The Post Towns of Burlington County

By John W. Edge

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THE POST TOWNS OF BURLINGTON COUNTY: PART 1
By Jack Edge

[We begin here a study of Burlington County, by Jack Edge, a long-time member of the New Jersey Postal History Society. It will continue over upcoming issues, and we hope the series will be interesting and informative to all. This work will be published in book and CD form, with additional information on postmasters, and available to members and others. We invite other County postal histories, and would like, in the future, to be able to offer similar works on all 21 Jersey counties.]

~ Preface ~

This record attempts to list all of Burlington County’s post offices, with some history and information, and the geographic location of each.

Burlington County is probably the most disproportionately populated county in New Jersey. Settled originally along the Delaware River at Burlington, with some early settlement along the Lower Mullica River, this pattern has changed but little today. The area along the Delaware River from Bordentown to Palmyra, down to Marlton, across to Mount Holly and northward to Willingboro Township is thickly populated. Southward, Southampton, Pemberton and Medford Township and north including Mansfield, Springfield, Chesterfield and Hanover Townships, the population is sparser. South of these, one encounters the beginnings of the vast pine forests that cover the southern and western parts of the county.

This unique area, known as the “Pine Barrens,” stretches across Washington, Shamong, Tabernacle, Woodland, and Bass River Townships and on into Ocean County easterly, and Camden and Atlantic Counties across the Mullica River, westerly. Notwithstanding the relative remoteness and inaccessibility of much of this forested portion of the county, many settlements were established around or near early industrial ventures located here. Timber, bog iron ore and an abundance of good glass sand made this region attractive to these early enterprises.

Regardless of their enterprise, these settlements, villages, and towns all had a common thread: their desire to communicate with others. The establishment of a post office was considered a necessity in the days before modern communications. Each community, regardless of size, would try to convince their elected representatives of the need for a postal facility, often inflating the size of the population they anticipated servicing, sometimes exaggerating their proximity to a current route or railroad station in their entreaties.

Many of the early post offices remain in operation today, but not a few have ceased their function and been long forgotten along with the towns and villages that bore their names. When entire industries failed, or were made obsolete, the settlements they supported were abandoned and often disappeared, leaving little to mark their existence, save an occasional brick foundation or a long neglected graveyard.

Most of the post town locations in Burlington County are known, but a few have been guessed at and some locations have been misidentified. In the southern townships especially, some of these remote or short-lived post towns have been mistakenly located or identified for many years. The isolation of this area and the lack of geographical knowledge by postal authorities in Washington D.C. have led to some of these errors. At times, a postmaster would
abandon a place and move his business and the post office to a more lucrative location, not bothering to notify the authorities until asked.

Chroniclers have, at times, named Green Bank, along the Mullica River, as Sooy’s Inn, which in fact was located some 6 miles distant. They have mistakenly referred to the post office at Bass River Hotel as New Gretna or Bass River Lower Bridge, some 2½ miles south of that location. Red Oak Grove has been listed as a Burlington County and an Ocean County Office! The postmaster might have moved the office back and forth across the county border, but Red Oak Grove was always located in the Forked River Mountain portion of Ocean County, not more than 1½ miles from the border between the counties.

Early postmasters, in many instances, operated the only store or public house in their village. Often, the names for their post offices bore the surnames or the name of a prominent landowner. Examples include Bougher post office (Amos L. Bougher, 1st Postmaster) and Recklesstown (J.W. Reckless, Landowner). Postal authorities eventually frowned upon this self-serving practice and a local or generic name was requested, in preference.

Not unique to New Jersey, but unusual in most other parts of the country, was the method by which some Quaker postmasters dated mail received by them for posting. Not writing the months or days is a common practice for members of The Society of Friends. An example would read – 8th mo., 13 – meaning August 13th. Burlington County has been, since its inception, home to a large number of Quaker families. Some were the local postmasters. Five such towns are known to date with “Quaker Dated” postal markings, all hand-written, or manuscript. The five are Cinnaminson, Columbus, Medford, Mount Laurel and Rancocas. An example from each town is illustrated in this record.

For the collector of postmarks, Burlington County, like many others, offers a challenge to find an example from each office. Quite a few of the post offices served a small population, or were in operation for a very short time. Many of these offices have yielded just a few known posted items; some, none at all. All of the illustrated covers are from my own collection.

I would like to thank two old friends who encouraged my interest in this collecting of New Jersey, and particularly Burlington County postal history. They were, Stanley Griffith of Palmyra and William Coles, from Moorestown. Both are now deceased and sadly missed. Thanks are in order to Sue Meredith for her help in preparing this manuscript and to the Edge brothers, Jeff, James and Tim, for their computer advice.

Hopefully this undertaking will be a start for the postal history of Burlington County and an aid to genealogists and local history buffs. Any and all corrections, additions and criticisms are welcomed and solicited.

John W. Edge
Beverly, New Jersey
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON

Covering 819 square miles, Burlington is the largest county in New Jersey, reaching across the state, bordering the Delaware River on the north and west and touching the lower Mullica River, as it enters Great Bay, southeasterly.

Five other counties border Burlington: Mercer at the top northeast corner; Monmouth, also to the northeast across Crosswicks Creek; Ocean County forms the eastern boundary; with Camden and Atlantic west and south, respectively.

Formed on May 17, 1694 out of the original division of West Jersey Province, the county has since lost parts of its original territory to Gloucester, Mercer, Hunterdon and Ocean Counties. The borders were redrawn in 1714, when Hunterdon was set off from Burlington County. In 1838, the year Mercer County was formed, that portion of land above Crosswicks Creek was ceded to the new county.

The year 1891 saw Little Egg Harbor Township, in the southeastern corner of the county, annexed by Ocean County. This was approved by a State Democratic Legislature, removing a Republican dominated township to create a better political base in bipartisan Burlington County. Politics and money ruled then, as today!

In 1902, the county gained a small portion of land along its western border, the Mullica River, at a point near the village of Atsion. The border that formerly followed the course of the river now left it, to run in a straight line north-northwest and south-southeast, reconnecting with the river, thus gaining the ground created by the river’s bend.

For the purposes of this record, all this redrawing of boundaries affected only three Burlington County post offices, i.e.: Yardville to Mercer County, 1838; and Tuckerton and Long Beach to Ocean County in 1891.

In 1699, the population of Burlington County was estimated by the Crown to be 300. These individuals were mostly Quakers and lived predominantly in or near Burlington. Albeit a moderate but steady population growth for 250 years, the numbers exploded after World War II to reach the 395,066 reported in the 1990 census.
MUNICIPALITIES NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE
IN BURLINGTON COUNTY

Formed on May 17, 1694, from the first and second tenths of the West Jersey Division of the Colony of New Jersey, Burlington County consisted of the following original townships: Burlington, Chester, Chesterfield, Evesham, Mansfield, Northampton, Nottingham, Springfield, and Willingboro. The lands and municipalities above the Assunpink Creek were tentatively annexed.

The following municipalities no longer exist in Burlington County:

Amwell Township – Incorporated [Inc.] June 8, 1708 – setoff to Hunterdon County in 1714

Beverly Borough – Inc. Mar 5, 1850 - formed within Willingboro Township - became Beverly City April 13, 1857.

Beverly Township – Inc. Mar 1, 1859 – formed from Willingboro Township - part to Edgewater Park Township – 1924; became Delanco Township – 1926

Bordentown Borough – Inc. December 9, 1825 – formed within Chesterfield Township became Bordentown City – April 3, 1867.


Coaxen Township – Inc. March 10, 1845 – formed from Northampton Township – became Southampton Township – April 1, 1845

Hopewell Township – Inc. February 20, 1700 – setoff to Hunterdon County - 1714

Levittown Township – Inc. November 3, 1959 – replaced Willingboro Township, became Willingboro Township again November 12, 1963

Little Egg Harbor Township – Inc. February 13, 1740 (as Egg Harbor Township until 1798) - setoff to Ocean County – 1891

Maidenhead Township – Inc. February 20th, 1697 – setoff to Hunterdon County – 1714


Nottingham Township – Inc. November 6th, 1688 – setoff to Mercer County – 1838

Palmyra Township – Inc. April 19, 1894 – became Palmyra Borough – February 20th, 1923

Randolph Township – Inc. March 17th, 1870 – formed from Washington Township, restored to Washington Township – March 28, 1893
## CURRENT MUNICIPALITIES IN BURLINGTON COUNTY
[see key below]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Effective Incorporation Date</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Effective Incorporation Date</th>
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<td>*79.65  #1,558 Bass River Township</td>
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<td>*1.22  #4,462 Medford Lakes Borough</td>
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<td>*0.54  #2,973 Beverly City</td>
<td>April 13, 1857</td>
<td>*14.88  #16,116 Moorestown Township</td>
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<td>*0.92  #4,341 Bordentown City</td>
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<td>*2.91  #10,639 Mount Holly Township</td>
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<td>*7.41  #7,683 Bordentown Township</td>
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<td>*3.06  #9,835 Burlington City</td>
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<td>*19.20  #9,546 New Hanover Township</td>
<td>December 2, 1723</td>
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<td>*14.72  #12,454 Burlington Township</td>
<td>March 2, 1677</td>
<td>*17.31  #9,994 North Hanover Township</td>
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<td>*21.88  #5,152 Chesterfield Township</td>
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<td>*1.92  #7,056 Palmyra Borough</td>
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<td>*0.7  #1,367 Pemberton Borough</td>
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<td>*2.16  #3,316 Delanco Township</td>
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<td>*64.51  #31,342 Pemberton Township</td>
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<td>*11.14  #13,178 Delran Township</td>
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<td>*1.54  #7,974 Riverside Township</td>
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<td>*5.73  #4,962 Easthampton Township</td>
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<td>*0.70  #2,775 Riverton Borough</td>
<td>December 18, 1893</td>
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<td>*2.86  #8,388 Edgewater Park Township</td>
<td>February 26, 1924</td>
<td>*46.61  #5,765 Shamong Township</td>
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<tr>
<td>*29.65  #35,309 Evesham Township</td>
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<td>*42.61  #10,202 Southampton Township</td>
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<td>*0.30  #579 Fieldsboro Borough</td>
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<td>*29.47  #3,028 Springfield Township</td>
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<td>*9.68  #10,266 Florence Township</td>
<td>March 7, 1872</td>
<td>*48.39  #7,360 Tabernacle Township</td>
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<td>*6.68  #3,249 Hainesport Township</td>
<td>March 12, 1934</td>
<td>*107.12  #805 Washington Township</td>
<td>November 19, 1802</td>
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<td>*13.29  #6,705 Lumberton Township</td>
<td>March 14, 1860</td>
<td>*11.01  #6,004 Westampton Township</td>
<td>March 6, 1850</td>
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<tr>
<td>*22.71  #3,874 Mansfield Township</td>
<td>November 6, 1688</td>
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<td>November 6, 1688</td>
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<tr>
<td>*3.72  #19,211 Maple Shade Township</td>
<td>November 6, 1945</td>
<td>*95.38  #2,063 Woodland Township</td>
<td>March 7, 1866</td>
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<tr>
<td>*40.32  #20,526 Medford Township</td>
<td>March 1, 1847</td>
<td>*0.60  #3,843 Wrightstown Borough</td>
<td>March 4, 1918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - Area in Square Miles  
# - Population 1990  

County - 819 Square Miles  
County population 1990 - 395,066
BURLINGTON COUNTY’S EIGHTEENTH CENTURY U.S. POST OFFICES:

Atsion – 1797        Moorestown – 1800
Bordentown – 1800    Mount Holly – 1800
Burlington – 1797    New Mills – 1800
Bustletown – 1800    Tuckerton – 1797

THE EARLY POSTAL SYSTEMS

In the year 1692, Thomas Neale was granted a royal patent, lasting 21 years, to organize a postal system in the British Colonies in North America. Not as successful as originally hoped for, this system depended on local government to establish routes and appoint postmasters, etc.

Administered by Deputy Postmaster General Andrew Hamilton, the first two offices established by him in New Jersey were Perth Amboy, capitol of East Jersey in 1692, and Burlington, capitol of West Jersey in 1693. Both offices were located on the new postal route between New York and Philadelphia as concessions to the proprietors of East and West Jersey, thus linking both capitols.

This earliest colonial post road to enter what was to be Burlington County crossed from New York to Long Island, to Staten Island; on to Perth Amboy and southwest through Cranberry, next to Burlington where it crossed the Delaware into Pennsylvania and on down to Philadelphia. Shortly after this route, referred to as the “lower road,” was laid out, a preference was shown for an alternate road with not as many ferry crossings. This alternate route crossed from New York, by boat, down to the Raritan River to Woodbridge, south to New Brunswick, then on to Princeton and Trenton, on the Delaware, where it crossed over into Pennsylvania.

Burlington lost its importance as a colonial post office in this portion of the Jerseys, being displaced by Trenton as the preferred crossing for the Philadelphia–New York postal route.

The Colonial postal system was poor, at best, but it operated until the American Revolution. Many private mail carriers operated in direct competition with this system, and were generally cheaper and more effective.

In 1774, William Goddard was operating his “Constitutional Postal System,” in direct and illegal competition with the Colonial Postal System, which was still operated by the crown. Even then, Perth Amboy and Burlington were not included on Goddard’s mail routes.

By 1775, the British postal system was, for all intents and purposes, nonexistent. The provisional system, established by Goddard, had rendered it useless.

Burlington County would not have an official post office again until August 18, 1797 when post offices were established at both Atsion and Tuckerton. Burlington was granted an office later that year on October 18, 1797.
The United States Postal System was created by an Act of Congress on September 22, 1789. It took nearly eight more years before it deemed Burlington County worthy, or in need of a post office!

Although relatively obscure today, such was not the case for the county’s initial postal locations at Atsion and Tuckerton. Atsion was considered the most important manufactory in the county, and at that date, probably the largest iron producer in the county. Tuckerton was made the third United States port of entry on March 21, 1791, preceded only by New York and Philadelphia. Both places were deemed essential to the new nation.

By the year 1800, there were just 47 post offices in service in all of New Jersey. Eight of these, as previously noted, were located in Burlington County. In 1850, statewide, the number had risen to 347. The year 1875 saw 554 offices established and by 1900 the number of offices peaked at 816. Consolidations and closures had reduced their number to 670 by 1955.

The actual effective dates of opening or closing certain postal facilities were often different than the dates of order by the P.O. Department, in Washington. For the purposes of this effort, I have used the “Record of Postmaster Appointments,” National Archives, Washington D.C., to record the dates given. Accuracy notwithstanding, I leave the disputed dates to the chronologists.

Fig. No. 1a: The Newbold House, Georgetown, N. J., A. D. 1740.

[An alphabetical list of Burlington post offices follows, with further information on each post office, to be continued in future NJPH Journals.]
ANCOCAS POST OFFICE ~ Established January 2, 1834

This office, established in Willingboro Township, was opened at what is now the Village of Rancocas. Prior to 1832 there were just two dwellings established here, in addition to the Friends Meeting House and School. In 1832, a bridge across the Rancocas Creek at Centerton and a road to Rancocas Meeting, one mile distant, were completed.

About 1833, Andrew Hollinshead was constructing a large building on the north side of Beverly Turnpike near Rancocas Meeting (as this place was called by the Quakers). The new village petitioned for a post office and on January 2, 1834, Ancocas Post Office was recorded as opening. However, no postmaster is listed until January 21, 1836. It is possible that a location for the office was not available until the later date.

The postmaster named in 1836 was Andrew Hollinshead; however, the facility was closed six months later on June 23, 1836 and listed as discontinued. Although this place had always been called Rancocas Meeting, there were proponents of the ancient Ancocas, an early spelling of the Indian tribe and the creek they lived near. It seems Mr. Hollinshead was in favor of this older name and wanted to affix it to the village and new post office.

On May 1, 1838, the postal facility re-opened as Rancocas Post Office. Samuel Stokes, Jr., the new postmaster, opened this office in part of his recently completed store located, ironically, in Andrew Hollinshead’s building! Popular opinion had prevailed and Rancocas it would remain.

January 2, 1834? Post office opened* - no postmaster listed
January 21, 1836 First postmaster named
June 23, 1836 Post office discontinued
May 1, 1838 Re-opened as Rancocas

*It is probable the office did not operate until January 21, 1836.

ARNEYTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established April 24, 1827

This small, rural hamlet was a part of New Hanover Township in 1827 when they managed to secure a post office. Today, what’s left of the old village is located in North Hanover Township, some thirteen miles northeast of Mount Holly and eight miles to the southeast from Bordentown. It stands on the Monmouth County border.

Settled prior to 1765, it was referred to as Upper Freehold in some records. No record of population count was found for this unincorporated village, but a map of 1876 shows perhaps twelve dwellings, one church and a schoolhouse. By 1935 Henry Beck tells us, “but five or six families are all that live in Arneytown, now.”
Arneytown was off the normal post route from Bordentown to New Egypt. By 1870 the office was deemed unnecessary by postal authorities and closed February 8, 1871. The office located in Jacobstown would take care of the few residents left at Arneytown.

![Arneytown, N.J. cover dated Dec. 31, 1843. Free indicates no postage due. George Sykes was a member of The U.S. House of Representatives.](image)

April 24, 1827 Post office opened
February 8, 1871 Post office discontinued - service to Jacobstown

**ATSION POST OFFICE ~ Established August 18, 1797**

Known by the Indian name Atsayunk, originally this old village was part of Evesham Township when a post office was established here in 1797. Atsion is some 3½ miles southwest of Indian Mills and eleven miles to the northwest from Green Bank. It lies along the Upper Mullica River, and today is a part of Shamong Township.

Soon after the ratification of the Constitution, the new United States Postal System established post offices in New Jersey. Atsion and Tuckerton became Burlington County’s first offices in 1797. Atsion’s ironworks, established in 1768, were considered an integral part of the new nation’s economy. The post office established here lent credibility to this necessary industry. Unfortunately for Atsion, the discovery of coalfields in Pennsylvania in the 1830s soon made charcoal-fueled iron manufactory obsolete.

In 1815 the ironworks at Atsion shut down, and the post office was moved ten miles southeast to Sooy’s Inn. In 1827, Samuel Richards purchased and revived the business. The post office soon was re-opened. As the fortunes of Atsion flourished and declined over the years, the post office closed and re-opened several times. In 1834, the forge and furnace at Atsion employed nearly 100 men with approximately 700 persons living in the village or nearby. The estate, including Atsion, encompassed some 60,000 acres.
From June 4, 1866 until August 21, 1871, the post office here was renamed Fruitland. [see Fruitland Post Office]. On October 31, 1882, Atsion Post Office was listed as being located in Atlantic County. The village is located in Burlington County on the east side of the river. Apparently, the office was moved to the station house of the New Jersey Southern Railroad, located on the west bank of the river in Atlantic County, some one-half mile distant from Atsion village.

![Fig. No. 2a: Colonial one shilling note printed at Burlington, N. J. by Isaac Collins ~ some of the first currency paid to the workers at Atsion Iron Works.]

![Fig. No. 3: Atsion N.J. cover dated Dec. 31, 1863.]

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On December 3, 1883 the Atsion Post Office was relocated back to its former site in Burlington County. In 1930, the office at Atsion was closed, and mail service was supplied by Vincentown Post Office; an ignominious end to Burlington County’s first post office.

August 18, 1797 Post office opened
February 13, 1815 Post office moved to Sooy’s Inn
June 28, 1828 Post office re-established at Atsion
November 14, 1831 Post office discontinued
June 22, 1832 Post office re-established
December 28, 1843 Post office discontinued
March 25, 1851 Post office re-established
January 28, 1856 Post office discontinued
December 22, 1862 Post office re-established
June 4, 1866 Post office name changed to Fruitland
August 21, 1871 Post office name changed back to Atsion
October 31, 1882 Post office moved to Atlantic County
December 3, 1883 Post office moved back to Burlington County
July 31, 1930 Post office discontinued - service to Vincentown

Fig. No. 3A: Post card cancelled at Atsion, N. J. in 1922.
BASS RIVER HOTEL POST OFFICE ~ Established February 23, 1827

Bass River Hotel, an ancient hostelry, was situated on the Old Stage Road between Tuckerton and Philadelphia. Located in Little Egg Harbor Township some six miles northwest of Tuckerton, the Hotel lay on the west bank of Bass River. Built prior to the American Revolution, this place was known as Red Tavern, and was still referred to by this name as late as 1882. Little is left to mark its existence, and the area is now a campground at what is referred to as the Fir Bridge Section of present day Bass River Township.

In 1833, Isaiah Adams became the owner and postmaster at Bass River Hotel. In 1840, the stagecoach route was abruptly shifted two miles south to pass through present day New Gretna. This new location applied for a post office as Bass River Lower Bridge. The postmaster here was Joseph B. Cramer, who operated the office until late in 1841 when it closed. It seems the stage road was returned to its old path through Bass River Hotel, as before.

That same year, 1841, the post office at the Old Hotel was re-opened, and lasted until 1854, when lack of business caused its closure. The stage route had been relocated, again, through New Gretna, thus bypassing the Old Red Tavern or Bass River Hotel Post Office. It seems the former owner of the venerable old strand had built a new hotel at New Gretna.

Figure No. 4: Bass River Hotel. Manuscript folded letter dated Feb. 19, 1844.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 1840</td>
<td>Post office discontinued &amp; moved to Bass River Lower Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6, 1841</td>
<td>Post office re-established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29, 1854</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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~ ~ ~
BASS RIVER LOWER BRIDGE POST OFFICE ~ Established May 8, 1840

The Lower Bridge on the Bass River, down in Little Egg Harbor Township, was at the town now called New Gretna. This short-lived office was established due to the efforts of Joseph B. Cramer, the postmaster there. He was also to become New Gretna’s first postmaster, some ten years later.

A re-routing of the Tuckerton Postal Road through this village replaced Bass River Hotel Post Office, which lay on the Old Stage Road. In 1841 the old route was restored, effectively closing this office, Bass River Lower Bridge.

In 1850, the mail route was again re-routed through this place, now known as New Gretna. The Old Stage Road to Bass River Hotel was abandoned, and the post office there would cease to operate by the end of 1854.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>November 6, 1841</td>
<td>Post office discontinued &amp; moved back to Bass River Hotel</td>
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BATSTO POST OFFICE ~ Established June 28, 1852

The iron works established at Batsto in 1766 figured prominently in supplying the American armies during the Revolutionary War, and, again, when the War of 1812 was fought. Munitions, in the form of shot and cannon balls, were supplied by the Batsto Iron Works, far down in the pinelands of Burlington County.

Located today in the southwest portion of Washington Township, along Batsto River, one-half mile off from the Mullica River, the village is one and one-half miles northwest of Green Bank, and five miles to the southwest from the site of old Sooy’s Inn Post Office.

In 1834, Gordon [Gordon’s Gazetteer and History on New Jersey, Phila., 1834] recorded Batsto’s inhabitants as numbering 400 persons. It was second at that time only to Atsion in population in this part of Burlington County. The post office, however, was not opened until 1852. Pleasant Mills Post Office, located directly across the Mullica River from Batsto, in old Gloucester County, was established in 1827. Mail service for Batsto, although Batsto was twice as large as Pleasant Mills, was handled by the smaller town until 1852. Both offices, thereafter, were closed or re-opened depending upon the political climate of the time.

The village and post office at Batsto have been restored, and today are maintained by the State of New Jersey. In 1966 this post office was re-opened and operates as a rural branch of Hammonton Post Office.
Fig. No. 5: Batsto, NJ postmarked June 11, 1909 on postcard.

- June 28, 1852: Post office opened
- June 24, 1870: Post office discontinued - service to Pleasant Mills
- January 3, 1883: Post office re-established
- January 14, 1911: Post office discontinued - service to Hammonton
- June 1, 1966: Post office re-established as a Rural Branch of Hammonton Post Office

Fig. No. 5A: Batsto, N. J., dated Apr. 8, 1865 with an 1861 3-cent stamp pen cancelled.
BEVERLY POST OFFICE ~ Established January 4, 1849

Beverly is Burlington County’s smallest city, and the second smallest municipality in the County, comprising just .54 square miles in area. Located three and one-half miles west from Burlington, Beverly is situated on the Delaware River, in the northern part of the county.

A ferry was in operation here by 1680. Originally owned by Duncan Williamson, the ferry and village became known as Dunk’s Ferry. It operated for well over 150 years. Continental troops under George Washington crossed at Dunk’s Ferry many times during the American Revolution.

After completion of the Camden and Amboy Railroad in 1834, the growth of the tiny hamlet at Dunk’s Ferry was rapid. By 1845, this place had taken the name of Beverly. In 1849 the post office was opened. The population was approximately 1,000. By 1860 the town boasted 1,220.

Today, this diminutive “city” has a population just shy of 3,000. The post office serves both Beverly and Edgewater Park Township, with a population nearly three times that of tiny Beverly. The City of Beverly is this writer’s home.

This post office opened January 4, 1849 and continues in service today, also servicing Edgewater Park Township.

Fig. No. 6: An early folded letter with a three cent 1851 issue stamp. Dated Sept. 4, 1856, Beverly, N. Jersey.
This series on The Post Towns of Burlington County by Jack Edge will be continued in future issues of NJPH

WE NEED ARTICLES NOW!

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BIRMINGHAM POST OFFICE ~ Established February 11, 1868

Birmingham is a small village located one and one-half miles west of Pemberton on the north branch of Rancocas Creek. It is at the extreme western part of Pemberton Township. Formerly the village was the site of at least two saw mills very early in its history.

The town lay quite near the intersection of the New Jersey Southern Railroad and the Union Transportation Company Line going north towards New Egypt and beyond. A large hotel, known as the Birmingham Inn, hosted travelers on the railroad for many years.

Today, Birmingham lies hidden, some one-half mile off Route 38 between Mount Holly and Pemberton. A quiet little place, just far enough from the highways and strip malls to retain its identity. The post office here is still in operation.

Fig. No. 8: Birmingham N.J. strike on 1880s cover.

February 11, 1868          Post office opened
Continues in operation today.

Fig. No. 9: A view of the famous inn at Birmingham in the Nineteenth Century

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BLACK HORSE POST OFFICE ~ Established October 1, 1806

In colonial Burlington County, prior to 1765, directions given travelers to look for the sign of The Black Horse brought them to present day Columbus. The village, in Mansfield Township, was referred to as Encroaching Corners, at one point, but Black Horse Tavern or simply Black Horse soon became the accepted name for this country town.

In 1795, Black Horse, along with Mount Holly and Burlington, the incumbent county seat, were candidates for Burlington County’s voters to select a county seat location. There was sentiment against the old colonial seat of government at Burlington City. Mount Holly won out and Black Horse remained the sleepy little hamlet it was, unencumbered by the bustle of governmental activities now embraced by Mount Holly.

During the American Revolution, the village was occupied by British Troops, and on one occasion, the Black Horse Tavern was used as General Sir Henry Clinton’s headquarters, after the evacuation of Philadelphia in 1778. In 1827, Black Horse and its post office became Columbus.

October 1, 1806  Post office opened
December 14, 1827  Post office name changed to Columbus

BORDENTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established September 18, 1800

Bordentown, a small city on the Delaware River, lies in the northeastern corner of Burlington County. It is surrounded by Bordentown Township, which borders Mercer County. The post office, when established in 1800, was a part of old Chesterfield Township. Settled in the late 1600s, the place was called Farnsworth’s Landing at first. By 1745, it was noted on maps and some records as Bordings and Borden’s Town or Ferry. The town was named to honor Joseph Borden 1696-1765.

Bordentown was the terminus for the New York to Philadelphia Stage. Passengers arriving by stage boarded ferry boats here and continued the journey to Philadelphia by boat. The town also became the original terminus of the Camden and Amboy Railroad. During the American Revolution, Bordentown was occupied by Hessian Mercenaries and British Troops at different times, and at one time included the home of Francis Hopkinson, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Some other notable residents of Bordentown were Joseph Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain and brother of Napoleon; Thomas Paine, Revolutionary Patriot and author of Common Sense; Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. The Bordentown Military Academy, here, has supplied the early education of many officers in our armed forces since 1824, not the least of which was General Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander-In-Chief of Desert Storm in Kuwait, Iraq.
and Saudi Arabia. Bordentown today retains much of its colonial look while blending well with more modern architecture. It is a handsome town, with a rich and varied history.

Fig. No. 10: Bordentown, N.J., 1876.

Fig. No. 10a: A folded letter dated June 27, 1831 with a postage rate of 18 ¾ cents, mailed at Bordentown, N. J.

September 18, 1800
Post office opened
Continues in operation today

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BOUGHER POST OFFICE ~ Established June 29, 1889

At the northern point in Mount Laurel Township, along the Rancocas Creek, stands a small village known as Centerton. From 1889 until 1917 it was known as Bougher. Situated on the west bank of the Rancocas Creek, Centerton is about one mile north of Masonville and approximately three-quarters of a mile southwest and across the Rancocas Creek from the village of Rancocas. The first bridge at Centerton was finished in 1832. It was not until after this structure was erected that the village of Rancocas was established.

Fig. No. 11: This is a view of I. W. Heuling’s Sons Lumber & Coal Business at Centerton, circa 1876, a town which would soon be known as Bougher Post Office.
When applying for a post office at Centerton, the proposed postmaster, Amos Bougher, was advised of the existence of another Centerton Post Office, located in Salem County. The alternate names he chose were Centre, Texas and Boughers. Although postmasters’ names were seldom chosen for an office, Bougher, without the “s,” was approved by postal authorities.

The village’s population in 1880 was nearly 65. However, Bougher would service the Rancocas Creek hamlets of Plattsville, Texas, Paxsonville and Borton’s Landing, another 400-600 people, or so it was claimed by Amos Bougher.

June 29, 1889 Post office opened
December 31, 1917 Post office discontinued - service to Masonville

Fig. No. 12: Bougher, N.J. on envelope dated Jan. 7, 1913.

BRIDGEBORO POST OFFICE ~ Established February 8, 1849

Originally a part of old Chester Township, Bridgeboro was located on the west side of the Rancocas Creek on the old Burlington Turnpike, now U.S. Route 130. The Burlington Pike was built in 1748, connecting Burlington City with Cooper’s Ferry (Camden) and, thus, to Philadelphia.

Called Kemble’s Ferry, quite early, it was also know as Ancocas Ferry and Lower Ancocas Ferry before the first bridge was constructed in 1838. Thereafter, the village was known as Rancocas Draw Bridge. The name Bridgeboro was adopted by 1845, and the post office established in 1849 would last 110 years.
Bridgeboro, today, is located in Delran Township. It is divided by U.S. Route 130 and the new bridge across the Rancocas. The project of building the new bridge eliminated several homes on the north side of the bridge, along with the ancient Bridgeboro Inn. Most of Bridgeboro, on the opposite side of the six lane highway, remains, looking much as it has, for many generations. The population listed in 1880 was 400; there are not many more today.

Fig. No. 13: Bridgeboro, N.J. Sept. 26, 1867 cover posted with an 1862 2 cent stamp.

February 8, 1849 Post office opened
January 31, 1959 Post office discontinued - service to Riverside
February 1, 1959 Post office re-established as branch office of Riverside
October 2, 1959 Branch office closed

Fig. No. 13a: Circa 1876, Bridgeboro, N.J.
BROWNS MILLS POST OFFICE ~ Established August 28, 1850

“Brown’s Mills in the Pines” was a popular resort in Burlington County from the 1850’s well into the 1970’s. It is located on the north branch of Rancocas Creek, some four and one-half miles east of Pemberton in the northeastern part of Pemberton Township.

The popularity of the place caused the New Jersey Southern Railroad to build a spur line some two miles to Browns Mills in 1889. A series of lakes, several taverns, a dance hall and summer cottages attracted visitors from far off cities to this “haven in the Pines.”

Originally know as Biddle’s Mills, it was the site of an early sawmill well before the American Revolution. It is said that the famous Philadelphia financier, Stephen Girard, owned a lumbering enterprise here, while residing in Mount Holly during the British occupation of Philadelphia.


Fig. No. 15: Sept. 18, 1865 Browns Mills, N.J. cover (shown inverted for postmark)

Aug 28, 1850         Post office opened
April 12, 1860        Post office discontinued
Jan 25, 1862          Post office re-established
June 22, 1868         Post office discontinued
July 27, 1868         Post office re-established
1894-1914             Known as Brown Mills
Continues in operation today.

Fig. No. 16: This cover, dated May 11, 1905, shows the town’s name as Brown Mills. This name was used from 1894—1914.
BUCHANAN POST OFFICE ~ Established December 28, 1892

This short-lived office was located on the site of the old Lebanon Glass Works, also called Upper Mills. The village was three miles southwest of Woodmansie and three miles to the northeast from Shamong Post Office, later Chatsworth. It was on the old Stage Road to Manahawkin.

At the time of establishment, George Bozarth, the first postmaster, estimated a village of 150 with a total of 200-300 to be serviced by this office! This “stretching” of the truth was typical of applicants for a postal facility in this sparsely populated section of Burlington County. A post office added legitimacy to an enterprise and, hopefully, investors and business.

Mail was to be left at Buchanan Station on the New Jersey Southern Railroad, some three miles distant from the village! A lack of business soon spelled the doom of another of Burlington County’s pineland post offices.

December 28, 1892 Post office opened
November 14, 1896 Post office discontinued - service to Chatsworth

BUDDTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established June 1, 1868

Some three miles to the east of Vincentown lies the small village of Buddtown. Settled along a branch of the Rancocas Creek, known as Stop the Jade Run, Buddtown was named for Thomas Budd, early sawmill owner and citizen of this place.

Fig. No. 17: Circa 1875.

Fig. No. 17a: Residence near Buddtown circa 1876.
BURLINGTON COUNTY POST TOWNS: PART 2 ~ Jack Edge

Situated in Southampton Township, the village contained fewer than 200 persons in 1868, the year the first post office was established. The surrounding country was mostly agricultural in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has changed but little to this day.

June 1, 1868  Post office opened
December 23, 1901  Post office discontinued - service to Vincentown

![U.S. stamped envelope, marked Buddtown, N.J., dated 6/18/85]

Fig. No. 18: U.S. stamped envelope, marked Buddtown, N.J., dated 6/18/85

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BURLINGTON POST OFFICE ~ Established October 18, 1797

Founded in 1677 by English Quakers, this town on the Delaware River was the provincial capital of West New Jersey. In 1693, the first colonial post office was established in West Jersey at Burlington. Along with Perth Amboy, they were New Jersey’s only postal facilities on the route between New York and Philadelphia.

Burlington, at one time, hosted the colonial General Assembly. Isaac Collins printed New Jersey’s first newspaper here, in the same shop that he printed colonial currency for the Crown. Some notable Burlington residents were Elias Boudinot, ninth President of the Continental Congress, Captain James Lawrence of War of 1812 fame, author James Fenimore Cooper, and President Ulysses S. Grant, who maintained a residence here.

Until 1796, Burlington was the county seat of government in Burlington County. That year, Mount Holly won a referendum and became the new county seat. Burlington’s Post Office was not opened after the Revolutionary War until October 18, 1797, following the opening of Atsion Post Office and Tuckerton Post Office earlier that year.
Today, Burlington City is in the midst of revitalization and the restoration of its many colonial buildings. The Proprietors of West New Jersey still meet here annually, and the oldest post office in this portion of New Jersey is still in operation. This writer graduated from Burlington High School in 1962, and retains an affection for the venerable old town.

Fig. No. 19: A folded letter from Burlington, 11 July, 1804, sent free to Robert Smith U. S. Secretary of the Navy.

Fig. No. 20: A cover showing usage of a pair of the 1851 issue 3 cent stamps. Burlington, N.J.

October 18, 1797
Post office opened
Continues in service today
BUSTLETON POST OFFICE ~ Established January 15, 1800

Bustleton or Bustletown was a stagecoach stopping point on the Old York Road. This road, also called the Post Road, ran from Burlington through Bustletown, Three Tuns (Hedding), Rising Sun Tavern (Mansfield Square) to Crosswicks and on up to Perth Amboy.

Postal records tell us that a post office was established here January 15, 1800. John Sager is listed as the first postmaster and the office was closed the same year, but no date of closure is recorded. It is possible the office was never in operation.

In 1882, John W. Frazier proposed a post office to be called Bustleton, but at a distance of about ½ mile from the older settlement once called Bustletown. It was to be moved from where the Old York Road and Burlington-Bustleton Road intersected, southward, to the intersection of Columbus Road with the Old York Road, as stated ½ mile distant. Mr. Frazier explained, “The population is greater and more improvements at Bustleton, than old Bustleton, which latter is decaying, and not so central.”

It was the proposed postmaster’s claim, that Bustleton’s population was 40, with 200 or more living within one mile of the village, also known as Frazier’s Corners. By 1887 this office was closed. The bustle had gone from Bustleton.

January 15, 1800 Post office opened (as Bustletown)
1800 Post office discontinued (probably never in operation)
April 11, 1882 Re-established (as Bustleton)
October 6, 1887 Post office discontinued - service from Burlington

[This series on The Post Towns of Burlington County by Jack Edge will be continued in future issues of NJPH]
CHATSORTH POST OFFICE – Established February 7, 1893

Shamong Post Office, in Woodland Township, changed its name, along with the town, to Chatsworth in 1893. This office, at Shamong Station, on the New Jersey-Southern Railroad dates back to 1863 and remains in operation to this day.

The name Chatsworth came into use for this village in the late 1880’s, when a large estate was built nearby called Chatsworth. It was intended to be used as a country club and retreat for wealthy businessmen and investors in the venture. Located on the shores of nearby Lake Shamong, the well-to-do owners convinced the locals of the “benefits” to be derived from changing Shamong’s name to Chatsworth.

Estate, country club and wealthy investors were all gone by the turn of the century, but Chatsworth remained; not the stylish retreat for the rich, once envisioned, but a solid, honest, working man’s town, and home to Woodland Township’s municipal government.

Located twelve miles northeast of Atsion, and six miles southwest from Woodmansie, this small village has been referred to as the “Capitol of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.” It’s said that Willis Buzby, Chatsworth’s first postmaster, coined this title for his hometown. Buzby also referred to himself as “King of the Pineys.” His general store is still here and has been recently remodeled.

February 7, 1893 Post office name changed from Shamong to Chatsworth
Continues in service today.

Fig. No. 22: Post card dated April 9, 1907, Chatsworth, N.J.
CHESTERFIELD POST OFFICE ~ Established May 19, 1888

Chesterfield was not always known by this name. From about 1805 until 1888, it was known as Recklesstown, named for an early citizen, Anthony Reckless. The Recklesstown Post Office operated under this name until the town and post office exchanged this colorful moniker, in 1888, for the more mundane Chesterfield, taken from the township where it was situated.

Located in the most rural, northeastern part of Burlington County, Chesterfield is five miles southeast of Bordentown and three miles to the north from Georgetown. The population in 1888 was fewer than 150. The town was still being referred to as Recklesstown well into the 1940’s, as many will recall.

May 19, 1888 Post office name changed from Recklesstown to Chesterfield
July 31, 1920 Post office discontinued; service to Bordentown
CHETWOOD POST OFFICE ~ Established January 29, 1863

A post office was opened in Old Washington Township on the site of the ancient iron forge known as Martha’s Furnace in 1863. The owner of this place renamed it Chetwood. Francis B. Chetwood owned most of the land in this vicinity.

Chetwood Post Office was about eight miles northwest of New Gretna and off the regular mail route. The proposed postmaster, Benjamin Clark, offered to carry the mail from New Gretna to the Chetwood Post Office “at no cost to the Post Office Department.”

Clark stated in his postal application, “There were a dozen families here, but is now on the increase.” Apparently that increase never happened, because within three and one-half years the post office was discontinued. Within twenty years, the forest had reclaimed the site of Old Martha’s Furnace and the short-lived Chetwood.

Chetwood is another forgotten town, and lost in the wilderness of the vast Wharton State Forest ~ an altogether common theme in the unforgiving and harsh environment of Burlington County’s vast Pine Barrens.

January 29, 1863    Post office opened
June 4, 1866     Post office discontinued
CINNAMINSON POST OFFICE ~ Established April 22, 1836

A village known as Westfield was located in old Chester Township in 1836. Upon application for a post office they were informed of the existence of a Westfield Post Office long established in Essex County.

The name Cinnaminson was an ancient Indian word, generally accepted to mean sweet water. This area of Westfield was called Cinnaminson by the Lenni-Lenape Indians, long since gone from here. Westfield’s citizens resurrected the old native name for their village, and used it for their new post office. The area was settled by Quakers by the early eighteenth century. A meetinghouse was erected here in 1801, and named Westfield Meeting. In 1834 Gordon counted “some half dozen farm houses.” By 1880, the population of Cinnaminson was estimated at 150.

Situated on the Burlington Pike (U.S. Route 130), Cinnaminson Post Office was one and one-quarter miles east of the Pennsauken Creek and six miles to the west from Bridgeborough Post Office.

Fig. No. 24: An 1840 Folded letter from Cinnaminson, N.J. showing the Quaker method of dating 11 mo 28, meaning November 28th.

April 22, 1836 Post office opened
October 13, 1915 Post office discontinued; service to Riverton
April 16, 1964 Re-established as branch of Riverton Post Office
Fig. No. 25: This 1891 postmark & killer tie the stamp to this Cinnaminson cover.

Fig. No. 25a: Circa 1876
Res. of Joseph F. Haines, Cinnaminson Twp., Burlington County, N.J.
COLUMBUS POST OFFICE ~ Established December 14, 1827

Columbus is a country town located in Mansfield Township. It is situated some six miles northeast of Mount Holly and five miles south from Bordentown. As is true of many of Burlington County’s towns and villages, members of the Society of Friends settled Columbus before 1750.

Once known as “Encroaching Corners,” the village eventually came to be known as Black Horse after the tavern located here by the same name. In 1827, the townspeople voted to change the name to Columbus, and the post office followed suit.

Columbus was also the terminus of the Columbus, Kinkora, and Springfield Railroad, now all but forgotten. The many fine homes and huge shade trees give this place a pleasing appearance. It is surrounded by some of the finest farmland remaining in this part of the county. Columbus retains its identity and dignity, despite the encroachment of the real estate developers.

December 14, 1827 Post office name changed from Black Horse to Columbus Continues in service today.

Fig. No.25b: A patriotic cover used during the Spanish-American War era.
Fig. No. 26: A folded letter from Columbus, N.J., in 1844, illustrating the Quaker method of writing dates by its postmaster: 3 mo 14 or March 14th.

Figs. No. 26a: Shinplaster or company store script used in Columbus, N.J. circa 1865.

COOKSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established January 24, 1851

Cookstown is located in New Hanover Township along the North Run, very close to the Ocean County border. It is two miles southwest of New Egypt and three and one-half miles northeast of Wrightstown.

Settled about 1730, the village has been called Iven’s and later known as Cooks Mills. William Cook, owner of the sawmill here from 1776-1801, was the namesake for Cookstown. The town was a station on the Pemberton and Hightstown Railroad and boasted a population of 150 by 1876.
Today, the country surrounding Cookstown is mostly agricultural to the north and the Fort Dix Military Reservation immediately to the south. The post office operates to this day. Henry Beck\textsuperscript{2} tells us of a visit to Ben Huss’s store in Cookstown about 1935: “Ben Huss kept the one store we visited [in Cookstown] and had part of the interior set aside as the post office. He said he had tried to quit several times, but no one else would have the job.” He added, “So I still got it.” Ben Huss was postmaster here 1916-1940.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{fig27}
\caption{Cookstown, N.J. cover, dated Jan. 9, 1914.}
\end{figure}

January 24, 1851 Post office opened
Continues in service today.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{fig27a}
\caption{Late 19\textsuperscript{th} Century cover to Ellisdale, Burlington Co., N.J. Posted at Cookstown, N.J. Ellisdale was in Monmouth Co.!}
\end{figure}
CROSSWICKS POST OFFICE ~ Established March 25, 1823

Crossweeksunk was the name given this place by the Lenape Indians. Early Quaker settlers pronounced it Crossix and by 1700, it was being called Crosswicks. Settled near the year 1680 by members of the Society of Friends, the village lies next to the Crosswicks Creek, which separates Burlington and Mercer Counties. Crosswicks is eight miles southeast from Trenton and three miles north of Chesterfield.

The town was located on the Old York Road out of Burlington City, which was part of the original Post Road to Perth Amboy created by 1693. In 1778, British and Colonial Troops fought a skirmish at the bridge connecting Crosswicks with Woodwordville. The 1880 census reported a population of 700 in Crosswicks. The town retains its country look to this day.

Fig. No. 28: Crosswicks, N.J. manuscript postmark July 2, 1842.

Fig. No. 29: Crosswicks, N.J. cover using an 1851 Issue 3 cent stamp.

March 25, 1823     Post office opened
Continues in service today.

~ ~ ~
CROWLEYVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established October 27, 1856

In or about 1851, the Atlantic and Millford Glass Works began operations along the Mullica River, halfway between Batsto and Green Bank. Glass bottles and containers were manufactured here, until about 1865, when the glass works ceased operation and the owners abandoned the area.

The settlement was long known as Crowleytown or Crowley’s Point on some old maps. The post office name given was Crowleyville and it was to become another of Washington Township’s short-lived offices. There’s not much left here today to give evidence of the old glassworks, much less the village and its post office.

October 27, 1856 Post office opened
November 22, 1862 Post office discontinued

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DELANCO POST OFFICE ~ Established October 5, 1857

The Camden and Amboy Railroad called this place Rancocas Station in the late 1830’s. By 1849, land speculators had named it Delranco. Bordered by the Rancocas Creek and the Delaware River, the village grew along with the success of the railroad.

It is possible that the name change from Delranco to Delanco occurred when the post office was established. Delanco was part of Willingboro Township when its post office was opened. The population in 1857 was listed as 300. It was located two miles southwest of Beverly, and directly across the Rancocas Creek opposite the town of Progress.

Although on the same mail route as Progress, its neighbor across the creek, Delanco had no access to it, except by boat or the railroad. In 1857, Micajah Dobbins, Delanco’s first postmaster, stated “Progress is inaccessible, the draw of the Railroad Bridge being kept off, except when the cars are passing.” Delanco was finally connected to Progress, later Riverside, in 1866 upon completion of a pedestrian bridge across Rancocas Creek. By 1880, Delanco’s population was 452. This writer was born here, in 1944.

October 5, 1857 Post office opened
August 29, 1860 Post office discontinued
December 14, 1860 Post office re-established
May 31, 1954 Post office became a branch of Riverside Post Office
Fig. No. 30: Delanco, N.J. postmark on cover, dated Aug. 25, 1931.

Fig. No. 30a: An early carrier marking on an 1880s Delanco, N.J. cover.

This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.

ENDNOTES:

DOBBINS POST OFFICE ~ Established April 23, 1887

This office was established at the Florence Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Amboy Division. It was about one and one-half miles southwest of Florence Post Office, and serviced the farming community of this part of Florence Township.

James D. Craig, the first postmaster, estimated some 250 people would benefit from the formation of a post office here and that the mail would be carried to the new office at no expense to the postal department. The post office building was located 200 feet from the railroad, on the northwestern side.

Fig. No. 31: Dobbins, N. J. dated Sept. 9, 1907, on post card.

April 23, 1887 Post office opened
October 31, 1918 Post office discontinued; service to Roebling

EDGEWATER PARK POST OFFICE ~ Established September 28, 1881

Charles Stokes, prominent landowner and surveyor, originally laid out Edgewater Park in 1853. His name for this planned village was Willington. The village was located in the northeastern portion of Beverly Township. It was a station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Amboy Division, and was one and one-half miles above Beverly Post Office and some two and one-half miles south from Burlington City on the railroad line.
In 1881, the application for this office listed the population as 500. The census of 1880, however, counted just 169! Today, Edgewater Park covers 2.86 square miles. In 1924 fully half of old Beverly Township became the new Edgewater Park Township. In 1958 this post office was closed and serviced by Beverly Post Office.

September 28, 1881  Post office opened  
March 31, 1958  Post office discontinued; service to Beverly

Fig. No. 32: Edgewater Park, N. J. hexagonal postmark dated Mar. 10, 1883.

Fig. No. 33: Residence and greenhouses of Robt. Atkinson, circa 1876.
ESTLOW POST OFFICE ~ Established September 11, 1856

Deep in old Washington Township, along the Wading River, there was a village long known as Bridgeport. In 1856, John McKeen applied for a post office at this place. Bridgeport was the name of an office in Gloucester County at this time, and could not be used. Postmasters’ names were also discouraged. McKeen chose Estlow, an old family name in these parts. Postal authorities were not aware of this, and the name was accepted. Undoubtedly, McKeen was either related to or indebted to the Estlow family.

The office was located some six miles northwest of New Gretna and seven miles northeasterly from Lower Bank. No mention is made of the population here in 1856, but not more than ten families called it home.

This office operated only fifteen months, but would re-open in 1858 as Wading River Post Office with John McKeen’s wife, Catherine, as postmaster.

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<tr>
<td>December 22, 1857</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
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EVESBORO POST OFFICE ~ Established December 5, 1889

A tiny hamlet situated in Evesham Township, Evesboro was called at different times Bodines and Greentree (after local taverns). The surrounding area was completely agricultural. It was located two and one-half miles southeast of Fellowship and one and one-half miles to the north of Marlton.

Although settled well before the Revolutionary War, the population at the opening of this office in 1889 was listed as 100, although this was probably exaggerated in the postmaster’s application. Not a single original dwelling is left standing today to mark the existence of Evesboro.

<table>
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<td>December 5, 1889</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18, 1898</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Marlton</td>
</tr>
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EVESHAM POST OFFICE ~ Established April 1, 1808

Evesham was settled about 1701 by members of the Society of Friends. The town was laid out by 1800, but was slow to grow. Known as Rising Sun and later Swains (after local taverns), it would adopt the township’s name of Evesham in 1808. The Society of Friends completed a meetinghouse here in 1807 and referred to the place as Evesham Meeting. Evesham was sometimes mistaken as Evesboro, only one and one-half miles distant, which caused confusion with more than one historian.

The village was still referred to as Swains long after Evesham Post Office was established. It was not until 1845 that the town was renamed Marlton, and the post office followed suit. Agricultural marl\(^2\) was dug here for a century, thus the town’s new name, Marlton. Marlton lies six miles west of Medford and some five miles southeast from Moorestown. The population listed here in 1840 was 125 (approximately) and by the 1880 census it had risen to just 339.

It is interesting to note that as late as 1918, the road from Camden to Marlton, called Marlton Pike (Route 70), was described as an improved wagon road; likewise the road between Moorestown and Marlton (Church Road). An “improved” wagon road was periodically graded or covered with gravel or oyster shells in this rural section of Burlington County.

Fig. No. 34: Evesham, N. J. dated Jan. 13, 1845 on a folded letter on Aug. 6, 1845. This office’s name was changed to Marlton.

<table>
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<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6, 1845</td>
<td>Post office name changed to Marlton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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FELLOWSHIP POST OFFICE ~ Established January 13, 1849

This tiny hamlet was settled prior to 1800 by members of the Society of Friends and specifically by the Roberts Family. Fellowship Post Office, at its establishment, was a part of Evesham Township in 1849. Located close by the Pennsauken Creek, separating Camden and Burlington Counties, the village was approximately five and one-half miles west of Mount Laurel, and some three and one-half miles to the southeast of Maple Shade.

The WPA Guide to 1930’s New Jersey describes Fellowship as follows, “Pop. 150, originally a Quaker settlement, is a small village of a half dozen fine old farmhouses and a few more in dilapidated condition.” The village is, for the most part, gone. The area today is a mix of manufacturing and commercial businesses, with little time or interest in its beginnings as a quaint old rural village that ran headlong into an unforgiving modern culture.

Fig. No. 35: Fellowship, N. J., Mar. 18, 1882 strike on U. S. Government stamped envelope.

January 13, 1849  Post office opened
March 13, 1899  Post office discontinued; service to Ellisburg, Camden County.
FIELDSBORO POST OFFICE ~ Established February 3, 1880

Fieldsboro, once known as White Hill, is the smallest incorporated borough (1850) in Burlington County. It is 3/10 of a square mile in size, and has a current population of 650.

Settled by 1695, White Hill stood high above the Delaware River on the road between Burlington and Bordentown. The Camden and Amboy Railroad established a station here by 1836 and the village became known as White Hill Station. In 1850 it became Fieldsborough; named for the Fields Family, prominent citizens of the town.

Thomas Gordon⁴ notes that a ferry was in operation here in 1833, crossing the Delaware River. At its establishment in 1880, August Zeller, the proposed postmaster at Fieldsborough, listed a population of 600! The post office name was shortened to Fieldsboro in December of 1894.
February 3, 1880  Post office opened as Fieldsborough
December 1, 1894  Name changed to Fieldsboro
May 6, 1966  Post office discontinued; service to Bordentown

Florence Post Office ~ Established April 6, 1854

Laid out in 1849, Florence became another of Burlington County’s handsome river towns. A very small hamlet existed here prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1834. Florence fronts the Delaware River, and stands some two miles west of Roebling and four and one-half miles easterly from Burlington City.

At its establishment, Florence Post Office was located within Mansfield Township. Prior to being named Florence, the village was known as High Banks.

J.D. Scott, in his 1876 Burlington County atlas, states [Florence] “stands well up from the water, and has a very pleasant appearance on the river side.” This can still be stated today, as Florence has retained this identity, these many years later.

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Fig. No. 38: A 1938 cover with 1½¢ postage, Fieldsboro, N. J.

FLORENCE POST OFFICE ~ Established April 6, 1854
Fig. No. 39: An early advertising cover, posted from Florence, N. J. in the 1880s.

Fig. No. 40: Trall’s Hygeian Home & Hygeio Therapeutic College, circa 1876 at Florence, N. J.
April 6, 1854 Post office opened
Continues in service today

FORT DIX POST OFFICE ~ Branch of Trenton Post Office (1917-1923, 1941 to present) Branch of Wrightstown Post Office (1935-41)

In 1917, as thousands of inductees entered Camp Dix, it became necessary to establish a postal facility to accommodate them. World War I was raging in Europe and Americans answered the call to arms in unprecedented numbers, not seen since the Civil War.

Camp Dix opened its postal facility as a branch of Trenton Post Office. The original post office designation was “Military (Station Trenton)” from July 9, 1917 until August 15, 1917. The office was then named “Dix (Station Trenton)” August 15, 1917 to October 1, 1923. The camp was used to train troops for overseas service during World War I. After the Armistice, the base was a demobilization center and later trained members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, during the 1930s.

The post office here was reopened on November 15, 1935 as Camp Dix (Branch of Wrightstown). Designated by the Pentagon as a Fort in 1939, it became Fort Dix (Branch of Wrightstown) on March 16, 1939.
Fort Dix again became a principal military training facility on the east coast as the war clouds began gathering in Europe and the Pacific. On May 4, 1941, the postal facility reopened as a Branch of Trenton Post Office. The number of trainees far exceeded that of 1917-18. This time, the postal facility lasted until January 25, 1948. On June 1, 1950 the office was reopened with the Korean Conflict imminent. It remains open today to accommodate trainees and permanent military personnel and civilian employees.

The Fort Dix Military Reservation reaches across Burlington County and over into Ocean County. It covers over 3,200 acres and spreads across parts of five townships. The base has absorbed many small hamlets and villages since 1917. Conversely, the facility has greatly added to the economy of the county through jobs and commerce.

Fort Dix was named for General John A. Dix, Union General-Civil War, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 9, 1917</td>
<td>Military (Station Trenton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15, 1917</td>
<td>Dix (Station Trenton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 1923.</td>
<td>Discontinued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 1935</td>
<td>Reopened as Camp Dix (Branch of Wrightstown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16, 1939</td>
<td>Fort Dix (Branch of Wrightstown) changed to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 1941</td>
<td>Branch of Trenton Post Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 1948</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 1950</td>
<td>Reopened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continues in service today.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. No. 42: A June 5, 1918 YMCA envelope postmarked Trenton, N. J., Dix Branch.
Fig. No. 43: A scene from 1918 at Camp Dix.

Fig. No. 44: Camp Dix, N. J. on a postcard dated July 22, 1938

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This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.
ENDNOTES:

1  Note that Kay & Smith [Kay, John L. & Smith, Chester M., Jr., *New Jersey Postal History*, Quaterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, MA, 1977] show this date as 1839. National Archives in Washington show this to be incorrect.

2  A type of soil which contains clay and calcium carbonate, used as a fertilizer. In the sandy soils of Burlington, clay helped to retain water.


6  Also called Camp Dix Post Office; Dix Post Office; Base Hospital and Military.
FRUITLAND POST OFFICE ~ Established June 4, 1866

Real estate speculators were not new to Burlington County when, in 1865, a large portion of land at Atsion was purchased for just such a venture.

Relatively worthless land could be bought for just a few dollars an acre then. A prospectus promising a veritable paradise, with plans drawn for streets, lots, public buildings, and such was offered to gullible buyers. Behold, Fruitland: the very name promises agricultural prosperity with unlimited possibilities at reasonable prices. The truth is that many of these ventures were frequently a lot less than advertised.

The real estate men managed to procure a post office here to add legitimacy to their vision of utopia. This facility replaced Atsion Post Office, Burlington County’s first, opened in 1797.

Fruitland, as did all the other real estate scams in this part of the county, failed to materialize. By 1871 the speculators vacated the area, and the post office, once again, became Atsion.

June 4, 1866  Formerly Atsion, name changed to Fruitland
August 21, 1871  Post office name changed back to Atsion

GEORGETOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established July 12, 1847

Georgetown is located in the far northeastern corner of Mansfield Township. The town predates the American Revolution, and was known at one time as Fooltown. Who or what caused the village to be known by this undignified appellation is buried in forgotten lore.

Traditional history tells us the town and its post office was named for George Sykes, United States Congressional member from this district, 1843-1848. However, Gordon’s Gazetteer of 1834’ describes: “Georgetown, hamlet of Mansfield T-ship, Burlington Co., near the N.E. boundary line, 6 miles S.E. from Bordentown and 9 N.E. from Mount Holly.”

The post office here served this rural community for 73 years until it was closed in 1920. The legend of George Sykes’ involvement in its naming is probably not true, but it seems to be forever connected to the town and its history; no matter, I’m sure residents preferred it over the ignoble “Fooltown.”

July 12, 1847  Post office opened
July 15, 1903  Post office discontinued; service to Columbus
September 14, 1903  Post office reopened (Discontinuance Order rescinded)
May 31, 1920  Post office discontinued; service to Columbus
GREEN BANK POST OFFICE ~ Established May 8, 1840

Green Bank was settled very early in New Jersey’s history by Swedes, who followed Eric Mullica here from their Delaware River settlements, in or about 1697. Upper Bank was the hamlet’s early name. The town itself lies along the Mullica River surrounded by the cedar and pine forests that run on endlessly in this portion of Washington Township. Six miles to the north, on the old stage road, was Sooy’s Inn and nine miles southeasterly on the same road brought you to Bass River Hotel.

The population of Green Bank in 1840 was not more than 150, counting those who lived in the vicinity. Most of the people living here made a living in agriculture, fishing or supplying timber and other forest products. A glass works operated here from 1850 until about 1856, owned by William Sooy.

Green Bank today is a blue collar town, where many still earn their living from the Mullica River and Great Bay beyond.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 1840</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 1841</td>
<td>Post office changed to Sooy’s Inn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25, 1850</td>
<td>Post office reestablished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28, 1856</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 1862</td>
<td>Post office reestablished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 1954</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Egg Harbor City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HAINESPORT POST OFFICE ~ Established February 2, 1853

Hainesport, as its name implies, was a port town on the Rancocas Creek, located on the south branch, near the fork of the north and south branches. The town was the head of steamboat navigation on the creek and, as such, shipped the agricultural and timber products produced in much of this area of Burlington County to Philadelphia and beyond.

At its establishment, Hainesport Post Office was part of Medford Township. Some four miles northwest from Lumberton, it is three miles west of Mount Holly. Named for early settlers here, the Haines family, the town has been known at different times as Long Bridge and Herrings Hall. In 1853, it was stated, there were sixty families living in Hainesport. By 1880, the population was estimated as “near 400.”

Today, Hainesport is a large and modern township. However, some of the fine old dwellings and houses of worship still retain their Nineteenth Century look.

Fig. No. 46: An 1896 U. S. Government stamped envelope from Hainesport, N. J.

February 2, 1853 Post office opened
December 24, 1856 Post office discontinued
March 22, 1862 Post office re-established
November 8, 1871 Post office discontinued
December 28, 1876 Post office re-established
June 30, 1919 Post office discontinued; service to Mount Holly
October 25, 1919 Post office re-established
Continues in service today

~ ☹ ☹ ☹ ~
HANOVER FARMS POST OFFICE ~ Established November 1, 1911

Hanover Farms Post Office was a short-lived facility located on the old N.J. Southern Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Hanover Station in Pemberton Township. The villages nearest to Hanover Station were Mount Misery, one mile southwest, and Whitesbog, some two miles to the northeast.

It was proposed by this office to service the seasonal village of Whitesbog and those in the vicinity of the railroad station, approximately 140 persons. It is probable the post office was in the station house, or mail was simply left in a lock box located there.

This place has been called, at different times, Upton Station and Gravel Switch. Most of the land in this vicinity was owned by a wealthy Bostonian, George B. Upton. His holdings comprised over 25,000 acres spread over two townships. Like many other speculators in this area known as the Pine Barrens, Mr. Upton realized little or nothing from his investment.

Hanover Farms Post Office lasted a little over seven months ~ once again, an optimism tempered by the reality of this harsh and unforgiving wilderness.

November 1, 1911 Post office opened
June 15, 1912 Post office discontinued

HANOVER MILLS POST OFFICE ~ Established April 20, 1871

In 1871, Edward Carpenter owned 2,800 acres of land in Pemberton Township, including the site of old Hanover Furnace, an iron-producing forge, long past its productive days.

At the time of application for this office, it was proposed to leave mail at Hanover Station on the New Jersey Southern Railroad, some three miles to the south. The village, known as Hanover, lay on the north branch of Rancocas Creek, about five miles southeast of Pointville Post Office, and some four miles east-northeast from the New Lisbon Post Office.

Mr. Carpenter claimed about 250 people would use this new facility in Hanover Mills. Whatever the reality of this claim may be, it is recorded that only six occupied dwellings existed here by 1880.

April 20, 1871 Post office opened
October 23, 1874 Post office discontinued
HARRISIA POST OFFICE ~ Established August 10, 1889

Harrisia Post Office was part of Bass River Township in 1889. Originally this place was known as Harrisville. A post office was located here from 1856-1862 known by that name.

Located on the Wading River, Harrisia was four miles distant from the Wading River Post Office to the northeast.

The population of Harrisia was professed to be 75 in 1889 with another 125 living in the vicinity. A paper mill, established here about 1832, was in operation until about 1880. The product was manufactured using salt hay, which abounds in the area. A coarse brown paper was made, which was used by industry as wrapping and packaging material.

By 1925, there was little left of Harrisia except a few foundation walls, the remains of the old paper mill, and the boundless salt hay along the Wading River.

August 10, 1889 Post office opened
April 3, 1895 Post office discontinued; service to Rollestone

Fig. No. 46a: Early Twentieth Century along the Wading River, farming for salt hay.
HARRISVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established March 24, 1856

Near or about 1785 this place was known as the Wading River Forge and Slitting Mill. Pig iron for nearby iron furnaces, such as Speedwell, Batsto and Martha Furnace, was shipped here and made into fire backs, andirons, pots and other end user products. This industry was replaced, circa 1832, by a large paper mill owned by William McCarty. The village surrounding the mill was known for many years as McCartysville.

The post office was opened here in 1856. Harrisville was in old Washington Township, on the east side of the Wading River, some five miles northwest of Green Bank. The village was off the main postal route some four miles, but was granted the office, nonetheless. It lasted only six years. Another short-lived post office, Harrisia, was reestablished here in 1889 (which see), and endured only another six years.

Today, little is left to indicate the location of this once thriving manufacturing town. It became part of the vast Wharton State Forest. The cycle was completed; from wilderness to iron forge, to paper manufacturing, thence back to the very wilderness that had won out over man’s feeble efforts to tame it.

March 24, 1856 Post office opened
February 5, 1862 Post office discontinued

HARTFORD POST OFFICE ~ Established January 24, 1868

Hartford, in 1868, was a small village and a station of the Camden and Burlington Railroad, located in old Evesham Township. It was situated three miles east of Moorestown and approximately five miles west from Mount Holly on the Marne Turnpike.

Little has changed in Hartford to this day. The village now belongs to Mount Laurel Township, near the few farms remaining in that portion of the township. However, tiny Hartford has maintained its identity as one of Burlington County’s last picturesque hamlets.

The population of Hartford listed in 1867 by William M. Duvall was 101. Mr. Duvall, local storekeeper and Hartford’s first postmaster, stated that the village had been called Hartford as early as 1840. He also claimed 73 families residing within two miles of the village.

January 24, 1868 Post office opened
April 30, 1954 Post office discontinued: service to Moorestown
INDIAN MILLS POST OFFICE ~ Established August 2, 1861

Indian Mills was the site of the first Native American Reservation established in colonial North America. In 1758 the Lenape Indian Nation was granted a home here. The reservation was first called Brotherton and was later known as Edgepillock. By 1801, the vast majority of Indians living here had migrated to land in New York State, leaving the small village we now know as Indian Mills behind them. A post office was established here in 1849, called Shamong. This office was discontinued January 22, 1856.

Located along Springer’s Creek, Indian Mills lies some four miles northwest of Atsion and five miles southeast from Medford.

Edward Thompson, Indian Mills’ second postmaster, in his application to re-open the post office, stated that the population to be served by this office was 400 persons. Not more than 50 persons lived in this vicinity in 1877.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2, 1861</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11, 1862</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7, 1877</td>
<td>Post office re-established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 1920</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Atsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 1986</td>
<td>Became station of Vincentown Post Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. No. 48: A manuscript Indian Mills, N. J. town marking posted in 1879.

Fig. No. 48a: A 1918 postal card from Indian Mills, N. J.

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JACKSONVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established June 12, 1829

Long known in old Springfield Township as Slabtown, Jacksonville was named for President Andrew Jackson about the time the post office was opened here. Jacksonville is a crossroads village, with roads leading to Smithville, Hedding, Columbus, Mount Holly, Burlington and Jobstown, all converging in tiny Jacksonville.

The “Pettycoat Bridge,” just outside town, and the nearby Company Meeting House were the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish between local militia and Hessian mercenaries. The battle, fought in 1777, was quite short-lived, but has remained a part of local lore. Some historians have labeled it “The Slabtown Incident.”

J.D. Scott tells us that in 1876 “Jacksonville is a small place of about twenty houses, including tavern, church, store, etc.” The population then was listed as 90 persons.

Fig. No. 49a: Residence near Jacksonville, circa 1876.

JUNE 12, 1829
Post office opened

JUNE 15, 1908
Post office discontinued; service to Burlington

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JACOBSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established May 31, 1824

The year a post office was established here, Jacobstown was located in New Hanover Township. The village was located in the northeastern part of New Hanover, very near the Ocean County border. Situated off the Monmouth Road, Jacobstown is four miles southeast from Chesterfield and some two miles north of Cookstown.

In 1834, Gordon’s Gazetteer² records “Two taverns, a store and some twelve or fifteen dwellings.” By 1880, the population listed approximately 200 persons. Today the village is part of North Hanover Township in the rural northern section of Burlington County.

Fig. No. 50: Jacobstown N. J. cover posted April 23, 1859.

Fig. No. 51: An advertising cover franked with a 2 cent Columbian Issue stamp at Jacobstown, N.J.

May 31, 1824  Post office opened
April 30, 1927  Post office discontinued; service to Wrightstown

~ ~ ~
JENKINS POST OFFICE — Established October 18, 1893

Far down in Washington Township, in the heart of Burlington County’s vast Pine Barrens, there stand a few houses and the Mission in the Pines Church. The village, called Jenkins Neck in 1893, applied to have a post office, which was granted but shortened to Jenkins by Washington officials.

Jenkins is located on the Chatsworth Road, below Pineworth, Hog Wallow and Speedwell, in that order. It lies some eight and one-half miles northwest of Green Bank, about one and one-half miles east of the Wading River.

Beck tells us in Jersey Genesis,\(^3\) that Jenkins Neck was named for Isaac Jenkins, an operator of the Tuckerton to Philadelphia Stage early in the Nineteenth Century. Mrs. Maggie Holloway, in her application for a post office, informed the Washington authorities, that the village numbered 50 souls; this was more likely 20 persons, and perhaps 30 more within five miles!

\(\text{Fig. No. 52: Jenkins, N. J. dated Oct. 29, 1906, on a postcard to Minotola, N. J., rerouted twice!}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 18, 1893</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14, 1906</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Wading River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7, 1906</td>
<td>Post office re-established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30, 1932</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Green Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ ☑️ ☑️ ☑️ ~
JOBSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established March 15, 1817

Jobstown was once known as Lippincott’s and is noted on some maps as Lippincott’s Inn. The Inn was owned prior to 1800 by Job Lippincott, the village’s namesake. Located on the Old Monmouth Road, some 5½ miles northeast of Mount Holly, Jobstown is surrounded by New Jersey’s finest stock farms. Many of the finest thoroughbreds and trotters in the world are bred here.

The Lorillard family, of tobacco fame, owned vast tracts of land in the area by 1875. Their stock farm was, at one time, the largest in the United States. Today the Dancer family is most prominent in the area at this endeavor.

Back in 1834, Gordon⁴ lists at Jobstown, a tavern, a store and eight or ten dwellings. The population was not more than fifty persons. The post office here is still open for business.

Fig. No. 53: Jobstown, N. J. July 2, 1832 folded letter with six cents rate to Trenton, N.J.

Fig. No. 54: March 29, 1859 Jobstown, N.J. marking on cover tying an 1857 Issue three cent stamp.

March 15, 1817 Post office opened
Continues in service today
JULIUSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established March 9, 1812

Juliustown is part of Springfield Township, and lies in the southeastern portion, just outside of the Fort Dix Reservation. The town is five and one-half miles distant from Mount Holly, which is due east. Named for an early landowner, Julius Evans, the area was settled in 1693. The town was originally known as Houghton.

By 1834, the village boasted one tavern, two stores and thirty dwellings. In 1880, the population was recorded as 295 persons. Juliustown was a station on the old Delaware and Atlantic Railroad, later known as the Columbus and Springfield line. The post office exists to this day.

Fig. No. 55: Julius Town Feb. 17, in manuscript, with a free marking on an 1844 folded letter to George Sykes, Member, U. S. House of Representatives.

March 9, 1812 Post office opened
Continues in service today

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This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.

ENDNOTES:

2 Ibid.
4 Gordon, ob cit..
KINKORA POST OFFICE ~ Established February 10, 1873

Far up in the northeastern portion of Burlington County, opposite Newbold Island on the Delaware River, is a stretch along U.S. Route 130 called Kinkora. Burlington County Historian, Henry Bisbee, explains this unusual name is “a corruption of the Indian word, Quinkoringh, a name associated with the area.”

The village was situated on the old Camden and Amboy Railroad, at the terminus of the now defunct Columbus, Kinkora and Springfield Railroad. The closest towns were Dobbins, two miles southwest, and Fieldsboro, one and one-half miles easterly. Industry here was comprised of a pipe tile manufactory established in 1860, and several large commercial icehouses that operated from the 1870’s until the turn of the century. In 1873, approximately 200 persons lived here, far more than today.

February 10, 1873
Post office opened
November 15, 1906
Post office discontinued; service to Dobbins

~ ~ ~

LEBANON GLASS WORKS POST OFFICE ~ Established November 19, 1862

In or about 1851, Thomas Richards started a glass manufactory at this place. Located in old Pemberton Township, it is now a part of Woodland Township. By 1866, the loss of timber for fuel on the tracts owned by Richards forced abandonment of the enterprise.
Situated near the old Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad, Lebanon Glass Works was some six miles northeast of Shamong (now Chatsworth) and three miles southeast from Woodmansie. Phineas Jenkins, the first postmaster, claimed a village population of 600 in 1862. This claim was probably close to accurate considering the labor-intense nature of the glass manufactory of that era.

The proposal to the postal authorities for consideration stated, “the mail to be left at a delivery box at the Lebanon Station on the Railroad.” The mail would then be picked up by Jenkins, and taken the three miles back to the Glass Works. This apparently was agreeable, and the post office was opened in 1862, the same month as the application.

As stated earlier, the Glass Works closed in 1866. The post office was discontinued the following year. Little or no trace of Lebanon Glass Works can be found today; another of Burlington County’s lost and forgotten towns reclaimed by the vast pine forest that once enabled its existence.

November 19, 1862 Post office opened
February 21, 1867 Post office discontinued

LEVITTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established October 2, 1961

In the late 1950’s, old Willingboro Township in the north central part of Burlington County experienced a phenomenal building growth. The Levitt family bought large tracts of land here, and proceeded to replicate their very successful planned communities, already completed in New York State and Pennsylvania.

This quiet, largely rural township was rapidly transformed into a huge community of homes and schools, shopping malls, etc., in a relatively short period of time. The need for a local post office was evident. Old Willingboro had never had its own post office and for years had its mail serviced from Rancocas Post Office.

On March 20, 1958, a branch office of Burlington Post Office was opened here called Levittown. On November 3, 1959, the old Willingboro Township became Levittown Township. This new Levittown joined the others in New York and Pennsylvania, and quickly, the confusion became apparent to all. On November 12, 1963 the township reverted back to Willingboro, the name used by this township since 1688.

On February 1, 1964, the first Willingboro Post Office was established, ending the short-lived “Levittown”; thus replacing a commercial name with the original colonial name.

March 20, 1958 Post office opened as branch of Burlington P.O.
October 2, 1961 Post office opened as Levittown
February 1, 1964 Became Willingboro Post Office

~ ☀ ☀ ☀ ~
LEWISTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established February 29, 1872

Lewistown Post Office, at the time of establishment, was located in New Hanover Township. It was situated on the south side of the Columbus, Kinkora and Springfield Railroad, about three miles southwest of Wrightstown.

A largely rural community, Lewistown boasted fifty families in 1872 and some three hundred families residing within two miles. Today, the village of Lewistown is no more. The entire area is now part of the vast Fort Dix Military Reservation.

- February 29, 1872: Post office opened
- July 31, 1915: Post office discontinued; service to Pemberton

LONG BEACH POST OFFICE ~ Established June 28, 1861

Long Beach Island lies off New Jersey’s coast, and is part of Ocean County. Prior to 1891, Little Egg Harbor Township was located in Burlington County, as its eastern boundary extended to Long Beach Island, claiming the very southern tip. (See Section A on the map on page 100; this section is actually located on the eastern edge of Burlington County, and became a part of Ocean County in 1891.) By 1851, a hotel and resort, of sorts, was established on the island. Many summer visitors frequented this oceanside hostelry and this prompted the owner, Thomas Bond, in 1861, to apply to Washington for a post office to accommodate his seasonal guests.

Long Beach House, Thomas Bond’s hotel, saw business decline during the Civil War, and in 1863 the post office was closed. By 1874, it was re-opened to accommodate the needs of the post-war boom of this popular resort. Mail was carried across the bay at first from Atlantic City and later from Tuckerton. It is noteworthy that Thomas Bond is considered the father of the life-saving service along the New Jersey coast. He organized and funded one of the first efforts to rescue and aid shipwreck victims along this treacherous stretch of the Atlantic Coast. Bond, in his application to re-open the post office here in 1874, when asked the population of this place, wrote, “A watering place with many visitors, good boating, fishing and bathing.” The application was approved.

- June 28, 1861: Post office opened
- April 20, 1863: Post office discontinued
- July 6, 1874: Post office re-established
- August 29, 1882: Post office discontinued; service to Beach Haven, Ocean County
LOWER BANK POST OFFICE ~ Established September 19, 1854

Lower Bank is located along the Lower Mullica River in Washington Township. It lies two miles southeast of Green Bank and some four and one-half miles to the west of New Gretna. It is the oldest settlement in the township.

Eric Mullica, the Swedish explorer and early landowner in this portion of Burlington County, settled in Lower Bank in 1645. Mullica lent his name to the river and died in 1723, after attaining the age of 100, in Gloucester County, near the town of Mullica Hill. In 1840, the population of Washington Township was counted as 1,630. Lower Bank’s citizens numbered about 150. By 1854, Samuel Weeks, Lower Bank’s first postmaster, reported a population of 200. Between 1870 and 1893, Lower Bank was a part of the short-lived Randolph Township.

The mail route from Philadelphia to Tuckerton, in 1854, made its run three times a week. Lower Bank was off this route, approximately one mile. The application for a post office here exaggerated the population (so as to gain approval) so much, that William Sooy, postmaster at Green Bank, noted as much when he certified the application paper. The office was approved, notwithstanding. It was in operation just fifty days shy of 100 years.

Fig. No. 57: Lower Bank, N.J., April 27, 1880 postmark, on a cover addressed to the postmaster at Green Bank, N.J.

- September 19, 1854: Post office opened
- July 31, 1954: Post office discontinued; service to Egg Harbor City
LUMBERTON POST OFFICE ~ Established August 3, 1848

In 1848, when Lumberton’s post office was opened, this area was a part of Northampton Township. Lumberton Township was not formed until 1860. At one time half the village was located in Northampton Township and half in Evesham Township, with the Rancocas Creek being the dividing line.

Lumberton lies along the south branch of the Rancocas Creek, some two and one-half miles south of Mount Holly and approximately four miles northeast of Vincentown. Settled about 1685, Lumberton was slow to grow and counted just eleven houses and a meetinghouse in 1795. In 1834, Gordon’s Gazetteer counts “two stores, 2 taverns, a steel furnace and from twenty-five to thirty dwellings.” The commerce in lumber here undoubtedly influenced the naming of the village. The Rancocas provided the means of transportation, along with the arrival of the railroad. By 1848, the population of Lumberton was more than 250.

Modern day Lumberton has retained its distinct identity, with many fine older homes and buildings reminiscent of an earlier, less hectic era. The Burlington County Farm Fair is still held here, the Rancocas still flows and the post office is still open!

Fig. No. 58: Mineral Spring Hotel shown in 1876.
August 3, 1848
Post office opened
Continues in service today.
MAPLE POST OFFICE ~ Established June 12, 1891

In 1891, the village of Fairview, located two miles below Medford, applied to Washington, D.C. for a post office. Anna J. Kelley, in her application, chose the name Fairview, but was asked to select another. Fairview Post Office, in Bergen County, had been in existence since 1869. Before 1859, Fairview was known as Cross Keys, another post office name being used, in Gloucester County.

Maple Post Office was opened at Fairview June 12, 1891. How or why this name was selected has never been revealed in postal records, nor did Anna Kelley give us any clues as to her choice of names. The application for the postal facility claimed a population of 150, with a total of 400 persons living nearby to be serviced. Not more than twenty dwellings and one store existed here in 1891.

Fairview is still located in Medford Township on the Stokes Road connecting Medford with Medford Lakes.

June 12, 1891         Post office opened
December 24, 1894     Post office discontinued; service to Medford

MAPLE SHADE POST OFFICE ~ Established April 28, 1887

Maple Shade Post Office was established in old Chester Township, some two miles west of Moorestown on the Camden Road.

The Pennsauken Creek marks Maple Shade’s western boundary, beyond which you enter Camden County. Maple Shade was incorporated as a township November 6, 1945, absorbing what was left of old Chester Township. The town of Maple Shade occupies the entire township. The name once given this area was Stiles Corner, possibly for the Stiles Family, prominent landowners here.

Located on the Camden and Burlington County Railroad in 1887, the area was thickly settled, and considered an industrial town, with many manufacturing businesses. The population was listed, that year, as about 600 by William J. Broadwater, first postmaster.
Fig. 61: Mapleshade [one word], N.J. postmark on a U.S. stamped envelope, dated Mar. 9, 1899. Between 1895 and 1904, the post office name was written as one word.

Fig. No. 61A: Maple Shade [two words], N.J. July 20, 1920 with a Special Delivery stamp, mailed to Seaside Park, N.J. on a U. S. stamped envelope, dated Mar. 9, 1899.

April 28, 1887
October 31, 1904
March 17, 1905
Continues in service today.

Post office opened
Post office discontinued; service to Moorestown
Post office re-established

~ ☀ ☀ ☀ ~
MARLTON POST OFFICE ~ Established August 6, 1845

The town of Marlton dates back to early settlement prior to 1800. There was a tavern here by 1787 and a Friends Meeting House was erected in 1807. Marlton was called by different names, at first Rising Sun, and later Swain’s after the different names given the tavern located in town. By 1808 the place was known as Evesham Post Office

Samuel Swain, owner of the Marlton Inn Tavern which was established in 1814, had campaigned to have the town and post office name changed to Marlton for many years. The discovery of agricultural marl deposits in the area gave the impetus to name the tavern and ultimately lent its name to the village and post office. In 1845, Swain succeeded in having the post office and the town’s name changed to Marlton. The population in 1845 was about 250.

Marlton Post Office established in Evesham Township is some five miles west of Medford and four and one-half miles from Fellowship, to the southeast.

August 6, 1845
Post office opened
Continues in service today.

Fig. No. 62: This folded letter was posted in Marlton N.J., Jan. 29, 1850.
MASONVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established June 24, 1868

Masonville Post Office was established in old Evesham Township in 1868. It became part of Mount Laurel Township after 1872. Named for Solomon Mason, an early tavern owner here, the village had previously been known as Five Points and was settled prior to 1800.
The town was located on the line of the Camden and Burlington County Railroad, about five miles west from Moorestown and three miles south of Rancocas. William H. Woolman, the first postmaster, stated on his 1867 application to Washington for a post office, that there was “a population of 150.” The pre-printed form required a date of filing, which Woolman entered as “twenty sixth, 10 mo, 1867.” Mr. Woolman wrote the date this way because he was a member of the Society of Friends, or Quakers.

June 24, 1868 Post office opened
August 19, 1972 Post office name changed to Mount Laurel

This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.

ENDNOTES:


Gene Fricks, Editor Emeritus, writes in reference to the Fort Dix Post Office ("Burlington County Post Towns," p. 221 in Nov, 2005 issue, Vol. 33, No. 4, Whole No. 160): The Pentagon didn’t designate anything in 1939. Construction of the Pentagon was not completed until 1943, and a Certificate of Occupancy was not issued, as a military hospital, until 1944. The War Department designated Dix a fort, along with a large group of other military installations, in 1939.”

We stand corrected! Thanks for sharp eyes. Ed.
McGUIRE A.F.B. POST OFFICE ~ Established December 8, 1958

In 1937 the United States Army Air Corps established a base of operation, designated Rudd Field, alongside the Camp Dix military reservation, located partially in Burlington County and extending into Ocean County.

At the end of World War II, the air base was renamed McGuire Air Force Base, in honor of Major Thomas B. McGuire of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Major McGuire, an air ace in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, was killed in action January 7, 1945. For his extraordinary heroism, he was awarded posthumously the Congressional Medal of Honor.

McGuire A.F.B. is bordered by Fort Dix, Wrightstown, North Hanover and New Hanover Townships. It comprises some 3,598 acres, and is home today to three units of the United States Air Force.

Prior to and during World War II, mail service was available to McGuire A.F.B. at Fort Dix and Wrightstown. The base was closed following the war, but was re-activated in 1949. The rapid growth of McGuire during this period of time prompted postal authorities to create a branch office of the Trenton Post Office here in 1958.

Today, McGuire A.F.B. supports more than 10,000 military personnel and approximately 1,600 civilian employees.

December 8, 1958 Post office opened as a branch office of the Trenton P.O.
Continues in service today.

MEDFORD POST OFFICE ~ Established March 2, 1820

Medford Post Office at establishment was part of old Evesham Township. In 1847, Medford Township was established. Lying along the south branch of the Rancocas Creek, Medford is six miles distant from Marlton to the southeast and five miles southerly of Lumberton. Settled by members of the Society of Friends sometime prior to 1727, the village was called Upper Evesham, and by some reports, referred to as Belly Bridge. The name Medford is reputed to be taken from Medford, Massachusetts.

In 1820, Medford’s population was estimated at less than 100. By 1880 the census counted 890. Gordon’s Gazetteer¹ in 1834 tells us there was “a large Quaker Meeting House, two taverns, four stores and from thirty to forty dwellings.” Today, Medford is a fine example of Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twentieth century architecture, blended together to create an attractive and affluent community, one of Burlington County’s finest.
Fig. 64: Medford. Lithograph done circa 1876.

Fig. 65A: Medford, N.J. Manuscript postmark with 5th Mo. 22nd, the Quaker mark for May, 22. This letter was posted in 1829.
March 2, 1820 Post office opened
Continues in service today
May 15, 1961 Medford Lakes Branch of Medford P.O. opened.

MOORESTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established September 18, 1800

Moorestown is a handsome residential community located on the old King’s Highway (Salem Road). Settled prior to 1700 by members of the Society of Friends, this place took on the semblance of a town after the establishment of a Friends Meeting House in that year. Prior to 1790 the town was referred to as Chestertown, Rodmantown or Chester Meeting.

Thomas Moore operated a popular hotel here by 1790. The names Moorestown or Mooresfield gradually replaced the earlier names on maps of the era. Moorestown lies some three miles east of Maple Shade and two miles northwest of Fellowship.

The post office, when established in 1800, was a part of old Chester Township. Moorestown became a township March 11, 1922. Today, the community stands as one of Burlington County’s finest. The original Quaker influence of order and style is still obvious; as evidence of this, note the Meeting House, school and grounds seen as you enter the town from Chester Avenue.

The postmaster appointed on September 18, 1800 did not serve, and the office did not operate until the appointment of Isaac Wilkens, January 8, 1802.

Ramblewood, a branch of Moorestown Post Office, was opened June 1, 1973.
Fig. 66A: This cover was not put in the U.S. mail, but was carried privately by the Moorestown stage driver from Philadelphia.

Fig. 66B. Moorestown, from Scott’s 1876 County Atlas.
Fig. 67: A Rural Free Delivery marking from Moorestown, N.J., May 8, 1903.

Fig. 68: Moorestown, N.J. 1834 folded letter. 18¾ cents paid the postage to Brownsville, Pennsylvania.

September 18, 1800 Post office opened (did not actually operate until January 8, 1802)
Continues in service today
June 1, 1973 Ramblewood Branch of Moorestown P. O. opened.

~ ~ ~ ~
MOUNT HOLLY POST OFFICE ~ Established September 18, 1800

Mount Holly, the county seat of Burlington County, was settled by Quakers in or about 1681. By 1730, Mount Holly was home to at least two saw mills and an iron works, all erected along the Rancocas Creek.

After a countywide referendum in 1796, Mount Holly wrested the position of County seat from Burlington. Originally the town was called Bridgetown, Crips Hill or Crips Mount. The “Hill” or “Mount,” prominent here, was covered with American Holly trees. These prominent features held sway in the minds of most residents, and Mount Holly it became.

Mount Holly figured prominently in the American Revolution. British Troops were quartered here on several occasions. At least one skirmish between American and British Troops is recorded. Stephen Girard, the famous financier and merchant, lived here during the British occupation of Philadelphia.

Situated on the north branch of the Rancocas Creek, Mount Holly Post Office was established in Northampton Township. In 1931, what was left of Northampton became Mount Holly Township.

By 1834, there were approximately 230 dwellings here, many shops, taverns and manufacturing enterprises. The only other town to rival Mount Holly in Burlington County in this era was the City of Burlington.

Fig. 69: Mount Holly scene circa 1875.
Fig. 70: Mount Holly, N.J. letter of June 27, 1862 sent to Washington, D.C., Headquarters of the Army Of The Potomac.

Fig. 71: This 1837 letter was delivered to George Sykes, “Near Wrights Town.”

September 18, 1800
Post office opened
Continues in service today.
MOUNT LAUREL POST OFFICE ~ Established January 13, 1849

In 1849, when the post office was opened here, Mount Laurel was a part of Evesham Township. The village was formerly called Lower Evesham, Evan’s Mount and Mount Tray. The settlement was located along the Moorestown and Mount Laurel Road near the rise of “Mount Laurel,” listed as: elev. 174 feet. Settled about 1687 by members of the Society of Friends, Mount Laurel was home to some 25 families by 1849, along with a Friends Meeting House School, one store and a coach maker’s shop.

Fig. 72: Mount Laurel, N.J. “8 MO 24” or Aug. 24, (1854). A Quaker dated cover. The date was written by either Jacob or Hannah Roberts, the postmaster and his wife, both members of the Society of Friends.

Fig. 73: Postmarked, 11-2, Mount Laurel, N.J., this cover was mailed in 1867.

January 13, 1849          Post office opened
June 15, 1908            Post office discontinued; service to Moorestown
August 19, 1972         Masonville post office name changed to Mount Laurel
Continues in service today.

~ ~ ~ ~
MOUNT RELIEF POST OFFICE ~ Established June 27, 1892

No town or village called Mount Relief ever existed in Burlington County, except for the seven short months this post office name was given to Mount Misery. Located in the northeastern part of Woodland Township, Mount Misery, or what’s left of it, can still be found there. Back in 1892, when Charles Pittman petitioned successfully for a post office, he claimed a population of fifty. This was probably exaggerated, unless he counted the livestock as residents.

In 1834, Gordon¹ had listed, “A tavern, saw mill and four or five dwellings.” By the time of the Civil War, Mount Misery was part of the great Upton tract of land. It became the center of the charcoal-making industry and thrived for many years. Coal soon replaced charcoal as a preferred fuel, and Mount Misery’s success was soon displaced by failure. By 1885, the abandonment of the hamlet by all but a few families had taken place.

Perhaps, when Pittman applied for a post office, using the Mount Relief name, in lieu of Mount Misery, it was in the belief that the latter name would do little to promote the virtues of this once prosperous village. No agreement about the origin of Mount Misery’s name can be found with most historians. The most common explanation references the French “Misericorde,” a name given the place by the original landowner there, a French Huguenot named Peter Bard. “Misericorde” translates to “mercy.” However, it’s not difficult to imagine that Misericorde would become “misery” when Americans tried to pronounce it.

Relief failed, became Misery again, and today only the deer call it home!

June 27, 1892 Post office opened
January 26, 1893 Post office discontinued; service to New Lisbon

This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.

³ Gordon. Thomas, ob. cit.
NEW GRETNA POST OFFICE ~ Established August 6, 1850

New Gretna lies far down at the southern tip of present-day Burlington County. In 1850 the village was part of Little Egg Harbor Township. Some six miles west of Tuckerton, New Gretna stands along the western bank of the Bass River, approximately three miles from Great Bay on U.S. Route 9.

Formerly known as Harmony and Bass River Lower Bridge, New Gretna was the name used by Joseph B. Cramer in his application to Washington for a post office. The population to be served by the new office was listed as ninety families.

New Gretna eventually replaced the post office at Bass River Hotel, when the Tuckerton Stage Road was re-routed through here and then on to Wading River, bypassing the old hotel. (Politics, in old Burlington County).

Fig. 74: New Gretna, N.J., postmarked Aug. 14, 1868 on a letter addressed to Long Beach, N.J., via Atlantic City, c/o Mr. Bond. It was necessary to sail to Long Beach Island then. Thomas Bond operated Bond’s Beach House, an early resort hotel on the island.
August 6, 1850 Post office opened
Continues in service today ~ ~ ~

NEW LISBON POST OFFICE ~ Established February 10, 1834

Down along the edge of the great pine forests of Burlington County, at the southern terminus of the old Kinkora, Columbus and New Lisbon Railroad, sits the quiet village of New Lisbon. How the town adopted the Portuguese place name of Lisbon is lost in the passage of time. Earlier names of Lisbon Forge and Lisbon bespeak the same European influence.

Located on the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek at the fork created by the Shinn Branch tributary, the village is some three miles distant from Pemberton, southwesterly and four miles west of Brown’s Mills. At the establishment of its post office, New Lisbon was part of old Northampton Township.

The village was settled prior to the American Revolution, by most accounts. Tradition tells us about Continental Soldiers stopping at the Lisbon gristmill, in 1778. Upon re-establishment of the post office here in 1851, Eayre Oliphant, Jr. became postmaster. He remained so for fifty years and eleven months!
Fig. 76: New Lisbon, N.J. Mar. 16, 1869 manuscript postmark, tying an 1861 Issue 3 cent stamp to the envelope.

Fig. 76A: New Lisbon, N.J. cover postmarked Jan. 8, 1920.

February 10, 1834
Post office opened
April 8, 1836
Post office discontinued
February 26, 1851
Post office re-established
Continues in service today

~ ~ ~ ~
NEW MILLS POST OFFICE ~ Established September 18, 1800

This early post office was opened in old Northampton Township. The village was originally called Hampton-Hanover, because it was physically located partly in both Northampton and New Hanover Townships.

After 1752, the town was known as New Mills and remained so until 1826 when it was renamed Pemberton, after James Pemberton, a revered early landowner and officeholder. The town is situated on the north branch of the Rancocas Creek, between it and Budd’s Run, some six and one-half miles southeast from Mount Holly and four miles to the south of Juliustown.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 18, 1800</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10, 1827</td>
<td>Post office name changed to Pemberton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORIENTAL POST OFFICE ~ Established November 27, 1891

A more incongruous name for a village located in the New Jersey Pine Barrens cannot be found. The image of a far-eastern presence at once comes to mind. Little evidence for this impression will be found near the environs of Oriental, however. This place some three and one-half miles south of Tabernacle, on the old Tuckerton Stage Road, was long known as Thompson’s. A few dwellings and a store were all that stood to mark its location.

E. T. Thompson listed the population to be served by this post office as 125, in his application to Washington postal authorities. The post office name requested was Thompson, but this was crossed out and someone wrote in Orient. Postal authorities discouraged the use of landowner’s or postmaster’s names as part of a new office’s name, by this point in time. Oriental was the name finally granted. Why? We may never untangle this one.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>November 27, 1891</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15, 1900</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Medford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PAISLEY POST OFFICE ~ Established February 4, 1889

A hotel, known as White Horse Hotel, was located here prior to 1849. By 1889, the site was being called Sanitarium. A proposed venture, Pine Crest Sanitarium, was in the planning stages of construction. According to J. George Brooks, Paisley’s first postmaster, the population of this place was 25, with a population of 100 living nearby.
At the time of establishment, Paisley was located in Woodland Township, some five miles west of Shamong Post Office and six miles easterly from Tabernacle. The mail was to be left at Shamong Station on the New Jersey Southern Railroad and “Carried to Paisley at no expense to the Post Office Department.”

The proposed sanitarium was never built, due to its benefactor’s death. The land passed to other ownership, which promoted a real estate venture and renamed the place South Park in 1892. It failed, only to join many other ill-conceived land-speculation schemes in the not-so-friendly pine woods of Southern Burlington County.

February 4, 1889  Post office opened
February 16, 1892  Post office name changed to South Park

Fig. 76B: Map drawn by J. George Brooks, proposed postmaster for Paisley, N.J. Post Office, to show its location in 1889.
PALMYRA POST OFFICE ~ Established August 4, 1851

Palmyra Post Office was part of Chester Township when opened in 1851. The town itself is situated in the extreme northwestern part of Burlington County. Palmyra lies bounded by the Delaware River on the north side and the Pennsauken Creek to the southwest.

Early names for the town were Brimstone Neck and Texas. Located directly on the old Camden and Amboy Railroad, Palmyra was another of the towns that sprang up along the new railroad. It prospered along with the very successful rail line. In 1860 it became a part of Cinnaminson Township, and by 1880, the population here was listed as 600.

Fig. 77: Palmyra, N.J. postmark, in manuscript, on cover with an 1861 Issue U.S. stamp.

August 5, 1851 Post office opened
Continues in service today

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PARRY POST OFFICE ~ Established August 12, 1880

This post office, established in Cinnaminson Township, was located on the Old Burlington Turnpike (U.S. Route 130) along the eastern side of Pennsauken Creek. It was some one and one-half miles southwest from Palmyra. Some 600 persons were listed as living in the vicinity in 1880. This was probably exaggerated, unless the “vicinity” was stretched to include neighboring towns. Settled sparsely before 1795, this place was originally known as Parry Tavern, or Five Points. Later it was called North Pennsville, and was so designated on maps of the era.
Timothy Morton, in his application to Washington, D.C. for this office, proposed the name Pennsauken. This name was denied by the Post Office Department because of the existence of a larger settlement across the creek in Camden County with the same name. The name was changed to Parry to honor William Parry, New Jersey Assemblyman, Common Pleas Court Judge, and prominent nurseryman from this village.

Figure 78: Parry, N.J. advertising cover from 1894. Wm. Parry's Nurseries!

<table>
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<td>August 12, 1880</td>
<td>Post office opened</td>
</tr>
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<td>April 13, 1899</td>
<td>Post office discontinued; service to Palmyra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PEMBERTON POST OFFICE ~ Established March 10, 1827

Prior to 1827, this post office was known as New Mills. In 1826, the town was renamed Pemberton, after James Pemberton, early settler and prominent citizen, and the post office soon followed suite. Located on the north branch of the Rancocas Creek, Pemberton was formerly the terminus of the Columbus, Kinkora and Springfield Railroad.

Completely surrounded by Pemberton Township, Pemberton Borough lies within the western portion of its neighbor. When established as Pemberton Post Office, it was a part of old Northampton Township. Pemberton became a borough at establishment in 1826. Pemberton Township was not formed until 1846.
In 1834 Gordon listed “100 dwellings” here, and by 1880 the population was counted at 799. Pemberton today has retained its identity as a nineteenth century town. Many fine residences dating to the early portion of that era are in well-preserved condition. Pemberton has kept its character and dignity, despite the encroachment of modern sameness and mindless sprawl so often encountered today.

![Pemberton, N.J., folded letter, dated Feb. 27, 1846.](image1)

*Fig. 79: Pemberton, N.J., folded letter, dated Feb. 27, 1846.*

![1876 view of Pemberton, N J.](image2)

*Fig. 80: 1876 view of Pemberton, N J.*
March 10, 1827  
Post office opened  
Continues in service today  

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PINEWORTH POST OFFICE ~ Established February 23, 1912

Down below Chatsworth on the Green Bank and Chatsworth Road, in Washington Township there once stood the hamlet known as Pineworth. It lies between Hog Wallow and Speedwell, about half way.

Located on the postal route between Jenkins and Chatsworth, Pineworth was six and one-half miles south from Chatsworth and some three and one-half miles north of Jenkins Post Office.

The name, it has been said, was given this place by its early owners, brothers Jacob and George Worth. The town is gone and cranberries are grown in the vicinity. Little else is known about this pineland village. Solitude and silence greet the visitor in Pineworth today, if one is lucky enough to locate it.

February 23, 1912  
Post office opened  

October 14, 1916  
Post office discontinued; service to Chatsworth  

~ ~ ~
POINTVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established December 3, 1857

Deep in the western portion of the sprawling Fort Dix Military Reservation, a convergence of roads is noted on maps of today as Pointville. By 1834 a village long called Scrabbletown was established at this six-pointed meeting of rural roads.

Lying about four and one-half miles south of Wrightstown and some six miles to the northwest from Browns Mills, Scrabbletown would become Pointville by 1857. The intersecting roads led to Sykesville, Cookstown, Hanover Furnace, Browns Mills, Pemberton and Wrightstown.

The village counted “six or eight cottages and a tavern”, according to Gordon’s Gazetteer in 1834.1 By 1880 the population had risen to approximately 150 with two stores and a hotel. Upon establishment of Fort Dix, this small hamlet was absorbed by the military base and lost its identity by 1925. No part of the original town exists today except its cemetery.

December 3, 1857 Post office opened
May 29, 1925 Post office discontinued; service to Browns Mills
PROGRESS POST OFFICE ~ Established December 22, 1854

Progress was a small village established along the Rancocas Creek at its juncture with the Delaware River. The proximity of the Camden and Amboy Railroad helped this optimistically named hamlet obtain substantial success.

Originally known as Goattown, the name was changed to Progress in 1851. Located directly across the Rancocas Creek from Delanco, the two towns were not connected by a pedestrian bridge until 1866.

In 1867 the population voted to change their town’s name to Riverside. From only three families in 1846, the census in 1880 counted seven hundred and seventy-seven.

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Fig. 83: Progress, N.J., posted in 1860, on cover with an 1857 Issue 3 cent stamp.

December 22, 1854  
November 15, 1867

Post office opened  
Post office name changed to Riverside

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This history of Burlington Post Towns will continue in future NJPH issues.

ENDNOTES:

1 Gordon, Thomas F., Gazetteer and History of New Jersey, Philadelphia, PA: Daniel Fenton, 1834
RANCOCAS POST OFFICE ~Established May 1, 1838

This office, in the village of Rancocas, is about one mile north of the Rancocas Creek and is on the road between Beverly and Mount Holly. At its establishment it was part of Willingboro Township. In 1956, Rancocas joined Westhampton Township.

When originally opened, the post office here was named Ancocas. This name was listed in the postal records from January 2, 1834 until June 23, 1836 when the office was closed. Prior to 1832, the only buildings in Rancocas were the Quaker Meeting House and Schoolhouse, along with two dwellings. In 1832 the village experienced a building boom. New homes and a commercial building, owned by Andrew Hollinshead were started.

In 1834, Hollinshead was awarded the postmasters position. However, Ancocas Post Office was short-lived. Samuel Stokes, Jr., a member of the Society of Friends and the new postmaster, chose the name Rancocas over the old Indian pronunciation of “Ancocas.” The meeting here was always known as Rancocas Meeting and the popular opinion to keep it “Rancocas” prevailed.

Fig. 84: Rancocas, N.J., circa 1876.
May 1, 1838
Continues in service today

Post office opened

**Fig. 84a:** Residence and farm near Rancocas, circa 1876.

**Fig. 85:** Rancocas, N.J. cover from 1851 with the Quaker Date, “3 m 3” or March 3.
RECKLESSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established February 20, 1830

This town name was adopted, not for a particular trait, but to honor an early citizen of the village, Anthony Reckless. Recklesstown was settled, circa 1805 and was located approximately three and one-half miles northwest from Jacobstown and four miles to the southeast of Bordentown. Situated in the central part of Chesterfield Township, Recklesstown was listed in Gorden’s Gazetteer as a “post-town, with ten or twelve dwellings, a store and tavern” in 1834. By 1880 the population was counted as 150 persons.

In 1888, this village with the colorful name became Chesterfield, after the township. Well into the twentieth century, locals still referred to their village as Recklesstown. Another colorful town name was lost to the conservatives of the day.

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<td>April 12, 1860</td>
<td>Post office discontinued</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8, 1860</td>
<td>Order rescinded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 1860</td>
<td>Post office re-established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 1888</td>
<td>Post office name changed to Chesterfield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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RED LION POST OFFICE ~ Established September 25, 1877

This office was located originally in the southeastern part of Southampton Township, approximately four miles west of Medford and six miles northwest from Tabernacle. The tiny hamlet has lent its name to the nearby traffic circle where Routes 206 and 70 intersect. Red Lion Circle continues to confound motorists to this day. An early tavern, the Red Lion Inn, was located here as early as 1710. It was probably the origin of the town’s name.

The application to apply for a Post Office filed by Frank Allen in June of 1877, listed a population of 50. The claim of 200, in the vicinity to be serviced by this office, was probably exaggerated. Red Lion was written so poorly on this application, the officials in Washington, D.C. rewrote it as “Red Lyon.” The office operated with this name for nineteen days, until a correction was made to the proper Red Lion.

On August 17, 1977, Red Lion Post Office was re-established as a branch of Vincentown Post Office.

- September 7, 1877 Post office opened
- December 5, 1900 Post office discontinued - service to Medford
- August 17, 1977 Re-opened as a branch of Vincentown P.O.

RED OAK GROVE POST OFFICE ~ Established April 10, 1851

Red Oak Grove is physically located in Lacey Township, Ocean County, in that portion referred to as “the Forked River Mountains.” It is, and was, always west of the boundary between Burlington and Ocean Counties, previously Monmouth County. This boundary was laid out in 1687 to divide the east and west New Jersey proprietorships.

It is doubtful, indeed, impossible, this place was ever in Burlington County. In all probability, the Red Oak Post Office moved between Woodmansie, in Burlington County close by the county border and Red Oak Grove, site of the Union Clayworks, in Ocean County, not three miles distant.

“Woodward’s History” states that Christopher Estlow was “Woodmansie’s first post master.” He was, in fact, the postmaster at Red Oak Grove, Ocean County from 1858-1860. Richard Bartlet, property owner and storeowner in both communities, probably moved this office back and forth between the counties as the need arose to service the workers in both communities. Little is left of either hamlet today.

- April 10, 1851 Post office opened
- March 26, 1855 Removed to Ocean County

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RIVERSIDE POST OFFICE ~ Established November 15, 1867

Riverside, New Jersey is located on the Rancocas Creek at its confluence with the Delaware River. Situated directly across the creek from Delanco, the two villages were not connected by a pedestrian bridge until 1866. Named Progress, New Jersey originally, the post office established in 1854 bore this name until 1867 when the voters chose to change it.

Riverside is some one and one-half miles westerly from Bridgeboro, and north of Riverton, two and one-half miles. It was located directly on the old Amboy Division, Pennsylvania Railroad. Delran branch of Riverside Post Office was opened February 1, 1965.

Fig. 86: A view of Riverside, N.J. early in the Twentieth Century looking north past the railroad freight station toward the new Watch Case Building under construction.

Fig. 87: Riverside, N.J. postmark in octagonal border dated Jan. 10, 1880.
RIVERTON POST OFFICE ~ Established January 18, 1871

The small borough of Riverton lies along the Delaware River in the northwest corner of Burlington County. An early station of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, the village grew up around it. Riverton borders on Palmyra to the west and is approximately three and one-half miles north of Maple Shade.

Established in old Cinnaminson Township, Riverton is one excellent example of Burlington County’s better-preserved, Victorian era communities. Magnificent tree-lined streets and well-kept homes, with a river vista, provide an idyllic setting for this community.

Daniel S. Miller, selected by the citizens of Riverton, applied for the first post office here in 1871. He listed the population as “now 500 in summer and increasing,” indicating the many residents who maintained vacation homes in Riverton.
January 18, 1871
Post office opened
Continues in service today

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ROEBLING POST OFFICE ~ Established September 24, 1907

Roebling is located in the far northwestern corner of Burlington County, directly along the Delaware River.

The village itself was a planned community, laid out and solely owned by the John A. Roebling Sons and Co. until 1946. This unique arrangement was conceived by the Roebling family to create an idyllic community entirely for the employees of their cable and bridge building company.

Located one mile east of Florence and four and one-half miles southwest from Bordentown, the post office established here in 1907 is still in operation.

Fig. 90: A view of Main Street in Roebling, N.J. circa 1910.

Fig. 91: Roebling N.J. postmark on a postcard dated Dec. 1, 1910.
POST TOWNS OF BURLINGTON COUNTY: PART 9 ~ Jack Edge

September 24, 1907 Post office opened
Continues in service today

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ROLLESTONE POST OFFICE ~ Established July 10, 1894

Rollestone was a short-lived postal facility established in Bass River Township, three
quarters of a mile east of the Wading River, off the mail route between Wading River Post
Office and Harrisia Post Office.

It was located between the Beaver Run and Cranberry Creeks, one mile southeast from
Harrisia Post Office and approximately two miles north of New Gretna and one quarter mile to
the east of the main road to the latter.

John W. Greene, the first and only postmaster at this place, gave no information as to the
number of inhabitants living there. Little else is known of this obscure hamlet, except its
location. A map drawn by E.L. Brown, mail contractor for postal route #9249 accompanied the
location request form issued by Washington, D.C. Postal Department in June, 1894.

July 10, 1894 Post office opened
August 7, 1895 Post office discontinued; service to Wading River

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SHAMONG POST OFFICE ~ Established October 16, 1849

Shamong Post Office was another of Burlington County’s “two location” offices. It was
originally established at Indian Mills in old Washington Township in 1849. This section would
later become part of the newly created “Shamong Township” in 1852.

At the time of establishment, it became the only post office between Medford and
Sooy’s Inn in the western quarter of Burlington County.

Discontinued in 1856, the post office was re-established in 1863 at Shamong Station on
the New Jersey-Southern Railroad, some sixteen miles distant. This office would operate
another thirty years as Shamong Post Office until the town changed its name to Chatsworth.

The name Shamong had lent itself to the new township created out of old Washington
Township, but could not be found there after 1863, when the railroad moved it to their station
located at Chatsworth, Washington Township.

Shamong was the name given by the Indians to an ancient trail connecting what is now
Burlington and Cape May.
October 16, 1849                 Post office opened (at Indian Mills)
February 7, 1893              Post office name changed to Chatsworth

SMITHVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established December 7, 1866

Smithville Post Office was opened in 1866 and was a part of old Westampton Township. Located in the south central part of the township, some three miles east of Mount Holly, Smithville was an early mill town along the north branch of the Rancocas Creek.

In 1880, this location became part of the newly created Eastampton Township. Earlier, this place was known as Parker’s Mills, French’s Mills, Shreveville and Shreveport. A number of different owners and enterprises have lent their names to this modest village.

H. B. Smith, a somewhat eccentric New Englander, located his woodworking machinery factory here about 1865. The community thrived. His success as a businessman brought prosperity to the area along with several innovative inventions, one of which was quite unique: the construction of the world’s only bicycle railway, connecting Smithville with Mount Holly.

In 1866, the year of application for Smithville’s Post Office, Robert S. Kille stated the population here as “200, expect soon to be double that.” The mail was to be delivered to Smithville Station on the Burlington County Railroad, one quarter mile from the post office.
Fig. 93: Smithville, N.J. postmark on cover with 1861 Issue 3 cents stamp.

Fig. 94: Back printing on envelope shown in Fig. 93.

- December 7, 1866: Post office opened
- May 1, 1867: Post office discontinued
- June 17, 1867: Post office re-established
- September 29, 1882: Post office discontinued (rescinded)
- September 30, 1882: Post office re-established
- June 5, 1964: Post office discontinued; service to Mount Holly
Fig. 95: Smithville, N.J. advertising cover, dated Oct. 21, 1904.

Fig. 95A: Smithville N.J. advertising cover dated Oct. 28, 1913.
SOOY’S INN POST OFFICE ~ Established February 13, 1815

Sooy’s Inn, established in Washington Township in 1815, replaced the office closed at Atsion that year. The tavern and inn had been located here as early as 1774. Located ten miles east of Atsion and nine miles westerly from Bass River Hotel Post Office on the old Tuckerton Stage Road, it would become a social and civic center for the entire area.

After the American Revolution the Inn, by now owned and operated by the Sooy family, was known as the Washington Tavern. Nicholas Sooy, the first postmaster here was a member of the Township committee and the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Sooy’s Inn was used for many years as a meeting place for the Township Committee, a polling place for elections and a courthouse. The township’s militia was mustered and drilled here, within sight of the tavern’s promised liquid rewards. Workmen from Martha’s Furnace, Green Bank Glass Works and Batsto Iron Works frequented this popular gathering place along with the many passengers passing between Philadelphia and Tuckerton aboard the stagecoaches.

The establishment of the railroad in this part of Burlington County marked the demise of stagecoach travel. Sooy’s Inn held on until about the time the Civil War broke out. By 1880, the population near the inn was less than thirty-five persons. Today, little more than the designation Washington on modern maps marks the location of Washington Township’s namesake.

The post office here was another of Burlington County’s “traveling” postal facilities. In 1828 the office was listed as closed here and moved to Atsion, where business was better. The boom surrounding Atsion’s resurgence lasted but a short while and by 1831, that office was closed, due to lack of business. The following year, 1832, Sooy’s Inn Office was reopened. A number of different owners maintained a post office at Sooy’s Inn until it was finally closed in 1856.

February 13, 1815          Post office established
June 28, 1828              Office moved to Atsion
July 9, 1832               Office moved back from Atsion
May 8, 1840                Office moved to Green Bank
November 6, 1841          Office moved back from Green Bank
January 28, 1856          Post office discontinued

SOUTH PARK POST OFFICE ~ Established February 16, 1892

The office, established here in 1892, was part of Woodland Township. Today this place is located in Tabernacle Township, established in 1901. It was situated five miles northwest from present day Chatsworth and six miles northeast of Tabernacle, near the Tom Roberts Branch of the Batsto River, a tributary of the Mullica River.
Prior to February 16, 1892, the name of this facility was Paisley Post Office, located near the proposed Pine Crest Sanitarium, which was never completed. It is probable, the postmaster at Paisley, applied for this name change to promote a new real estate venture, called South Park.

Modern maps place South Park on the road between Paisley and Sooy Place, some miles from the office’s actual location at Paisley.

February 16, 1892  Post office opened
January 15, 1900  Post office discontinued; service to Chatsworth

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**STANWICK POST OFFICE ~ Established February 19, 1891**

Stanwick Post Office was established in old Chester Township, approximately three-quarters of a mile easterly from Moorestown on the railroad.

The station house of the Amboy Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad was used to house this facility. The railway station was erected at this location in 1881, to facilitate the moving of produce grown by the many area farmers.

In 1891, when Herbert R. Dix applied for a post office here, he stated, “nearly 300 inhabitants, and on completion of Carpet Mills and houses this number will be nearly doubled-April 1st (1891).”

February 19, 1891  Post office opened
October 31, 1907  Post office discontinued; service to Moorestown

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**STEVENS POST OFFICE ~ Established June 8, 1888**

Stevens Station is located two miles east from Burlington on the old Amboy Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Established as a railroad stop to accommodate the many farmers in this area of Burlington County wishing to ship their produce, the small community of Stevens grew around the station and it is still called Stevens Station today.

The postal facility was located in the railway stationhouse, itself. At the time of application in 1888, Frank Stark, the office’s only postmaster, listed a total population of fifty-five. The next post office on this route was Dobbins, some three miles northeast on the same rail line, which paralleled the Delaware River a quarter mile distant.
June 8, 1888 Post office opened
February 28, 1901 Post office discontinued; service to Burlington

SYKESVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established December 3, 1857

Sykesville Post Office was established in the village of Plattsburgh in 1857. At that time Plattsburgh was located in New Hanover Township. It later became part of Chesterfield Township, in the very southern end of it.

Known as Sykesville today, the village is located approximately two and one-half miles southwest of Jacobstown and three miles southeast from Georgetown on the old Monmouth Road, Route 537.

It is generally accepted that, Sykesville Post Office was named to honor George Sykes [member of U.S. House of Representatives 1843-48, surveyor and West Jersey Proprietor. Born 9-20, 1802, died 2-25-1880].

December 3, 1857 Post office opened
October 26, 1874 Post office discontinued
December 10, 1874 Office re-established
December 31, 1907 Post office discontinued; service to Wrightstown
Fig. 98 – Sykesville, N.J. Oct. 22, 1863 postmark on cover to Vincentown, N.J.

Fig. 98A: Sykesville, N.J. postmark on an envelope dated Sept. 20, 1893.

This history of Burlington Post Towns will conclude in the next NJPH issue.
TABERNACLE POST OFFICE ~ Established September 7, 1877

Tabernacle was a tiny hamlet located in old Shamong Township when a post office was established there in 1877. Today it is a part of Tabernacle Township, some five miles northeast of Indian Mills on the road between High Crossing and Sandy Ridge.

It is generally believed that David Brainerd, a Methodist who ministered to the Indians of this region prior to the American Revolution, named this place. Gordon’s Gazetteer¹ tells us there was a Methodist Church, a tavern and ten or twelve houses here in 1834. By 1880, the population was less than sixty people.

In 1877, however, Caleb Wright, Tabernacle’s first postmaster, listed the number of inhabitants as 100 and approximately 300 to be serviced by the facility! By virtue of its location on the Vincentown to Indian Mills mail route, the application was approved to establish the Tabernacle post office.

- September 7, 1877  Post office opened
- December 5, 1900  Post office discontinued; service to Medford

TUCKERTON POST OFFICE ~ Established August 18, 1797

Tuckerton Post Office was located in Little Egg Harbor Township, at the southern end of Burlington County, on Little Egg Harbor Bay.

Settled by 1699, it was home to seafarers and people who made their living from the bays and waterways nearby. The town, named by Reuben Tucker, an early landowner, was part of Burlington County until 1891, when it was ceded along with the rest of Little Egg Harbor Township to Ocean County.

In 1797, the fledgling United States Postal System established three offices in Burlington County. Tuckerton was chosen as the first, along with Atsion, expressly because of its strategic and economic importance to the new nation. Burlington, which had had a post office as early as 1693, was the third post-Revolutionary post office in Burlington, and was not established until October of 1797.²

On March 21, 1791, Tuckerton became the third United States Port of Entry, preceded only by New York and Philadelphia. It remained in this capacity until about 1905.

Tuckerton was the terminus for mail arriving from the northern part of New Jersey via Freehold and across the state from Philadelphia early in the nineteenth century. An early advertisement in a Philadelphia newspaper, dated May 1801, solicited bids for a proposed mail route, i.e. “Philadelphia, by way of Haddonfield, Taunton and Atsion, on to Tuckerton, once in two weeks.”
Located today on U.S. Route 9, approximately six miles east from New Gretna, this small town has lost its position of national importance, but the lure of the salt tinged air, the bays and waterways still attract people, much as they did in Reuben Tucker’s time.

Fig. 98: A folded letter posted in Tuckerton, N.J. Jan. 27, 1841 with a manuscript cancel. Postage was 10 cents to Salem, N.J.

August 18, 1797  Post office opened
March 30, 1891  Tuckerton post office became part of Ocean County

Fig. 99: Tuckerton, N.J. May 17, 1847 postmark on a folded letter mailed free by Wm. S. Lippincott, Postmaster at this time.
VINCENTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established April 2, 1824

Vincentown lies along the south branch of the Rancocas Creek in Southampton Township approximately four and one-half miles south from Mount Holly. The post office established here in 1824 was located in what was then Northampton Township. A branch of the Camden and Amboy Railroad ran from Mount Holly to Vincentown, but was abandoned in 1928.

Gordon’s Gazetteer,³ in 1834, lists “2 churches, a gristmill, sawmill, 2 taverns, 4 stores and from 30-40 dwellings, located near ‘Stop the Jade Run’ Creek.” By 1880, the census counted 683 persons living here. The town was, and is still, surrounded by large farms and at one time supported a large marl mining operation.

Fig.100: An 1876 view of the residence and grist mill of Gen. J. S. Irick.

April 2, 1824 Post office opened
Continues in service today
**WADING RIVER POST OFFICE ~ Established February 8, 1858**

Wading River post office stood on the east bank of the Wading River, some five miles northwest of old Bass River Hotel and six miles southeast from Sooy’s Inn Post Office.

This office, established in old Washington Township, was located in a village known as Bridgeport. The original application, asking to be named Bridgeport, was rejected by Washington D.C. authorities, as an office by that name was in service at that time in Gloucester County. Wading River Post Office was given in its place.

A post office named Estlow Post Office was opened here in 1856 by John F. McKeen. He also chose Bridgeport as his office’s name and was rejected. That post office opened on September 11, 1856 and closed December 22, 1857. The first postmaster at the Wading River Post Office was Catherine A. McKeen, the wife of John F. McKeen.

Bridgeport, in 1834, was home to a tavern, one store and five dwellings as recorded by Thomas Gordon. Prior to this time, the area was called Leeks Wharf and Estlows, both of which are family names prominent in the area.
Fig. 102: Wading River, N.J. postmark on a post card from 1916.

Fig. 102A: Wading River N.J. Jan. 17, 1921 postmark on an illustrated advertising cover for one of the early hunting clubs located in southern Burlington County. George D. Mellon (of banking fame) was secretary.

February 8, 1858        Post office established
March 31, 1923         Office discontinued; service to Lower Bank
WHITESBOG POST OFFICE ~ Established November 28, 1923

Whitesbog was the site of a large cranberry operation located in Pemberton Township some four miles west of Browns Mills, near the Ocean County border.

Clifford B. Gauntt, in his application for a post office, listed between 150-550 persons to be serviced with mail, but seasonal. In 1923, cranberry production and especially harvesting was very labor intensive. His claim was, probably, very near accurate.

Mail service here had come from Upton Station on the railroad, known as Hanover Farms and later from Browns Mills.

November 28, 1923  Post office opened
January 31, 1957  Office discontinued; service to Browns Mills
February 1, 1957  Became Rural Station of Browns Mills
January 31, 1965  Station discontinued

WILLINGBORO POST OFFICE ~ Established February 1, 1964

Willingboro Township was formed in Burlington County in 1688. Predominantly an agricultural township, the only centers of population were Beverly and Delanco. Mail was obtained at the Rancocas Post Office for many years.

It took 276 years for Willingboro to obtain its own post office. In the late 1950s, the Levitt family built the large community we see today, continuing the style they had successfully completed in Levittown, NY and Levittown, PA. The community was given a branch office in 1958, serviced by Burlington.

In 1961 this office was opened as Levittown Post Office, after the new township name. After three years of identity confusion with the other Levittowns (NY and PA), the voters returned to the old township name of Willingboro. The postal authorities quickly changed the facility’s name to Willingboro on February 1, 1964.

Willingboro is located along the east bank of the Rancocas Creek, bordered by Edgewater Park and Delanco, northwest, Hainesport Township and Moorestown Township, southwest. Delran, Burlington and Westampton Townships are easterly.

Two stations in the township have operated. The main post office in located at 16 Salem Road, and a branch called Plaza Station was established January 30, 1967, and closed January 13, 1994, and was located in the now razed Willingboro Plaza. It reopened October 20, 1994, on the Beverly Rancocas Road. Both main office and branch station are still in service today.

February 1, 1964  Post office opened as Willingboro
Continues in service today

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WOODMANSIE POST OFFICE ~ Established May 23, 1867

The tiny village of Woodmansie stands in the western part of Woodland Township, not more than one mile from the Ocean County border. A station on the old Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad, the name, Woodmansie, is an old family name from near Cedar Creek in Ocean County. The name was originally spelled Woodmancy.

The post office here was located just off the railroad some six miles northwest of present day Chatsworth and six miles southeast of Mount Misery in the heart of the Pine Barrens.

Woodmansie and Red Oak Grove, in Ocean County, lie approximately three miles apart. Both have been listed as being post offices in Burlington and Ocean Counties. In fact, the offices were moved back and forth between the counties as their postmasters moved to accommodate seasonal workers in each location.

Richard Bartlet, property owner in both villages, saw little harm in this traveling operation, and Washington postal authorities had no interest or knowledge of it. Here, in this remote inaccessible area, the people in charge pursued profit, to the total confusion of the historian at times. Woodward tells us that Christopher Estlow was Woodmansie’s first postmaster in 1860. Postal records have Christopher Estlow as postmaster at Red Oak Grove, Ocean County 1858-1860.

The Union Clay Works, near Red Oak Grove, made clay tiles and other terracotta products during the 1850’s and 1860’s. Undoubtedly they used the closest railroad station, located at Woodmansie, to ship their finished goods. It would seem this connection of commerce extended to their sharing of postal facilities.

May 23, 1867 Post office opened
November 8, 1871 Post office discontinued
January 25, 1872 Post office re-established
May 14, 1904 Post office discontinued; service to Chatsworth

WRIGHTSTOWN POST OFFICE ~ Established February 3, 1824

Wrightstown Borough was a part of New Hanover Township in 1824. Located in the northwestern section of the township, Wrightstown was previously known as Penny Hill. Settled prior to 1776, the village was eventually named in honor of John Wright, an early landowner and prominent citizen.

The borough lies on the northern border of Fort Dix Military Reservation. Tens of thousands of soldiers from World War I until today have walked the streets of Wrightstown. This being the closest town to Fort Dix, trainees would congregate here to escape the military regimens of the army during their all too short leaves from the camp. Gordon’s Gazetteer tells us there were “two taverns, two stores, a Methodist Church and some fifteen or twenty dwellings” in 1834.
During the time between November 15, 1935 and May 4, 1941, Wrightstown Post Office handled mail from Camp Dix, renamed Fort Dix in 1939.

Fig. 103: A folded letter, with manuscript Wrightstown, N. J., dated Feb. 12, 1842. The single sheet rate to Philadelphia was 10 cents.

Fig. 103A – Wrightstown, N. J. cover to New York in December of 1896.

February 3, 1824  Post office opened
Continues in service today

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YARDVILLE POST OFFICE ~ Established March 31, 1832

Originally located in old Nottingham Township, Burlington County, Yardville is now part of Mercer County. For years known as Sand Hills, the name Yardville was adopted when John Yard succeeded in his application for a post office here in 1832.

Situated just north of Crosswicks Creek, some five and one-half miles southwest of Trenton, Yardville would join Mercer County when that county was formed by division, February 22, 1838. Crosswicks Creek was part of the dividing line.

At its establishment in 1832, Sand Hills, now Yardville, contained a “tavern and fifteen dwellings.” It also became a station of the pioneer Camden and Amboy Railroad.

March 31, 1832 Post office opened
February 22, 1838 Post office became part of Mercer Co. by division

We are grateful to Jack for these articles. Jack’s history of the Post Towns of Burlington County is soon to appear in book form, published by the Burlington County Historical Society, and when it is available, we will let readers know where they can obtain a copy.

*   *   *   *    *

Other similar county postal histories are welcome. Cape May has been published in our journal, and also by Craig Mathewson, and Hunterdon County by Jim Walker is soon to be published by the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Arne Englund promises upcoming articles on Warren County. This leaves 17 other counties needing a good history of their post offices, and we invite members specializing in the history of a particular county to submit such articles to us.

ENDNOTES:

3 Gordon, op. cit.
4 Gordon, op. cit.
7 Gordon, op. cit.
BURLINGTON COUNTY POST TOWNS ~ Jack Edge

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