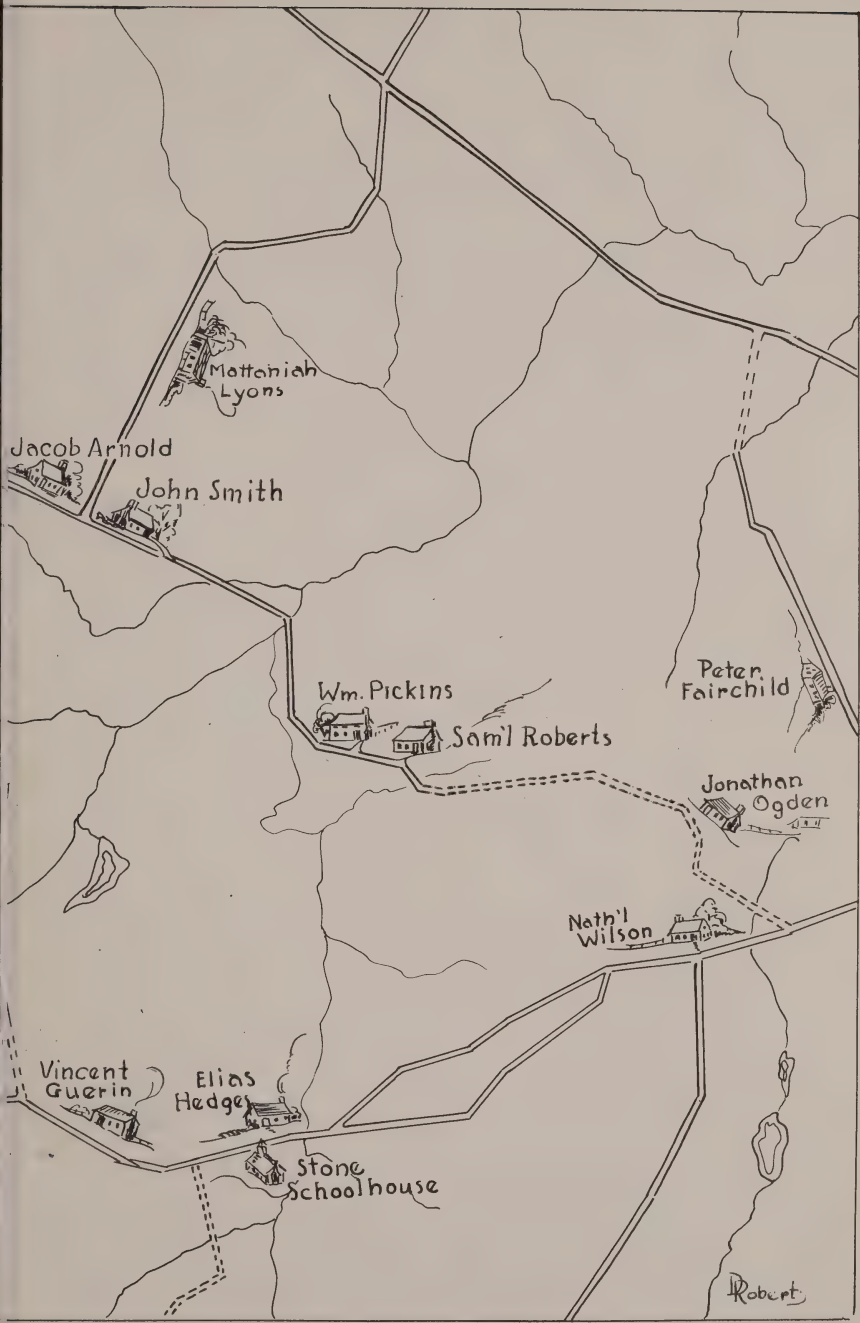
In 1886 the old building was about to be destroyed when Julia Keese Colles, author of *AUTHORS AND WRITERS ASSOCIATED WITH MORRISTOWN*, suggested that it be moved to the Colles' estate on Mt. Kemble Avenue, the old Basking Ridge Road of the Revolution. This action was taken and it was converted by renovation into the "Colonial House," a residence for summer boarders who came to Morristown as to a vacation area. Nevertheless, it was sold at public auction in 1890 and soon thereafter Father Flynn announced to his congregation that the old Tavern had been purchased by the Catholic Church for hospital use. Extended and enlarged, but retaining many of the characteristic features which distinguished it when Washington stayed there, the building became the first All Souls Hospital. The ballroom was transformed into the chapel while the dining room was the hospital ward. The old bedrooms and halls were filled with the Grey Nuns on their errands of healing.

In April 1918 fire destroyed the hospital and the historic landmark which had been constructed in 1750 was no more.





Early Settlers,



prior to 1799





## AFTER THE REVOLUTION

Fate dealt unkindly with Jacob Arnold and many of the other patriots in the Valley when once the War was over and an independent nation established. In the period of depression which followed, many farmers in the Valley who had become accustomed to prosperity found their affairs in bad condition. The wheat fields were ravaged by the Hessian fly. The fertility of the land had become depleted and there were no known fertilizers and chemicals at that time to restore it. Prices were high. Horses died of the disease "yellow water" and a good horse for farmwork to replace the lost ones cost thirty to forty pounds.

Because the country was burdened with debt, taxes were heavy and had to be paid in paper money of little value. Farmers whose land and homes were mortgaged were in difficult straits. At this time a number of residents of the Valley found their farms and possessions being put up for auction because of their inability to meet their financial obligations. In this way Jacob Arnold lost his farm in the Valley. Even his furniture had to be sold to satisfy his creditors. However, it would seem that he was allowed to live on the farm through the generosity of its purchasers, although he owned no part of it from 1793 to 1809.

Friends and neighbors often rallied to the aid of these persons in financial distress. In 1792 Ziba Arnold, son of Robert, found himself in similar difficulties but his friends raised a subscription to pay his debts and get him out of the Morristown jail. However, the project did not turn out well as many of the subscribers were unable to pay the sums affixed to their names and they, in turn, found themselves being summoned before the court. Later Ziba was released and purchased a portion of the Beach farm on Washington Valley Road.

Many of the younger men of the Valley felt the future in this area held out small promise of bettering their lot, so the more enterprising followed the trend to migration to the West. The British Crown had banned settlement of the territory west of the Alleghenies, but after the Revolution broke the hold of the royal hand, the territory became the scene of active settlement, and attracted pioneers from the East, among them young men of the Valley.

New families moved into Washington Valley. John Smith, Jacob Smith and Zenas Smith Gould came from Caldwell; their descendants chose to remain in their homes for well over a hundred years. The Careys arrived from Mendham; the Gastons, from Pluckemin, and the Whiteheads inherited the old Condict farm. With the growth of the old and new families, the problem of schooling came to the fore and the inhabitants of the Valley met to solve it. The history of the building of the Schoolhouse is in the next chapter.

Farm conditions improved gradually. The rural pattern of life continued with neighbor bartering with neighbor as the principal means of trade. Again little money changed hands as they exchanged days' work for flax, woven cloth or "poarke." More organization came into their lives as the Schoolhouse became a center for meeting, and this same growth in organization was reflected in the more effective action of the two townships. The Township Committee of Morristown was concerned with two major problems: the care of the roads and the care of the indigent. John Smith and Robert Arnold were appointed Overseers of the Highways in 1809 for the Morris Township section of the Valley. They divided up the area and the "hands," or the inhabitants along the roads, worked their fair share to keep the roads in repair.

Daniel Phoenix, owner of the distillery on School House Lane, was Overseer of the Poor from 1801 to 1806. Eight hundred and ninety dollars of the total amount of taxes, two thousand five hundred and forty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents raised in 1806, went to the care of the poor in Morris Township. Paupers, both children and adults, were boarded out in the community to anyone willing to take them. Jacob Arnold was "allowed six shillings per week for keeping the widow Ruth Smith until further orders, and to return her to Overseers as well clothed as when he received her." Captain Ezra Halsey, on Mendham Road, was recompensed for "keeping a pauper taken sick at his home."

Another problem which concerned the Township Committee was settlements made for "sheep damage" claims. In 1815, Ezekial Whitehead of Whitehead Road presented "an account of \$43.01 for damage done to sheep by dogs." He actually received twenty seven dollars and forty-two cents, his proportionate share of money raised from the tax on dogs. Nathaniel Wilson on Mendham Road, Isaac Gaston and Jonathan H. Smith also suffered heavily from the damage dogs did to their sheep.

From the year 1799 until 1868 the number of homes in the Valley remained static. It is estimated there were twenty-eight homes in the Valley in 1799 and the exact same number sixty-nine years later. True, some houses had been built to replace those that had burned or been torn down, but the number remained the same. Apparently the issues of the Civil War had little effect upon the Valley, for no reference is made to it in any records, and only two persons are known to have served in the Union Army. The country peace prevailed and the rural life kept on with the land used for farming until 1910 when a few farms were broken up and divided.

In 1920 land sold for one hundred dollars per acre but few buyers were drawn to the Valley. In the thirties the commuters began to risk the long trip to the job in the city in order to enjoy the rural atmosphere. A popular novel and film of this period was called HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY, and the phrase could well be applied to the

beauties of Washington Valley, but the ties of the commuter were to the glory of the landscape, not to the soil which had been the foundation of the farmers' income, and it is possible that the influx of commuting families was resented in the hearts of the older residents. But with true hospitality they made the strangers welcome with invitations to the annual picnics, the strawberry festivals and the sumptuous suppers at the Schoolhouse. Since 1945, with the end of World War II many more homeseekers have turned to Washington Valley and the area has seen new homes constructed on land which sold for fifteen hundred to three thousand dollars an acre. New roads like Doe Hill Road have been constructed with the addition of eight houses to the Whitehead Road portion of the Valley. There is a total of one hundred and sixty-one houses in the Valley in 1959.

Houses that have been built along the main old roads such as Washington Valley Road, School House Lane, Gaston Road and Whitehead Road, particularly in Morris Township, are as follows, illustrating the growth of the Valley in the twentieth century.

	<u>Built In</u>
Misses Beatrice and Ethel Black	1926
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Bogle	1951
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cooke	1916
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Emery	1950
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Estler	1952
Mr. and Mrs. Harland G. Foster	1941



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hess	1929
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hoskins	1932
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hutton, Jr.	1935
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lloyd	1935
Mr. and Mrs. Roxbury McCormack	1900
Mr. and Mrs. John Munro	1950
Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Parker	1930
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Roberts	1954
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Robinson	1954
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rochelle, Sr.	1927
Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Saltus	1948
Mr. and Mrs. Foster Smith	1927
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Smith	1957
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steffen	1935
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tilp	1931
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Vom Eigen	1954
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Weinstein	1955
Mr. and Mrs. Truman Young	1938
Mrs. George Tate	1939
Mrs. Walter Kemys	1904

(Grateful appreciation to Mrs. Truman Young for collecting these figures for the committee)





Snow blowing about the Schoolhouse (Old pump at left)

## THE SCHOOLHOUSE

Through the years the center of the community of Washington Valley has been the red brick schoolhouse at the fork of Washington Valley Road and School House Lane. The building which is standing in nineteen hundred and fifty-nine is not the first school to be built on this site. Two red brick schoolhouses have catered to the educational needs of the past generations of pupils and provided a place of meeting for the elders of the region.

The point of land between the two roads was purchased from "Abraham Richards of the Savannah in the County of Chatham, and State of Georgia" in a deed dated September 28, 1813, and recorded October 6, 1813, in Book X of Deeds, Page 231 (Morris County Clerk's Office, Morristown, New Jersey.) The purchasers were John Smith, Silas Axtell and Lewis Loree, trustees of the Washington School House of the Township of Morris in the County of Morris, etc.

The deed describes the property as follows:

"Beginning at the fork of the Road between the house where Jacob Arnold now lives and the distillery now or lately owned by Daniel Phoenix thence running to North 68 degrees west 3 chains and 50 links thence south 10

degrees west 2 chains and 50 links thence 3 north 73 degrees east 3 chains and 75 links to the beginning Containing 44/100ths of an acre be the same more or less for the purpose of said school house to be erected thereon and for no other use."

Prior to the purchase of this land and the construction of the schoolhouse it is not known exactly how the children of the families who were here for sixty years were educated. Much of it must have been done at home, around the fire-side, while some of the more fortunate ones were sent into Morristown to the Morris Academy. There is evidence from the story of the MORRISTOWN GHOST that a schoolhouse existed on Mendham Road in 1788 and that Ransford Rogers was the teacher. Perhaps the same schoolhouse is referred to in a deed, dated 1796, in which Henry Gardner, Sr., transferred sixty-five acres to Henry, Jr. The deed states "in middle of road leading from Morristown to Mendham somewhat easterly of Stone School House."

The problem of schools in the Township was apparently acute around the years 1811 and 1814 because at this time four schools were constructed in Morris Township. Each one of these early schools raised its own funds for school expenses and had its own school board, called "trustees." The money needed was raised by subscription with each family in the area supposed to pay a proportionate share according to the number of children they enrolled in the school. Three trustees were elected to look after the



building and to select a teacher or to "dismiss him at discretion." Under this arrangement a school was erected on Mt. Kemble Avenue in 1811; another was built on Hanover Avenue called "The Old Stone School;" a third was constructed of wood on Mendham Road and named the "Board School House"—both in 1814. In 1813 the "Brick School" was built in Washington Valley.

Since the minutes of the Trustees' "Schoolmeetings" are available, the entire history of the brick school from the years 1813 to 1869 can be traced.

The first meeting to consider the matter was held on April 2, 1813, at John Smith's new brick house on Washington Valley Road.

"A Motion made and seconded to build a new School House carried. A motion made and seconded that John Smith John Squier and Silas Axtell be appointed a Committee to determine where said house shall stand. Carried in the Affirmative. A Motion made and Seconded that said house shall be built of Brick Carried Motion made and seconded that said house shall be built 28 feet Long 17 feet wide 9 feet high  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in the Clear Carried. A motion made and seconded that sd. House shall be called Washington School House Carried.

Ezekial Whitehead Mod'r  
Jonathan H. Smith Clerk"

The site chosen by John Smith, John Squier and Silas Axtell was the "lot of land belonging to Mr. Abraham Richards in the fork of the road near Colonel Arnold's—containing forty-five hundredths of an acre strict measure." Abraham Richards was a son-in-law of Jacob Arnold's, who according to the deed was a resident of the state of Georgia at the time of the sale. This piece of property had been meadow land and was probably treeless or nearly so. Within a few weeks an act of incorporation was recorded in the courthouse with the avowed purpose that the school was to be built "for the promotion of literature." Work on the building began immediately and it was decided that "6 pence per Bushel be given for carting Lime, and 5 shillings per load be given for carting sand allowing 20 bushels for a load from Morristown Green."

Thirty-four men and two women subscribed to this first School House in Washington Valley.

Jacob Arnold	Isaac Gaston
Henry Axtell	Mary Gould
Silas Axtell	Stephen Day
Jonas Allward	Richard Guerin
Samuel Armstrong	Abraham Hire
Samuel Beers	Lewis Loree
Henry Beach	Stephen Ludlow
Abner Condict	Jonas Guerin
Philip Condict	Joseph McCord
Timothy Drake	David Pierson

Gabriel Pierson	John Talmadge
Albert Pierson	John Mills
Benjamin Pierson	Daniel Phoenix
Eleazer Pierson	John Doughty
Robert Roff	Ellis Morris
John Smith	Silas Ogden
Jonathan H. Smith	Dennis Dalrimple
Catherine Smith	Enoch Roff

The schoolhouse was finished and ready for pupils in November, 1813. The men in the neighborhood had donated their labor and the necessary supplies. The building was approximately two-thirds the size of the present Washington Valley Schoolhouse with a lower roof line. It doubtless had small windows in order to conserve the heat which was furnished by a fireplace. No mention is made of any foundation. The walls inside were whitewashed to reflect the light furnished by the sun. It is quite probable that the room was dark on a gloomy wintry day from the low roof and the small windows. Soon it was evident that the fireplace did not provide adequate heat.

“At a Schoolmeeting by appointment of the Trustees at the Washington schoolhouse on friday the eight day of Dec. 1815 When Isaac Gaston was Chosen moderator and J H Smith Clerk

1st, Moved and Seconded that the schoolhouse be furnished with a stove and pipe. Carried.

2nd, Moved and seconded that the said stove be a

box stove together with a sufficiency of pipe for the use of the said house. Carried

3rd, Moved and seconded the money be raised by Subscription for the purpose of securing said stove and pipe. Carried

4th, Moved and seconded that the teacher purchase the wood at a price that shall hereafter be agreed upon. Carried

5th, Moved and seconded that five Dollars per Cord be paid for hickory and four for oak or other hard wood two thirds to be cut suitable for the stove the other fit for the fireplace. Carried.

Isaac Gaston Moderator  
Jonathan H. Smith Clerk"



Lucy Hulbert, teacher

Parents could reduce their subscription cost for the number of children enrolled by providing wood for heating purposes. The ashes from the wood were to accumulate and then be sold to the highest bidder. Ezekial Whitehead bought the ashes for sixty cents in 1817 and Samuel Axtell paid a dollar for them a few years later.

There was constant difficulty in obtaining teachers for the one room school. In 1854 it was "Resolved that Madison I. Mallette be employed to teach the school if he can be prevailed upon to do so." The duties of the teacher were many. He had to see that wood was supplied for the stove and fireplace, tend the fires, and be responsible for all repairs to the building.

The school year was divided into quarters, occasionally being open during the summer, sometimes being closed for one quarter while the students attended the "Board Schoolhouse" on Mendham Road for that period. In 1853 the number of "schollars" ranged from "31" to "45" in each quarter. The account book shows that Hannah J. Roy received as a salary for the quarter period the munificent sum of fifteen dollars. Often the teacher boarded in the immediate neighborhood, either at Smith's or at Gould's.

Both Mendham and Morris Township children attended the red brick school. In 1852 "in pursuance of the ninth Section of Supplement to the act entitled an act to establish public schools" the subscribers trustees became incorporated and

" . . . adopted the name of Washington Valley school district & do hereby together with the Town superintendents of public schools for said Townships of Morris & Mendham certify to you the name aforesaid as our corporate name and we do certify the boundaries of said school district are the following viz. Beginning at the



point where the Washington Turnpike crosses the boundary line between the Townships of Morris & Mendham thence in a straight course to the dwelling house of Ira Pierson thence to William Guerins thence to William Enslees thence to Lewis Tuttles thence to John Grivvins, thence to the late residence of John McGoldrick, to the Newton Turnpike thence along the Turnpike to Wm B Bowen's thence to Harriet L Wagers thence to Enoch Roff Jr. in the Township of Mendham thence in said Township to the late residence of Lewis M Loree thence in a straight line to the place of beginning including all the dwellings above mentioned & all within said boundaries."

As interpreted in roads of today, this meant that the school district began on Mendham Road at the boundary between Mendham and Morris Townships, proceeded east on Mendham Road to Kahdena Road, including some of Picatinny Road, on to Sussex Avenue and along Sussex Avenue to Raynor Road, then cut southwest through the Valley to Lewis Loree's (now E. T. Look's) in Mendham Township. During all the years of the growth of the school the Smiths, Condicts, Whiteheads, Lorees, Arnolds, Ludlows and Guerins served again and again in the capacity of trustees or clerks of the meetings.

In April 1868 a motion was made by the trustees "to examine School House with referince to building a new one." The original school had stood for fifty-six years.

A tax was levied on the district and the present school house was built in 1869 at a cost of two thousand and twenty-five dollars. The building was not quite complete for in a meeting in 1884 the minutes state that "The sum of Three hundred dollars was voted to be raised for the purpose of building a privy and a stone wall on the school House lot," both of which improvements are still in existence in nineteen hundred and fifty-nine.

From the records of "Sanitary Survey of School-House" for the State Board of Health of New Jersey we have a survey report made by Emma V. Gould on October 21, 1885.

"Building, how located as to elevation and drainage?	Very good
Has it cellar or basement?	No
How many windows?	8
Size of windows and glass?	18 panes 10" x 14"
Is it well-heated?	Yes, with stove
What is the source of water supply?	Brook
Are there two privies belonging to the schoolhouse?	Yes
How many feet from the schoolhouse?	35 feet
Are all the doors hung to swing outward as the law requires?	No
How many pupils can be comfortably seated in the building?	52
What is average daily attendance this quarter?	22
Is there provision for hand and face washing?	Yes"



Pupils of Addie Carey (later Mrs. Web West)  
 Bottom Row, l. to r.: Gretchen Renigar, Mary Dougherty, Wesley Renigar, Ray Blanchard,  
 Watson Renigar, Ralph Searing, Russell Whitehead  
 Top Row: Eugene Styles, Ashell Dufore, William Dougherty, Ann Dougherty, Minnie  
 Searing, --- Dufore, --- Dufore, --- Addie Carey, teacher.

In a "special School Meeting held at the School House on May 28, 1887 it was resolved to raise Seventy Five dollars for the purpose of sinking a well." This well with pump was in use until nineteen hundred and forty or later when the School House was connected to the water main at the instigation of the Home Economics Club and ten years later the well was covered with a concrete slab lest any person fall into it.

From a financial report of the school district in 1877, information is given as follows:

"Teacher's Wages	\$375.00
Fuel	21.00
Number of children residing in district	68
Number of children enrolled	39"

In 1905 consolidation of the four one-room schools, Mt. Kemble Avenue, Hanover Ave., Mendham Road, and Washington Valley, took place and the separate boards of trustees combined to form one Morris Township Board of Education. The Washington Valley schoolhouse remained in operation until 1913 and a number of people still in this area remember going to school there. One, who used to live on the Moody farm, remembers the mice scurrying out of the organ when it was "pumped" in the morning. When the school was closed, the Valley children were transported to Hillside School on Centre Avenue by a horse-drawn carriage with a board on each side for seats, and in winter time on a bobsled. These modes of transportation



continued until 1920 when the first school bus was purchased.

The following account of "school days" in the red brick schoolhouse was written by Martha G. Hopler, the last teacher to conduct classes there before its closing.

"A strange, lonesome quiet hung over the Little Red Schoolhouse on school-opening day in the fall of 1913. The old school was silent; the windows, tightly latched; the doors securely locked. The children had been whisked away that morning to meet new friends in a larger, graded school in a neighboring part of the township.

"There's more than a nip of nostalgia in the air as one chats with former students about the 'good old days' at the little brick schoolhouse. They talk of return visits—just to sit on the flagstone steps and remember; of detours through the valley to be assured that their old school was still standing. They seem eager to share in the pride of a community that has preserved this treasured landmark.

"They enjoy recalling the days when they occupied the small front seats and moved at the tap of the teacher's bell to the 'recitation' bench at the front of the room where they learned their A B C's and chanted the 'two-times' table. These 'boys and girls' like to remember how, as their knowledge increased with their bodies, they moved back a row each year to occupy the coveted



double seats at the rear of the room.

“One rarely hears mention of programs of study, but he listens with enjoyment as they recapture the excitement of field trips to the Gould farm in the spring to search for wild ginger, or to the West homestead to uncover in the cool hilly woods the first sweet yellow violets for teacher’s desk. For them each season offered a new science laboratory, as they strolled leisurely on their way to and from their community school.

“Nothing is heard of planned physical education or recreational programs. At the Little Red School House, recess, the ample noonhour, as well as after-school activities followed Nature’s calendar. The warm spring days encouraged the building of ‘playhouses;’ baseballs and jacks appeared along with shouts of ‘Red Rover.’ Later came the skating and coasting on the nearby ponds and hills. As one former student remarked: ‘The days there were full, but they were happy ones. There was no time for boredom at the little brick school.’

“As one reflects on these visits, he comes to know that for those boys and girls the little old school was more than a place where they learned to read and write and solve arithmetic problems or to sing, to the accompaniment of the much-loved organ, ‘My Country ’Tis of Thee’ and ‘Singing in the Rain:’

'Where the elm tree branches By the rain are stirr'd,  
Careless of the shower Swings a little bird;  
Clouds may frown and darken, Drops may fall in vain,  
Little heeds the warbler Singing in the rain.'

For them, the Little Red School House intimacy of teacher and children will bring warm memories long after much that was taught there has been forgotten."

Educating the children of the Valley was not the only use to which the school building was put. It functioned as often as once a week as a meeting place for the adults of the community who derived pleasure from it as a central meeting place. It is believed that such meetings began ahead of the year 1851, but the record which has been available for study covers only the years 1851 to 1876, and shows a very active use of the schoolhouse as a meeting place during the week.

The record opens with a constitution:

"January 8, 1851. . . . adopted a constitution for a band to be known as the Lafayette Brass Band of Morristown. The object—'mutual improvement in instrumental music' . . . assemble on Tuesday evening of each week . . . from April through Sept. 8 o'clock p.m. and from Sept. until April 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock p.m."

Hours would seem to have been arranged according to the working hours of farmers. There was an elaborate system of fines imposed for infractions: for improper

language 12¢, absence 2 evenings in succession 25¢, leaving early 10¢, neglect of committee duty 25¢, books left at home by Sec'y. or Treas. 25¢, neglect to pay fine within 2 weeks 12¢ and 10¢ per additional weeks.

The minutes of a special meeting of February 15, 1861, show the kind of excitement that came to the Band:

“Special meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mr. W. N. Wallace a gentleman from N. York having come out here to give us a course of lessons if it was thought practible and he could make an engagement with us stated that as the times were dull in the city he would give a course of lessons much less than his usual price (which is Five dollars) per lesson but would engage to give us a course of lessons and merely charge us the usual price for the music which is from two to three dollars for each piece and nothing for tuition. On Motion resolved that we employ him and give a concert at the end of the course to repay expenses.

Moved and adjourned

J. S. Carey Secy.”

“Morristown Feby. 19, 1861

“Band met—Reading of the minutes dispensed with till next week. On Motion resolved that a committee be appointed to attend to getting Bills, Programmes and Tickets printed for the concert—J. West, A. B. Roff and J. S. Carey were appointed. On Motion resolved that the Quartette Club be invited to assist in the concert.”

At this point the entries ceased and there is no further mention of the concert or the band. The reader of the minutes is inclined to conjecture that even under the leadership of the "gentleman from New York" the concert was not a success though it is to be hoped that the band blew lustily and well, filling the Valley night with sounds of well-played pieces while the Quartette Club sang in affecting harmony, but certainly something led to the sure demise of the Lafayette Band because it is never mentioned again.

The next item of record in the ledger is the Constitution of the W. V. Debating Club, born in April 1856 and meeting regularly each week with a final entry on January 11, 1876 when the chief item in the minutes is the notation that "Z. N. Smith fined for not reading an essay, paid his fine (10¢)." This was an all-male club with the women banned from arguing.

The topic of the first meeting of the Debating Club, at which the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order were adopted, was: "Is Intoxication Any Excuse for Crime?" The negative won the argument, and for the second meeting the question was chosen: "Are Mobs Justifiable Under Any Circumstances?"

At a meeting on October 17, 1868, the minutes recorded that "J. O. Arnold was fined 10¢ for eating during the meeting."

Over the years the following questions came up for debate:

“Which Has Produced the Greater Results—Silence or Noise?”

“Are the United States Under Deeper Obligation to Her Warriors Than to Her Statesmen?”

“Would a Man be Made Better or Worse for Knowing Just What Everyone Thought of Him?”

“Which Furnishes the Better Safeguard Against Crime, the ‘Jail’ or the ‘School’?”

“Has the Negro More Ground for Complaint Than the Indians?”

“Is the Ladies Temperance Crusade Beneficial to the Temperance Cause?” (This question was decided in favor of the affirmative.)

A startling question came to light on May 19, 1874:

“Would Female Suffrage Be Beneficial to the Country?”

“Debated and decided in favor of the negative.”

The negative won again on the question: “Which is in Greater Need of True Friends the Prosperous or the Unfortunate Man?”

A debate by Sylvester R. Whitehead, 1796-1887, has been preserved. Since no record of this debate can be located in the ledger, it seems probable that a debating society may have existed during the earlier part of the nineteenth century. In any case, the debate is as follows: (written in his own handwriting) and published by permission of the Whitehead family.

“Debate for the Brick School House Moris Town N.  
J. . . . S. R. Whitehead”



“If a young person should ask a gray headed man who had observed for  $\frac{1}{2}$  century with what delightful and apparant pleasure men look forward to the time when they shall be in the possession of what they conceive to be happiness and with what zeal and industry they pursue their object if a young person should ask such an one the question whether there was more pleasure in the possession or enjoyment of the object of their wishes than in the pursuit of it he could naturally agree that there was more pleasure in the pursuit of it. And the reason he would give for his opinion would be that all most all the wishes of the young are of a sensual kind— I am free to admit that in all pleasures of a sensual or animal nature there is more enjoyment in anticipation than in possession. Their are some pleasures which depend not upon the fitness of the object to give or communicate enjoyment but upon imagination altogether and without the benefit of daylight we should derive the same satisfaction from a different object. A remarkable instance of this is given in Scripture in the case of the Patriarch Jacob there was but one object which filled his soul during the seven years of his servitude to Laban and that was Rebecca. His love for her was so warm that the seven years he served Laban for her seemed to him but as one day. But lo when the object of his wishes was attained and when he was loving as he thought with all the madness of youthful passion the wife of his heart his Beloved Rebecca he awoke in the

morning and behold Leah and he was might angry. But whether Leah or Rebecca it made no difference to Jacob so long as he thought it was Rebecca—But I do insit and think that I can prove from that there is more pleasure an real satisfaction in the possession of the object of our wishes than in the pursuit of it when that object is for comfort or to improve the mind. I will instance some cases. When a good man is desirous to acquire wealth fir laudable and Benevolent purposes there is certainly more pleasure in the possession and enjoyment of it than in the pursuit of it. If a person has the means and diposition to be good by releaving the needy clothing the naked feeding the hungry it certainly affords him more pleasure than he could possibly enjoy in the pursuit of his wealth. The fact of his having the character of Benevolence in his circle of acquaintances is a source of never failing happiness and enjoyment to his mind But when the orphan and the widow tender to such a man their heartfelt thanks for having given to them Bread and clothing in the hour of affliction and of need it must convey to him more real satisfaction than he could ever have enjoyed in acquiring his wealth, So it is in Science a literary man must necessarily Derive more solid pleasure even from his own reflections than he could have enjoyed when just learning rudiments of the Sciences Pitt and Fox enjoyed themselves more when they saw the British house of commons . . . elated and delighted by their persuasive eloquence than they



Community Supper for Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Cutting, 1944

- Top Row: E. Fisher, Mrs. Fisher, E. & B. Black, M. Peterson, H. Foster, E. Kaufman,  
H. Kendall, W. West, V. Kaufman, R. Buel
- Third Row: A. King, E. Tate, Mrs. Scovil, H. B. Cutting, Mrs. Cutting, K. Smith, E. Conley
- Second Row: V. Spurdle, N. McCormack, M. Plympton, G. Foster, Mrs. DeGroodt, Mrs. F.  
Gould, O. Hammerslough, F. Hassenjaeger, M. McCormack, H. Scovil, N. Gould, E. King
- First Row: M. Black, W. Conley, A. Spurdle, Mr. Scovil, Mr. Hassenjaeger, R. McCormack,  
C. Kendall, J. Lloyd

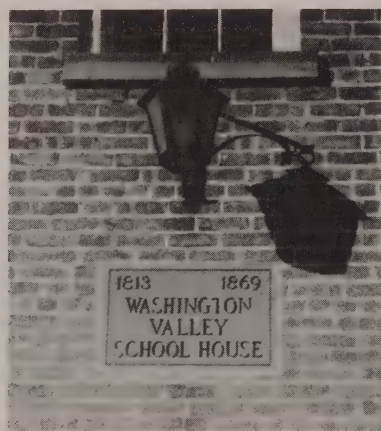
ever did when studying their grammar But the most striking case in which the possession of our object is accompanied with more pleasure than the pursuit of it is pure Religion. The pursuit of it is attended with doubts and difficulties dangers and trials The possession of it is peace of mind and the most perfect kind of happiness here below The repenting sinner has to travel through the firey furnace of affliction goaded with a guilty conscience But he is amply paid for all his troubles if he is conscious he has effected his reconciliation with his maker My argument is this that a virtuous man in the pursuit of a virtuous and praiseworthy object enjoys himself more when he has attained or is possessed of his object than he does in the pursuit of it But in sensual pleasure and enjoyments it is a matter of doubt whether there is not quite as much in anticipation."

After the Schoolhouse was abandoned as a place of education, the Social Club, organized in 1914, used it for its activities for a number of years by permission of the Morris Township Board of Education. A flourishing Sunday School met there every Sunday. When the Social Club disbanded the women of the Home Economics Club feared that the property might be sold to a commercial enterprise, so after many meetings and discussions a Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up and the Washington Valley Community was incorporated, leasing the schoolhouse in 1926 from the Morris Township Board of Education as a center



for its activities. The members of the Community agreed to the full care of the property, and so all repairs and up-keep are in the hands of the residents who belong to the Washington Valley Community, an organization of eighty-five families. During World War II the building was open daily for the making of surgical dressings for the American Red Cross.

At the time of the writing of this book the schoolhouse is still cared for by the Community and here are given the famous pancake breakfasts, the covered dish suppers, square dances, educational lectures and small town meetings which draw together the residents of nineteen hundred and fifty-nine. The Christmas season is brightened by the huge tree which is lighted every year and brings the Yuletide message to every one passing by. On Sunday during the Christmas season neighbors meet to exchange greetings and as they do so, some give thought to those who established the schoolhouse at much sacrifice in 1813.





## WASHINGTON VALLEY SUNDAY SCHOOL

by Beatrice and Ethel Black

This undenominational Sunday School was in existence from April 1, 1875, until April 25, 1937, or for sixty-two years. During that time there were only two superintendents—Isaac Whitehead and Charles Briant. Norman Gould was secretary and treasurer from 1920 until 1937 and Charles R. Whitehead for even longer, from 1882 until 1911 or 1912.

There was a Cradle Roll, a Home Department (both started in 1919), and the Sunday School proper. This had about seventy members in the early days with an average attendance of fifty to fifty-five. There were from six to twelve classes with as many teachers and school was held at 3:00 p. m. Sunday afternoon the year round, weather permitting. Two scholars were baptized on Children's Day, 1926, apparently the first baptismal service ever held in the Schoolhouse.

Programs were given throughout the year with special emphasis on Easter, Children's Day and Christmas in addition to a Sunday School picnic in June. All these were well attended by the entire community and most of the children took part. Every member received a box of candy,

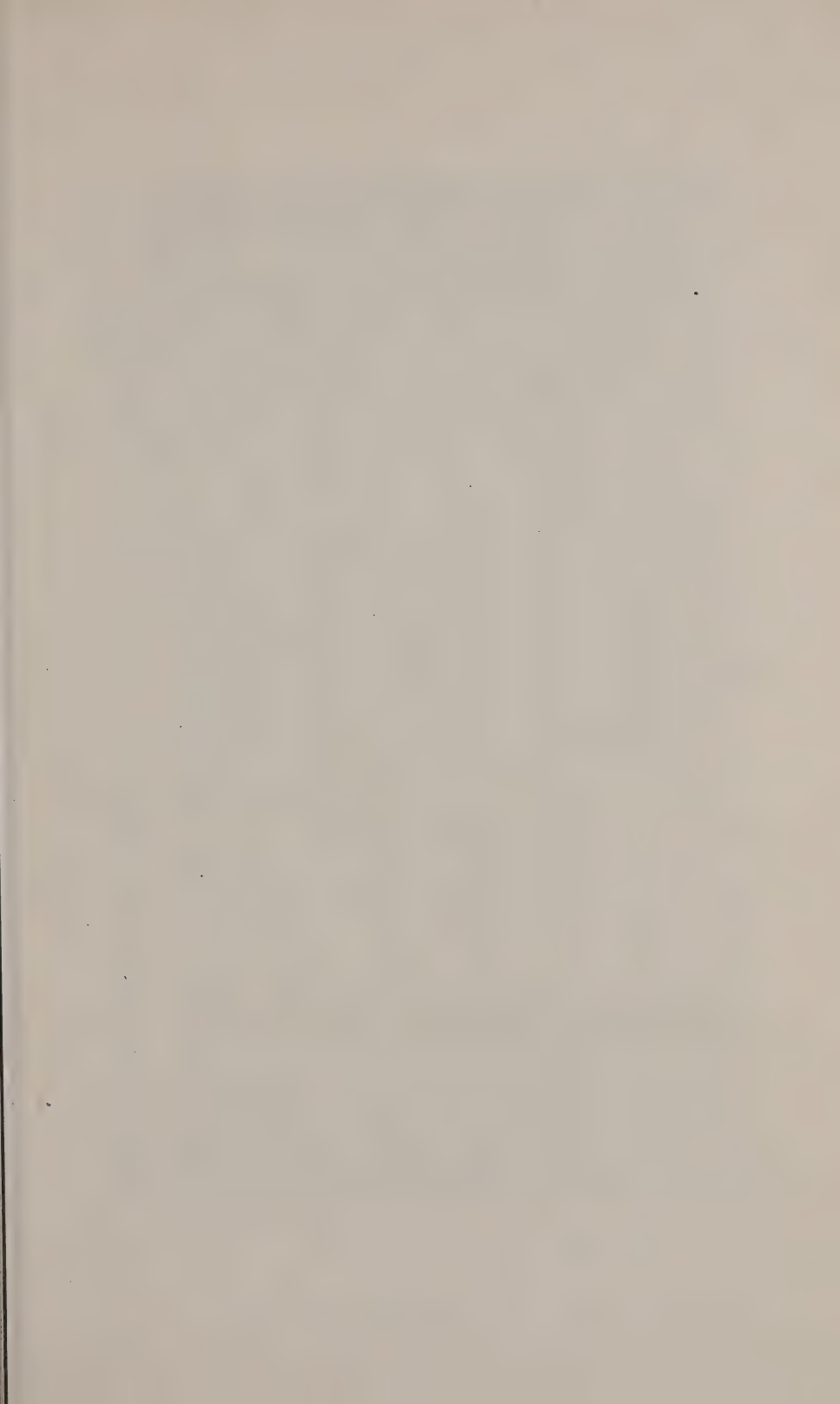
an orange and a gift at Christmas as well as a plant at Easter. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Natkins donated the candy and oranges. It is interesting to note the bill for a Christmas basket given one of the members in 1934:

1/2 bushel potatoes	\$ .45	16 oranges	\$ .25
5 1/2 lb. ham	.83	4 grapefruit	.15
3 lbs. beans	.24	2 bunches carrots	.15
1 lb. raisins	.09	1 lb. fruited candy	.25
		3 apples	.09

The total came to two dollars and fifty cents.

From the collections and contributions, donations were made regularly to the American Sunday School Union as well as occasional gifts to various charities, such as the Near East Relief, missionary societies, etc.

In the 1920's attendance lessened and by 1930 it was evident that there was considerable loss of interest. So much so that by 1937 it was voted to close the Sunday School. On April 25, 1937, it was disbanded. The flag, school bell, chairs and some other articles were given to the Washington Valley Community Club while other things went to the Cedar Knolls Church.





"Rockabye Baby" taken from Mendham Road

## THE RAILROAD

In the old religious book aforementioned there is recorded on page thirteen the following shocking event: "Bob Thompson of Brookside 80 years of age dropped Dead when he saw the first train on the Rock-a-by Baby railroad come from Mendham, N. J. to Brookside and Morristown."

It can be imagined that at the same time the farmers and their families of Washington Valley were gathered along Washington Valley Road near the bridge to see the steam engine drawing cars and freight come over the meadow. Much waving and many cheers must have greeted the efficient crew and engineer. There was never a scheduled station stop in the Valley, but when passengers wanted to get on or off at the railroad crossing the train obligingly halted. The DeGroot family, who used to spend their summers in the Valley and sometimes came for a family Thanksgiving celebration, made their journey from New York by train to Morristown, then by horse-drawn stage to the Watnong Station at Speedwell Lake and then into the Valley by the railroad which let them off to walk the rest of the way to their house (Eucker's).

The Newark Sunday News for July 25, 1948, in an article by John Cunningham describes the Rock-a-by: "Born in



the Blizzard of '88, weaned on peaches and dead at an early age the Rockaway Valley Railroad never hurried, never made any money, yet always sought to please. Always striving for dignity and respectability it reached the end of its days short on rolling stock and long on laughing stock. Such was the 'Rockabye Baby'!"

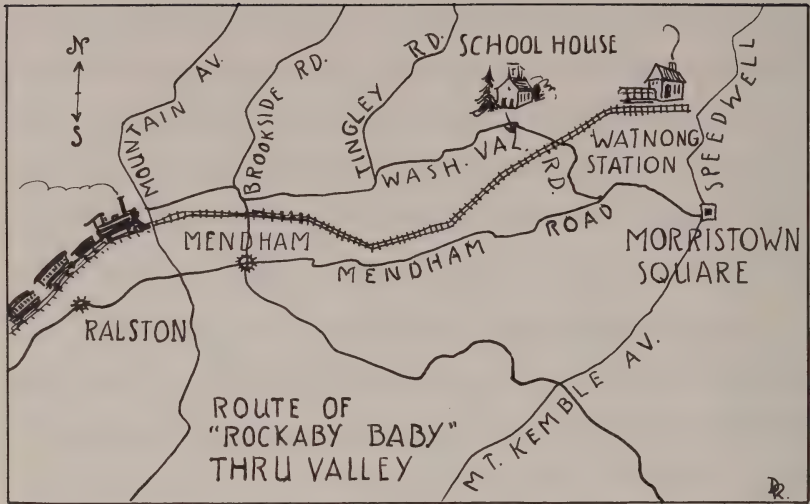
The Rockaway Valley Railroad ran from Watnong station on Speedwell Lake, Morristown, to Whitehouse. It crossed through the Valley along the bank of the Whippany River, its roadbed leaving to posterity a pleasant walk for roamers and trampers through the Valley. The passenger trains which made two round trips daily took two and a half hours in each direction. It would stop almost anywhere, practically at the drop of a handkerchief. Most certainly a small boy waving a towel could flag it to a stop while the passenger had time to pick up a suitcase and get aboard. Its best engines were familiarly dubbed "Phoebe" and "Rachel." Its roadbed had little ballast and so its bumpy ride gave it the name of Rockabye Baby Railroad.

The railroad did a lively freight business mainly in the peach season. It shipped as many as seventy car loads of peaches daily, three of which went through to Boston. During peach season the passenger trains had to draw up on a siding and wait to let the freights go through. Part of the ruin of the Rockabye Baby was due to the San Jose peach scale which destroyed almost completely the peach-raising orchards in 1905.

The railroad was the conception of John N. Pidcock, a Hunterdon politician, and Mr. J. E. V. Melick, a civil engineer, who planned to connect it with the ready market for peaches in New York via the Morris-Erie railroad hookup in Morristown. It would carry coal in winter and passengers throughout the year.

These entrepreneurs issued stock and spoke of bright prospects for large financial gains. Starting at Whitehouse Mr. Melick threw himself into the project as Superintendent. With a pocketful of stocks and little or no money he tried to buy a right-of-way through the farmers' meadows. When he failed, the rails were laid around the fields which made many a hairpin curve. Trees were felled to lay the rails over the streams. Often the engine plowed through the mud and arrived well-plastered at Watnong. This proved a great trial to the crew of the train who endured endless kidding. Sometimes crew members or passengers ran ahead of the train to shoo a cow from the tracks.

From existing records service began in September, 1888, from Whitehouse to Strykers Crossing and reached Watnong at Speedwell Lake in 1892, one and one-half miles from its proposed destination. There it stopped as the money was never raised to build the track to its planned end. At Watnong stages met the train and carried the passengers to the United States Hotel in Morristown. The road was advertised as a "scenic route" and summer excursions were made by Sunday School picnickers from Newark and Elizabeth to a Park in Pottersville.



Route of Rockaway Railroad through the Valley

The history of this railroad is long and involved though it never owned anything but second-hand engines and well-worn rolling stock. Mr. Pidcock, the owner, sent the best engine to a line of his in Georgia and was thereby sued for stealing railroad equipment. This suit threw the road into bankruptcy and closed transportation down. It was sold to Frank B. Allen of Bernardsville for twenty-three thousand dollars who operated an auto on wheels to fit the rails. In 1917 the rails were sold for scrap for World War I. It is believed they were shipped to France to aid the Allies' cause. It is interesting to note that Mr. Allen, selling the rails for an estimated one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars was the only person to make a profit out of the Rockaway Valley Railroad.

## HOME ECONOMICS CLUB

Minutes taken from the secretary's book for the year 1936 read as follows:

"The regular meeting of the Washington Valley Home Economics was held at Mrs. Sifleet's on Wed. Jan. 16 at 2:30 p. m. Meeting was opened by V. Pres. in chair. Minutes read and approved. Roll was called—nine present and one visitor. Sec's report was read and approved. After the meeting refreshments were served and a social time was had by all.

H. Black, (Sec)"

The Home Economics Club grew out of a group which made surgical dressings at the schoolhouse during the first World War. The same group was assembled for programs of home-canning, sewing, etc., conducted by the County Agricultural Agent. The minutes list other occasions upon which the County Agent was present to give talks on nutrition, cuts of meat, or demonstrations of cooking, blanket-making, chair caning, reupholstery and candy-making. For some years the group was known as the Farm Bureau, but by 1926 the name had been changed to the Home Economics.

In any case the list of works of the club has been good. It has been closely knit to the Community which it has assisted financially many times in projects of redecoration and equipment of the schoolhouse for Community use. It installed running water, bought a new electric stove, curtains, chairs, and card tables, and during World War II it repeated the pattern of its beginning and was one of the most active and efficient productive units for the making of surgical dressings for the Morristown Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Today its business meetings are still a record of the number present with an occasional item about contributing money to the Red Cross, Community Chest, etc. Sometimes a lively discussion grows out of a chance remark, but mostly the Home Economics Club of the 1950's is a once-a-month get-together of the women of the Valley who enjoy saying a neighborly "hello" before and after the feast which is prepared.

My first memory of Home Economics, if the Editor is allowed to be personal, is of an afternoon in December, 1937, at Mrs. Frank Gould's on Schoolhouse Lane. It was a dreary wintry afternoon, and the candlelight on the laden table was exquisite. Mrs. De Groodt took a small white lace-trimmed apron from her handbag to help. As she looked at the table she shook an admonishing finger at Mrs. Gould. "Minnie," she said, "you know it's supposed to be that we have only two things."



"It is two things," said Minnie Gould.

She was partly right; it was two things, sandwiches and cake, but there were five kinds of home-made cake: cocoa-nut, chocolate, white and sponge, I remember, particularly.

I recall Mrs. West, a gentle, stooped, but lovely-faced lady in black with lace at her neck, crossing the room to take my hand the first time I attended a meeting. She reminded me of my grandmother dressed for church. When it was time for the Treasurer's report, she took off her silk gloves and drew a small piece of paper from her silk-crocheted purse. She never made a mistake.

Mrs. Black with her bright little girl's smile flashing from blue eyes under snow-white hair always read the roll call and the minutes. She beamed upon the club with peace and joy and pleasure.

Mrs. DeGroot came from Mendham. She was thin and tall and straight of back. Her hair was parted in the middle and brushed smoothly back. Her eyes were dark and shining. An artist seemed to have painted her as a portrait.

Katherine Smith, the pioneer woman, exercised a leadership that was firm and powerful. It emanated from her courageous strong personality in a subtle way. She was a most friendly woman among friendly women. It was Katherine whom one dropped in to see at the Brick House. It was Katherine who decided that beer should not be served at a Fourth of July picnic at the schoolhouse. It was Katherine

who led the group in giving to the Red Cross.

Mrs. Gould was blessed with a delightful sense of humor. She was filled with sparkle and enthusiasm, matching that of Mrs. Black. She usually had a little story to tell with a funny point.

These, I believe, were the founders of the Home Economics Club, famous for its picnics to far-away places, first by horse and wagon, then by car; famous for its oyster stew suppers and its June festivals when native strawberries, ice cream and home-made cake were sold for fifty cents a heaped high plate.

Today the club prevails as a stimulus to friendship and the newcomer who moves to the Valley finds friends for herself if she participates in this one afternoon a month of neighborly greeting.

May Home Economics endure forever, no business and five kinds of cake!

PART TWO

OLD HOUSES AND FAMILIES



## INTRODUCTION

Who were the early residents of Washington Valley and where and when did they build their homes? To find the complete answer to these questions is impossible, but by exhaustive research much information has been obtained. To show how this research was carried out, an outline of the procedure is necessary.

In the first place, a list of all houses in the Washington Valley area which were known to be over a hundred years old was compiled. Next, a long and painstaking search of titles to these houses was instituted, working back from the present owner as far as available records would permit. Only on rare occasions did this retrogression proceed smoothly, for it was a more common occurrence to discover breaks in the chain of title. These breaks in the chain of title necessitated searching the deeds of adjoining properties which sometimes furnished clues to the missing owners and made it possible to fill in the gaps and resume the history of ownership.

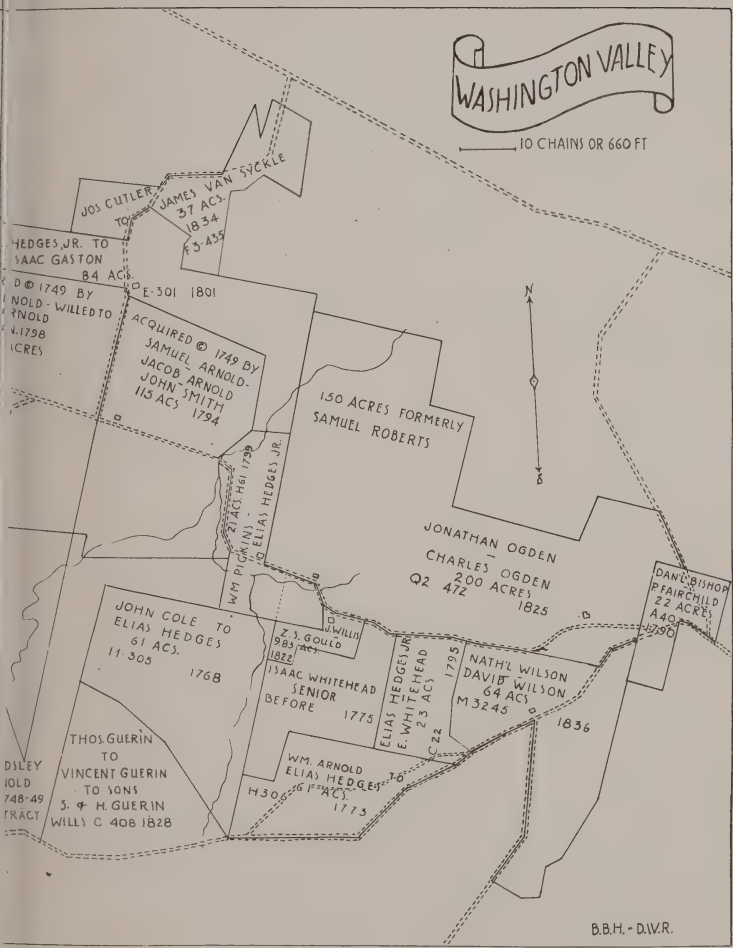
Since the Valley was settled in the late 1740's and deeds in the Morris County Hall of Records commence with the years 1795-1800, there is an interval of over fifty years in which no records except for an occasional mortgage are





WASHINGTON VALLEY

10 CHAINS OR 660 FT



B.B.H. - D.V.R.

from earliest available deeds.

available for study. Occasionally families have preserved unrecorded deeds, but in most every case the history of ownership from 1740 to the end of the century is confused.

After the search of titles was made, each deed was plotted on graph paper in order to determine the shape of the property described.

Old deeds use "chains and links" as their unit of measurement instead of the feet and inches employed today. An actual chain, sixty six feet long and composed of one hundred pieces of iron wire or links, was laid on the ground by the surveyor and his chain bearers to determine the length and breadth of a given piece of property. For an example, a deed dated December 11, 1799, and far more informative than many, reads in part as follows:

"A lot of land which Jonas Goble's late did convey to Gabriel Beach adjoining the above lot at corner of a meadow a corner of the above land by side of said road S 12 degrees east according to compass of 1788, along meadow of Isaac Babbit late of Mendham (dec'd) 9 chains 65 links to line of Elias Hedges dec'd. N 78 degrees east 10 chains 60 links to corner of sd. Hedges land N 12 degrees west 9 chains and 27 links to stake in centre of road in sd. Roberts line along road and the lots first described to beginning, containing ten acres."

This deed describes land now owned by Elmer Vom Eigen and John Roberts.

The next step was to fit each deed plotting into a map. (See plotting map.) From this map a graphic picture of the early Washington Valley landowners slowly emerged. But since deeds are a record of land title only and rarely mention a house or an existing structure built upon the land, research into other media became necessary. A search of road deeds, mortgages, Township records, wills and inventories followed. Little real evidence was uncovered which would establish a reliable date for the erection of houses. However, it became possible to give approximate dates in many instances.

The final step, and possibly the most frustrating, was the accumulation of data on the early families in the Valley. It is difficult to make men and women, dead for well over a hundred years, come to life on the printed page when no written word of theirs survives, no pictures exist and their names are only names in the family Bible to their living descendants. These people emerge as "bare bones" with little flesh upon them. A novelist could clothe them with purposes and emotions and make of them living human beings again, but because this is a history and necessarily limited to facts, the reader as well as the authors of this volume must be content with such bare and unrelated facts as may have been recorded in the distant past.



Arnold Homestead (1880's)—Silas Arnold seated on porch.



August House 1959



## THE ARNOLD HOMESTEAD

Washington Valley Road, Morris Township  
Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. Robert August

Frequent mention has been made in the preceding section to the Arnold family who lived in Washington Valley from 1747 until 1923. They were at one time its largest landowners and the most prominent citizens of the Valley.

The Arnold family came to this country in 1635, settling first in Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1747 the Arnolds arrived in Washington Valley by way of Whippany and Roxiticus. One historian places the Arnolds of Morristown as "descendants of John Arnold, the first school master of Newark, who by his own affidavit, was not an Arnold, but the son of Sir William Ramsden, Lord of Bilton, Kingston-on-Hull, York, England. His descendants adopted the alias 'Arnold' without knowing their real name, which the school master did not disclose until just before his death."

On Christmas Day, "20th yr. of his majesties Reign King George II of Great Britain" (1747) Stephen Arnold, who had extensive holdings in the well-established community of Whippany, conveyed to his son Samuel Arnold one hundred and twenty-five acres of land in Washington Valley, the deed "sealed in the presents of Jonas Goble

and Ezekial Cheever." This particular tract of land was bounded on the north by John Jones land, on the south by the Whippany River and Bear Brook.

Unrecorded deeds at the Secretary of State's office in Trenton and at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown show that within six years the Arnold family owned seven hundred and twenty-seven acres of land, most of it within the confines of the Valley. (See end of chapter for description of deeds and for Arnold family genealogy.)

From the deeds it is evident that Stephen, Robert, William and Samuel Arnold all owned land in the Valley by 1761. Stephen Arnold died in 1754 and so far as is known never established residence in the Valley. Robert Arnold, a weaver from "Rocksiticus" (Ralston or Mendham), bought two hundred and thirty-two acres of land "beginning at a Black Ash corner of Penn's land" in 1748-49 for one hundred and thirty-nine pounds and four shillings. His property was a long narrow piece, some sixteen hundred feet wide, encompassing both sides of the present Whitehead Road south of the bridge, and extending into Harding Township. His house was probably located on the north side of Mendham Road near "Josiah Guering's blacksmith shop." Robert Arnold was born in 1720, and died in 1793 of "lingering decay." He and his wife Elizabeth had ten children, several of whom lived on in the Valley after their father's death.

Another Arnold, William, either a brother or son of Stephen Arnold of Whippany, owned property, amount

unknown along Washington Valley Road toward the west. In 1757 his "new fence" became the boundary along which the present road to Brookside runs. He owned other parcels as well, both along Mendham Road and Gaston Road. He apparently left the Valley after the death of his young wife in 1774.

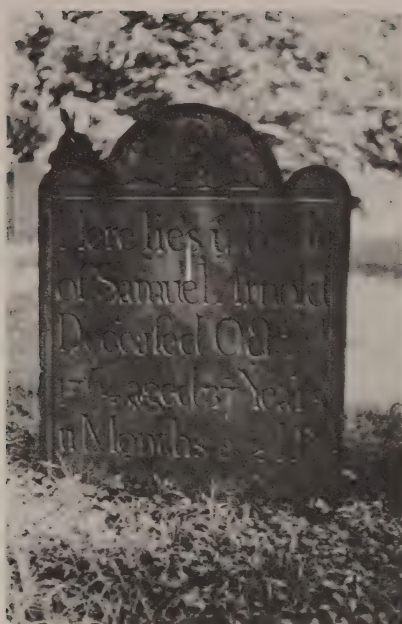
This chapter is primarily concerned with the story of Samuel Arnold and his descendants. Samuel Arnold, son of Stephen Arnold of Whippany and the father of Colonel Jacob Arnold, was born in 1727 and married Phoebe Ford in 1748, the year he bought land in the Valley. Phoebe Ford was the sister of Colonel Jacob Ford, whose home is now Washington's Headquarters in Morristown. By 1761 Samuel owned three hundred and eighty acres, including the tract known to have been purchased from Thomas Penn on December 1, 1756.

When Samuel and Phoebe Ford Arnold built their small house on Washington Valley Road, it was merely a trail, but by 1757 a road the same width as the road today—four rods—had been built. Their house was located farther to the east than the present August house, most likely on what is known as the Smith property. Slaves were used to farm this large plantation and for help in the house. It is said that Aunt Jenny, their negro slave, lived to be over one hundred years old. Samuel possessed other slaves, when this advertisement appeared in the *NEW YORK GAZETTE* or *WEEKLY POST BOY* on June 18, 1753:

“Ran away on the 2nd of this Instant June from Samuel Arnold of Morris County, West New Jersey, a mulatto fellow named Anthony, is 22 years of Age, about six Feet high, well set, with remarkable large Feet, his Hair cut off, talks good English, is very ingenious, and probably he has a forged Pass of his own Writing. Had on when he went away a Felt Hat, a Linnen Cap, a new brown Worsted Coat with a rent on one Shoulder, Linen Jacket, check'd Linnen Trousers, wollen Stockings, new Pumps with large Brass Buckles, but its likely he has chang'd his Clothes and is dressed in Indian Apparel. Whoever takes up said Fellow and secures him, so that his Master may have him again, shall have Three Pounds Reward and all reasonable Charges paid per me.

Samuel Arnold”

Tradition says that Samuel Arnold erected the famous tavern on the Green in Morristown. He died at thirty-eight in the year 1764, leaving his widow with three children, Jacob, Phoebe and Anne. The Abstract of his will dated August 1, 1764, reads: “Wife Phoebe profits of real estate, till my son Jacob is 21. To Presbyterian Church  $\frac{1}{4}$  15. Son Jacob my lands Daughters Phoebe and Ann  $\frac{1}{4}$  210. My nephew to have a support. Executors—Jacob Ford, Jr. friends Samuel Roberts and Samuel Tuthill—Witnesses—Mattaniah Lyons and Benjamin Pierson.” No mention is made of the tavern in this will. Presumably arrangements had been made to have it overseen until son Jacob should become of age.



Samuel Arnold Grave

Within two years Phoebe Ford Arnold married Jonas Phillips, a widower, thirty-one years old, who may have brought his daughter, Anna, to the Valley to be brought up with the Arnold brood. Jonas Phillips was a miller and apparently successful for he was able to subscribe money to Princeton College as well as to the local Academy. He was a faithful elder of the Presbyterian Church, "present 81 times out of 99." Phoebe and Jonas Phillips had three children, the oldest a son George, eighteen years old in 1786. The diary of Joseph Lewis of Morristown describes his tragic death.



"Fri. 20 Jan. '86. Cold day. Fire at Mr. Moses Estey's . . . Shop goods consumed . . . but this fire appeared more dreadful in the event because one of the chimnies fell over and killed George Phillips, the only son of Mr. Jonas Phillips, and a grandson of Jacob Ford, Esq.; he was a young man much respected and his death much lamented."

Phoebe Arnold Phillips lived to be ninety years old and a large monument to her memory erected by her son Jacob remains in the Presbyterian burial ground in Morristown. By her will she gave to her son Jacob Arnold "six silver tablespoons and my riding chair and harness." To Ann Phoenix, wife of Daniel, "my history of Henry on the Bible." Other bequests of silver, furniture and books followed.

Jacob Arnold, son of Samuel and Phoebe, was the leading citizen of Washington Valley for many years. He was born on December 14, 1749. As a young man he was described as about five feet eight inches tall, being thick-set and broad shouldered with dark hair and olive eyes. In 1770 when he was twenty years old, he married Elizabeth Tuttle and they probably started housekeeping in the old house formerly belonging to his father.

Before the outbreak of the Revolution, Jacob took over the management of the Arnold Tavern which had been conveyed to him by his father in some way. (See Arnold Tavern.) In 1778 Captain Jacob Arnold was taxed on two hundred and two acres, eleven horses, sixteen cattle, four hogs,

one servant and one riding chair for a total tax of  $\text{L}20.16.9$ , the largest tax paid in the Valley!

Two extracts from newspapers of that time give some insight into Jacob Arnold's life.

"March 5, 1779 To be Let

That valuable farm whereon the subscriber lately lived, lying on road between Mendham & Morristown, three miles from said town, for the term of one year. There is on said farm two dwelling houses and barns, two orchards, and very convenient to be let in two lots, Each a good farm.

Jacob Arnold"

From this it may be assumed that Jacob probably did not live in the Valley throughout the war years, but may have lived at the Tavern or nearby. The mention of two houses is confusing. It very likely referred to Jacob Arnold's dwelling house and another, possibly William Arnold's home. It does not refer to the present August house which was not built at that time.

In the following year of 1780 another advertisement appeared which would point to Jacob Arnold's return to the Valley dwelling.

"Strayed or stolen from farm of subscriber, a sorrel horse, 4 years old, in common working order, about 14 hands high, upheaded, with a switch tail and never was locked, blaze in his face and think some of his feet white.

One Hundred dollars reward for the horse and Two Hundred for the thief.

Jacob Arnold"

In addition to running the Arnold Tavern and leading the Light Horse Troop, Jacob and his brother-in-law, Thomas Kinney, established the Speedwell Iron Works in 1776. A portion can still be seen on Speedwell Avenue. This was a slitting mill, the second one in the county, and was set up in defiance of the laws of Great Britain which prohibited slitting mills in the colonies. For some reason the machinery in this mill failed to work properly and this venture was a complete failure for Jacob Arnold and his partner. His debts were many, and the mill had to be sold in 1788, the same year in which he sold the Arnold Tavern. Later, Stephen Vail took over the mill and managed it successfully.

About the year 1789 Jacob Arnold built a new home for his large family. It is this house, now greatly enlarged, that the Robert August family now own. The date for the erection of this house cannot be verified, though descendants of the Arnold family living in the house in 1923 told the new buyers that the house was then one hundred and thirty-five years old.

Jacob was highly respected and served in many offices of trust and honor. He was paymaster for General Washington at one period and after the War became High Sheriff of Morris County. He served as a member of the Assembly

from Morris County for four years. He received his title of Colonel for thirteen years of service in the County Militia. For many years he was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown.

In 1793 because of financial losses and increasing debt, his farm of two hundred and two acres, plus the Bragaw lot, one hundred acres of woodland on Raynor Road, was disposed of by sheriff's sale and was bought by three men: Jonas Phillips, his step-father; Daniel Phoenix, his brother-in-law; and Peter MacKie of Morristown, names which are found on many Valley deeds. In 1809 he was able with his step-father's assistance to buy back seventy acres of his original farm which he held until his death in 1827.

In 1803 his wife Elizabeth died of consumption at the age of fifty. She and Jacob had ten children, many of whom died before maturity. Four years after Elizabeth's death, Jacob at the age of fifty-six married a young girl of twenty-four, Sarah Nixon. They had seven children. As Jacob was one of the original subscribers to the Valley Schoolhouse in 1813, these children were probably educated there.

On his death at the age of seventy-eight, March 1, 1827, Jacob's property was divided among his four sons and three daughters: "the males to have two shares and the females one share" and "to my beloved wife, Sarah, use of all my household goods, \$100 and one horse, three cows and an unfinished horse wagon now at Lewis Loree's blacksmith shop, also use of the homestead farm." He appointed his

friends, Charles Roff, Isaac Gaston and his son-in-law, Abraham Richards, as executors and guardians to his children.

Four of Colonel Jacob Arnold's children are of interest to those who are curious about Washington Valley history: Phoebe Arnold, sprightly, capable daughter of Jacob Arnold married Barnabas Thompson in 1830 and raised a family of eleven children. Barnabas Thompson was a miller and worked the circuit of the mills in the area, Lade's Mill, Jacqui Mill and others. He and Phoebe moved thirty-three times in the course of his work. Finally she prevailed upon him to settle down and build a house in Washington Valley. Their house, built about 1865, is located on Whitehead Road and is now lived in by Miss Anita Parrot. Mary Anne married Samuel Loree in 1833 and later lived in the original old portion of the present Elmer King house. Sarah Arnold, a daughter of his first marriage, married Abraham Richards who signed the deed of the land for the school-house conveyed to the trustees for the edifice. Silas Arnold lived in the old homestead.

Silas Arnold was born in 1813 and married Martha Louise Pierson. He died in 1890, aged seventy-eight. He held many county and city offices until his death. He had eight children and by his will left his homestead farm to his two sons, Edwin and Willis. At the time of his death, the Arnold farm consisted of thirty acres or more, plus an outlying woodlot. In 1877 Edwin and Willis purchased the Gaston farm.



Edwin and Willis Arnold, both bachelors, were butchers and had a large slaughter house across the road from their house, on the south side of Washington Valley Road. Sheep and cattle were driven to it on foot from Pennsylvania and New York states, fattened upon the Arnold acreage, slaughtered in the big barn, and then sold in their butcher shop on Market Street in Morristown.

After the deaths of Edwin and Willis Arnold, the home-  
stead farm, reduced to five and six-tenths acres, was con-  
veyed to their unmarried sisters, Isabella and Emma, and  
sold by them to the Hurlburt B. Cuttings in 1923. The Cut-  
tings remodeled the house, enlarging it to its present size  
and purchased additional land so that "Friendly Acres" as  
they called it once again encompassed part of the Arnold  
farm. The Cuttings built the library, enlarged the kitchen  
and built the two porches. Upstairs they added four bed-  
rooms and three baths. In back they put on the service  
building. In the barn they had a prize herd of thirty-five  
Jersey cows. In 1944 the house was sold to John Hays and  
in 1956 was purchased by Robert and Edith August.

The following deeds show the land purchases made by  
Stephen, Samuel and Robert Arnold:

1. Secretary of State's office, Trenton, N. J.

H2 30

December 25, 20th yr. of his majesties reign King  
George II (1747)

Stephen Arnold to Samuel Arnold

One hundred and fifty acres, excepting fifteen acres conveyed by Jeremiah Osborn to James Frost and ten acres conveyed by Stephen Arnold to William Arnold. Rec'd. 8, June 1752.

The following unrecorded deeds were found at Washington's Headquarters in Morristown:

2. John Parkhurst of Morristown, cordwainer  
to Samuel Arnold, yeoman  
September 25, 1751; thirty acres
3. Peter Dickerson  
to Samuel Arnold  
February 4, 1748-49\*; twenty one and one half acres  
\*Since the year commenced on March 25 in that era, this form of designation was necessary to fix any date between January 1 and March 25.
4. Thos. Penn et. al by attorney  
to Samuel Arnold  
December 1, 1756; one hundred and fifty acres
5. Job Bacorn of Morristown, mason  
to Samuel Arnold, yeoman  
April 8, 1761; fifty acres
6. Peter Dickerson of Morristown, carpenter  
to Stephen Arnold of Morristown  
March 23, 1748-49\*; one hundred and nine acres
7. Christopher Woods of Morristown, House-Carpenter  
to Stephen Arnold  
September 22, 1752; nine and one half acres

8. Joseph Coe and Daniel Lindsley of Morristown  
to Robert Arnold of Rocksiticus  
January 30, 1748-49\*; two hundred and thirty two  
acres



## ARNOLD GENEALOGY

1. STEPHEN Arnold; b. 1709, lived in Whippany, d. 1754,  
age 45

Sarah; d. 1724

Rachel; d. July 10, 1786, age 98

Children: ROBERT (?) b. 1720, d. Dec. 9, 1793,  
age 73; m. Elizabeth; b. 1725, d. Dec.  
22, 1795, age 70. Their children:  
Robard, Elisabeth, Nathan, Ziba, Sil-  
vanus, Betse, Sarah, David, Hannah.

WILLIAM (?) m. Mary; b. 1736, d. Sept.  
14, 1774, age 38.

SAMUEL; b. 1727.

2. SAMUEL (son of Stephen); b. 1727, m. 1748, d. Oct. 3,  
1764, age 38.

Phoebe Ford; b. Feb. 20, 1729, d. Aug. 2, 1819, age 90.

Jacob; b. Dec. 14, 1749

John; d. y.

Hannah; d. y.

Samuel; d. y.

Phoebe

Anne

Phoebe Ford Arnold m. 2nd Jonas Phillips Dec. 24,  
1766. He d. Dec. 25, 1813, age 78.

Anna m. Daniel Phoenix, Jr.

George; d. Jan. 29, 1786, age 18



Samuel; d. y.

Mary; b. 1772

3. JACOB Arnold; b. 1749, d. March 1, 1827.

Elizabeth Tuthill; m. Oct. 1, 1770, d. May 9, 1803,  
age 50.

Sarah Nixon; b. 1783, m. Dec. 16, 1807.

Hannah; b. 1772

Samuel; d. y.

Sarah; b. 1776, m. 1800 Abraham Richards

Gitty; b. 1799, m. Dunning

Jacob; d. y.

Abraham Brasher, b. 1783, d. 1801

Jacob; b. 1786, d. age 40

Spencer

Charles; b. 1788

Eliza Maria; m. 1842 Henry H. Nixon

Phoebe; m. 1830 Barnabas B. Thompson (b. 1806,  
d. 1893)

Mary Ann; m. 1833 Samuel A. Loree

Silas H. Arnold; m. 1836 Martha Louise Pierson

William H.; m. 1844 Mary Squires; 2nd Anna Prudden

Samuel D.; m. 1823 Mary H. Drake

Edward A.; m. 1845 Elizabeth Rickley

4. SILAS H. Arnold; m. Martha Louise Pierson; both d.  
1890

Francis Caroline; b. 1837

Jacob Ogden; b. 1840

Isaac Gaston; b. 1838, d. 1899

Samuel Pierson; b. 1842, d. 1904

Hannah Isabella; b. 1844

Edwin Finley; b. 1846

Willis Gaylord; b. 1848

Eliza Johnes; b. 1853, d. 1853

Emma Elizabeth; b. 1855



Ezekial Whitehead, 1767-1851

## THE CONDUCT-WHITEHEAD FAMILIES

(Whitehead Road, Washington Valley Road,  
Morris Township)

(Present Owners—Mrs. Roy Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. A.  
L. Marschall, Mr. and Mrs. George  
Eucker, Mr. and Mrs. M. Smolen,  
Dorothy Lusk)

The Valley was fortunate to have among its early settlers such honest, intelligent and patriotic men as Philip Conduct and his sons and in later years his grandson and great-grandsons, Ezekial, Sylvester and Aaron Whitehead, who succeeded to his property.

It may be assumed that Whitehead Road was no more than an Indian trail when Philip Conduct built his small frame house, in a location midway between the house and the barn on the present Tucker property. This original house, no longer standing, was well situated on a brow of the hill overlooking the fertile fields of his one hundred acre farm. To the east, the Whippany River meandered through pasture land; to the west and north, hills and mountains rose in the distance creating a handsome frame for this scenic and productive farm.

According to family records, Philip Conduct purchased these one hundred acres from Josiah Stanborough of

Mendham for the price of "sixty pounds, current money of the Province of New Jersey, eight shillings per ounce." The deed is dated "29th day of November, in the twenty third year of his Majesty's reign, King George The Second of Great Britain, 1749." This farm remained in the possession of Philip Condict and one of his sons for the next fifty-five years.

The Condict family had been weavers and clothiers in Newark since their arrival in this country from Wales in 1678. Philip and his brother, Peter, father of the famed Silas Condict, came to Morristown sometime before 1733 when they were both young men. They were members originally of the Presbyterian Church in Whippany since none existed in Morristown at that time. In 1733 a "lot" was cast by the congregation at Whippany to decide whether those people living in or near Morristown (or New Hanover) should secede from the parent church and establish their own church in Morristown. When this church became a reality about 1740, Philip Condict served it with zeal and devotion for the remainder of his life, and is buried in its churchyard. He and his son, Jabez, have been described "as most ardent in their piety and most exemplary in their Christian devotion."

Philip was forty years old when he built his home in the Valley. He and his wife, Mary Day, had nine children, four of whom were born in the new house. Philip was a successful farmer and may also have been a miller,



perhaps the original owner of the mill later called Day's Mill on Tingley Road. The Condicts were a patriotic family. When war came, son Jabez ran the farm while Philip and his two sons, Zenas and Abner, served in the Militia. Jabez willingly provided supplies for the Army but, despite this, in 1780 American soldiers took from the farm "1 steer, 12 mo's. old, 1 calf, 1 narrow ax, 1 pail."

When the war was over it was time to think of enlarging the farmhouse. An addition was added sometime before 1786, large enough for son Jabez, his wife, Phoebe Smith of Morristown, and their ten children. A mortgage of 1786 speaks of "that part of the house which is built with Stone called the New Part." This same mortgage mentions a "Stone Shop" and "Well" near the dwelling house, "the barn field" and the "hyer and lower meadow."

Philip Condict died of "old age" in 1801, aged ninety-two, giving by will "son Jabez all my lands." Several of his children continued to live in the Valley or vicinity. His son, Abner, lived on School House Lane in the house now Dr. Mangun's (Phineas Chidester House); Zenas owned a large farm in Mendham Township near his father's until his death during the Revolution; a daughter, Rebecca, married Onesimus Whitehead who owned land just west of the Mendham Township line on Mendham Road. Jabez lived on in the homestead on Whitehead Road until his death of "dropsy of the brain" in 1804, three years after his father's death.

Jabez Condict conveyed the property of one hundred and forty acres to his son-in-law, Ezekial Whitehead, husband of his daughter, Mary. Ezekial Whitehead, son of Onesimus, was also a grandson of Philip Condict. Prior to his inheritance of the Condict farm he had been living on Knox Hill Road off Kahdena Road, property owned later by Mr. F. B. Betts. In 1805 Ezekial, his wife, Mary, and their four young children moved to Whitehead Road. A devoted member of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown, Ezekial was said to be "a sturdy independent man who feared nothing but sin and the anger of his God." In 1796 he and his neighbor, Jonathan Ogden, were requested by the Elders of the church "to set with the singers and lead the Tenor and Bass."

Ezekial increased the size of the farm by some seventy-one acres. His will shows he also increased the size of his house by four rooms "two below and two above at the west end of my dwelling house, being that part of the house lately built for my son Sylvester." Ezekial's two sons were educated at the Old Academy in Morristown. One of them, Ira, entered Princeton in 1814, aged seventeen, being admitted to the Junior Class. He returned to Morristown and practiced law successfully all his life.

The other son, Sylvester, inherited the homestead from his father and continued to run the farm. He lived on in the old house for nearly twenty years. Then at the insistence of his sister, Miss Martha Whitehead, he is said to

have torn down the old house over a hundred years old and built the present handsome house now standing on the property. In the attic is said to be the notation: "Cement wall finished May 31, 1855." To this new house Aaron Whitehead, son of Sylvester, brought his bride, Harriet Lee, in 1860 and inherited the property in 1874 upon his father's death.



Tucker House 1959

This house built by Sylvester Whitehead on land owned by the Condicts since 1749 is now the beautiful home of Mrs. Roy Tucker.

In 1808 Ezekial Whitehead had purchased a piece of property from John Morris fronting on Washington Valley Road. In 1849 Isaac Whitehead, son of Sylvester, built his house on this piece of land. This house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Marschall. Isaac married Mary Louise

Ludlow, who was born and raised on a neighboring farm now owned by John Mills. Isaac Whitehead was a farmer and surveyor, executor of many Valley estates, and a trusted friend of all who knew him. He was superintendent of the Sunday School held at the schoolhouse for many years. He loved children and had five of his own, but unfortunately four of them died in infancy or early adulthood. He took other children into his home and raised them with a firm but sympathetic hand. Political feeling apparently was high as evidenced by the fact that he would not permit his daughter to marry because her suitor was a Democrat.

When Isaac's handsome young son, Augustus, was married to Lizzie Ball in 1880 he moved into a new house close to his father's, now owned by the George Euckers. Augustus died of nephritis within eight years when he was but twenty-six years old. The property was sold to Elbert Sillcocks and later to the DeGrootds.

In between the two Whitehead houses was a small "tenement house" said to have been used to house slaves for the Whitehead family. Once when Isaac's barn burned and a week later the barn of his brother, Aaron, suffered the same calamity, it was noted that their recently imported Jamaican servants watched the fire with "fiendish glee" and it was thought they were the incendiaries. This "tenement" house has been enlarged and remodeled and is now the home of Miss Dorothy Lusk. (See John Morris house.)

Aaron's son, Charles Whitehead, and his wife, Elizabeth Ludlow Briant, started homemaking in the house now Eucker's. At the death of his father Charles built a new house where Tucker's swimming pool is now located so that he might be near his mother and sisters. This house was later moved to its present location on Whitehead Road and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. M. Smolen.

No Condicts or Whiteheads remain in the Valley today though fortunately four of their houses, built with such skill and good taste, are still standing.





## GENEALOGY OF CONDUCT FAMILY

1. Philip Conduct; b. Newark, April, 1709, m. 1742, d.  
Dec. 23, 1801.

Mary Day; b. 1713, d. Sept. 30, 1785.

Children: Abigail; b. 1736, m. Joseph Smith 1762

\*Jabez; b. 1739, m. Phoebe Smith, d. 1804  
(lived on father's farm on Whitehead  
Road)

\*Zenas; b. 1741, m. 1765 Phoebe Johnson,  
d. 1776 (lived on farm in Mendham  
Township, perhaps in house now Crothers)

\*Rebecca; b. 1746, m. Onesimus Whitehead,  
d. 1805 (lived on Mendham Road; son  
Ezekial inherited Conduct farm on  
Whitehead Road)

\*Abner; b. 1749, m. Martha Leonard 1778,  
d. April 30, 1837 (lived in house now  
Mangun's on School House Lane)

Ezekial; d. y.

Philip; b. 1753, m. Mary Conduct

Hannah; m. 1778 Luther Axtell

Mary; b. 1743, m. 1764 Nathaniel Peck,  
d. 1821

---

\*Lived in Valley

MEMBERS OF THE WHITEHEAD FAMILY WHO  
ONCE LIVED IN WASHINGTON VALLEY

1. Isaac Whitehead, Sr.—first constable of Morris Township, b. 1700, d. Feb. 11, 1777, age 77 “pleurisy”  
Sarah Whitehead; b. 1700, d. Aug. 4, 1804, age 104  
Children: Onesimus, Sarah, William, Mary Capamore, Rebecah and Elizabeth  
Family lived in vicinity of present Kemeys’ estate.
2. Onesimus Whitehead (s. Isaac); b. 1741, m. Oct. 31, 1764, d. July 6, 1814, age 73  
Rebecca Conduct (dg. Philip); b. 1746, d. Sept. 3, 1803, age 59  
Children: Ezekial, Silas, Huldah, Asa, Isaac, Elizabeth, Hannah, Abner, Ruth  
Family lived on Mendham Road near Morris-Mendham Township line.
3. Ezekial (s. Onesimus); b. 1767, d. Nov. 26, 1851  
Mary Conduct (dg. Jabez); 1767, d. Jan. 29, 1851  
Children: Martha, Sylvester, Ira, Isaac N.  
First of the Whiteheads to live on Whitehead Road, on land now Mrs. Roy Tucker’s.
4. Sylvester Russell (s. Ezekial); b. 1796, d. Feb. 3, 1887  
Abby Smith Freeman; b. 1776, d. April 1, 1850  
Children: Isaac N., Aaron D., Mary Louisa  
Probably builder of present Tucker house.
5. Isaac N. (s. Sylvester); b. 1825, m. Mar. 14, 1849, d. 1903  
Mary Louisa Ludlow (dg. John)

Children: George, Abby, Ira, Augustus, Mary

Built present Marschall house on Washington Valley  
Road

6. Aaron D. (s. Sylvester); b. 1829, m. Oct. 1, 1857

Harriet E. Lee; b. 1832

Children: William, Edward, Charles Russell, Asa,  
Ira, Sarah, Mary

Lived in house built by his father, now Tucker's

7. Charles Russell (s. Aaron); b. 1860, m. 1885

Elizabeth Ludlow Briant (dg. Amidy)

Built house, now Smollen's on Whitehead Road

8. Augustus Ludlow (s. Isaac N.); b. 1854, m. 1880, d. 1888,  
age 26

Lizzie Ball

Built house on Washington Valley Road, now Eucker's.





## JOB LOREE, FRENCH HUGUENOT

(Tingley Road, Mendham Township)

(House no longer standing)

The Lorees, Job and Samuel, were the earliest known settlers of the Mendham Township section of the Valley. They were the first of three French Huguenot families to settle in Washington Valley. The name Huguenot was given about the middle of the sixteenth century to the Protestants of France. A minority group, they were often persecuted until 1598 when King Henry IV of Navarre, first of the Bourbon line of French kings, issued the Edict of Nantes giving Huguenots and Catholics equality before the law. In 1685 Louis XIV signed the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, making the exercise of the Protestant religion unlawful. There followed one of the most violent persecutions in history, and fleeing from this persecution, the Huguenots emigrated by the tens of thousands into every country free enough to give them a home. It was during this time of massacre and persecution that the Loree family fled to America and settled in Southold, Long Island. The name appears variously as Lorain, Loring, Lore and Loree in early records.

Perhaps prior to 1749, Job Loree purchased two hundred acres of land on the western boundary of Washington Valley from Josiah Stanborough of Mendham. In November, 1749, Job married Sarah Stanborough, sister of Josiah, and that same year Job and Sarah were listed as "half way members" of the Presbyterian Church. Their home, no longer standing was located on the east side of Tingley Road, leading northward up the mountain.

In addition to farming, Job Loree worked as a blacksmith; he may have learned the trade from his neighbor, Nathaniel Tingley, for whom the road was named. (Nathaniel Tingley had a blacksmith shop on lower Tingley Road until his death of "leprosy" in 1800.) Prior to the Revolution and for some thirty years thereafter, Tingley Road, four rods wide, was used for the transportation of iron and iron ore. In those early days, iron ore was transported in leather bags on horseback to be taken to the forges where good iron was made from the ore by smelting it with charcoal. At Succasunna, a name given it by the Indians meaning "black stone," the great Dickerson iron mine had been in operation since 1716. At different times, four forges for manufacturing iron were erected in the township of Mendham, primarily for the purpose of consuming surplus wood. The iron ore to supply these forges came from the mines at Succasunna. There may then have been a two-way flow of traffic over Tingley Road—one, taking the iron ore to the forges in Mendham Township, one of which the

"Rye Forge" was located on the Whippany River in Brookside; the other bringing the good ore across the mountain again to the slitting mills in Dover. Job Loree's blacksmith shop was well located.

In 1778 Job Loree was taxed on one hundred and ninety-four acres of land, assessed at a higher value than most farms in the Valley, eleven cattle, four hogs and two horses. Returning from Militia duty during the Revolution, Job Loree and his son, Solomon, found that soldiers from the Pennsylvania line stationed at Jockey Hollow, had taken "two calves, two steers and one heifer" from his small herd.

Job and Sarah Loree had twelve children. As the children married, Job deeded parcels of land to them. His son, Josiah, received one hundred and fifty acres; son, Solomon, five acres on the west side of Tingley Road where Solomon had a "dwelling house, barn and a young orchard;" and the house lot to his daughters, Mary and Experience. Experience and her husband, Stephen Mills, lived in the house after Job's death in 1806. One daughter, Susannah, lies buried in Mendham Churchyard.

No trace of the old house remains today nor are there any descendants of the large family of Job Loree living in the area. Tingley Road is now partially vacated and only a path through the woods indicates where the men on horseback once rode with their saddlebags full of iron ore.



Loree House, built circa 1750



E. T. Look House, 1959



## LOREE HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Look)

The Loree house in Mendham Township, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Look, is one of the oldest, if not indeed the oldest, house in Washington Valley. Built by the Loree family, possibly as early as 1750, this venerable house belies its great age of some two hundred years and is today a charming, liveable, modern home. The addition of an attached two-story garage adds dignity to the pleasing lines of the original structure. Ivy grows on the clapboard walls; large trees and handsome shrubs create a proper frame for this interesting old house.

Three, or possibly four, generations of Lorees lived in this house from the time of its erection until 1873, a period of one hundred and twenty-three years. During those years the family took an active part in the affairs of Mendham Township, in the establishment of the Washington Valley schoolhouse, and served in both the Revolution and the Civil Wars.

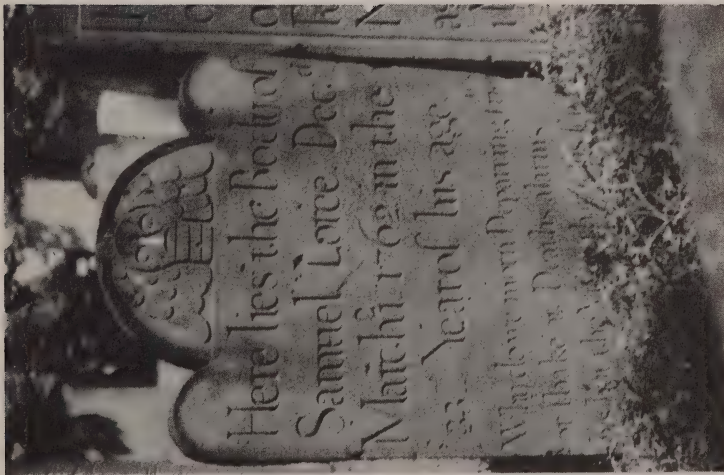
Tradition says that the land which later became the Loree plantation was purchased from the Indians in 1705



for the price of a gold watch. Be that as it may, the land was a portion of the large tract owned by Colonel John Evans in 1716. The first house to be erected on this property, date unknown, was a crude stone and frame structure built over springs, a precaution often taken when Indians were still in the area. This early house was located just east of the present house and was used in later years as slave quarters by the Loree family. The stone foundation of this old house was still standing as late as 1933. Who built this ancient structure and in what year must remain a mystery.

A deed dated October 16, 1752, provides our first real evidence that the Samuel Loree family had arrived in Mendham Township. By warranty deed, George Throop conveyed a small parcel of land to Samuel Loree "beginning upon the brow of the hill in Josiah Stanborough's line, it divides said Stanborough two hundred acre from his one hundred and fifty acre tract at a stake with stones around it, then west twenty-five rods to a stake, then south sixty-four rods to a stake, then east twenty-five rods to a stake, then north sixty-four rods to the first mentioned corner." Josiah Stanborough sold land to two other Valley residents: Job Loree in Mendham Township and Philip Condict in Morris Township. In 1758, Isaac Pain conveyed additional land to Samuel Loree "containing seventy three poles."

Samuel Loree I was the grandson of John Loree, the French Huguenot emigrant who settled in Southold, Long



Presbyterian Burial Ground,  
Morristown



Presbyterian Burial Ground,  
Mendham

Island, in the 1680's. Samuel was born in 1729 and married Sibellia Newton by whom he had four children—Joanna, Massa, Samuel and Elizabeth. When Samuel was thirty-three years old he died of "bleeding of the lungs" and was buried in the cemetery of the First Presbyterian Church in Morristown. A portion of the inscription on his tombstone can still be read:

"Why do we mourn departing friends  
Or shake at Deaths alarms  
It's but the voice that Jesus sends  
(last line illegible)"

His will, dated March 16, 1762, and witnessed by three of his neighbors, Henry Axtell, Ezekial Beach and Nathaniel Tingley, gave his wife, "Sybil the rent of my plantation till my son comes of age." Young Samuel, then only three years old, was to have "the rest of the lands when he is of age," except "thirty acre where Elizah Brown lives to be sold." His daughters were each to receive thirty pounds when they became of age.

His widow, Sibellia, married a young widower, Henry Clark, Jr., the following year. The Clarks lived "on the mountain," perhaps in the vicinity of the intersection of Tingley and Mt. Pleasant Roads. Here Henry Clark, Sr., better known as "Long Island Yankee" owned a hundred acre farm and operated two sawmills. The following note on the Clarks appears in the Combined Register of the First Presbyterian Church: Henry and his wife Anne

“were b. in England; m. on Long Island in 1725; came to Morristown in 1727 or 1728 when there were but three or four families here and but one at Mendham and settled near Mt. Freedom.” Henry Clark, Jr., called “Stuttering Henry” inherited his father’s farm in 1796, but died one year later of paralysis.

Who occupied the Loree house during these years? It is probable that Sibellia and Henry and their combined families, totaling nine children, lived in the house during the war years until young Samuel Loree was old enough to take possession. The story persists that General Washington used to stop at this house to play cards during the winters he was stationed in Morristown. A root cellar, now used for storing apples, is built into the side of a hill near the house and was allegedly used for storing cannon balls for use at Fort Nonsense. A previous owner has one of these cannon balls in her possession.

In 1781 young Samuel II was twenty-two years old and had married Sarah Price. They lived in the Loree house and it was soon filled with their eight children. Fortunately, the house was a large one for its day. It contained then, as it does today, three rooms on the first floor: a kitchen with a huge fireplace, still in use on winter days, a living room and bedroom. The second floor was reached by a unique divided stairway and here there were numerous small bedrooms, plus an attic on the third floor. Unlike the other houses in the Valley, this house has no cellar but



is supported by huge timbers laid directly on the ground.

Samuel Loree II died in 1803, aged forty-four years. His personal property, inventoried by his friends, Henry Axtell and Robert Rolfe, amounted to "\$444.47," a rather sizeable sum for the times. His real estate of one hundred and fifty acres was divided, through the Morris County Orphans Court, among his eight children. His plantation was bounded by Job Loree on the west, Nathaniel Tingley, deceased, on the south, Stephen Ludlow and Henry Axtell on the east.

In time, Lewis Loree, second son of Samuel, II, bought up the divided portions of the farm from his brothers and sisters and became owner of the plantation. Lewis Loree was born December 12, 1784. When he was of age he met and courted a young girl from Mendham, Phoebe Fithan. He states simply in the family Bible: "We was married January 9, 1806." Lewis and Phoebe had seven children.

Lewis Loree no doubt farmed, but he was better known as a blacksmith. He learned his trade "as mechanic in iron and general blacksmith" from Captain Ephraim Sanders in Mendham and when he became proficient, he opened his own shop on Washington Valley Road, just east of Mrs. Hammerslough's driveway. In those days, a blacksmith did much more than shoe horses. He made rods for spinning wheels, made and repaired carriages. (In Jacob Arnold's will, he referred to the new carriage then in Lewis Loree's blacksmith shop.) An old newspaper account mentions the



iron bars made by Lewis Loree for the county jail, then located on the Morristown Green. The door to this jail is on display at Washington Headquarters.

Lewis, on occasion, purchased scrap iron from his neighbors. He bought "old sleigh fenders" and other odd bits of iron to be melted down in his furnace while his apprentice pumped the bellows to keep the fire hot. The blacksmith usually prospered and Lewis Loree was able to provide his wife and daughters the luxury of having their frocks, capes and caps made by a neighbor. He also had a "washing mashine" as early as 1820.

Lewis was one of the original subscribers to the Washington Valley Schoolhouse. We may imagine that the original building had door-latches and hardware made by Lewis in his shop. In addition to supplying his share of the wood to heat the schoolhouse, he served as trustee and clerk for many years.

From 1820 until 1822 he served as a Major in the Morris County Militia and from that time until his death he was always referred to as Major Loree. He was said "to be fond of sport, a man of influence and a mighty hunter in his day."

Major Loree began to sell some of his property in 1816; seventeen acres to James Stevens, later sold to William Anderson; in 1852 eleven acres to his son Lewis, in turn sold to Joseph Natkins; and in 1854, fifty acres to

Henry Mills. Then, in 1873, Lewis Loree sold the remaining seventy acres of the original homestead to John B. Morehouse and he moved to Brookside. There he opened a blacksmith shop on Main Street, later to become the shop of his apprentice, William Ward. He was still wearing the leather apron and wielding the hammer and tong at eighty years. When he became blind he was forced to retire from the work he loved. He died in Brookside on January 21, 1877 "at 11 o'clock" and is buried at Hilltop Church in Mendham.

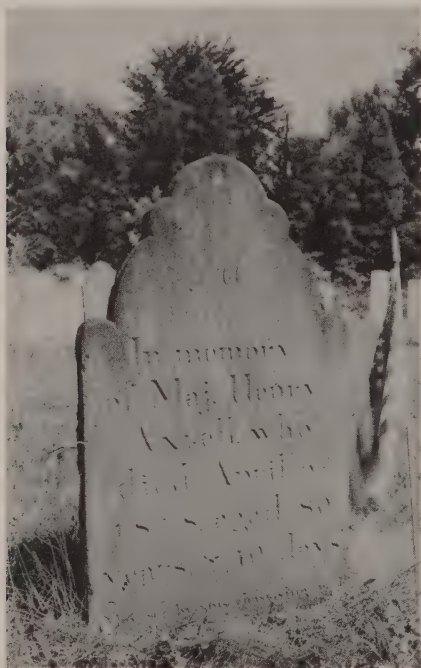
Two of Lewis' sons remained in the Valley: Samuel A. Loree whose home is now Elmer King's; and David Fithan Loree who lived in the farmhouse now on Luther Martin's property.

The exterior of the Loree house has changed somewhat since Lewis' lifetime. A porch, supported by large pillars, was then across the front of the house and another porch, with very wide stairs, was on the west. A succession of families has lived in the old house since it passed from the possession of the Loree family—Mills, Reintholler and Hammerslough, and now its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Look.





Perhaps this was the Axtell joiner shop



Henry Axtell grave

## THE AXTELL FARM

Washington Valley Road—Mendham Township

In 1760 residents of the Valley traveled to Waterstreet (Brookside) by way of the "road from Zenas Condict's to Henry Axtell's," a road some distance south of our present Washington Valley Road and long since vacated.

Along this road they passed a small frame house recently erected by young Henry Axtell, described in the Axtell Family Record as a large, heavy built man with curly brown hair, an excellent sense of humor and a booming voice that "could be heard a mile away." The Axtell family lived in the Valley for ninety years (1760-1850) and were prominent in the affairs of their township and in the establishment of the schoolhouse in Washington Valley. There have been four houses on their farm in the past two hundred years. A house of recent date now lived in by Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Connors is the only one now standing.

Henry Axtell was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on March 16, 1738, but came to Mendham Township with his parents, Henry and Jemima Leonard Axtell when he was three years old. Their farm was two miles southeast of Mendham village. Henry, Sr., a gunsmith, died in 1753. His handsome widow, Jemima, married Mathew Lum, Sr.,



and lived to be ninety years old. (See Mathew Lum.)

Young Henry lived with his mother and stepfather until his marriage to Mary Beach on June 18, 1760. That same year he purchased a small farm in Washington Valley, adjoining the Beach farm on the west. Some time in 1766, Mary died leaving three small children, Hannah, Mary and David. Within a year Henry, then twenty-eight years old, married Phoebe Condict Day, a niece of Philip Condict and the comely young widow of Silas Day.

Henry continued to add acreage to his farm. In 1778, he was taxed on one hundred and two acres of improved land and fifty-five acres unimproved. At the close of the Revolution, the Beach farm of some one hundred and thirty-three acres adjoining his on the east, was confiscated by the Commissioner of Forfeited Estates. Henry is said to have purchased a small portion of this farm. Henry, an ardent patriot and a Major in the Militia, must have found it difficult to understand his neighbor, Ezekial Beach, who refused to join the patriot cause, fled to Staten Island and was branded a Tory. (See Beach Farm.)

After the war Henry served as tax assessor for Mendham Township. He witnessed wills for many Valley families and inventoried many estates. In later years he suffered extensively from the "gravel." He died in 1818 and lies buried in the cemetery of Hilltop Church in Mendham. His wife, Phoebe, a sprightly, intelligent woman, was a mid-wife and even in old age took many rides on horseback

through the Valley and vicinity to attend her patients. She died in 1829, aged eight-nine. Only one of her eight children, Silas Axtell, survived her and he inherited the farm.

Silas was born on the homestead on April 5, 1769. He helped his father on the farm until he was old enough to learn the carpenter's trade. In 1791, when he was twenty-two years old, he married Elizabeth Loree, daughter of Samuel and Mary Reeve Loree. When his family became too big for the old one-story house, he tore down the original dwelling built by his father in 1760 and built a large two-story house on its site, big enough to accomodate his own and his father's family. This house is referred to as "the mansion house" in old deeds. It was located on the "old road" to Brookside, somewhat south of our present Washington Valley Road. He also built a large shop near the house where he and his apprentices did the "joiners" work for new dwellings to be erected during the summer. In those days, doors, windows, sashes, blinds and mouldings all had to be made by hand. Perhaps the old barn now on the property was the "joiners' shop."

In September, 1823, Silas, his wife and son, Amzi, started to Ohio in a one horse covered wagon to visit Samuel, his oldest son. Silas died on the way of bilious colic, aged fifty-four, and was buried in Ohio. As executor of his estate, John Smith of the Valley found it necessary in 1826 to sell the following lands to pay the "just debts" of Silas Axtell: the homestead farm of ninety acres;

a tract of thirty acres adjoining lands of Ezekial Whitehead and Elias Pierson; a three acre "saw mill lot;" and a thirty acre wood lot located on Mt. Pleasant Road. Amzi Axtell, Silas's son, was the purchaser. Silas' widow lived on in the homestead supporting herself as a "weaver of plain cloth." In 1831 she married Nathaniel Clark and moved from the old house.

In 1832, Samuel Loree Axtell, oldest son of Silas and Elizabeth, became the owner of nearly all the old homestead which had belonged to his father and grandfather. Educated at his Uncle's Academy in Mendham, he owned a sawmill and was a carpenter until 1816 when he moved to Ohio. On his father's death he returned to New Jersey. His wife, Nancy Sanders, was the daughter of Captain Ephraim Sanders of Mendham, one of the largest landowners in the township and a skilled machinist in brass and iron. Nancy, a lively, attractive girl, had learned the tailor's trade and she cut and made men's clothing. She told her grandchildren, in later years, that she could remember hearing the Mendham church bells toll the news of General Washington's death.

Samuel Loree Axtell, disturbed by the large number of distilleries in the area and the prevailing custom of heavy drinking, wrote and circulated a "temperance pledge" asking his neighbors to abstain from "ardent spirits" though permitting the use of wine, cider and beer. How this was received we cannot say, for nearly every farm had an

orchard of apple trees planted for one primary purpose—applejack.

Samuel continued to live on the farm until 1841 when he moved to Michigan. In 1850 the farm of ninety-five acres was sold at Sheriff's sale to Cornelius Garrabrant. He lived in the old mansion house for about ten years. Seated around the fireside one night, the Garrabrant family noticed smoke coming up through the floor and soon the old house was devoured by fire. A large new home was built by the Garrabrants on the site of the present Connors' house. It too was later destroyed by fire, and the present house is built on the old foundation.

Cornelius Garrabrant served in the State Legislature and led an active political life. He did little farming, but had a tenant farmer who lived in the house now Mrs. R. S. Perry's. He and his son planted the row of maple trees seen today along the drive.

He sold the property of one hundred and twenty-five acres to Dr. and Mr. James Campbell. It is said that they, with the assistance of a celebrated architect, Stanford White, designed the present house.





## THE BEACH FARM

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present owners of property: Mr. Porter Evans and  
Mrs. Genevieve Perry.)

When the Revolution began, King George III of the Hanoverian dynasty was on the throne in England. He had acceded to the throne in 1760, mentally and emotionally immature for his twenty-two years, but he tried his best to obey the command of his mother who, according to tradition, had said "George, be King."

In America George III was considered a tyrant and a despot by many colonists, but there were others whose allegiance to the King and their mother country was as strong as ever. Some, usually those with proprietary interests, stood to gain financially by their continued alliance with England; others believed that the colonies could not win a war against the well-trained, well-equipped troops of Britain, and they preferred to be on the "winning" side. Many of the men later to be labeled "Tories" sincerely believed that the colonies should not separate from the mother country and that the new country in which they had settled was not ready to govern itself.

Time has obscured the reasoning of Ezekial Beach, only known Tory in Washington Valley, in his decision to remain loyal to his King.

The Beach family, originally French, had been loyal Englishmen since the fourteenth century. Thomas Beach, grandfather of Ezekial, emigrated to the New Haven colony about 1647 and later took up residence in Milford, Connecticut. His son, Epinetus, moved to Morris County and settled in Mendham. Ezekial, son of Epinetus, came to Washington Valley in the 1750's and owned one hundred and thirty-three acres of land in Mendham Township, land now owned by Mr. Porter Evans and Mrs. Genevieve Perry on Washington Valley Road.

Here Ezekial and Lucy Beach built a home and raised their family. All went well for a number of years. But in 1775, when his neighbors in the Valley were hastening to enlist in the patriot military organizations, Ezekial Beach did not participate. On July 8, 1775, he was called before the Mendham Township Committee of Observation. This record appears in the Minutes of the Provincial Congress and Council of Safety:

“Whereas, the Committee of Observation for Township of Mendham, in county of Morris, having legally notified Ezekial Beach to appear before us, to answer sundry charges exhibited against him touching his unfriendly conversation and conduct towards the Continental Association, sd. Beach not appearing, we do agree

for ourselves, and recommend it for all others, to break off all dealings and connection with him, agreeable to Eleventh Article of Continental Association.

By order of Committee

David Thompson, Chairman"

It can be imagined that difficult times ensued for Ezekial Beach when his neighbors and friends were charged to "break off all dealings and connections with him," but he was adamant in his stand. In January, 1777, he fled the Valley to join the British at Staten Island. Shortly thereafter, in the same year he was captured by General Sullivan on Long Island and was delivered to the Committee of Safety of New Jersey. He was promptly charged with treason and committed to jail at Burlington, New Jersey. An inquisition was found against him and others in Morris County in 1778, and his property was confiscated and sold in December of that year by the Commissioner of Forfeited Estates.

Many Tories left the country to make their homes in Canada or Nova Scotia. Perhaps Ezekial followed their example after his release from jail. He apparently never returned to the Valley though his sons and brothers remained here. In 1794 Lucy Beach, "widow of Ezekial," returned to give up her "right of dower" in the old farm.



## THE LUM FAMILY

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Porter Evans, No house standing)

Mathew Lum, Sr., widely known as Deacon Lum, was one of the prominent residents of Morristown during its earliest days. He held a variety of offices: first assessor for the town in 1732, auditor of the Thomas Budd estate, and Elder in the Presbyterian Church from 1748 until his death in 1777. After the death of his first wife, he married Jemima Leonard Axtell, the handsome widow of Henry Axtell, Sr. She was the mother of his children, Sarah and Mathew.

The name of Mathew Lum, Jr., appears again and again in Valley deeds before 1805. He was married to Hannah Ludlum in 1784 and they settled in Mendham Township near her family. Their house no longer stands but was probably located on land now owned by Mr. Porter Evans, formerly the eastern portion of the Beach farm, nearly opposite the entrance to the old crossroad that led from Washington Valley Road to School House Lane, past Luther Martin's.

Their farm was small, only nine acres plus a three-fourths acre house lot. Besides the house, there was a



small "shop" in which Mathew carried on his trade as a carpenter. In the small community in which he lived few people could afford the services of a carpenter for jobs which they could do themselves. Consequently, Mathew tried his hand at running the distillery on School House Lane. He apparently met with some degree of success with this venture at first. His three-acre orchard, land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lowe, helped supply the distillery with apples. After five years, his affairs were in poor shape and he moved rather hastily to Geneva, New York.

In a letter dated 23 Nov. 1806 from Geneva, he asked his friend, Jacob Arnold, to take care of his affairs. "I put no other person in to act for me but yourself and expected you would make the best of what was behind. Stephen Ludlow you say had orders from my wife to take care of the things left behind. I have conversed with her on the subject and she wishes him to take the soap barrel and soap and take it to her mother. He spoke about the corner cupboard she told him she supposed he could have it for what it was worth. David Arnold has a note agst. me the Amt. I don't know. But I beg his patience.

"The offer of G. Pierson is the Best for the place that you have mentioned if I must make a sacrifice I had rather it should be in that quarter than some others. I am told that Drake Ludlow has offered \$100 for the shop. John Smith has been here and has gone away better satisfied

than he was the first of last July we having compounded. But this I wish you to keep a profound secret as it may occasion hard thoughts with my other creditors, he has promised me that he will not mention it in Jersey. I wish you to see if he keeps his word or not and let me know if he does not."

Probably G. Pierson did buy the house left behind by Mathew Lum for the land in that area is still called the "Pierson lot" by old residents. The distillery was purchased by Daniel Phoenix who operated it successfully. The three-acre orchard was sold to Nathaniel Armstrong and later to Robert Roff.

Mathew Lum and his wife, Hannah, lie buried in Geneva, New York.



## THE PIERSON HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mrs. Genevieve Perry.)



Pierson house

The house pictured here stands on the westerly corner of the old Beach farm. The original two rooms around which the house is built was probably erected sometime between 1822 and 1853, by Elias Pierson or by his son, Charles.

Sometime after the confiscation of the lands of Ezekial Beach and prior to 1794, a portion of the Beach farm was purchased by Nathaniel Armstrong, one of the early settlers

of Mendham Township. His ear mark for his cattle "a crop of left ear and a set in y crop and a half penny under side of the Rite" is recorded in the Mendham Township Minute Book in 1749. He owned various parcels of land both in the Valley and in the near vicinity and it is impossible to say on which he resided though his name appears often in Valley deeds. At his death in 1822, in addition to other bequests, he left his daughter, "Hannah, wife of Elias Pierson, a tract of land situate in Mendham Township called the Beach farm, containing  $78\frac{1}{2}$  acres, adjoining lands of Silas Axtell, Samuel Arnold and Ezekial Whitehead." No further description of this property is to be found.

This land remained in the possession of Elias Pierson and his son, Charles, until 1859 when the westerly portion of thirty acres, including the house, was sold to Cornelius Garrabrant, owner of the old Axtell farm. The house then passed through the ownership of James Campbell, who enlarged it for his son; then to Eliza Thompson, Thomas Rector, Orville Meslar, Valdinar Virtanen and to its present owner, Mrs. Genevieve Perry.



## THE LUDLOW FARM

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. John Mills)



Ludlow house

Opinions vary as to the age of this lovely old house on the Ludlow Farm. The older portion, to the left in the picture, has been estimated to be from one hundred and fifty to two hundred years old. The newer portion to the right was probably built about 1852. The house was occupied by three generations of the Ludlow or Ludlum

family, who may have come to the Valley as early as 1760 and who left it in 1872.

No definite data is available on the origin of this family of Welsh descent, though they may have come to Mendham Township from Long Island. In 1760 the Ludlums operated a gristmill in the Mendham Township section of the Valley. Two road authorizations, found in the Mendham Township Minute Books, verify this fact but are not specific as to location. One of these, dated March, 1760, the same year in which Gilbert Ludlum, then thirty-three years old, was Road Commissioner for Mendham Township, is entitled "Road from James Carter's Sawmill to Ludlum Gristmill." "Beginning about 4 rods NE of small brook near Carter's Sawmill, till comes to Job Loree's, north course straight up to road that comes from Ezekial Beach along line between Samuel Loree and Nathaniel Tingley." This sawmill was probably located along Mine Brook in the vicinity of the Ludlow farm.

This farm described in later deeds totaled well over a hundred acres, extending on both sides of the present Old Orchard Road. It would seem safe to assume that Gilbert Ludlum owned this land at the time of the Revolution and possibly as early as 1760. In the year 1778, he was taxed on one hundred and thirty-one acres in Mendham Township, five horses, ten cattle and two hogs for a total tax of £7.1.10. Two years later, during the winter of 1780, he, like many of his neighbors, was the unwilling victim

of marauding soldiers from the Continental Army. His inventory records the following items stolen: "2 geese, 25 head cabbage, 2 bushels potatoes, 1 calf 2 months old and 3 sheep."

In 1762 Gilbert's young wife, Abigail, died and was buried in the Presbyterian burial ground in Morristown, leaving him with four small children, one of them a son, Stephen. Gilbert remarried and his second wife presented him with six more children, two of whom died in infancy. Gilbert died in 1801, aged seventy-four. He left no will but his estate was to be administered by Abigail Ludlum and his son, Stephen. Fellowbondsmen were two Valley men, Ebenezer Condict and John Smith.

When Gilbert died in 1801, his son, Stephen, was in his late twenties and had been married for some five years to Mary Axtell, second child of Henry and Mary Beach Axtell, his neighbors to the south. Stephen and Mary had two children in 1801, John and Polly. Some years later a second son, Charles, was born.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles Briant of Morristown and Mrs. Wallace Driver of Morris Plains, we have been privileged to see two account books kept by Stephen Ludlow and his son, John, covering the years 1793 to 1870. From these books it is apparent that Stephen combined other occupations with farming. He maintained a cleaning mill for grain; such entries as "To use of my cleaning mill" and "To use of the mill to clean wheat and rye"

are quite common. He apparently tanned hides, a laborious, odorous trade. He purchased many loads of "Barck," stripped from the trees still plentiful at the time, which was then steeped in water to extract the tannic acid that cured the hides and skins. It took a full year to turn a new hide into good leather. He then sold hides and leather to his neighbors in exchange for their services. Such entries as "To a hide wd. 44 lbs. at six pence a pound and a calf skin and two sheep skins" and "To a piece of Upper Leather" are not uncommon. Ebenezer Condict, his neighbor to the east, made shoes from his leather; perhaps Lewis Loree, in his blacksmith shop to the west, used some of it for saddles and harness and the leather "through-braces" upon which carriages were hung. Stephen Ludlow also made brooms or supplied whisk for his neighbors to make their own. His wife, Mary, did some knitting and weaving for her relatives and friends. She supplied Mathew Lum, Jr., with "clothe for Henrys trowses," also with "field cloath for Henry" and for Lewis Loree "checkered cloath."

Stephen Ludlow died in 1824, leaving to his wife, Mary, her right of dower, two cows and six sheep. His son, John, inherited all his lands. His "well beloved friend, Lewis Loree" was his executor.

John M. Ludlow, Stephen's son, brought his bride, Mary A. Hathaway, niece of Amy Hedges Gaston, to the old homestead and there their six children were born.

One of his daughters, Mary Louisa, married Isaac Whitehead in 1849 and moved to her new home on Washington Valley Road, now owned by the Marschalls.

John Ludlow farmed a large portion of his one hundred and thirteen acres; the rest he planted in peach trees. He made frequent trips to Newark by wagon to sell his peaches during the season. In 1863 he decided to insure his house against fire. His policy describes his house and barns as they appeared nearly one hundred years ago.

“Hiz house 26 by 30 ft. two storiez; postz 18 ft. porch in front, 5 by 24 ft., postz 8 ft tin roof on porch; kitchen attached 20 by 28, postz 13 ft. Revd up. Porch and room in rear of kitchen 5 by 28 ft tin roof; three chimniez; five fire-plasez; wallz hollow; ashes to be kept in stone or brick; stove and pipes guarded.

One thousand five hundred dollars.

Hiz household goodz and furniture therein;

Two hundred dollars.

Hiz barn 32 by 44 ft., posts 18 ft., stablez under, cow-house attached 20 by 50 ft; posts and wall 16 ft.

Six hundred dollars.

Hiz contents in said Barn, Stablez and Cowhouse

Five hundred dollars.”

John Ludlow paid a premium of two dollars and eighty cents for this insurance.



A letter written by John Ludlow to his friend Silas Lum in Chicago in 1870 throws a little light on the family as they were about to make their final exit from the Valley. "The City of Morristown is gradually improving we see much more Aristocracy moving about than used to be, and the whole Country is filled with extravagance where it will end I know not. I am now in my 75th year my wife is five years younger our health is good. Augustus our only son is yet living at home he is 40 years old and unmarried. He has lost his health, not been able to do anything for the past year—lungs affected—makes it hard for me—we have one Daughter at home, all in comfortable circumstances."

Two years later in 1872, John Ludlow died. The farm was sold and the Ludlows moved to Morristown. The southern portion of the farm, including the house, was sold to Ford A. Pruden. This sixty acres remained in the possession of the Pruden family for forty years. In more recent years, the house and adjoining acreage were owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter, now of Madison, New Jersey. In 1957 the house was purchased by John and Janice Mills, who are its present occupants. The upper portion of the farm has been subdivided into building lots and there are now fifteen homes on the old Ludlow farm.

## JONAS GOBLE

(Washington Valley Road; Mendham Road,  
Morris Township)

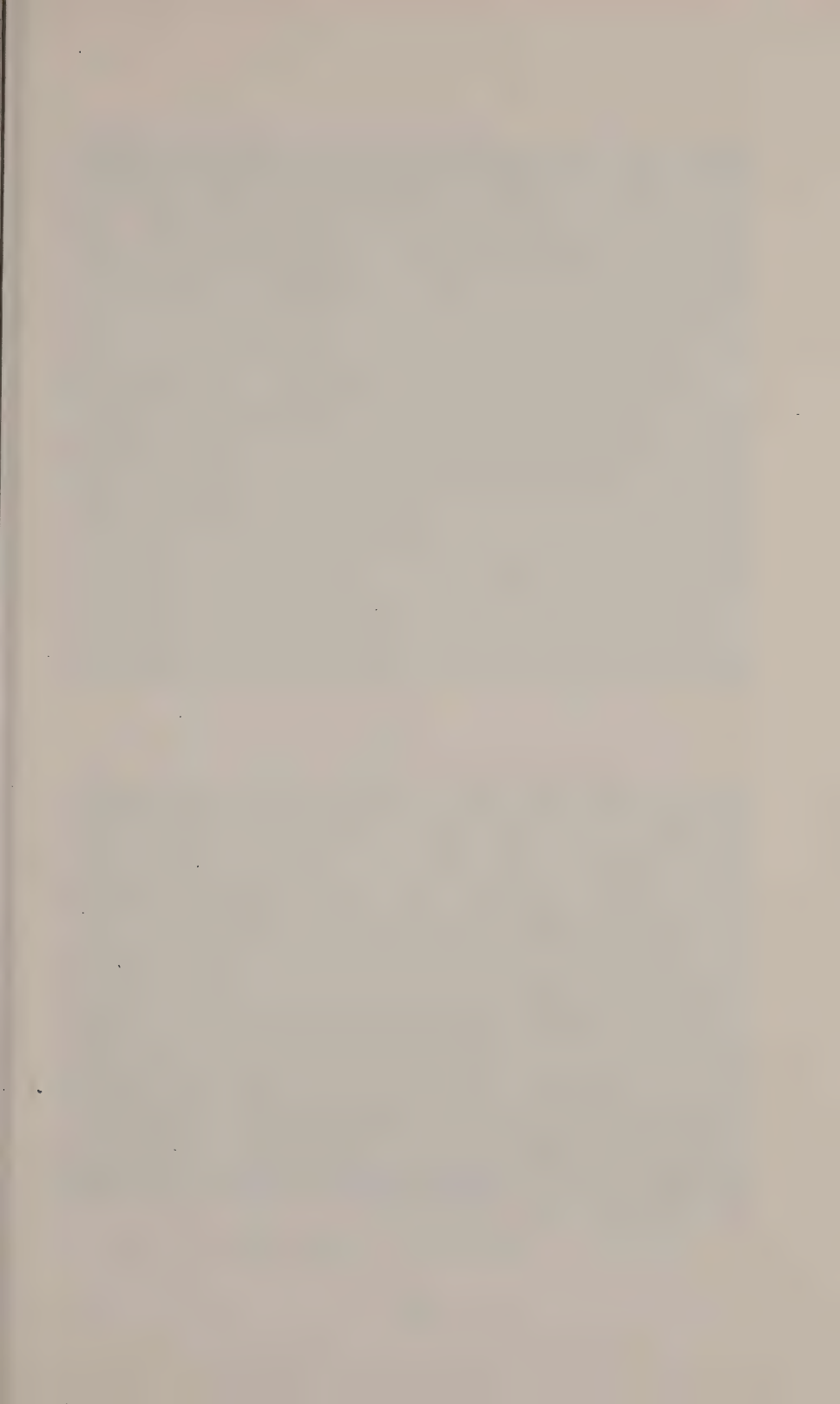
“To all Christian People, I, Jonas Goble send greetings. In Our Lord God Everlasting Know ye that I Jonas Goble for Dives Good causes and valluable considerations me thereunto moving, more especially for the Grate Love and affection which I have and do bear to my beloved Grandson Timothy Goble have given and granted a certain piece of land lying and being on picketinue.”

In such fashion did Jonas Goble, one of the early land-owners of the Valley, convey twenty-seven acres of his farm to his grandson in 1781. This land was but a small part of the original farm of approximately two hundred and twenty-five acres which we may assume that Jonas Goble owned from about 1752 until shortly before his death in 1791. The deed to this original farm is far too early to be recorded in Morris County Hall of Records, but from later material available to us we predict that this farm began at John Bickford's, included a portion of land now Kemeys', the former Nathaniel Wilson farm, now a part of Foster Farms, and the balance of the farm on the south side of Mendham Road in the vicinity of

Picatunny Road. It is impossible to know where Jonas Goble's house was located on this large farm though likely it was along Mendham Road.

According to tradition, the Goble family were French Huguenots who fled to this country to avoid religious persecution and settled in North Carolina. Some members of the family came to Morris County before 1750. Jonas Goble, born in 1707, probably came to Morristown from Piscataway, New Jersey. He was one of the original members of the Baptist Church, founded in 1752, serving as a deacon in that church for many years. He served in the Militia during the Revolution in the company of Captain Augustin Bayles, whose adopted daughter, Rebecca Morris, later married his grandson, Timothy.

Jonas Goble died in 1791, aged eighty-four. The following year his son, Ezekial Goble, mortgaged one hundred and forty-seven acres of the farm to Jonathan Ogden to "secure payment of £19.12.8." Shortly thereafter Ezekial and his wife, Phoebe, "moved away." Grandson, Timothy, died at age thirty-four, one year after his grandfather's death and the inventory of his estate was made by his neighbors, Jonathan Ogden and Peter Fairchild. All members of the Goble family had disappeared from the Valley before 1800.





Samuel Roberts House. Note original house on right.



Fireplace. Present interior of original house.



## THE SAMUEL ROBERTS FARM

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mrs. Edith Ranney)

One of the two remaining farms in the Valley is the one operated by James and Joan Howie on land owned by Mrs. H. F. Ranney of Cherry Lane, Morristown. With its red barns, white house and herd of black and white cows, the farm snuggled against the hillside is always picturesque, no matter the season of the year.

This farm has an early origin and its boundaries have changed only slightly through two centuries. Today it is a part of a one hundred and fifty acre tract owned first by Samuel Roberts, who is identified as owner of the land by deeds of surrounding properties. One hundred and fourteen acres comprise the present farm; the other thirty-six acres are a portion of the adjacent Foster Farms.

There are no available deeds or wills to show how or when Samuel Roberts acquired this land. In 1752 Samuel Roberts was identified as a freeholder in Morristown, so he may have lived upon the farm at this time. That he was known to residents of the Valley is shown by his witnessing wills for Valley families and making an inventory of Stephen Arnold's estate in 1754.

Samuel, the third child of Hugh Roberts (b. 1667, d. 1738) was the grandson of the emigrant, Hugh Roberts, who settled first at Gloucester, Mass. Bay Colony, and then located at Hugh Roberts Brook, Newark, New Jersey, where he was a tanner.

Samuel Roberts' first wife, Damaris, was fifty-five years old when she died in 1767 and was buried in the Presbyterian churchyard in Morristown. It seems likely she had lived in the Valley for ten years or more before her death. Samuel married again in 1768. His bride was Elizabeth Whitaker Ogden, widow of Stephen Ogden of Bernardston. They shared their wedding day with Elizabeth's daughter who was married to Dr. Oliver Barnet of "Barnet Hall," New Germantown (Oldwick). Elizabeth's son, Jonathan Ogden, was about twenty-five at this time and was soon to become a resident of Washington Valley, while his sister, Sarah, married a widower, John Gaston, the father of Isaac Gaston who gave his name to Gaston Road.

Samuel was a man of some means and standing in the community. He was one of the seven Incorporated Trustees of the Presbyterian Church and was appointed in 1756 by vote of the trustees to be "Corporation Clark," a position which he held until 1772. Samuel became a communicant of the church in February, 1766. His negro servant, Peter, joined the church in the same year by letter, "having been dipped by the Baptists." Peter's two children,

Cloe and Pompey, are listed as servants of Samuel Roberts.

In 1769 he subscribed three pounds to Princeton College, one of the largest contributions. When the war came he joined Captain Augustin Bayley's Militia though he was sixty-two years old in 1778. In the same year the Morris Township Ratables show he owned one hundred and fifty acres valued at fifteen hundred pounds, money at interest five hundred and five pounds, five horses, twelve cattle, one riding chair or gig. The tax was ten pounds, seventeen shillings and one pence.

In 1774 the New Jersey Legislature had passed an act issuing one hundred thousand pounds in new money, of which fifteen thousand pounds was allotted to Morris County. Borrowers had to give as collateral twice as much land as the amount of the loan, plus five per cent interest per annum. From deeds of the period, the fact is established that Samuel Roberts was "Sole commissioner of Loan Office of Cty. of Morris." He was selected for this office by the Freeholders and three Justices of the Peace and probably held office during the 1780's, administering the loans to landowners. The diary of Joseph Lewis of Morristown records this item: "July 1, 1788 Shower all day. this day Samuel Roberts late Loan Officer came to my home. Mr. Roberts sold to Samuel Miller, Jr a lot of land lying in Mendham." Previous to this position Samuel Roberts was a County Judge in 1777 for possibly the full period of five years. It is evident that he was a prominent citizen in the area.

Elizabeth Roberts died of asthma in 1795 in her seventy-second year. Samuel Roberts died "sudden" in 1802, aged eighty-two. They are both buried in the Presbyterian burial ground.

The original part of the Howie house is very old and is an excellent example of the primitive farm houses which had a common floor plan. The main room served three purposes: a sitting room, a dining room and kitchen. The large brick open fireplaces spanned practically the entire space of one side wall with its bake ovens, smoke ovens and hand-hewn beam mantel. To the rear of the main room was a small bedroom for the master and the mistress of the house, near the fire which needed tending early and late. This room was also called the "borning" room. The children slept under the slanting roof of the unfinished attic. Some of the houses had windows only on the peaked side of the house; others had narrow windows below the eaves, usually of hand-blown glass panes, directly above the larger windows below. These upstairs windows were hinged to lift up or swing sideways. The upstairs space was reached either by a narrow stairway or a ladder where only one person could pass at a time. It is quite possible that a house of this type was the home of Samuel Roberts.

Upon his death his step-son, Jonathan Ogden, acquired the farm, added fifty acres to it and held it until his death in 1824. Two years later, Charles Ogden, son of Jonathan,

in a warranty deed recorded July 8, 1826 "sold to Henry Mooney and his wife Fannie the tract of land late the homestead farm of Jonathan Ogden containing two hundred acres, more or less." The price was eighteen hundred dollars. In 1838 the farm of present size was created through the sale of two tracts of land, divided earlier by Mooney, to Horace Elmer.

Elmer and his family had been living in the little farm house as tenants, for the road deeds show that he occupied the house in 1834. Horace Elmer was born in 1784, came to the Valley from Ridgeberry, New York, and lived and farmed here with his wife, Susan Stewart, and some of their seven children: James, Lewis, John, Luther, Maria, Sarah and Kezia, until his death in 1850. His sons were authorized to sell his lands and real estate by his will and in 1854 they conveyed the property by sale to Samuel and Ellen Cutts who sold it two years later to William and Ann Hobbs of New York City. It appears that neither of these families established permanent residence in the Valley, so that the farm had tenants until Christopher Moody, Sr. purchased it in March 30, 1866, from the Hobbs. The Moody family possessed the property for the next seventy years.

Christopher Moody, Sr., was born in Ireland in 1823. When he and his wife, Lucy, moved to the Valley in 1866, the large addition to the west side of the cottage was built and it was here that six children were raised. Christopher





Matt Moody and Christopher, Jr.

was a dairyman, owning a herd of over forty cows. He also raised donkeys.

Christopher died in 1895 at the age of seventy-two. His wife, Lucy, lived on to be eighty-five at her death in 1908.

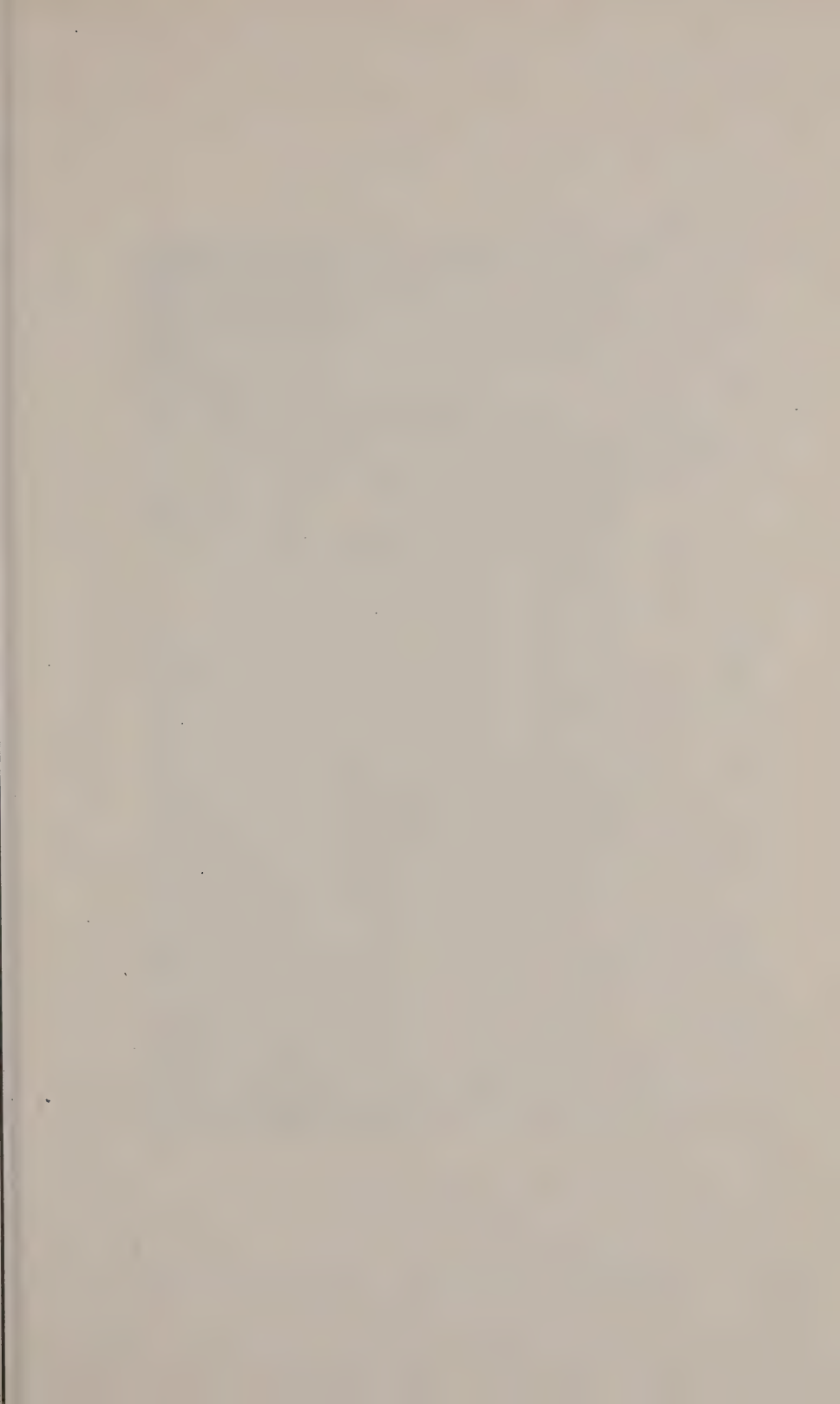


(Barns) Christopher Moody, Sr., and Lucy in foreground.

Christopher Moody, Jr., continued to live on the farm after his parents' deaths. He was married to Carrie Zeek Loree who lived in the house now Hugh B. Reed's on Old Mendham Road. One of their two children, Harriet Estelle Moody, now Mrs. Henry Parsons, resides in Morris Plains. Christopher Moody, Jr., was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Farm Exchange, and a member of the Morris Township Board of Education for nine years. He died December 1, 1947. His brother, Matthew Moody, owned a house on Washington Valley Road, which belongs

to Mrs. Walter Kemeys and is lived in by Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Halsey.

When Christopher Moody, Jr., retired in 1936, he sold his house and farm to Mrs. Edith Ranney of Cherry Lane, Morristown. Mrs. Ranney has had tenants on the farm ever since. The present occupants, James and Joan Howie, have a thriving farm. Seventy-five head of registered Holstein cattle of the Golden Segis, Dunloggin family produce eleven thousand pounds of milk annually, which is sold daily to the Farmers and Consumers Dairy in Morristown. The Morris County Agricultural Agent uses this farm for demonstration of a pasture renovation program in connection with Rutgers University. The rural life of the Valley still prevails here.





Jonathan Ogden House



## FOSTER FARM

(Mendham Road, Morris Township)

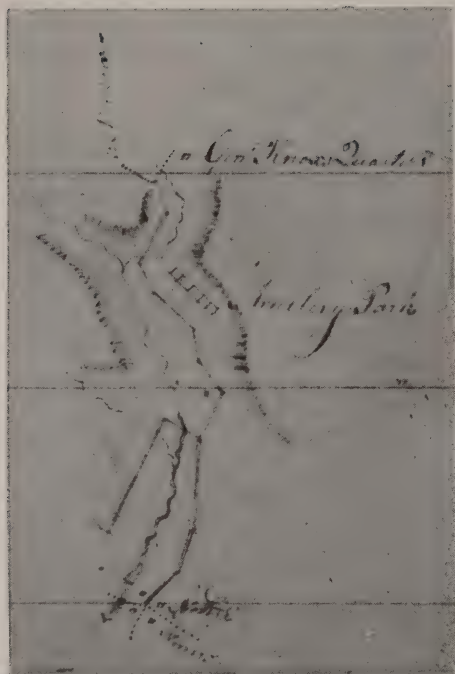
(Story told by present owner—Caroline R. Foster)

In tracing the history of this farm, one must go back to the mid-eighteenth century, when Jonathan Ogden came to Morris County.

He was born in 1743, the son of Stephen, an "agriculturalist," of Basking Ridge. After his father's death, his mother, Elizabeth Ogden, married Samuel Roberts in 1768, at which time Jonathan was twenty-five. Samuel Roberts owned a 150-acre farm in the Valley, perhaps as early as 1750, including the "Ogden Farm" and the present Ranney farm which he later conveyed by some means to his stepson, Jonathan Ogden.

Jonathan was considered a man of "worth, ability and influence." In 1774, when he was thirty-one, he married Abigail Gardiner and was a "half-way" member of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown. As he had recently married, it would seem logical that he built his new house shortly thereafter.

The original house and farm buildings belonging to Jonathan Ogden were situated on the Mendham Road about a mile and a quarter west of the Morristown Green. The



N<sup>o</sup> 104, D  
Road from Ferris's Tavern in  
Herristown past the Park of  
Artillery to Genl Knox's Quarters

Erskine Map: Courtesy of New York Historical Society, N. Y. C.

buildings were several hundred feet north of the road. The present entrance drive, which continued over the hill, was the only access to the settlement now known as Washington Valley. This road was referred to in early history as "the road from Jacob Arnold's to Morristown."

It seems that this house figured in Revolutionary history. When Washington came to Morristown for the winter of 1779-80, he brought with him a portion of his artillery which was set up along the present Mendham Road in the "Park of the Artillery," now Burnham Park. The area was flat meadow land at the time; no ponds existed then. In this park were stationed four regiments of artillery, field pieces, forges and machine shops.

In charge of this equipment was a young man of twenty-nine, a former Boston bookseller who had read so much on artillery that, when the Revolution started, he knew more about the subject than anyone else in the country. Washington's choice of Henry Knox, as Commander of the Artillery, turned out to be a wise one for Knox procured artillery where none had existed and transported it whenever needed, roads or no roads, throughout the long years of the war.

In order to be near the Park of the Artillery, Knox chose as his headquarters in 1779 a farmhouse in the vicinity as shown on this map made by Robert Erskine, Washington's official mapmaker, during that winter.

After a careful study of this map, it cannot be said with accuracy that the Jonathan Ogden house was Knox's

headquarters, but recently an investigator, with no prior knowledge of our interest in this particular house, has gone to great pains to plot the Erskine map on a present day map. From his calculation he estimates that Knox's headquarters came within a few feet of the original Ogden house, and it would seem probable that they were one and the same.

This theory is further borne out by this statement from Mr. Emory McClintock, respected authority on Washington's encampment in Morristown. From his "Topography of Washington's Camp, 1780 and Its Neighborhood," a paper read before the Washington Association Meeting, February 22, 1894, we quote: "Between the site of the Park and the village now called Washington Valley there is a notable hill, carefully avoided by the planners of the present Washington Valley Road. In 1780 the 'road from Jacob Arnold's' as it was called, crossed directly over the hill toward the Park, and about midway of the nearer slope, north of the road, were the quarters of General Knox, who commanded the artillery. Part of the house is still in existence as the oldest portion of a farm house readily seen on the hillside from Mendham Road." As we mentioned before, the present driveway on this farm is a part of the old "road to Jacob Arnold's" which, in 1780, continued on over the hill along the southern boundary of the Ogden farm. (See road map.)

It would be an historical contribution of great value to the history of Washington Valley if this patriot had once lived for a few months within its borders.

Jonathan Ogden was listed as a freeholder or landowner in Morristown in 1776. He later became a judge of the county court. In 1802-04, he was sent as a Representative from Morris County to the State Legislature. He was largely instrumental in organizing the "State Bank of Morris" which then stood on the corner of Bank Street. He was one of the most liberal subscribers to the fund raised to purchase the Morristown Green, then owned by the First Presbyterian Church. A few public-spirited citizens bought the land and a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees was formed for its administration for the benefit of the town, and the deeds specifically stated that nothing should ever be built thereon—and so it is to this day.

When he died in 1825, aged 82, by his will, he left to his wife, Abigail, the use of his farm together with all stock of "cattel," horses and sheep thereon, during her natural life, and at her decease, the same to his son, Charles. Wife Abigail should have the time and "servis" of his three blacks, Thomas, Neal and Ibbe. Charles was left the residue of the estate, except the furniture in the house, the use of which he gave to wife Abigail during her life time, and then to Charles, on the following conditions:

1. He pay to his son Oliver Wayne \$2,000 "four years after my decease."





Morris County House, shown above, was considered the finest hotel in the United States from 1842 until 1846 when it was destroyed by fire.

2. To grandson Elias Ogden Henricks \$1,000, half to be paid when the boy was fifteen years old, and half at the age of twenty.
3. Son Samuel shall have comfortable and decent support out of the estate in case he shall need or request the same of Charles.

The residue of the estate left Charles included the two hundred acre farm.

At this time Charles was managing a large hotel in Morristown, known as the Morris County House. To digress for a moment, we are indebted to Mrs. Colles and a newspaper article by H. B. Hoffman, and other sources, for the following facts regarding this hotel.

“In 1842-46 the finest hotel in the United States stood on the Park, corner of Market Street and extended back to the ‘Brick Stables,’ which are all that remain of it today. It was built by the late William Gibbons, who came from Savannah, Georgia, in 1833. His summer home was in Madison, now the site of the present Drew University. This large hotel was built of brick with brown stone trimming and was three stories with large columns running to the roof. It was four years in building, under the constant supervision of its critical owner. It was believed that the carpets, mirrors and furniture were all imported from Paris. The hotel was opened with a Grand Ball in 1843, and immediately

attracted the numerous people who were flocking to Morristown for its altitude and healthfulness. Mr. Gibbons named it the Morris County House; later it was called the New Jersey Hotel, and is referred to by writers as the 'Morris Hotel.'

"On May 6, 1846, this building caught fire from Drake's Hotel (the old O'Hara Tavern adjoining), and was completely destroyed, making a conflagration which was the greatest ever known in this region. Crowds came from all the country around to witness the spectacle. It was said that the building was not covered by insurance as it was thought to be fireproof. The loss was estimated at \$200,000, plus a keg of apple-jack forty years old."

Morristown seems to have had its share of hotels about this time. In 1844 there were four: Mansion House on Washington Street; on the Green, the U. S. Hotel; O'Hara's Tavern, where the First National Bank stood for many years; and at the corner of Bridge St. (now Speedwell Avenue) and Early Street was the Woodhead's Tavern.

To return to the Ogden story. In 1826 Charles Ogden sold the property to Henry Mooney, who lived in the Ogden house twenty-two years. In 1835 Henry Mooney sold 30.64 acres to J. J. Roy and 83.64 acres to Horace Elmer in 1838, retaining eighty-eight acres which he sold to Isaac Storm of Brooklyn in 1848. Isaac Storm held the property until 1851. On that date there appeared in the JERSEYMAN,

the following advertisement:

### Valuable Farm for Sale

“Very desirable farm known as the ‘Ogden Farm,’ lying about one mile west of Morristown upon the Morris and Easton Turnpike is offered for sale. Pleasantly situated with fine southern exposure and contains 88 acres of land. There is upon it an excellent two storey dwelling house with kitchen attached; good barn, cow house, wagon house, and other outbuildings; never failing spring run of water passing near the house and through lawn; wood land. Title indisputable.”

It would seem likely that Platt Rogers saw this advertisement and bought the farm at this time. This may have been as a speculation, because in 1852 he sold the property to Lt. Joseph Warren Revere.

As I remember the Ogden House in later years, it was an attractive and comfortable home. As one entered the front door, the stairway to the left led up from the hall to the second floor. The hand-rail and newel post were made of an especially fine highly polished walnut. A door to the right of the stairway opened into a room which was called the front parlor. To the rear of this was a good sized dining room and across the back were the kitchen and large pantry. The modern convenience in the corner of the kitchen was a large hand pump. In after years, memory of the pantry is vividly pictured, as along the sides





Brigadier General Joseph W. Revere, later Brevet Major-General. Picture from the collection of Frederick H. Meserve.



of the room were stored barrels of brown sugar, flour, etc. Extending from this room toward the north was a small addition, known as the store room and summer kitchen. Unfortunately, this house was destroyed by fire in 1916. A new one was erected on the foundation, as nearly like the old one as could be remembered.

At this juncture, it seems appropriate to insert a brief sketch of Lt. Revere's life, which according to contemporary historians was a very colorful one. I am very much indebted to the Lewis Publishing Company for many quotations from their BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF MORRIS COUNTY. I am quoting from this work because the facts are more clearly and concisely expressed than I could do it myself.

“Joseph Warren Revere was the grandson of Paul Revere of Revolutionary fame, and the son of Dr. John Revere, an eminent physician of New York. (Dr. Revere was one of the founders of the medical department of the University of the City of New York, and was at one time a professor in Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.) Lt. Revere was born in Boston in 1812, and at the age of fourteen entered the United States Naval School at New York, thus beginning a long career of service by sea and land in almost every portion of the globe, a service full of exciting interest and romantic adventure. At sixteen he sailed for a long cruise in the Pacific and then joined the squadron employed in

suppressing the African slave trade.

“After a trying service in which he often narrowly escaped death from disease, wreck and mutiny, he was sent to the European squadron. He visited every country of Europe and the Mediterranean shores of Asia and Africa, and being an accomplished linguist, he acted as aid to the Commodore and was especially fortunate in meeting the most distinguished personages of the day. During the Seminole War, he served with the ‘Mosquito Fleet’ on the coast of Florida, and shortly after commanded a vessel engaged in breaking up organized piracy in the West Indies. In 1838 he sailed in the first American squadron which circumnavigated the globe, and, at Bombay, he witnessed the departure of the British army for the disastrous campaign of Cabul. For saving the British man-of-war Ganges from shipwreck he was presented with a sword of honor by the Governor-General of India.

“Throughout the Mexican War he was on the coast of California, and at Sonoma, raised the first American flag north of San Francisco Bay, being also present at the battles of the Mesa and San Gabriel, the bombardment of Guaymas and the other exciting events of the conquest.

“In 1842 he returned to Boston and married Miss Rosanna Duncan Lamb, daughter of Benjamin Waldo Lamb. He returned to California, and became government timber agent for the new territory. A book

published by him and entitled 'A Tour of Duty in California,' became a handbook for the pioneers and settlers.

"In 1849 Lt. Revere resigned from the navy and remained for two years on a ranch he had purchased. In 1851 he engaged in the coasting trade, and on the coast of Mexico rescued, after a desperate conflict, the passengers and crew of a ship-wrecked Spanish vessel from a horrible death at the hands of savages. For this service, the Spanish government conferred upon him the Order of Isabella, and he received high testimonials from other governments.

"Not long afterward he became the intimate friend of the President of Mexico and accepted a commission as Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery in the Mexican army. He reorganized this branch of the service and instructed the officers, among them the celebrated Miramon, afterward executed by the side of Emperor Maximilian. In a battle with the Revolutionists his skill and valor saved the national army from destruction. He was declared to have 'deserved well of the republic' and received high honors. Wearied at last of his adventurous life, Lt. Revere returned home."

He settled with his family on his farm near Morristown, which in later years was known as "The Willows," because of the large grove of these trees in the meadow. For the next two years, as far as one can find out, he was busy drawing and perfecting plans for the house which he



General Joseph W. Revere House, built 1854.



dreamed of building for so many years. He chose the site about seven hundred feet from the Ogden house towards the west. While building this home, he and his family lived in the original house on the farm.

According to a contract found among his papers, dated 1854, Lt. Revere entered into negotiations with Ashbel Bruen, a carpenter of Chatham, to build the new house. He must have been a very astute businessman as the contract was certainly a binding one. The following excerpts are quoted from the contract:

“In consideration whereof the said Revere doth for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators covenant and promise to and with the said Bruen, will authorize to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Bruen the sum of seven thousand one hundred and twenty five dollars and fifteen cents, in manner following to wit: one part thereof when the foundation is up and cellar dug; and then quarter thereof when the building is enclosed and roofed; another quarter part thereof when the building shall be fully completed according to the said plans and specifications, and the remaining quarter thereof, with interest at the rate of nine per centum per annum in six months after the said building shall have been fully completed as aforesaid, interest not to commence on said last payment till the building is fully completed as aforesaid.



“And in case the said Bruen fails to complete the said building by the said first day of February next as herein before provided and agreed for then he is to forfeit and pay a penalty of fifty dollars for each week that building shall remain uncompleted and unfinished and not according to agreement, plans and specifications after the said first day of February next.”

In the early nineteenth century the trend in architectural design had turned from the classic Greek and so-called Colonial style towards the Victorian, or Neo-Gothic type, of which the pointed arch and cross beams were a dominant feature. The house was built on a foundation in the form of a cross. The first floor consisted of four rooms: the front room towards the east, known as the front hall, to the rear of which was the dining room to the right, and the living room to the left. At the back of these were the library, stairway and pantries. The second floor plan duplicated the first floor, consisting of four bedrooms. Above this was the attic, which was hardly usable, due to the high arched ceilings of the two major bedrooms. The very steep and pointed roofs surmounted the whole.

Tradition has it that the kitchen was forgotten in the original plans and an L, consisting of kitchens and large chimney, was added on the north side. This seems likely, as there was no foundation under this addition. In later years, it was discovered that a large oak tree had been cut down and used as the support for the sill on one side.

On one of Lt. Revere's many trips abroad, he brought back an expert wood-carver and cabinet-maker. The elaborate woodwork in the house is due to this man's genius. The hall was finished in oak with chair-high wainscoting around the wall, the elaborately carved mantelpiece, and stairway carrying out in all respects the pointed Gothic arch design. Two larger rooms were in pine, painted and grained. The library in walnut also featured in its wainscoting and bookcases the Gothic design. Over several of the mantels of the first floor was featured a shield bearing the coat-of-arms of the Revere family—three fleurs-de-lys. This man also made the furniture for the dining room, consisting of round table, six chairs and sideboard in mahogany. He furnished the front hall with table, two chairs and settee in oak, following the same Gothic form. After the completion of the interior of the house, Lt. Revere took upon himself the task of painting and decorating the walls, which seems to me, to have been a monumental task, for each room had a special design. The front hall was paneled in blue and outlined in simulated oak elaborately grained, the ceiling in like manner. The sitting room was done in lighter blue with the same treatment of panels as in the hall. The library was painted in light maroon with panels outlined to match the walnut woodwork grain. The ceiling represented a large looped rosette in the matching colors.

The dining room he considered his masterpiece. The background was of pale green outlined with simulated wood

grained to match the woodwork. The ceiling was painted to represent oak cross beams. On entering the room from the sitting room, the first panel on the left represents a brace of life-sized hare, while over the door is painted a stag's head with a garland of flowers around his neck. On the next panel he painted a wild duck and then a life-sized wild turkey. Beyond the windows comes a panel of two rabbits, hanging together with quail and partridge. A grape vine in full fruit, of purple and white grapes, seemingly enters the room through the east wall and falls in graceful loops across the top of panels on two sides of the room. In a small panel, between the door to the front hall and the windows, is painted a bracket shelf containing many varieties of French bread. The last panel features a day's catch, represented by a large fluke, cod fish and numerous varieties of trout. A fish net is draped over the whole. Over the doors, leading to the sitting room, were painted many kinds of canned goods, oysters, lobster, etc., which must have been a luxury at that time; also a platter on which a boar's head was ready to be served. The chef-d'oeuvre over the mantel was a still life representing two shelves: the first containing vintage wines and a platter of oysters on the half shell; on the top shelf exotic fruits and flowers. Topping the whole was a ribbon with the motto "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

After the house was finished, which must have taken considerable time, they moved in from the old Ogden house. When they were settled, Lt. Revere started taking an active part in the town affairs. From accounts told me by my older friends, they must have entertained lavishly. The whole house lighted by dozens of candles furnished a most romantic background for the dinners and evenings at home which they so enjoyed giving.

Unfortunately their new life did not last too long, "for at the outbreak of the rebellion in 1861, Lt. Revere offered his services to the government and was soon made Colonel of the Seventh Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers. The brilliant record of this gallant regiment, second to none in the service, has been largely attributed to the severe discipline it received under Col. Revere, whom General Hooker pronounced 'the best disciplinarian in the service.'

"He fought in the battles of the Peninsula campaign and was promoted to Brigadier-General and commanded the Second New Jersey Brigade, of which the Seventh formed a part, until after the battle of Fredericksburg. At Chancellorsville Revere's brigade led the van in the desperate struggle after the rout of Eleventh Corps and was in the thickest of this disastrous fight. General Revere was the only Federal eye-witness of the fatal wounding of 'Stonewall' Jackson. For a movement made just after this fight, General Revere was censured by General Sickles and was for a time deprived of his rank, but the opinion of the men



he had commanded, and that of Generals Meade and Sedgwick and other high officers, held him innocent of any offense. President Lincoln declared he had been unjustly treated, restored him to his rank and he was subsequently named Brevet Major-General. His health was completely shattered by wounds incurred in service and his existence became one of unbroken suffering. In 1872 he published 'Keel and Saddle,' an autobiography of his eventful life."

The care and responsibility of managing a large property became too great a burden, so he bought a house in Morristown on DeHart Street and moved there with his wife and two sons in 1872. It was said that his only daughter, Frances Jane, was killed in a fall from her horse in 1859. Thomas, a younger son, died in 1856. The first child, John, had died years prior to their coming to Morristown.

The house on DeHart Street was known as the Sansay House, which was built in 1807. Monsieur Sansay, one of the noted dancing teachers of his time, established here a school for dancing, which was patronized by "the aristocratic portion of the local population." He entertained many of the famous personages of the day, probably the best known being the Marquis de LaFayette, who stopped in Morristown on his second visit to the United States, July 14, 1825. The dancing craze continued until some of the ministers of Morristown churches protested that the young people were growing up pleasure loving and ungodly. The personal character of Sansay was even reviled and



eventually, he left for Elizabethtown, one spot in New Jersey that held out welcoming arms to an exile of France.

After the Reveres left "The Willows," it was rented during the summer for a number of years. Among those who spent the summers there was the author, Francis Bret Harte. By chance, I found a letter, dated 1874, addressed to Mrs. Francis Bret Harte, "The Willows," from her husband who was on a lecture tour at the time. This established the fact that they were living in the Revere house. Accounts of his life say that the material for his novel "Thankful Blossom" was gathered while living here, but was written at a later date. The Blossom Farm was a composite picture of several farms in Washington Valley, probably the combination of the Carey and Smith farms. This novel of war and romance is one of his most charming works, which would be interesting reading some winter's evening.

General Revere died April 20, 1880, while on the way to New York. He was stricken with a heart attack on the ferry and was taken by some of his friends to a hotel in Hoboken, where he died several days later. Mrs. Revere continued to live in the DeHart Street house until her death, July 26, 1910. She outlived her two sons, Paul and Augustus, both of whom were prominent figures in Morristown's political and social life. It was indeed a sad ending for such an eventful life, having outlived her husband and five children. The family was reunited at last and are

buried in the family plot at Holy Rood Cemetery, Morristown. The accompanying picture shows the stone erected over the General's grave. It is polished granite bearing Revere coat-of-arms and the following inscription:

Point Faillir

Pulvis Est Ossa

Josephus Warren Revere

Obiit XX<sup>a</sup> Aprilis

A. R. S. MDCCLXXX

AETAT LXVII ANNOS

Implora Pacem Eternam Ora Pro Anima Sua



Revere gravestone

In 1881 my father, Charles G. Foster of Hartford, Connecticut, bought the eighty-eight acre farm and two houses from Mrs. Revere. My mother was Emma Louise Thompson, daughter of James Burnet Thompson of Mendham.

The southern boundary of the property was still known as the road from "Jacob Arnold's." At the mature age of six, my greatest joy was to sit by the side of this road and watch the world go by in buggies, farm wagons, a horse and a foot. After the present Washington Valley Road became established, this road fell into disuse and was gradually closed by order of Morris Township.

The following year my father bought two adjoining farms. The smaller one on the east was then called the Gribbon Farm. In tracing its history, we learn that Daniel Bishop, a "cordweyner" in Morristown purchased this twenty-two acre farm in 1776 from Clemon Hathaway. Bishop sold the farm in 1794 to Peter and Patience Fairchild. Peter, a "hatter" by occupation, was the son of Joseph and Abigail Fairchild, probably early residents of the Valley in the vicinity of the present Kemeys' farm. In later years the farm was purchased by John Gribbon.

I remember the Gribbon House very well. It was a fair-sized house painted white and facing the road, now Kahdena, which connected Mendham Turnpike with Sussex Avenue, known in earlier days as the road to Succasunna. It was built on two levels. The rooms on the lower level were the parlor and bedrooms. The kitchen door was

protected from the weather by an over-hanging porch. The house was surrounded by very beautiful and prolific cherry trees.

On the upper part of this road was a farm of one hundred odd acres, belonging to Fred Betts. This he sold in the early 1880's to a group of officers of the Telephone Company who formed a corporation. They were at a loss to know what to name it. One of the group found a box of anagrams which he emptied on a table. The story is that seven letters fell in a row, spelling Kahdena and this became the name of their corporation. When they built their houses, they decided it would also be a good name for the road leading from Mendham Road to Sussex Avenue, and had a sign painted and put up at the entrance to the road. This idea did not please the neighbor across the way who had decided to name it Wheatsheaf Road. This, in the light of later years, would have been a more logical name, as the Wheatsheaf Tavern was at the Sussex Avenue end of the road and was the headquarters of Livingston during the Revolution. (Washington and Knox dined and held meetings there frequently.) The question of a name was in dispute for many months. One month a sign would be put up, Wheatsheaf; the next month, Kahdena Road. Evidently the latter was more persistent, as the sign still stands today.

The second farm which my father bought was the Nathaniel Wilson farm. The old house was to the west



of the present driveway and almost directly opposite Picatinny Road. This homestead farm of Wilson's contained seventy acres, and there is a possibility that it was formerly owned by Jonas Goble. We know little of Nathaniel Wilson, except that he was born in 1750, married Hannah Minton, and apparently bought the property some time prior to the time deeds were recorded in Morris County. He died in 1833, aged eighty-three. His son, David Wilson, advertised the farm for sale in the "Democratic Banner" in 1839. It was purchased by John Carry; later bought at Sheriff's sale by Samuel Jones; sold again to Eliphalet Willett and William Childs, and from them my father purchased the seventy acres. A note on an old deed of Mendham Road established the situation of Nathaniel Wilson's house and barns from the following quotation:

"Forty links south of a chestnut tree by Nathaniel Wilson's farm."

The Wilson house was a long, low, two-story house, painted red and faced Mendham Road. I remember the porch was very close to the ground and its roof was supported by square posts. The space between these was ornamented by scrolled bracket work. I think the house must have been occupied at the time, as I did not see the interior. There was a very pretty garden at the end of the porch. At a little distance back of the house were a good-sized barn and sheds. I think these must have been in bad repair, as the house was taken down, also the barns,



and the lumber was moved across the meadow to the main farm where it was set up to help house the herd of Jersey cattle which my father imported in 1884.

On the northwest portion of the original farm, on a ridge over-looking Washington Valley, there is a vein of iron ore. One of my early recollections is three large excavations from which ore had formerly been mined. I found in one of the Revere deeds a number of releases allowing ore to be carried across the premises. Apparently this ore was of too poor a quality to warrant mining and carting to a railroad and then shipping to a smelting center. Ore was transported from these mines during the middle of the nineteenth century. Beyond these mines to the very highest point of land to the north stands a large white oak whose spread of branches measures sixty-five to seventy feet. In early days of plowing, many interesting objects were uncovered. Among them were several cannon balls, weighing from two to three pounds each, and numerous copper pennies, which fact leads some authorities to believe that artillery was parked here at one time, probably while Washington's army occupied the surrounding hillsides.

After one hundred years, the place has changed very little in outward appearance. The stone wall built as a boundary on the south side of the original eighty-eight acres terminating in an arch spanning "the old road from Jacob Arnold's" still stands. Naturally, over the years

the trees have grown greatly in size. The clumps of spruce, which were planted as shrubbery when the house was built, have now attained a height of one hundred feet or more. Although the place has changed very little to the casual observer, great changes have taken place in the community during the last seventy years. As I first remember it, this was a rural community, consisting of adjoining farms from here to Chester. Morristown was only a country village, where the stores remained open in the evenings for the convenience of the farmers who could not come to town until after the day's work was done. Going to market every day was an unheard-of procedure. Butcher wagons came around twice to three times a week from the Mendham-Chester district. Reaping grain by hand with a cradle is a far cry from the combine of today, which reaps, thrashes and bags the grain in one operation. A field of five to six acres can easily be harvested in one day. The difference in the highway from here to Mendham is another evidence of drastic change. The road from Morristown to Mendham was a dirt road which was not surfaced until many years later. I remember riding in a box wagon, while the men of the farm drove a herd of twenty odd young heifers along Mendham Road, past the Hilltop Church to a farm beyond for summer pasture, and hardly a vehicle was seen on the way. How unlike the present when cars pass you one a minute. Another change which has taken place over the years is the transition from the candle and kerosene lamp to the modern brilliance of the electric

light. One lived a rather isolated life until the advent of the telephone. A boy on a bicycle carrying a yellow envelope usually meant sad tidings.

Gradually the rural aspect of the community changed as the farms were bought by people of means. Large summer homes replaced the farms, as people were attracted to Morristown by its scenic beauty and reputation for a healthful climate. Soon seen mingling with the farm vehicles were handsome turn-outs, with many of the horses, carriages and silver mounted harnesses imported from England, making a very fine show. The scene was especially brilliant at the railroad station, on the arrival of the Express from New York, in the evening. This in turn has been replaced by the modern automobile. What modern science will invent for the future is an unwritten book. With all the changes that have taken place on this farm, the same fields are planted with the same crops; the same harvest gathered yearly. The house still stands as originally planned, and who knows, like the "One Hoss Shay" may still stand for another hundred years to a day.

## ELIAS HEDGES

(Mendham Road, Morris Township)

Elias Hedges and his sons owned land in the Valley for sixty-two years, from 1768 until 1830. The original farm totaled one hundred and two acres and was located primarily on the north side of Mendham Road, but also included that portion of land lying between Mendham Road and Old Mendham Road.

This old farm was purchased in two separate tracts; the first, containing sixty-one acres was sold to Elias Hedges by John Cole, a "cord-winder of Morristown" in 1768; the second tract of forty-one acres was purchased from William and Mary Arnold in 1773. Both these tracts adjoined a "brook called Bear Brook." The house was probably located on Mendham Road but has long since disappeared.

Elias Hedges, of English descent, came to Morris County from East Hampton, Long Island. Old deeds describe him as a "joiner" by occupation. In 1769 he married Mary Ludlow, daughter of Anthony Ludlow and Sophia Hudson, a descendant of Hendrick Hudson. During the Revolution he served as a wagoner and a Sergeant in the Eastern Battalion of Morris County Militia. Elias Hedges

died of "dropsy of the brain" in 1798 when he was fifty-two. By his will he left his wife Mary "1 cow, 1 mare and use of 1/2 of dwelling house and 1/3 of homestead while his widow." His son, Elias, Jr., was to have thirty-six acres from the tract purchased of William Arnold and one-half of five hundred acres in Shelby County, Kentucky. His son, David, was to have the remainder of lands in New Jersey and Kentucky. The four daughters, Sarah, Ruth, Amie and Mary, were each to receive one hundred pounds. When Mary Hedges died in 1807 of "consumption," her portion of the farm was left to her son, David.

Of the nine children of Elias and Mary Hedges, four married into Valley families.

Elias, Jr., b. 1770, m. Elizabeth Gaston, sister of Isaac. Moved to Ohio where he d. 1813, age 43.

Amie Hedges, b. 1780, m. Isaac Gaston. Lived on Gaston Road.

Sarah, b. 1775, m. Ezra Halsey, Jr. Lived on Mendham Road.

David, b. 1782, m. Sarah Wilson, dau. of Nathaniel. Probably lived on south side of Mendham Road.

In 1830 David Hedges sold one hundred and twenty-two acres of land on the north side of Mendham Road and seventy-five acres on the south side of Mendham Road including "dwelling house, cider works, distillery and apparatus for making cider and distilling spirits attached to same" to Joseph Brown of Philadelphia. The Hedges' name then disappears from Valley history.



It seems probable that a schoolhouse stood on the Hedges' land in 1788. It was here that Ransford Rogers, celebrated in the story of the MORRISTOWN GHOST, came from New York state to teach school. But it soon developed that his main purpose in coming to Morristown was to extort money from many of its prominent citizens by leading them to believe that through his knowledge of "chymistry" he could lead them to the spot in Schooley's Mountain where treasure, hidden by the Tories during the Revolution, was vigilantly guarded by spirits.

The actual location of this schoolhouse must remain a mystery. A student of Ransford Rogers, who boarded with Ezra Halsey while she attended school, in later years described it as "on the road to Mendham near the foot of the hill on the Turnpike Road near where David Hedges used to live." This probably placed it on the south side of Mendham Road where the "Stone School" stood in 1790. Andrew Sherman in HISTORIC MORRISTOWN in 1905 placed it "near the modern residence of Samuel F. Pierson" which would have located it on the north or Valley side of Mendham Road. In any event, the people living in the Valley in 1788 must have had at least a nodding acquaintance with the Morristown Ghost.



Isaac Gaston House



Gaston House in 1937

## GASTON HOUSE

(Gaston Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owners—Judge and Mrs. William H. H. Ely)

Before 1929 the house now owned by Judge and Mrs. William H. H. Ely stood in the southwest corner of the property close to the big horse chestnut tree which marks the division of the properties of Ely and Munro (former Smith pastureage). The house was just a doorstep from the dirt road. Until 1943 the dirt cellar alongside of the well could be seen. This cellar hole was filled in by the Davidsons who created a choice rose garden on the site. "Old timers" in the Valley resented the moving of the antique house by Alexander Tiers into its present location reached by a driveway bordered by magnificent hemlock hedges. Tiers created a French provincial farmhouse out of the old house. It consisted before its remodeling of four rooms downstairs and upstairs with fireplaces in each room. The floor boards are wide and hard as petrified wood.

In the attic and on the old doors and woodwork are the marks of handmade tools which led one expert on Colonial architecture to give as his opinion that the house was built before the Revolution, possibly as early as 1739. However,

this date is doubtless too early as the Valley had not been settled at that time, but it lends credence to the idea that a house existed there when Mattaniah Lyon purchased the property in 1762 or 1763. One floor board in the attic bears a name in old script, and sabre marks which are supposed to indicate that Revolutionary soldiers were cared for in the house. A door to the back stairs bears the name I. Gaston.

It seems likely that this property was owned in the early 1750's by William Arnold who sold it to Mattaniah Lyon around 1762 or 1763. There are no deeds of this period to be found in Morris County, but Mattaniah Lyon was a communicant of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown in 1763 and one year later, in 1764, he witnessed a will for Samuel Arnold, whose farm adjoined his on the south. Road deeds of 1784 refer to our present Gaston Road as "the road that leads from Mattaniah Lyons to James Serwyns." A deed, dated 1805, describing the Arnold farm mentions that it "is bounded northerly by lands now or late Mattaniah Lyons." Of more importance is a mortgage taken out by Mattaniah Lyon in 1776 on fifty-two acres of his property. A plotting of these fifty-two acres conforms well to a plotting of the farm owned by Isaac Gaston some years later.

The Lyon family in this country stems from three brothers who, it is said, were on guard at the scaffold the day Charles I was decapitated and witnessed the regicide.



Daunted by the enormity of this political crime, the three secretly took ship for America and landed at Boston. One of these brothers, Henry, settled in Fairfield, Connecticut, and here, many years later, Mattaniah was born in 1724. Mattaniah moved to Newark, then to Morris County and the Valley about 1762-3. Tax records of 1778 show he had a farm of one hundred sixty acres.

Mattaniah and Mary, his wife, had eight children, one daughter who died at five months and seven sons. Mattaniah and two of his sons, Isaac and Moses, served in the Revolution; Mattaniah in the Militia in Captain Augustin Bayley's Company. Moses enlisted at nineteen in Morristown and served as an artificer in Captain Joseph Lindsley's Company. He was present at the battles of Trenton and Princeton and in 1777 became an express rider for the Continental Army. It is quite likely that officers from the Army were quartered in this house during the winter of 1779-80. Marauding soldiers from Jockey Hollow apparently found several items to their liking on this farm for, in 1779, Mattaniah put in a claim for the loss of "12 geese, 1 narrow ax, a spade, 1 calf, 1 pr. yarn stockings and 3 yds. cloth, valued at  $\text{£}3.13.0$ ."

On September 6, 1776, the following item appeared in the newspaper.

"Come to the plantation of Mattaniah Lyon in Morristown, August 24, a Bay Horse, about 15 hands high. Owner is desired to come, prove his property, pay charges and take him away."



Mattaniah died of "decay" on February 2, 1794, aged seventy years. His will, witnessed by Jacob Arnold, Ziba Ludlum and William Canfield, left to his wife, Mary, the use of two rooms in the house and the negro wench, Marie;



Mattaniah Lyon grave

also a bay mare and riding chair, two cows and two beds.

The plantation was to be divided equally among his surviving sons, Moses, Isaac, Aaron, Jacob and John. Perhaps Mary Lyon lived on here in her two rooms for a few years, but about 1799, eighty-four acres of this plantation was conveyed by some means to Elias Hedges, Jr. On April 11, 1801, he sold this same

farm to Isaac Gaston, in whose family it was to remain for

seventy-five years.

The Gaston family were originally of French origin; the name Vascones undergoing some seven changes of spelling until it became Gaston. Later the family was found in both Scotland and Ireland. Four brothers, Alexander, Joseph, John and Hugh Gaston, eventually came to America. Joseph was the ancestor of Isaac and settled near Freehold in 1720. His son, John, father of Isaac,

moved to Pluckemin and was a merchant of considerable means and business acumen. John's first wife, mother of Isaac, was Elizabeth Ker. On her death, John married Sarah Ogden, daughter of Stephen and sister of Jonathan Ogden. When Isaac came to the Valley his farm adjoined that of his uncle, Jonathan Ogden.

Isaac married within two years after the purchase of this farm. His bride was a Valley girl, Amie Hedges, daughter of Elias Hedges, whose farm was on Mendham Road. They were married on March 19, 1803, when Isaac was thirty and Amie twenty-three. They had three children, Eliza, Elias and Augustus.

In addition to farming, Isaac was part-owner of a saw mill. In 1810 he purchased two acres from Gabriel Pier-son along the stream to the northeast of his farm. On these two acres was a saw mill, a millpond, a race, and "so shaped as to be convenient to set a house by the sd. saw mill." Several years later he purchased a part interest in a second sawmill located in Mendham Township on Jonathan Raynor's farm at the end of School House Lane.

True to family tradition, Isaac was a cabinetmaker, for the family had been workers in wood throughout its many branches. It is said that chairs at Washington Headquarters in Morristown were made by some member of the Gaston family.

Isaac died in 1851, aged seventy-eight years. Amie Gaston continued to live on the farm with her daughter, Eliza, and son-in-law, Joseph Lewis Johnes, grandson of Reverend Timothy Johnes, first pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. But it was Amie who ran the farm and with a firm hand, despite her seventy-five years as shown in an agreement she made on March 13, 1855, between "Amie Gaston of the first part and Silas H. Arnold of the second part." This agreement is written in her own handwriting and is clear and legible to this day. Silas Arnold, son of Colonel Jacob Arnold, had the farm adjoining Amie's on the south. Amie, in this agreement, is setting forth the terms under which Silas is to work her farm for one year.

"Agreement made this thirteenth of March 1855 between Amie Gaston of the first part and Silas H. Arnold of the second part. The said Amie Gaston agrees to let the said Arnold till the farm on which she now resides it being in the township of Morris and state of New Jersey for the term of one year commencing on the first day of April next on terms as follows. The said Arnold is to put in all the grain I wish and no more and in good season and in a husbandlike manner he is to draw out and spread all the manewer and lime I see fit to provide and on such parts of the farm as I may direct and do all the work and find half of the seed sowed or planted for which he is to receive one half of the grain

for his services. The oats and winter grain is to be threshed in my barn by machinery the said Arnold is to provide all the hands necessary for the work and board them The horses while threshing is to be fed from the grain before divided. The said Gaston is to pay one half of the charge for threshing say three to four cents for oats and about ten cents for the wheat and the said Arnold the other half. The grain to be divided by measure and the said Arnold is to put my half of the grain in my bins in the grainery without any extra charge and his half he is to take away. The straw he is to mow away for the use of the stock on the farm. The corn is to be divided from the waggon each day as fast as husked the said Arnold is to put my half in the cornhouse and his half he is to take away and he is to bind the stacks in convenient sized bundles and stack them where directed by me. The Potatoes are to be divided in the same way and my half he is to put in my cellar without any extra charge. The four yearlin calves now on the farm belonging to J L Johnes and by his consent are to be appraised at once and the said Arnold is to have half their growth in value to be paid by me at the second apprisement on the first of April 1856. The said Arnold is not to have any interest in any of the rest of the stock he is to give at least two days service in repairing the fences. The said Arnold agrees to cut all the grafs on the farm and put it all in the barn cowhouse or stack it as I may direct. The whole of the stock consisting of



four Cows one yoke of Oxen one horse and four yearlin calves all of which belong to J L Johnes are to be fed or foddered all that is necessary to keep them in good condition through the winter and spring following on the straw stocks and hay. All the hay left over after such feeding the said Arnold is to cart away at his own cost and sell for cash and one half of the money is to be paid to me and the other half is for his own use and benefit. The hay shall not be sold any faster than I think it safe for the full supply of all the stock . . . the said Gaston is to furnish the said Arnold all the necessary utensils for carrying on the said farming businefs one half of the repairs of said utensils is to be paid by the said Arnold. I further agree to let the said Arnold have the oxen to plough about five acres on his own farm after he gets my spring businefs out of the way for the use of which he is to draw my wood for the season and I am in no way chargeable for any expenses in doing the work aforesaid except as is above exprefsed.

“The said Gaston is to furnish the said Arnold a yoke of oxen and as a matter of convenience will let him have the use of the horse when not otherwise in use to plough the corn and Potatoes. The said Gaston further agrees to let the said Arnold have the use of the oxen to draw the hay and Oats he cuts on his own farm and wood for his own families use but the said Gaston is not to furnish or find the said Arnold with any of his wood it is



the full understanding of the parties that the team is not to be used on the said Arnolds farm in any case when they are wanted on the said Gastons farm.

Amie Gaston  
S. H. Arnold"

Aunt Amie Gaston, as she was familiarly known to the people of the Valley, died in 1876, aged ninety-six. Various owners of her old home have claimed that the presence of this strong-willed lady can still be detected in the house, and that she shows antagonism to their occupancy. On her death the property, now eight-seven acres, was conveyed to Elias Gaston, her son, by all the remaining heirs.

Elias was living in Ohio and sold the property within a year to Edwin and Willis Arnold, sons of Silas Arnold. They owned the farm for forty-two years. In 1921 Willis Arnold sold the farm, now reduced to fifty-one acres to Thomas L. Raymond, former mayor of Newark, New Jersey. During Mayor Raymond's time the house was famous for its picturesque beauty and phlox and rose gardens. He used it as a place for relaxation and visits for nine years when it was sold to Alexander Tiers who moved the house to its present location. Tiers created the upper terrace of the lawn with a flower border arranged in such a way that it would make an outdoor theatre. Tiers who was interested in drama is said to have entertained the actress Jeanne Eagels in the house where she slept in a bedroom decorated with Egyptian murals in orange hues. He remodeled the

two front and back rooms on the south into one large paneled living room and extended the house to the rear.

Tiers sold the house to Norman L. Burritt in 1931. Burritt sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Harland G. Foster who redecorated in colonial style in 1937, bringing back white ceilings and floral wallpapers to replace the deep French blue paint which had darkened the house as the result of Tiers' remodeling. In 1941 the property was purchased from the Fosters by Harold and Mildred Davidson. At their death, the property was purchased from their heirs in 1958 by Judge and Mrs. William H. H. Ely.

## THE GUERIN FARM

(Mendham Road, Morris Township)

(House no longer standing)

Few areas in the Valley have seen such dramatic changes as that surrounding Indian Head Road. For one hundred and thirty years it was farmland owned by the Guerin family. The simple, frame farmhouse once standing on the property housed three generations of Guerins from Revolutionary days until 1880. With the purchase of the property by Mr. Luther Kountze, a fabulous transformation took place. The area became part of a one hundred and ninety acre estate on which were sunken gardens containing rare and exotic plants, thousands of boxwoods, flowers and shrubs of indescribable beauty, tennis courts, a large house and stables. When the house burned, ending this era of opulence, the old road leading to the estate was given the name, Indian Head, and in the past ten years eight houses have been built along its path.

The original owner of the land was Thomas Guerin, whose home was on the south side of Old Mendham Road, but whose farm extended across the road and into the Valley. Thomas Guerin was born in 1713 and could trace his ancestry back to DeGuerin, Count of Auvern and Duke of

Aquitaine during the reign of Emperor Charlemagne.

Young Thomas was a French Huguenot. Tradition says that while a young man he was pursued by the Catholics; in order to resist capture, he sprang into the sea and swam to a vessel bound for New York. Soon after arriving in this country, he came to Morris County and settled on his farm two miles west of Morristown.

Thomas Guerin had a large family of ten children, many of whom purchased farms near their father as they came of age. The Guerins were said to be a "high spirited, brave, liberty loving family, fond of the chase and great fox hunters." Jockey Hollow was their hunting grounds and it is said that this area is named for them to this day. They were a patriotic family and when volunteers were needed for the Revolutionary Army, Thomas and five of his sons enlisted.

His fourth son, Vincent Guerin, born in 1755, is of particular interest. As a boy, he lived with his father on Old Mendham Road, perhaps assisting from time to time in the Guerin blacksmith shop, located on Mendham Road near the old entrance to Whitehead Road. During the Revolution he was a sergeant in the Militia and served as a wagoner, or teamster. Shortly after his marriage to Azubah Brown in 1777, he built a house in the vicinity of the present Indian Head Road on meadow land given him by his father. Surrounding the house he planted orchards of apple and English cherry trees. Marauding soldiers came to this

house in 1779 and took from him his woolen riding coat and linen trousers, as well as four geese and one sheep. Many children were born to Vincent and Azubah and year after year, a child would die. Eventually, they had a fine family of three sons and three daughters.

When Vincent was sixty-four years old, he sold property which he owned in Mendham Township near the Washington Valley School House to his son, Richard Guerin. (See Ebenezer Condict House.) He also gave to Richard ten shares in the Washington Turnpike Company, a company which owned and collected the tolls on Mendham Road.

Vincent Guerin died in 1828, aged seventy-nine. The homestead farm on Mendham Road was conveyed by will to his sons, Stephen Ogden and Halsey. Stephen was to allow his mother one third part of the dwelling house, pasture her cow and provide her firewood. Halsey was to provide six bushels of wheat annually for his mother and was to have the use "of an old stable and one barrack." His father also gave to Halsey " $\frac{1}{2}$  of the cider spirits which may be on hand at the time of my decease." The two brothers, Halsey and Stephen, apparently lived together in the old house for a number of years.

An undated newspaper account tells an interesting story of a wedding ring which was lost for thirty years on this old farm. Halsey's wife, Anne Stevens Guerin, had in her possession a gold wedding ring brought to this country from England by the Stevens family. It was old and she



prized it very much. Her daughter, Jane, was fascinated by the old ring and one day was granted permission to wear it. Towards dusk, Jane and her older sister went to the apple orchard, planted by their grandfather Vincent, ate an apple and went back to the house. The next morning Jane realized the ring was missing. Jane did not tell her mother immediately but, after repeated threats from her older sister, she finally confessed to the loss of the ring.

Years passed. Jane and her family moved to Newark and Stephen Ogden Guerin, her uncle, continued to live on the old farm. He was a teetotaler who declared he "would not raise apples to be made into cider and Jersey lightning." The old orchard was cut down and a vegetable garden took its place. Stephen died later and his son, Josephus, came into possession of the farm. Thirty years had passed since the loss of the ring, when one day the hired man brought in a beet from the vegetable garden. To one of the leaves was attached a ring of gold. When the dirt was washed off, the inscription put on the ring in England two hundred years before could be plainly seen: "In God alone we to ar one."

In 1880 Josephus Guerin sold the property and moved to Mendham. The new purchaser was Luther Kountze, a New York banker, whose estate totaled four thousand acres. The Guerin house was soon to join the ranks of the many old homes in the Valley that have been destroyed

and forgotten. In its stead Luther Kountze built a large frame house, surrounded by formal gardens and tennis courts for his daughter, Mrs. Helen K. Livingston. Upon her death the house and one hundred and ninety acres surrounding it were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Redmond Cross. The property remained in their hands until 1947, though the house burned down in the late 1930's. The present J. W. Wilkinson house is built on the foundation of this burned structure. Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Carroll live in the remodeled stable.

Luther Kountze lived in the "golden era" of Morristown history when large estates in and about Morristown were a commonplace. Before the advent of the income tax and the widespread use of the automobile, from about 1880 until 1910, the wealthy families lived a life that would have bewildered and amazed the simpler folk of Revolutionary times, and would have dazzled most of us today.

It was an era of the coach-and-four and liveried footmen arriving at the Morristown station to meet the master as he got off the train after a day's work in New York. Houses were large and well-staffed and were often the scene of elegant dinner parties and elaborate costume balls. The best in New York entertainment was often imported without regard for cost. On summer Saturday afternoons, polo teams, drafted from the young men of the surrounding counties, competed against each other on estates in the area.

With the gradual demise of this glamorous era, many of the great houses were sold, often to institutions. The old mansion house belonging to Luther Kountze, now part of Delbarton School, is the scene of a life far different from the former one. Priests now walk in his famed Italian gardens; young boys play on the tennis courts . . . examples of the continuing change that has marked our Valley and vicinity.

## EBENEZER CONDUCT HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. W. G. Crothers)



Ebenezer Conduct House

For many months a search has been made for the home-  
stead farm of Zenas Conduct in Mendham Township. The  
property is often mentioned in deeds but never described.  
Gradually enough information has been pieced together to  
make a calculated guess that this seventy-eight acre farm

extended north from Washington Valley Road, its eastern boundary the Mendham Township line.

This farm is of particular interest because on it is this frame farmhouse, said to be over two hundred years old, by its owner, Mr. W. G. Crothers, in whose family the house and surrounding property has been since 1805. It also explains the prominence of the crossroad "without a name" connecting Washington Valley Road with School House Lane; originally just a wagon trail to the upper fields of the farm but, when the property was divided into numerous small parcels after the Revolution, it became a well-used thoroughfare and was taken over and maintained by the township of Mendham until it was vacated in 1930.

Zenas Conduct may have built the original portion of this house, purchasing the property about 1772. Zenas came to the Valley at the age of eight, living with his parents, Philip and Mary Conduct, on Whitehead Road. He was married in 1765 to Phoebe Johnson of "Speedwell Hill." They had six children before his untimely death at the age of thirty-seven. A young man of intense patriotism, he enlisted very early in the Revolutionary Army as a private and became a brevet captain. He died while in the service in 1776; the cause of death, listed as "phrenzy."

Tax records indicate that the "widow Phoebe Conduct" owned seventy-eight acres in 1778. When her children became of age, the property was divided. The house lot and forty-two acres came into the possession of Ebenezer



Condict, oldest son of Zenas and Phoebe.

Ebenezer Condict was a shoemaker. In the days when people walked far more than they rode, shoe leather wore out fast and the services of a cobbler or cordwainer were in demand. The uppers of all shoes were hand sewn, but heavy soles and all heels were put on with wooden pegs. The shoemaker didn't have to bother with matching a pair of shoes. Either shoe could be worn, with more or less comfort, on either foot. Hides for the leather were purchased from farmers in the Valley. An account book mentions "hauling forty hides from T. Mills to Ebenezer Condict's."

Ebenezer married Mehitabel Burnet and their six children were born in the old house. In 1805 Ebenezer decided to sell the farm and "moved away," probably to the West as many of the Condicts did.

In 1805 the farm with its forty-two acres was sold to Vincent Guerin. (See Guerin family.) For the next few years it was rented by Samuel Armstrong. In 1814 Vincent sold the farm to his son, Richard, great-great-grandfather of the present owner. Richard Guerin lived here for forty-five years until his death in 1859. Richard was born on his father's farm on Mendham Road. When a young man he courted and married Lydia Blackford, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Blackford, whose home was on Mt. Pleasant Road.

The year after Richard bought the farm, some sort of new building took place. The account book of his neighbor to the west shows that Stephen Ludlow hauled nine loads of building stone for Richard, John Ludlow "tended mason one day" and two pounds of nails were supplied "when you was raising." Perhaps an addition was being added to the home to house the six children of Richard and Lydia. Since Richard was a subscriber to the Washington schoolhouse, these children were probably educated there. It is to the Guerins that we owe our stone wall in front of the schoolhouse, since they had a tendency to cut across the schoolhouse yard with their teams on their way up School House Lane to their wood lot.

Richard raised rye, flax, oats and wheat. He made numerous trips to Newark to sell pork and sweet potatoes, often taking his neighbors into town with him for a day's shopping. Richard had a great love for clams, purchasing a hundred at a time. The purchase of "clamb's" appears again and again in account books for many Valley families.

In 1858 Richard made his will: "I, Richard Guerin, being in my right mind and having the fear of God before my eyes and wishing to dispose of my goods while living and in health." He then proceeded to make bequests to his grandchildren and his second wife, Elizabeth. "If my dear wife should be taken out of this world it is my wish that my wife's children should have what property she fetched to my place when we was married."

After Richard's death, John and Eliza Guerin inherited the property. Their descendant, Mr. W. G. Crothers, now lives in the house. The house has changed little in outward appearance in the past one hundred and fifty years. The same walk-in fireplace is still in the basement. The farm however has changed tremendously. In recent years some five or six houses have been built upon it.



## THE REUBON WOOD HOUSE

(Old Crossroad, Mendham Township)

(Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Schuyler Martin)



Reubon Wood House

Captain Zenas Condict died a few days before Christmas in 1776, leaving his widow, Phoebe Johnson Condict, with six small children to feed and clothe. Two years after his death, Phoebe married again. Her second husband was Reubon Wood, whose family had come to Morris County from Easthampton, Long Island, and owned land in the vicinity of Whitehead Road before the Revolution.

It may be assumed that Reubon and Phoebe lived in the house built by her first husband, probably the one now



owned by Mr. W. G. Crothers on Washington Valley Road. During the winter of 1779, Samuel Alward testified that "soldiers were often seen at sd. Woods house," occasionally carrying off for their own use articles belonging to the Wood family. Reubon served in Captain Cox's Third Regiment, which participated in the Battle of Monmouth. Five children were born to Reubon and Phoebe. Some years after the war, the Wood family moved from Washington Valley Road to their house farther north on the crossroad.

It took many years to settle the estate of Capt. Zenas Condict and it was not until 1797 that Reubon purchased the five acres of land on which he lived from Stephen Condict of Newark, son of Zenas. The deed describes this five acres as part of "Lot #2 in the division of real estate of Zenas Condict, dec. and on it is an apple orchard, barn and dwelling house in which sd. Reubon Wood now lives."

Since his farm was so small, Reubon had to supplement his living by other means. We know he split rails and sold them; perhaps he worked for Mattaniah Lyon on Gaston Road, since the Wood and Lyon families were related through repeated intermarriages. But times were hard. Mendham Township had to supply a doctor and charity for Reubon in 1793. In 1801 Reubon died of pleurisy, aged fifty-seven, leaving Phoebe with a five acre farm and an inventory amounting to forty-two dollars. His wife survived him for nineteen years.

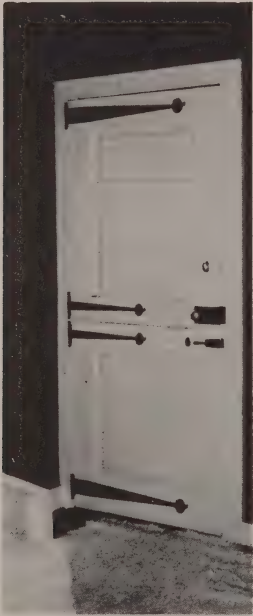
After Phoebe's death in 1820, several young men of the Valley lived in the house for short periods of time: Amzi Axtell, John Axtell and Charles Roff, son of Robert, and a teacher and farmer. In 1846 Charles Roff conveyed the property to Simeon Richardson and his wife, Antoinette, of the Township of Hanover.

In 1850 David Fithian Loree, son of Lewis Loree, the blacksmith, purchased the farm. He and his children lived in the old house for forty-six years. David Loree worked for John Ludlow, his neighbor, in return for the use of Ludlow's oxen to plow his ground, the loan of his carriage to go to town, and small amounts of cash. Loree's tax on the property was two dollars and twenty-five cents a year.

William Dougherty purchased the farm in 1896. He was from Ireland and boasted that he had grown potatoes as long as his arm in his native country. In addition to farming this small piece of land, he worked as a teamster for Luther Kountze on his big estate on Mendham Road. In 1916 his son, David, sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Martin who own it today. Their grandson, Schuyler Martin, and his wife now live in the house.



Samuel Alward House



Interior of Alward house

## SAMUEL ALWARD PLANTATION

(School House Lane, Morris and Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Faust)

This charming little house (formerly Austin's and Leon Wilson's), located half in Morris and half in Mendham Township, is delightful to look at both inside and out. Well cared for through the years, its present appearance belies its great age of some one hundred and seventy years. Its surroundings enhance its appearance; green lawns, a swimming pool near a rushing brook, a paddock, stable and greenhouse to the left of the house, and a weatherbeaten old grey barn across the road.

The original house consisted of no more than four or five small rooms, plus attic and cellar. A beautiful old Dutch door with handsome black hardware now provides entrance to the house and may be the original. The downstairs had but two small rooms, one with a massive stone fireplace, probably a sitting room; the other originally a small bedroom. Hand-hewn beams cross the ceiling. The inside doorways are arched and have a keystone in the center of their mouldings. Upstairs were two bedrooms, with a third small room on a different level. Perhaps the cooking was done in the cellar in an old fireplace.



Our research would indicate that this house was built by Samuel Alward some time after the road, now School House Lane, was laid out in 1783.

Samuel Alward was born in 1732 in Woodbridge, New Jersey, where his grandfather settled when he came from Ipswich, Suffolk County, England, around 1664. His grandfather, Henry, probably came to this country in the ship "Philip" with Philip Carteret, Governor of New Jersey. Henry purchased a small farm of forty acres in Woodbridge, one of the earliest settlements in the state.

When Samuel was young, his father, Henry, Jr., moved from Woodbridge to Bernards Township where he owned five hundred acres between Liberty Corners and Basking Ridge. On this large farm, he frequently planted over one hundred acres in wheat. He was a man of considerable wealth, well able to provide a riding horse for each child in his large family. A man of standing in the community, he served as Justice of the Peace and Justice of the Quorum for Somerset County from 1764-69. Samuel's mother, Mary Coxe Alward, was the granddaughter of Daniel Coxe, physician to Queen Anne and the Colonial Governor of West Jersey in 1687. When Henry Alward died in 1782, he left his second wife, Anna, and his eight children well provided for. To his sons, Samuel and Benjamin, he gave a plantation in Bernardstown between "Dead River and the lands of Robert Cross." The sale of his share of this plantation may have given Samuel the money he needed to build his



house on School House Lane.

Samuel Alward had lived in the Valley for some twenty years before he built this house. He may have come to this area around 1764 at which time he "renewed covenant" at the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. He had been married shortly before to Catherine King. From road deeds, it appears that his first home was on the west side of the crossroad connecting Washington Valley Road with School House Lane. Here he lived during the Revolution in which he participated as a private in the Morris County Militia, subsequently receiving a pension for his services. He was taxed on sixty-five acres in Mendham Township in 1778. There is no record of the purchase of this original sixty-five acres, except for a ten-acre tract which he purchased in 1774 from George Hull, "yeoman of Mendham."

Recently, while looking through the papers of Mr. Charles Briant, Mrs. Briant and her daughter, Mrs. Wallace Driver, found two ancient deeds pertaining to this property. In one, Ezra Brown conveyed nineteen and one-half acres to Samuel Alward in 1784, a tract of land north of the present house extending back toward Snake Hill. The other deed, dated 1789, conveyed twenty-one acres from Solomon Hull, land now owned by Mr. Luther Martin. Samuel acquired additional land before his death, enlarging his plantation to one hundred and twenty acres, located on both sides of School House Lane.

Samuel and Catherine had ten children, two dying in infancy, the others ranging in age from twenty-four years to two, at the time the present house was built. This was a small house for such a large family. Some time later, an additional room, now the dining room, was added, probably by Jonas Alward around 1819.

Samuel's wife died in 1818, aged seventy-nine. Twenty-three days after her death, Samuel died, aged eighty-six. In his will Samuel left "his plantation of 120 or 130 acres" to his four sons: Jonas, Henry, Stephen and Samuel, Jr.

In September, 1819, forty-three acres of the plantation, including the house, were conveyed by quit claim to Jonas Alward by his three brothers. It is interesting to note that for the next one hundred and twenty-four years, each time the farm was sold it contained these same forty-three acres. Jonas' three brothers soon sold their inherited portion of the estate and moved away—Stephen to Wantaugh in Sussex Co., Samuel, Jr., to Licking Co., Ohio, and Henry to Succasunna where he built a house lived in today by his two granddaughters, who have been of help in compiling this data on the Alward family.

Jonas Alward, who inherited the house, was born in 1769, the third son of his father, Samuel. In 1798, Jonas married Rachel Arnold, daughter of Ziba and granddaughter of Robert Arnold. They had six daughters and one son. Jonas was a subscriber to the schoolhouse in 1813 and his children were educated there. Jonas paid for their

education in part by cutting and hauling wood to the school-house for use in the stove. In addition to farming, Jonas supplemented his income by cutting wood on Snake Hill, hauling it by oxen down to the house where it was either carted to Morristown or sent to the sawmill. As he grew older, Jonas found it increasingly difficult to meet his expenses and at his death in 1841, aged seventy-one, legal measures were taken to obtain in behalf of the Township any remaining property of Jonas Alward. His second wife, Nancy, was allowed ten dollars toward the support of their child. And so after eighty years, the Alward family left the Valley.

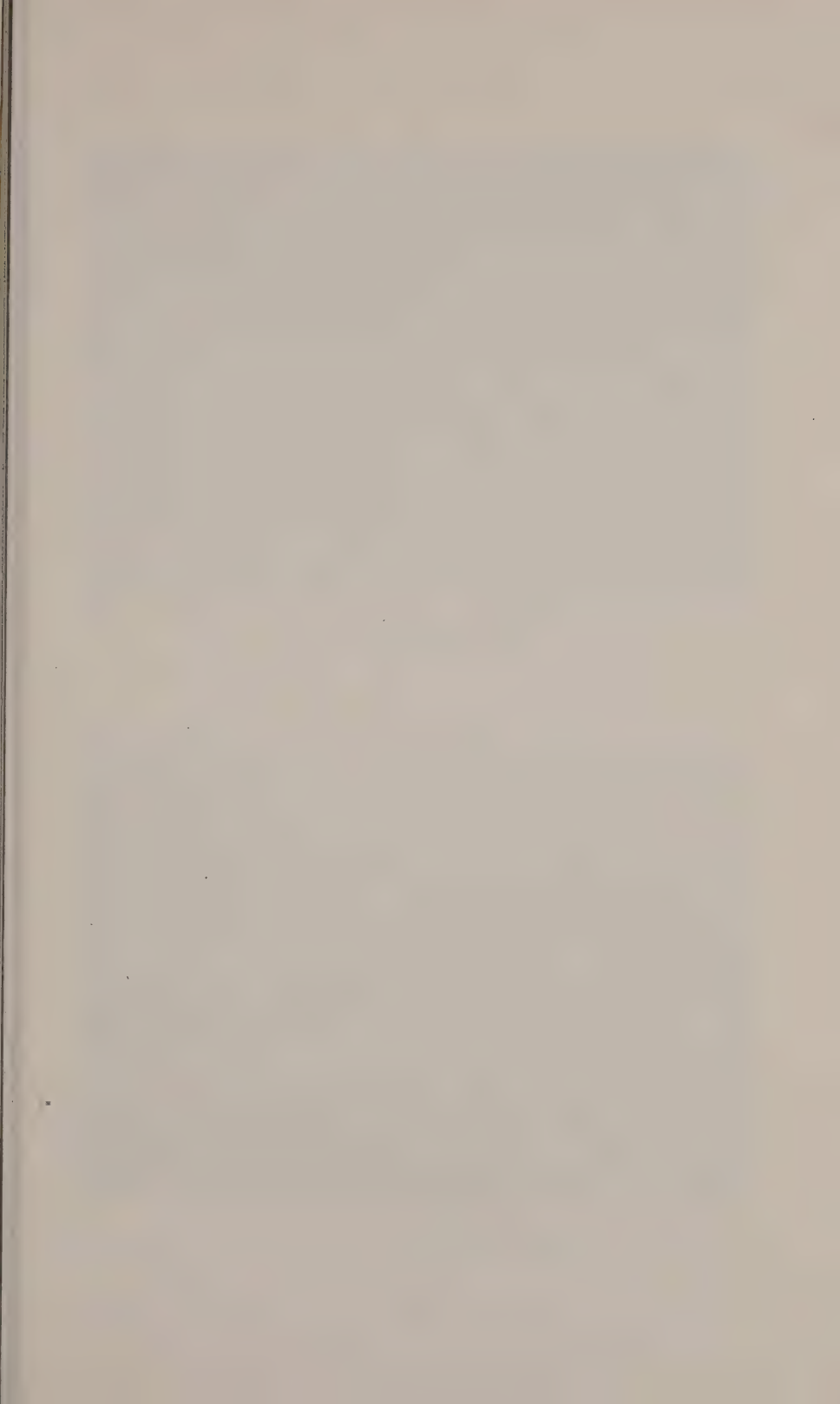
In 1846 the executors of Jonas Alward's estate, Jonathan Smith and Amzi Cary, sold the property to William Cory. The farm soon returned to Jonathan Smith, executor. In 1850 the house with its forty-three acres was sold by Jonathan Smith to James Van Syckle and Rebecca, his wife. The four hundred and fifty dollar purchase price was paid by Rebecca "as of her own proper money" and she could leave the property as she saw fit if she should survive her husband. The Van Syckles had been living on Gaston Road since 1834 (see Van Syckle). Perhaps James and Rebecca lived in this house for a time but they soon leased it to Lewis Burroughs, a nephew of Rebecca's. The terms were generous. Lewis was to pay one cent a year for the use of the farm; Rebecca was to pay the taxes. In a contract drawn up between them, Burroughs was to

agree to deliver to Rebecca "her one half of all the grain, apples, potatoes, seeds and everything grown on said farm in a merchantable condition whenever she shall direct."

Burroughs was to work the farm "in a good and husband-like manner and at the end of sd. term yield up the quiet and peaceable possession to Rebecca Van Syckle." At the end of the term, Rebecca conveyed the entire farm to Lewis for one dollar.

Lewis Burroughs continued to own the farm until his death in 1900, though he had not lived there for some years. Henry Jessen became the next owner, conveying the property to his son, Frank Jessen, in 1917. In the late 1920's, a severe drought occurred one summer while the Frank Jessens were living there. Copperheads began to slither down the hill from their home on Snake Hill, searching for water in the streams surrounding the Jessen home. Mrs. Frank Jessen recalls that the hired man killed some ninety copperheads that summer. Perhaps he exterminated them all, for a copperhead is seldom seen today.

In 1929 the Jessens sold the forty-three acre farm to Henry and Martha Austin. On the death of Henry Austin, his widow sold the property to Archie and Blossom Sandy. Within three years they sold the house and six acres to Leon and Regina Wilson. In 1958 the Wilsons moved to Mexico and sold the house to Mr. F. C. Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Faust are the present owners.







**John Alward House**



**Luther Martin's House, 1959**

## THE JOHN ALWARD HOUSE

(Old Crossroad, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. Luther Martin)

Were the first settlers to return to the Valley, few of them would recognize their old homes, so changed are they in appearance both inside and out. This house is typical of many in the Valley which began as small, primitive farmhouses of three or four rooms, had additional rooms added at a later date, miraculously survived the ever-present danger of fire, and then were so enlarged and improved that it is hard to realize their humble origin. This house has been standing for over one hundred and forty years by the side of the old crossroad "without a name" connecting Washington Valley Road and School House Lane. The crossroad has been closed since 1930 and this attractive house is now reached by means of a private drive.

The land on which the house was built was originally part of the Samuel Alward plantation (see Samuel Alward House). Land just west of the house belonged to Solomon Hull, prior to its sale to Alward in 1789, but diligent search has failed to locate the ancient deed for the house lot. In lieu of more definite information, it must be assumed that John Alward, probably a nephew of Samuel

Alward, may have built the house around 1816, some four years before he actually purchased the land.

From our genealogical search on John Alward, we find him to be the son of John (?) and Elizabeth Cleverly Crossman Alward. Perhaps his father died when John was a baby which would account for the fact that John was brought up in the household of his great uncle, Thomas Cleverly. Thomas Cleverly owned a plantation on the old road that leads from Morristown to Bernardstown, now Mt. Kemble Ave., a portion of which was sold some years after his death to Major John Doughty of Revolutionary fame. Twenty acres of this plantation was willed to John by his great uncle and here he was living in 1790.

John also inherited a house and land from his grandfather, John Cleverly, by will probated in 1777. Andrew Sherman, in his book HISTORIC MORRISTOWN mentions the Reverend John Cleverly, a graduate of Harvard College, who came to West Hanover around 1735 and probably conducted religious services there until a new pastor was installed in 1742. Mr. Sherman says "Mr. Cleverly remained unmarried all his life. He died in 1776, aged 81 years, and was buried on the last day of December in the yard in the rear of the first Church." It would appear from his will that he had a daughter, Elizabeth, and a grandson, John Allwood, to whom he gave "the house and lands that I bought of Elijah Freeman, and the use of same I give to his mother during her life."

Nothing more is known of John Alward until 1811 when, at the age of forty-eight, he married Phoebe Alward, daughter of Samuel Alward of Washington Valley. Phoebe was probably John's cousin though the relationship is obscure. John's mother died in 1820 and that year he purchased the small farm of seventeen acres in the Valley, land formerly belonging to Samuel Alward, his father-in-law, but recently conveyed to Samuel Alward, Jr., of Licking Co., Ohio, as his share in his father's estate. An account book, kept by Stephen Ludlow, his neighbor to the west, would indicate that John had been living in this house four years prior to his purchase of the land.

Two children were born to John and Phoebe while they lived in this house, but both died at the age of six. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Emilene, survived.

The account book gives some clue as to what John planted on his farm and how he made his living. He grew buckwheat and flax, rye, potatoes and corn, replenishing his fields from time to time with lime and dung. He cut vast quantities of wood, some of which he cut into posts and rails and sold in Morristown. Occasionally, he would send small amounts of produce to New York.

John Alward died in 1829, just nine years after he had purchased this farm. Diligent though he had apparently been, he had made a precarious living and it was necessary for his administrator, Ezekial Whitehead, to sell the farm immediately in order to satisfy his creditors. At a



public sale, the high bidder was Lewis H. Johnson. Except for a few years when the farm was sold to James and Wealtha Lockward of Parsippany, later of South Street, Morristown, Lewis Johnson and his family lived here for over forty years. There is no record of what transpired in that forty years except that Lewis' first wife, Phoebe Amanda Fairchild, died here.

In 1889, Janet Johnson, the unmarried daughter of Lewis and his second wife, Mahala, sold the farm of twenty-three acres to John Wesley Thompson. John Thompson was the grandson of Jacob Arnold and the son of Barnabas B. and Phoebe Arnold Thompson, whose old home on Whitehead Road is lived in today by Miss Anita Parrot. John Thompson, whose health had been shattered by his long service in the Civil War, found it as difficult to wrest a living from this small farm as had his predecessors. He dubbed it "Hell's Half Acre" and so it is known by his descendants today. His wife, Harriet Pruden Thompson, and two of his children, Delia Thompson Hamilton and Arthur Wesley Thompson, are shown in the picture preceding this chapter.

In 1911, John Thompson sold the house and farm to A. Ward Brigham of East Orange, N. J. In 1923, the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Martin who live there today. They have added many acres to the original farm. A second house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Martin is described briefly under the heading of "The Reubon Wood House."



## PHINEAS CHIDESTER HOUSE

(School House Lane, Mendham Township)

(Present Owner—Dr. and Mrs. George Mangun)



Phineas Chidester House

In olden days when Valley residents drove their wagons slowly up School House Lane to their woodlots, they passed this old farmhouse located on the south slope of the hill and so situated that it commanded a magnificent view of the Valley below. Today, from the raised terrace in the rear of this house, the Empire State Building in New York City can be seen on a clear day.

The original house was small and plain with three rooms downstairs and an unfinished loft above. The cellar below had an earth floor and the usual fireplace. At a later date, an additional three rooms were built. Though the house itself was originally unpretentious, the out-buildings were constructed with great care. A handsome barn faces south; open carriage and wagon sheds, and a stone smoke house remain virtually unchanged. An attractive cider house stands across the road. This farm was said to be "rocky" but its owners through the years found it satisfactory for grazing sheep and horned cattle, and for apple and peach orchards.

This house predates the deeds to be found in the Court House. However, from material at hand, it is estimated that about 1789 Phineas Chidester purchased this farm—one part from Solomon Hull and the other from Job Loree. The road deed for School House Lane, dated 1783, states that the road was to lead "from Jacob Arnold's to Sol Hull's house and there to end." Sol Hull was road commissioner at about this time and the road did end in front of the present house. Perhaps then Solomon Hull lived here prior to 1783, but this cannot be verified. The old "road to Lorees," later called Chidester Road, provided access to Tingley Road and from thence to Brookside and Mendham.

Phineas Chidester, perhaps the second owner of the house, was born in Morris County on June 13, 1757. His parents came from England, settled briefly in Jersey City,

but came to Mendham Township around 1750. When Phineas was twenty, he served as a Minute Man and private in the Militia during the winter of 1777, and later under Captain Cook at Springfield, Chatham, Mendham and Hackensack.

In 1778, he married a young girl of eighteen, Rebecca Byram, daughter of Japhet and Elizabeth Tappen Byram. The Byram family has long been prominent in Mendham history. Rebecca's grandfather, Ebenezer, had married Abigail Alden, a great-granddaughter of John and Priscilla Mullen Alden of the "Mayflower." The Black Horse Tavern, still standing in Mendham, was built by Ebenezer Byram.

Phineas and Rebecca had many children: Phoebe, Melinda, Stephen, Ruhamah, Ame, Jeptha and probably Penina, Lewis and Clarisse. A number of these children were born in the old house. Perhaps because the house could not hold so many lively youngsters, Phineas sold the farm of eighty-five acres in 1799. He and his family moved to Mendham where he had a tavern house and a forty-six acre farm in 1803. For some reason, he was excommunicated from the Presbyterian Church in 1808 and about this time moved to Succasunna. There he died in 1814 and lies buried in the Presbyterian Church yard. His widow, Rebecca, married Mahlon Pitney in 1823 and died in 1844.

The farm in the Valley, containing eighty-five acres on both sides of School House Lane, had been sold by Chidester

to Abner Conduct and henceforth the property is referred to as "the homestead farm of Abner Conduct." Abner Conduct was born in the Valley, the sixth son of Philip and Mary Conduct, one of the original settlers on Whitehead Road on property now belonging to Mrs. Roy Tucker.

Abner married Martha Leonard, sometimes called "Patsy" in 1776. Her predecessors had owned iron works, originally in Lynn, Massachusetts, and later in Morris County in Hanover. Shortly after his marriage, Abner enlisted in the Army and served in the Revolution in the Third New Jersey Regiment. At this time he owned a small farm of three and one-half acres in the vicinity of the cross-road which used to pass Luther Martin's connecting Washington Valley Road with School House Lane. During the winter of 1779 he quartered four soldiers in his small house for two months.

In 1799, when Abner was fifty years old, he, Martha and the younger of their eight children moved into the house high up on School House Lane. Here he lived for thirty-seven years, earning his living as a farmer. In 1813, he was a subscriber to the Schoolhouse and took an active part in its affairs, though his own children were well grown by this time.

Martha died in her seventieth year. Abner "highly esteemed by all for his Christian life and character" died in 1837, aged eighty-seven. His will begins "In the name of God, Amen, I, Abner Conduct, being weak in body, but



of sound and disposing mind (for which blessing I thank my God) do make and publish this my last will and testament." By this will, he gave his youngest son, Abner, Jr., who had been running the farm for his father for a number of years, all his real and personal estate, except for small legacies of ten and twenty dollars to his daughter and grandchildren.

Two of his neighbors, Ezekial Whitehead and Lewis Loree, made an inventory of his personal property after his death. He had owned "2 cows, 13 sheep, 1 horse, 2 shoats, 7 silver tea spoons, 2 beds and bedding, 1 bureau and table, a lot of sitting chairs, farm wagon and ploughs and a tea barrel" for a total of "\$145." This was a comparable figure to inventories made of neighboring farms.

Very soon after his father's death, young Abner sold the farm and moved to Ohio. The farm was purchased by Zalmon Grovier who lived there forty-one years. Grovier was an active participant in the debating society at the schoolhouse. A letter, written by John Ludlow in 1870, says "Mr. Grovier is still living on the old place he has not destroyed all the rocks and stones yet." In later years Grovier became convinced that the end of the world was at hand. Old residents of the Valley remember him sitting on his roof, dressed in white, waiting for this phenomenon to occur on the appointed day. (Let us hope he enjoyed the beautiful view from this vantage point though Gabriel failed to blow his horn on schedule.)



Grovier died intestate and the farm was sold at public sale in 1880.

Martha Stout from Chicago was the high bidder. After five years she sold the farm to Evan Evans from Passaic. In 1906 James Chambers purchased the farm, later conveying it to his daughter, Katherine Chambers. She added to the farm until she owned one hundred and eleven acres, naming it "Mountain Spring Farm." In 1925 she sold the house and outbuildings to Mr. and Mrs. Luther Martin. The house was rented for a number of years. In 1950 the Martins sold the house and sixteen acres to Mr. and Mrs. Harold King, retaining the balance of the farm. The Kings moved to Massachusetts in 1956 and sold the house and adjoining land to Dr. and Mrs. George Mangun, its present owners.

## ROBERT ROFF FARM

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. Stanley M. Babson)



Robert Roff House

The house pictured above suggests the Victorian era and so it should since most of it was built in the 1890's. But tucked away and nearly obscured by its later additions is the remnant of an old house of possible Colonial vintage. This old portion is on the far left in the picture above, the southwest part of the house itself. The addition of a dormer window upstairs, large windows downstairs and a wide veranda have so changed this old portion that the casual observer would never suspect its ancient origin.

Road deeds and mortgages supply definite proof that a house was standing on this thirteen acre farm in 1772, though it cannot be said with certainty that the present old portion of two rooms was erected at that early date. In the cellar under the old section are crossbeams made from tree trunks, the bark still on them. The old house had one room downstairs and an open loft above reached by a ladder. Because these two rooms are so small, it seems possible that the old house extended farther west at one time and either burned down or was torn down, leaving only the vestiges of these two rooms.

Though we have chosen to call this the Robert Roff house, an earlier owner of the property was Samuel Mills. Road deeds of 1772 mention his house and a mortgage of the same date indicates that his house was somewhere on the thirteen acres that comprised this original farm. Born in Long Island, Samuel Mills came to Morris County about 1760. Samuel, his wife, Sarah, and their seven children lived here in the Valley until shortly before the Revolution.

The second owner of this small farm was Robert Roff or Rolfe, born in 1753 and first mentioned in Morris County history in 1773. Robert Roff married Phoebe Cooper in 1775. Probably that year or the following year when he was listed as a freeholder in Morris Township, he purchased his farm from Samuel Mills, This is substantiated by family records which state "Robert Rolfe was a country

tailor and followed his trade in Washington Valley before the Revolution."

In 1779 Robert and Phoebe had three children: Mary, Rachel and Henry. That year they also boarded five Revolutionary soldiers for three weeks and provided them with firewood. How crowded this small house must have been with seven adults and three young children! In the years to follow seven additional children, six sons and a daughter, were added to the family.

Robert Roff was a country tailor. He can be pictured sitting cross-legged on a table and sewing by hand the breeches of cloth or leather and the waistcoats worn by men beneath their long coats. The widespread custom of wearing homemade clothes limited the demand for the tailor's services. Perhaps during the Revolution he made articles of clothing for the soldiers, but after that time his living may have been precarious. Yet he purchased additional land, three acres to the east "a small orchard," land now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lowe, and five and three-fourths acres to the northeast. When Robert Roff died in 1835, aged eighty-two, his son, Samuel, as his executor, sold the twenty-one acre farm "excepting one acre that Robert Roff conveyed to Gilbert Ludlum by deed October 7, 1779" to Phoebe Roff, youngest daughter of Robert.

Phoebe Roff, a spinster, lived in her father's old home until after 1868. When Lewis Thompson purchased the

house, he added the large east wing which is the predominant part of the house today. Quite possibly this wing was used for summer boarders around the turn of the century.

The house has had a long succession of owners since it passed from the possession of the Roff family: Thompson, Aber, Wolf, Batchelder, Taggart, Penn, Hershey, Bell and its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Babson.

Many of Robert Roff's descendants remained in the Valley. His son, Charles, served in the War of 1812, married Phoebe Axtell, daughter of Silas Axtell, and lived first on the old crossroad connecting Washington Valley Road and School House Lane, and later on Washington Valley Road in Mendham Township in the house now Fielding's. He was a teacher and may have taught for a time at the Washington Valley schoolhouse. In 1827 he paid for "sowing the schoolhouse field with grass seed." In 1820 he provided a load of wood for the Debating Society of which he was secretary.

Enoch Roff, son of Robert, purchased the distillery lot on School House Lane in 1822 and subsequently owned the farm surrounding it. Perhaps he built the house now owned by Dr. Anson Perina.

Elias Roff, son of Robert, purchased part of the Jonathan Raynor farm and lived at the intersection of School House Lane and Raynor Road.



Ebenezer Roff, grandson of Robert, lived in the house now Harvey Spowers' on School House Lane. Later he built a new home, farther west; on the foundation of his house is the present residence of Horace Mervin. These two places add to the charm of School House Lane.



1812 House



Smith Barns

## JOHN SMITH HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. John Adams Beattie, Jr.)

A landmark in the Valley is the beautiful old brick "1812 House" located at the corner of Gaston and Washington Valley Roads and belonging to the Smith family for five generations. The Smiths came to the Valley in 1788 from Caldwell and possibly "let" the farm from the Arnolds until August, 1798, when John Smith purchased one hundred and forty acres "being part of the homestead farm of Jacob Arnold."

John Smith was born in 1763 in Caldwell, New Jersey. In 1789 he married Sally Gould, the daughter of a well-known Caldwell potter. John and Sally had eight children. As their family increased, they outgrew the five room frame house in which they all lived. In 1812 when they built the brick house, they moved the frame house from its foundation and brought it up to the new house to which it was annexed. The bricks for this new house were made from clay found in the lowlands southeast of the house. This clay pit at the foot of the hill can still be seen after a heavy rain. When completed the brick house had twelve rooms and attic, six fireplaces and a grand bake oven in the kitchen.

During the Revolution John Smith served as a wagoner and family tradition says that the exposures of army life caused him to become lame and walk with a cane. Sally, his wife, was famed for her patchwork quilts. In the possession of the family was one inscribed "Gather up the Fragments, Sarah Gould, aged 89"; the dear lady was young at the time for like other Valley residents she had a long life of one hundred and two years.

During part of his life John became heavily involved in debt, but his son, Jonathan, assumed the debt rather than see his father go to debtor's prison. Under laws of the time with consent of creditors, the son "took the limit" which meant he was not allowed to travel more than five miles from home until the debt was cleared. This was quickly accomplished.

At John's death in 1855, the property passed to his eldest son, Jonathan Huger Smith, who was a scientific farmer. Morris County had at one time been a famous wheat-growing section but in Jonathan's time the wheat grew to straw. For years he kept experimenting until he discovered that lime was what the soil needed. Accordingly he had limestone from Ralston hauled to his farm and built a kiln for the burning of lime with the result that wheat yielded better results than ever before. The old lime kiln alongside of the road, set into the bank east of the brick house, can still be seen as the support of beautifully-growing ivy. He also used an undershot wheel on the stream below the

bridge where he ground grain for his stock. He built roads and culverts for the county, and taught his neighbors the art of stone under-draining of the land in the days before tile draining.

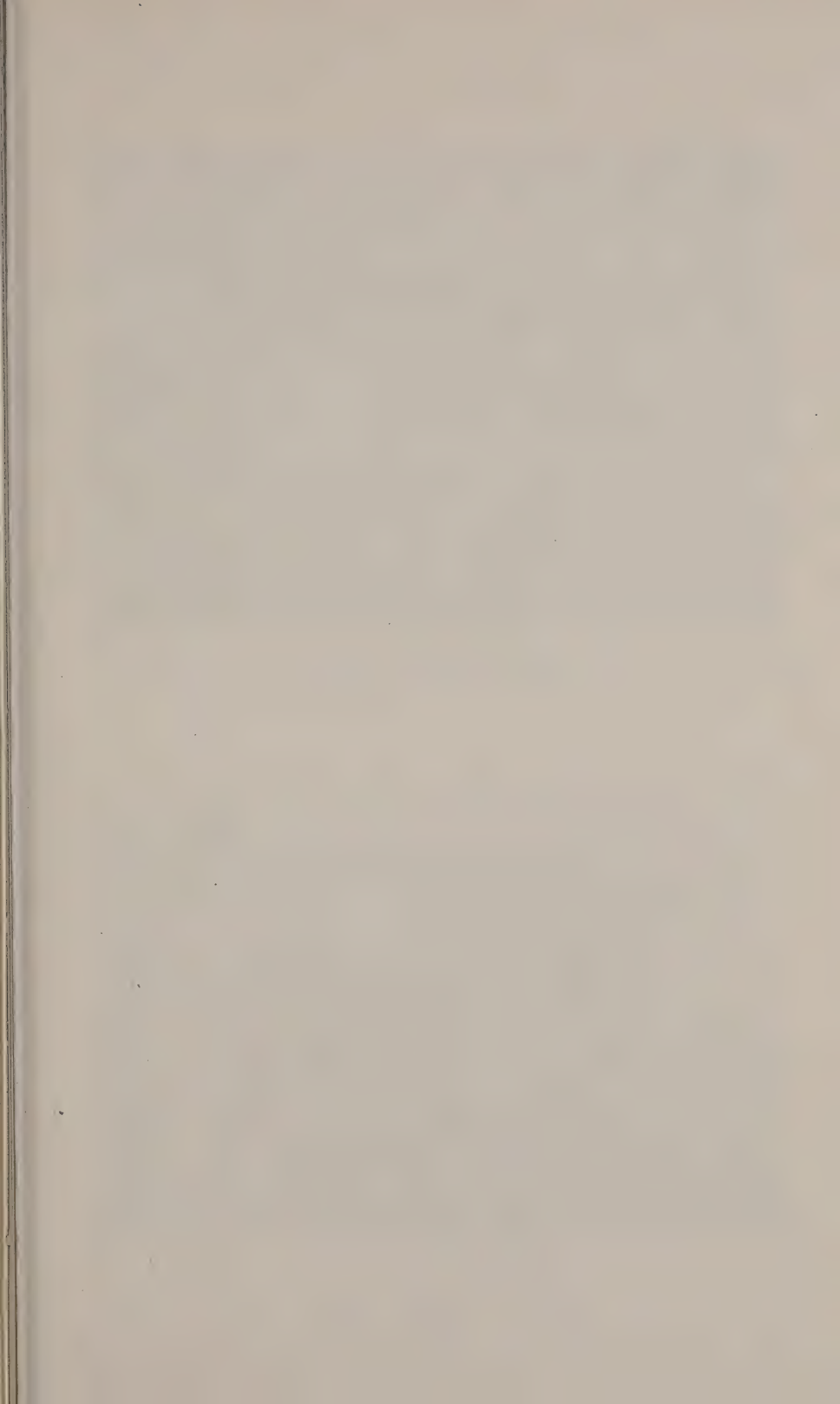
He was a man of fine physique, winner of the plowing championship. He was named as a candidate for Congress, but before the election was thrown from his horse and seriously injured. He served as clerk or trustee for the Washington Valley School House for many years.

He and his wife, Phoebe Condict Beach, had a large family of five sons and four daughters. Of this family of nine, two sons settled in the Valley. Jonathan H. Smith died in 1881, leaving by will "To Zenas, the homestead farm of one hundred acres, also wood lot bought by me of John Smith and heirs of Jacob Arnold fifty-five acres. To son, Silas, lot on south side of road leading from my house to Walnut Grove (Mt. Freedom) and opposite his farm containing nine acres, also wood lot of twenty acres on north side of his farm."

Zenas H. Smith probably moved from the house now belonging to Elmer King to the homestead, the brick house, around 1881 after his father's death. Zenas was married to Hannah Fairchild, twin sister of Mrs. Silas Smith. Their children were Samuel, Fred, Katherine, Helen and Alice. Zenas died in 1929. His three daughters lived on in the brick house until their deaths in recent years. The



house thus remained in the possession of the Smith family until 1959 when it was purchased from the heirs by Mr. and Mrs. Beattie.





Jacob Smith House  
Original part to the left



Old Fireplace

## JACOB SMITH HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. John Bickford)

Among the Puritan descendants who settled in Washington Valley were two brothers, John and Jacob Smith. John came from Caldwell in 1788 and later lived in the brick house on Washington Valley Road. Jacob came around the turn of the century and settled on the land now owned by John H. Bickford. The two brothers married two sisters, Sarah and Katherine Gould, daughters of Joseph and Rebecca Paxton Gould of Caldwell.

The earliest known owner of the twenty-one acres comprising the Jacob Smith farm was William Pickens. Tax records indicate he owned the farm in 1794. Pickens may have lived in a primitive log cabin which has long since disappeared or he may have built the little two room cabin which is the original part of the east end of the house. It is evident that these two rooms are of early origin from the open fireplace with bake oven, the broad floor boards and other early carpentry. As was customary, Pickens worked for his neighbors in exchange for needed supplies. A "half days work raking hay" and "a days work a giting hay" for Stephen Ludlow in Mendham Township enabled

him to get two pounds of pork and a pound of wool in exchange.

In 1799 William Pickens sold the twenty-one acres to Elias Hedges for five hundred dollars. Hedges owned a large farm on Mendham Road and probably did not live on this land. Possibly Jacob Smith rented the farm until 1802, at which time he purchased the farm from Elias Hedges for five hundred and twenty dollars.

Jacob Smith brought with him from Caldwell his wife and small daughter, Miranda. The young child died of whooping cough here in the Valley in 1801 and is buried in the Presbyterian Churchyard. Jacob served as a trustee of the Presbyterian Church and undoubtedly he and "Caty" were active faithful members as they had been in Caldwell.

Jacob's list of credits and debits in the Ludlow account book reveal something of his occupation and the commodities in which he traded.

1799    Jacob Smith, Dr.

Oct.    To one hundred and fifty quinces.

1800    To nine quince bushes at 6/

          To plowing part of the afternoon with four creatures.

          To fifty Clams, 1/3 one bushel of Plaster of Paris

          To two bushels of winter apples

          To half bushel of buckwheat



1799 Jacob Smith, Cr.

By schooling Bethuel Casterline part of one quarter

1800 By schooling Bethuel Casterline four months and 1/2

Jacob remained active with his farm, his "schooling" of Valley children and his church. He died the 30th of April, 1811, at the age of forty-four and lies buried beside his infant daughter. By his will he left his wife, Katherine, the use of his estate as long as she remained his widow. When Katherine married David Mills her widow's rights expired and the real estate on which she dwelt was left to Jacob's sister, Mary Gould, mother of Zenas Smith Gould, and to John Smith in trust for his children, Jonathan H., Maria, Zenas and Jacob Socrates.

When young Maria Smith married Amzi Carey of Mendham about 1831, they moved into the two-room cottage. By 1835 Amzi and Maria had acquired full ownership of the acreage left by her uncle Jacob. Amzi Carey came from a prominent early family in Mendham history. No doubt it was his predecessor John Cary, originally from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, who settled in Mendham in 1744 and was the builder of the original Presbyterian Church in Mendham.

"Experience and Mary, Susannah and Sarah  
These were the wives of old John Cary."

Amzi had learned the weaver's trade. Maria undoubtedly

had learned the art of weaving fine cloth from her mother, Mrs. Sarah Smith, who in 1835 received a medal from the American Institute of New York for her "fine specimen of diaper and linen cloth." In order to house the large looms needed for weaving cloth and carpet, it was necessary to enlarge the house to accommodate them. The west side addition consisting of the hall, living room, back study and the upstairs rooms was added. The upstairs was reached by a stairway with a cherry rail bannister. The bedrooms were small, only large enough for a bed and chest. But the upstairs hall was spacious enough to hold the looms and here Amzi and Maria worked at their trade. One of the looms from this house is now in the Children's Museum in Morristown.

Following is a list from Amzi Carey's account book showing the various kinds of weaving he did and the prices he received, incredibly low by present day standards.

1832

21 yds. of broadcloth	\$2.62
-----------------------	--------

1834

23/4 yds. satinetts	.44
---------------------	-----

20 yds. of flannel	2.00
--------------------	------

8 linen handkerchiefs	.80
-----------------------	-----

9 yds. of bed ticking	1.25
-----------------------	------

12 knots of stocking yarn at 8 pence	1.00
--------------------------------------	------

8 1/2 yds carpet	4.50
------------------	------

3 1/2 yds of cotten kersey	1.12 1/2
----------------------------	----------

Nearly every family in the Valley purchased their carpeting from Amzi Carey.

Around the house were barns, carriage house, chicken coops and other outbuildings. The hill in back of the house was farmed and planted with orchards of quince, apples and peaches; the fields, with potatoes, buckwheat and rye. Many of the residents of the Valley can remember the big grey barn on the crest of the hill opposite the present driveway. Here the cows were kept and pastured on the acreage on that side of the road. Amzi also raised pigs, chickens, geese and sheep as well as cattle which he butchered and sold. At one time Amzi was in business with Jonathan Smith working the lime kiln on the Smith property.

A son, Jacob Smith Carey, was born to Amzi and Maria on April 23, 1832. He attended the Washington Valley schoolhouse, fished in the Whippany River, swam there on hot summer days, and gathered wild berries in season as the children do today. He took as his bride Jerusha R. Galloway, daughter of Alexander and Amanda Corwin Galloway. Like the previous generation they spent their lives farming the land and weaving on the looms in the upstairs hall. The shuttles still sped back and forth and the cloth was still sold or traded with the neighbors.

Both Jerusba and Jacob Carey were interested in schools; Jeru as a teacher in the Washington Valley schoolhouse; and Jacob as Clerk of School District #65 in Morris

Township, and as trustee of the schoolhouse from 1874 to 1883. They also enjoyed and participated in the community social gatherings. On summer afternoons it was customary for the women of the Valley to entertain at croquet and then serve tea.

Jacob lived to be seventy-four years old and died June 9, 1906. Jeru lived until 1925. They are buried in Mendham Hilltop cemetery.

Addie Marion Carey, known to present day Valleyites as Mrs. West, was the only child born to Jacob and Jeru. Addie grew up in the Valley, and attended the little red schoolhouse where she later became its teacher. Many present day people who attended her classes have fond memories of Addie Carey. While visiting her cousins in New York City she met Webley West, whom she married June 27, 1901. Web West took care of the farm, and sold the milk from his cows to the dairymen in town.

When the first World War came Addie and the other Valley women learned the methods of war-time cooking and preserving from the County Agricultural Agent and from these classes grew the Home Economics Club. Addie became its secretary and treasurer, a job she held for many years.

In 1947 Joseph Hammett bought the West property to safeguard its future and gave the Wests right-of-life estate. Addie died shortly and Web West kept the house until

he was too feeble to carry on, moving to Oakland, New Jersey, where he died. With their death, the land was no longer used for farming after a century and a half.

In June of 1948 the Bickfords moved into the house, adding in 1956 a back wing to the house affording them delightful views of the Valley both east and west.





## THE "DISTILLERY LOTT"

(School House Lane, Morris Township)

(Owner—Dr. and Mrs. Anson Perina)

The property now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Anson Perina on School House Lane was once part of the Arnold farm. On the bank, east of their house, and near the brook is the old distillery lot. The ruins of a structure are still visible there.



"Distillery Lott"

The old distillery was undoubtedly used by the Arnold family until 1793 when Peter Mackie purchased the farm at Sheriff's sale. In 1798, he sold the "still lot" of two and ninety-five hundredths acres to Ezekial Whitehead

and John Morris for five hundred dollars. They apparently made some improvements to whatever structure was on the property for three years later John Morris sold the same lot to Mathew Lum, Jr., and Elias Hedges, Jr., for fifteen hundred dollars. Elias Hedges had a half interest in a cider mill and distillery on Mendham Road so left the operating of this distillery to Mathew Lum, Jr. These early owners were all Valley men.

Mathew Lum operated the distillery for five years, then left the Valley for Geneva, New York, leaving his affairs here to be handled by his friend, Jacob Arnold. In a letter to Arnold, dated November 23, 1806, with reference to the distillery, he says "Jacob Smith claimed a barrel. I did not know he had any there but if he says he did I can't doubt it. As to S. Ludlow's claim to Barrels this is unexpected to me. I had not the least distant idea of it. The widow Morris had one in the celler. John Squire took the ones I pointed out to him put his name on them and sot them in one corner of the still house. Two of your barrels was put in the celler last fall with Cider the others you took for fish in the spring how many you had at still house I have forgotten—two you had at the old house to draw water in.

"You wished me to write you whether you should sell the house and Distillery separate and at what price. It will signify nothing for me to price it as you will undoubtedly get as much as you can for it. Do the best you can for

I can't Die in peace till my debts are paid."

The purchaser of this distillery was Daniel Phoenix, Jr., who ran it successfully for a number of years. Cider mills, in the early days, were often built on a hillside, as this one was, with the front of the building one story high and the back two stories. The apples were brought in on wagons into what is now Perina's front yard and unloaded into the upper level of the building. It took about three hours to grind a cartload of apples. They were crushed by two corrugated cylinders revolving together and the pomace was laid up in cribs between layers of straw. This was then blocked up and pressed by wooden screws operated by four men at the end of a long hickory lever. The cider ran down to tanks in the lower building where it fermented. After fermentation, it was drawn in copper kettles and boiled, the vapors being condensed by cold water running through copper coils. It then became cider brandy.

This whole process was dependent upon an active spring and gravity for a supply of water to condense the alcoholic beverages. In 1810 Daniel Phoenix paid one cent to his father-in-law, Jonas Phillips "for rights to a stream of water—in rear of house and lott which belongs to said Phoenix and used for still works belonging to said Phoenix." It is interesting to note that the Perinas still get their water supply by gravity flow from the same spring.

Applejack was found in nearly every household. Weiss, in THE HISTORY OF APPLEJACK says "everyone drank

'old apple' when everything had to be done by brute strength. Even the good wife had her private bottle in order to prolong the pastoral call or to prevent that tired feeling." There were nineteen places where spirits were made and twenty where it was sold within the membership area of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. Greatly disturbed by this fact, the Reverend Albert Barnes, in 1824, preached many sermons on the subject and soon seventeen of the distilleries were closed down.

Daniel Phoenix, Jr., was a dealer in land, owning some fifty-one tracts at one time. This distillery was but one of his many interests. He acquired it probably through his connection with the Arnold family, as he had married Anna Phillips, daughter of Jonas and step-sister of Jacob Arnold. He seems to have had an interest in "spirits" for his contribution to the erection of the "new" Presbyterian Church building in 1795 was as follows: "Daniel Phoenix, Jr. 13 gills of rum, furnished this day, 2 shillings, two pence."

He served as a Major in the New Jersey troops in 1798. Some years after the war was over he became President of the State Bank of Morris, located on the corner of Park Place and Bank Street. Fairly well-to-do, he was able to subscribe one hundred dollars for the purchase of the Morristown Green, and was one of the original subscribers to the Morris Academy where some of his ten children went to school. In 1813 he became a subscriber to the school-house in Washington Valley.



Daniel Phoenix died in 1829, leaving his wife her choice of his many properties, his slaves and indentured servants. In 1822 Enoch Roff and Isaac Willis became the owners of the still lot. Five years later Enoch Roff became sole owner of the old distillery.



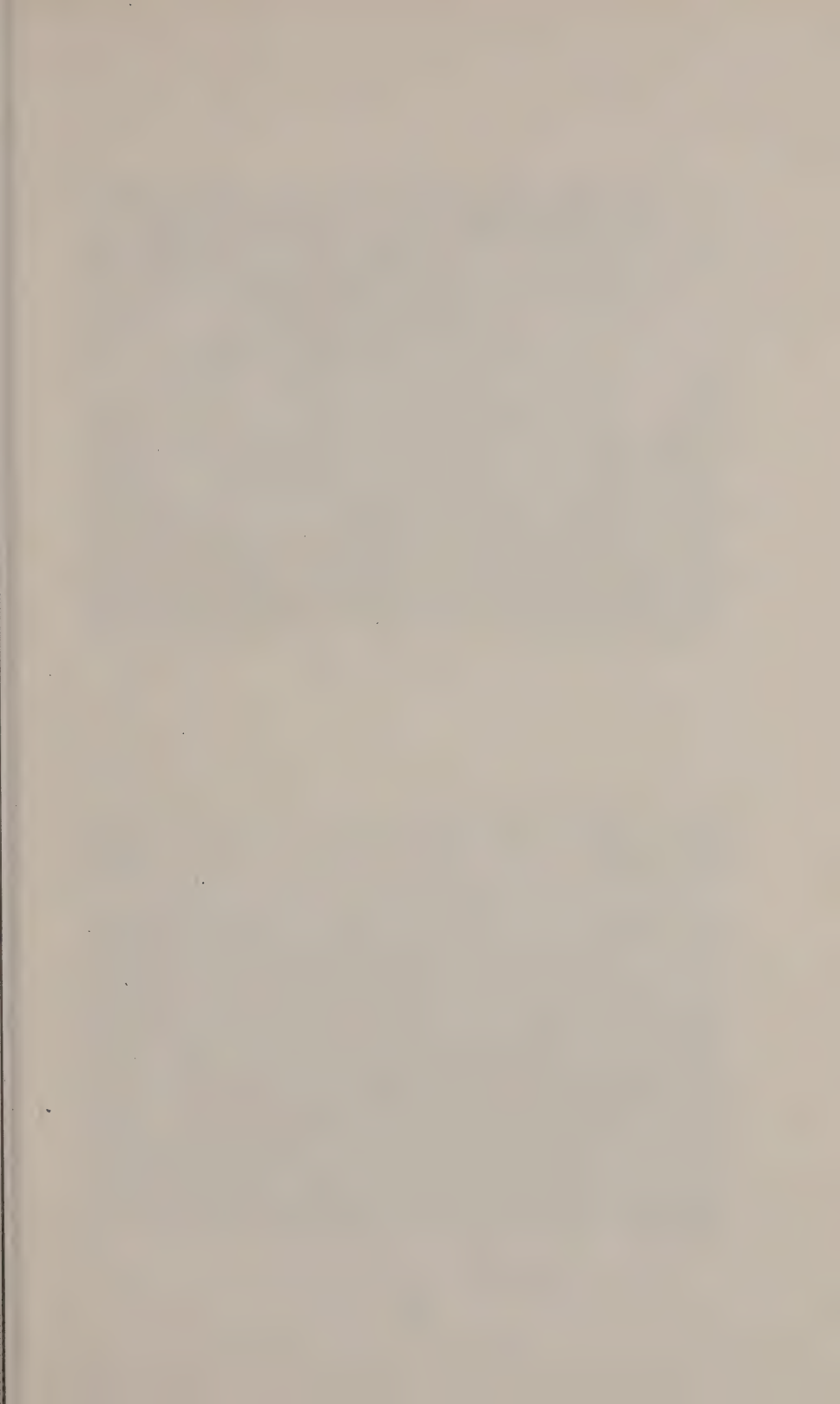
Mrs. Silas Smith standing, with daughter Minnie.

Sometime after 1827, Enoch Roff, son of Robert Roff, purchased forty-seven acres of land on the north side of School House Lane, a portion of the farm later known as the Silas N. Smith farm. The original portion of the present Perina house was probably built by Enoch Roff. In 1862, at a public sale of Roff's real estate after his decease, Jonathan H. Smith bought the forty-seven acres and such buildings as may have existed upon it for the sum of eighteen hundred and twenty dollars, conveying it in the same year to his son, Silas N. Smith.

Silas Smith and his wife, Julia, enlarged the house. Silas and his brother, Zenas, owned a milk business. Many cows were pastured on this land; the rest was farmed. When Silas died, the farm totaled seventy-three acres and was devised by will to his daughter, Mary Fairchild Smith Gould, wife of Frank Gould. Here the Frank Goulds lived from 1912 until 1950. Today the house and the sixteen acres surrounding it are owned by Anson and Adele Perina.



Present House





John Morris House



Dorothy Lusk House, 1959

## THE JOHN MORRIS HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Dorothy Lusk)

Typical of the Valley homes built in the late 1700's, this old "salt box" on Washington Valley Road has become the charming house pictured opposite. Its renovation has been extensive but within it is possible to visualize the house as it must have been when built by John Morris about 1798.

John Morris, born in 1753, bought sixty acres of land in the Valley sometime before 1798. His farm included land now belonging to the Marschall's and Eucker's. Deeds of 1799 refer to "the house where John Morris now lives" and to its location near the intersection of the old Whitehead Road and Washington Valley Road.

John Morris was a farmer and an experienced distiller, having operated a small distillery and "Cyder house" on Picatinny Road before coming to the Valley. In 1798, he and his neighbor, Ezekial Whitehead, purchased the distillery on School House Lane that had formerly belonged to the Arnold family. They mortgaged their own farms in order to enlarge and renovate this distillery, then sold it a few years later to Mathew Lum, Jr., a near neighbor to



the west. When John Morris died in 1805 of a "sore leg," probably gangrene, the inventory of his personal property included such tools of his trade as "23 cider barrels, 6 hogsheads, measures and funnels."

Within months after John's death, his wife, Keziah, died of a "fever" and the property came into the possession of their son, John Morris, Jr. He divided the farm into two parcels. The western portion of thirty acres, including land now Eucker's, he sold to Silas Axtell, in whose family it remained until after 1844. The nineteen acres to the east, including the Morris house, was sold to Ezekial Whitehead in 1808. The house remained in the possession of the Whitehead family for the next sixty-four years.

It is said that this house was used by the Whitehead family to house their slaves. We may assume that slaves, Jamaican servants and tenants were the occupants of this house for sixty-four years. The house is referred to as "a small tenement house" in deeds as late as 1921.

In 1876, Isaac Whitehead sold the house and sixty acres to Elbert Sillcocks. In 1921, the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George Barbaros who remodeled it extensively to much its present state. The next owner, Mr. Frank Spencer, added the garage. The house and two acres were conveyed to Alex C. Sifleet in 1929. In 1937 Dorothy and Abbie Lusk became the owners and Miss Dorothy Lusk lives in the house today.





Zenas Smith Gould House



Kemeys' Farmhouse, 1959

## ZENAS SMITH GOULD HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mrs. Walter Kemeys)

The Gould family lived in Washington Valley from 1822 until 1950, one hundred and forty-eight years. Their original home was the old house pictured opposite, now a part of the Emma Kemeys' estate on Washington Valley Road.

In the year 1664, three young brothers left their home in Dartmouth, Wales, and arrived the same year in America. One of these young men, John Gould, a tailor by trade, settled first in Connecticut and then in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Three generations later his descendants were living in Horseneck, now Caldwell, and were prominent in the religious life of that community.

Zenas Smith Gould, son of Thomas and Mary Smith Gould, was born in Orange, New Jersey, in 1796. His father died when he was but six years old and it is likely that he and his mother went back to Caldwell to live with his grandfather, Joseph. In 1808 Joseph Gould of Caldwell Township by will gave "to grandson, Zenas Smith Gould (son of my son Thomas, dec.) two obligations amounting to  $\frac{1}{4}$  150, it being the consideration money for a sale of a

house and lot I designed to his father, had he survived me.”

In 1822 Zenas Smith Gould married Harriet Louise Day of Chatham and the same year they bought a small farm of nine and eighty-three hundredths of an acre in Washington Valley. Zenas' widowed mother, Mary Smith Gould, came with them and lived the rest of her life in their home. Her husband's sister, Sarah Gould Smith, lived in the brick house nearby and doubtless the two families shared many good times together.

The land which Zenas Gould purchased had had many prior owners. It was a part of a larger tract owned originally by Isaac Whitehead, Sr. He apparently had a house on his farm, location unknown, for at his death in 1777, it was specified that his widow, Sarah, should have one room in the house, the use of an “old orchard” and her firewood provided by Peter Fairchild, the second owner of the tract of land. Sarah Whitehead died in 1804, aged one hundred and four. The tract was divided in 1810 and the nine and eighty-three hundredths acres were sold first to James and Naomi Turner, then to Abraham and Phoebe Fairchild Talmage, later to James and Elizabeth Dickerson Willis from whom it was purchased by Zenas Smith Gould in 1822.

Perhaps the original portion of the present house, the four rooms to the south, existed before the Goulds arrived in the Valley. At the time the house was built it may have been facing north along “the old road to Jacob Arnold's” since the present Washington Valley Road in that area was



not built until 1834. The addition to the north was added later by Zenas and Harriet Gould to house their seven children. On Zenas' death in 1866, his property descended to his heirs, Ann Elizabeth Gould and Electa D. Johnson, his daughters. The property was sold by Ann E. Gould to Emma D. Kemeys in 1903. The house is now tenanted by Mrs. Frank Privatera.

(In the year 1822 Zenas Smith Gould purchased additional land in the Valley. See William Gould house.)



William Gould House



Mrs. Walter Conley's House, 1959

## WILLIAM GOULD HOUSE

(Washington Valley Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mrs. Walter Conley)

The land on which this house stands was part of the Arnold farm from 1750 until 1793. For the next sixteen years it was owned by Jonas Phillips, step-father of Jacob Arnold. In 1809 Jonas Phillips sold twenty-nine acres, land now owned by Ethel B. Conley, to Abraham Richards, son-in-law of Jacob Arnold.

Abraham Richards was from New York and in 1800 married Sarah Arnold, third child of Jacob and Elizabeth Arnold. So far as is known, Abraham and Sarah did not live in the Valley but were residents of the state of Georgia. With the exception of a small piece of forty-four hundredths of an acre on which our present schoolhouse stands, Abraham Richards owned this land until 1822.

In 1822 Abraham Richards sold the twenty-nine acre tract to Zenas Smith Gould, "excepting and reserving thereat a small lot of land heretofore conveyed by said Abraham Richards for the use of the Washington School House." The purchase price was high, indicating that some small structure may have existed on the property

at this time. Zenas Gould undoubtedly farmed this land, for his own homestead on Washington Valley Road was small.

In 1858 William Gould, son of Zenas, returned to the Valley to regain his health after working for some years as a goldsmith or engraver in Brooklyn. He brought with him his wife, Abby Rice, whom he had married in 1852. He is said to have built the small four room house pictured opposite about 1858, living in the present Elmer King house while the new home was being built. To the west of the new house he planted an arbor vitae hedge which grew to be twenty feet high and eight feet thick, forming a wonderful windbreak from the northwest winds. William Gould and his family lived in this house until his death in 1901. It then came into the possession of his son, Frank Gould.

Frank Gould had married Mary Fairchild Smith, daughter of Silas N. Smith, owner of a large farm on School House Lane. In 1912 after the birth of their three children, Norman, Julia and Helen, Frank and Mary Gould sold the old house to Charles and Sarah Sanford. Mrs. Sanford enlarged the house, adding the present sunporch and bedroom where the Gould drive and summer kitchen had formerly been. In 1925 the house was sold to Walter and Ethel Conley. It is now the beautiful home of Ethel B. Conley.

In 1822 Zenas Smith Gould purchased a second tract of five and thirty-seven hundredths of an acre from Abraham Richards. Often called the "square lot," it was sold in

1923 to Milo and Harriet Black. The house was built in 1926 by Milo Black and is now the home of his daughters, Beatrice and Ethel Black.





## SAMUEL A. LOREE HOUSE

(Whitehead Road, Morris Township)

(Present Owner—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer S. King)



Samuel A. Loree House

The original portion of this house has been standing high on the hill overlooking Whitehead Road for well over a hundred years. It may have been built by Samuel A. Loree in 1847 when he purchased the property. It was definitely standing in 1853 according to the old map of that date. Perhaps it was erected much earlier to house some member of the Arnold family. The old portion contains four rooms, two below and two above. Beneath the floor of the old porch is an additional room five feet square and

about five feet high to which there is no access from the house. No logical explanation exists for the purpose of this room; the present owners surmise that it may have been used as an underground station for runaway slaves during the Civil War. Around this old structure has been built the present spacious house.

The old house was built on the southwestern corner of the Jacob Arnold farm on land owned by that family since the year 1749. When Jacob Arnold died in 1827, his farm was devised to his children, the lands to be divided among them by agreement. This agreement apparently did not take place for twenty years, for the deeds pertaining to this division of land are not recorded until the years 1846-1847. Edward Arnold and his wife, Elizabeth, received as their share the eleven acres now owned by Elmer King. In 1847 Edward Arnold, then living in Randolph Township, sold the eleven acres to his sister, Mary Ann Arnold, and her husband, Samuel A. Loree, for the sum of five hundred dollars.

Mary Ann Arnold, daughter of Jacob and Sarah Arnold, was married to Samuel A. Loree on November 13, 1833, when she was nineteen years old. Her husband was the second son of Lewis Loree, the blacksmith; he had been brought up in the Valley in the house now E. T. Look's in Mendham Township. Perhaps Samuel learned the blacksmith trade from his father and in later years built the blacksmith shop which formerly stood at the intersection

of Whitehead Road and Washington Valley Road.

In 1852 Mary Ann died at the age of forty-two. One year later Samuel A. Loree sold the property to Thomas Flagler for eight hundred dollars. Within a few months Flagler sold the land to Zenas H. Smith.

Zenas Smith, son of Jonathan and Phoebe Smith, was born in the old brick house on Washington Valley Road. At the time of his marriage to Hannah Fairchild, he purchased this small house and here many of his children were born. In later years his son, Sam Smith, and near neighbors, George and Betchel Renigar, ran the blacksmith shop.

The eleven acres, the house and the blacksmith shop remained in the possession of Zenas Smith's heirs until 1937 at which time they were sold to Elmer and Alice King. Shortly thereafter the blacksmith shop was torn down and the present large addition was added to the original house.





## REBECCA VAN SYCKLE

(Gaston Road, Morris Township)

(House no longer standing)

Rebecca Van Syckle, a woman of strong mind and chronic distrust of her fellow man, lived on Gaston Road for most of her forty-two years of residence in the Valley.

Rebecca, born in Chatham in 1801, was the daughter of Dr. Peter Smith, a skillful surgeon during the Revolution and a prominent physician of Chatham. In 1821 she married Anderson Lewis of Livingston, New Jersey, and was widowed two years later. In 1824 the young widow, Rebecca Lewis, had a house in Chatham upon which she wished to make extensive changes. An agreement between Rebecca and two carpenters of Chatham is of interest to those who may have had occasion to do some remodeling in recent years. Rebecca specified that the carpenters were "to weatherboard the house with pine Boards fit for the purpose and shingel the front of the roof with Ceder shingels and plaster the west room of the said house and fill in the fireplace of the same and lay the harth, and build two stoops one in the front and one in the west end and rase the said house one foot and underpin the same from the old foundation and make two badden Dores, and make two

twelve light sashes and fraims and one Close Closet and add to the same house in the rear a shed of twelve feet by thirty feet, with a seller under the same to the depth five feet six inches and finish in said Shed one Bedroom milkroom and Kitchen and put in the same one stack of Chimneys with two corner fireplaces and Oven and move the Stares in the kitchen, the dore between kitchen and room to be moved three feet and make two Chimney pleses and repair the gutter as it now stands and to build a common oake borde fence in front of said house and lot and to inclose the dooryard foure boards high with a turned ball on each post. The above work is to be done in a plain workman-like manner for which the sum of two hundred and seventy two dollars is to be paid."

On November 23, 1831, Rebecca married James F. Van Syckle, a widower with grown children. Three years later they came to Washington Valley purchasing thirty-seven acres of land from Joseph and Eliza Cutler, "beginning near the old saw mill dam on the road leading to Isaac Gastons." Their house was probably located on the east side of Gaston Road, some seven hundred and fifty feet south from Sussex Avenue. Their house is no longer standing but, from Morris Township Committee Minutes, it must have been a neat little house enclosed by a fence and a dooryard gate.

In 1838 James Van Syckle bought a small parcel of less than an acre, formerly belonging to David Pierson, and known as the "still house lot," located "a short distance

from the road leading from sd. Van Syckle's house to Isaac Gaston's." It is doubtful if this still was in operation at the time since the purchase price was only fifteen dollars.

In addition to this land, James Van Syckle bought the forty-three acre Alward farm on School House Lane in 1850, on which his great-granddaughter, Elsey, and her husband, Lewis C. Burroughs, lived for many years until they moved to Gaston Road.

James Van Syckle died in 1863 leaving to his beloved wife, Rebecca, all his real and personal estate as long as she remained his widow. Rebecca had no children of her own, but had raised her orphaned nephew, Lewis Consider Burroughs. After the death of her husband she lived with Lewis and his wife, Elsey, from time to time, always drawing up a contract first specifying the care she was to receive from them. But she was soon dissatisfied and the contract would be declared null and void.

Sometime before her death in 1877 this final contract appears. "Lewis Burroughs will give Aunty Rebecca Van Syckel the use of his Frame House with Mansard Roof for the whole term of her natural life. He to get her wood for her to use and to take care of her Horse feeding him grooming him and Harnessing him for her use, and un-harnessing when needed every day if required and to fetch and carry from Morristown whatever her necessities require without any pay from her. Also a free passage to the Barn for herself and Horse and room and Feed for

Horse in the Barn and room for Carriage in the Barn.” The house mentioned herein is probably the one now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis D. Miltimore on Gaston Road.

Rebecca died in 1877, aged seventy-six. By her will she left her real estate to her niece, Deborah Williams, and her nephew, Lewis Burroughs, but “if either should bring an account against the estate, their share shall be absolutely null and void.” Her final act was to order her executors to erect for her a plain white tombstone and to have engraved thereon this inscription: “A woman of sorrows and acquainted with grief.”

Some years later tragedy struck the family of Lewis Burroughs. In 1900 his wife, Elsey, and their two sons died suddenly within a week, the cause of death given variously as pneumonia and trichinosis. Two months later Lewis Burroughs died of heartbreak. A daughter, Mary Burroughs Thompson, and her young baby survived.

Frank and Mary Burroughs Thompson continued to live in the house on Gaston Road, now Miltimores. Frank Thompson, great-grandson of Jacob Arnold, was the son of William Jacob Thompson who lived in the “cottage” on Gaston Road, now greatly enlarged and the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wort.

## JONATHAN RAYNOR FARM

(Raynor Road, Mendham Township)

Valley residents who have occasion to use Raynor Road may be interested in the man for whom it was named. Jonathan Raynor lived at the intersection of four roads: School House Lane, Mt. Pleasant Road, Raynor Road and the "old road to Suckasunny Plains." This latter road predated Raynor Road and provided access to Sussex Avenue.

Jonathan Raynor purchased his eighty-six acre farm sometime before 1776, when the "ear marks" for his cattle were registered and recorded in the Mendham Township Minute Book. As was customary, he built his house on one corner of his farm . . . in this case, the northeast corner, the farm extending to the west and south. His house was in approximately the same location as the one now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Boyd.

Except for a brief period when Jonathan served as a private in the Morris County Militia during the Revolution, he and his wife, Tryphena, lived on the farm and raised their six children: Pamela, Cyrenus, Eunice, Prudence, Jonathan and Tryphena. After forty years Jonathan sold



the farm in 1816 to William Hamilton and moved to Green County, Pennsylvania, where he lived until his death in 1822, aged seventy-two.

The farm was soon resold, the house lot and eleven acres purchased by Benjamin Blackford. This same tract later came into the possession of the Roff family who lived there from 1837 until near the turn of the century.

## EZRA HALSEY

(Mendham Road, Morris Township)

On the western fringe of Washington Valley, adjoining lands of Philip Condict and Robert Arnold, lived Ezra and Hannah Halsey. When Mendham Township was established in 1749, they were already in residence. This description "and from thence a straight line to the Contry Road between Ezra Halsey's and Stephen Lyon's land," established the Morris-Mendham Township line which ran through the western portion of their farm.

Ezra and Hannah Halsey died at the start of the Revolution when they were in their late forties. Since they had no children, Ezra divided his property between his two nephews, Ezra Halsey, son of his brother, Benjamin, who received the farm, and Samuel Halsey Wood, who was willed sixty acres in Mendham.

The nephew, Ezra, a carpenter, and his wife, Sarah Johnson, lived on the farm on Mendham Road, probably until his death in 1831. He was a Lieutenant in the Eastern Battalion, Morris County Militia. His son, also Ezra, was born on the farm. He married Sarah Hedges in 1801, a daughter of Elias and Mary Hedges.

In 1808 Ezra, Sr., conveyed the farm of one hundred and eight acres to his son, Ezra, Jr., for six hundred dollars, "excepting and reserving the (1/2 acre) lot whereon is situate the old dwelling house of sd. Ezra Halsey." However, there was on this farm a "new dwelling house," portions of which were conveyed to Ezra Halsey, Jr., along with the land; "viz; the east kitchen and bedroom; the north room on the first floor and the south room on the second floor of the dwelling house with an equal half of the cellar and garret of same." Ezra Halsey, Jr., died in 1835, aged fifty-seven, and at that time the farm passed from the possession of the Halsey family after eighty-six years. In later years this farm was owned by Theodore Sayre. Portions of it are now owned by L. C. Vannan and Howard H. Fletcher of Mendham Road.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Axtell, Ephraim S., Being a Family Record of the Descendants of Major Henry Axtell of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey, Morristown, New Jersey, 1886.
- Biographical and Genealogical History of Morris County, N. J., New York and Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1899.
- Callahan, North, Henry Knox, General Washington's General, New York, Rinehart, 1958.
- Cherry, William, Ed., Morristown Bill of Mortality, Morristown, New Jersey, 1806.
- Colles, Julia Keese, Authors and Writers Associated with Morristown, Morristown, Vogt Bros., 1895.
- Cross, Dorothy, The Indians of New Jersey, Trenton, The Archeological Society of New Jersey, 1958.
- Cunningham, John T., Railroading in New Jersey, Associated Railroads of New Jersey, 1951.
- Earle, Alice Morse, Home Life in Colonial Days, New York, Macmillan, 1919.
- Genealogy of the Condit Family 1678-1885 (1916 Revision by the Condit Family Association), Newark, New Jersey.
- Halsey, Jacob Lafayette and Edmund Drake, Thomas Halsey and his descendants in America, Morristown, 1895.
- Hoffman, Philip, History of "The Arnold Tavern," Morristown, New Jersey, The Jerseyman, 1903.

- Lundin, Leonard, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1940.
- McClintock, Emory, *Topography of Washington's Camp of 1780*. Paper read before Washington Association of New Jersey, 1894.
- Mellick, Andrew D., *Story of an Old Farm*, Somerville, New Jersey, 1889.
- Minutes of Mendham Township, Brookside, New Jersey.
- Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey, Trenton, 1879.
- Munsell, W. W. and Co., *History of Morris County*, New Jersey, New York, 1882.
- New Jersey Archives, *Abstracts of Wills*, New Jersey Historical Society.
- New Jersey Archives, *Newspaper Extracts*.
- Philhower, C. A., *Minisink Indian Trail*, Proceedings of New Jersey Historical Society, N. S. Vol. VIII.
- Record of Theophile Cazenove through New Jersey and Pennsylvania, 1794. Translated from French; editor R. W. Kelsey, Haverford, Pa., Pennsylvania Historical Press, 1922.
- Sherman, Andrew M., *Historic Morristown*, Morristown, New Jersey, 1905.
- Skellinger, Eleazer and Col. Wm. H. Guerin, *Genealogy of the De Guerin Family*, mss.
- Stryker, William S., *Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War*, Trenton, 1872.



The Record of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, New Jersey; Combined Registers from 1742 to 1885.

Transactions of the Township Committee of Morristown, April 12, 1798-March 31, 1885; copied from original by Morristown Library.

Weiss, Harry B., The History of Applejack or Apple Brandy in New Jersey from Colonial Times to the Present, Trenton, N. J. Agricultural Society, 1954.



WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL HOUSE 1813





