

“Account Book” Marriages

by Elizabeth M. Perinchief
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Where would you look for a Batsto marriage in 1851? Certainly not in an account book! But that is where about 30 marriages are recorded from June, 1846 through Mar, 1861 for Washington Township.

In a small account book “of Jesse Richards”, #63 in the Archival Collection, one finds the attached record. We know that Jesse Richards was a Justice of the Peace, as his name appears on marriage slips in the County Clerk’s Office. However this list goes beyond his death in June of 1854. It may be that put-upon, penniless Robert Stewart, the Batsto Manager, who was also a Justice of the Peace, kept the list. Stewart assumed full responsibility for operations at Batsto in Oct. 1860. It is due to his diligence that much of Batsto “history” in the latter years was so meticulously preserved.

The marriages do not appear in Craig’s Burlington County Marriages, nor are they among the hundreds of marriage slips in the County Clerk’s Office. These slips, torn from notebooks, handwritten and averaging 5” x 7’, were forwarded to the County Clerk by the Justice of the Peace or the Minister of the Gospel who officiated, supposedly within 6 months of the ceremony. In turn the Clerk was to send a (handwritten) copy to the State. Is it any wonder that such vital statistics for this period are so hard to come by? So many got lost in the shuffle.

Franklin Adams and Mary Ann Mathis,(Dec) 15th (1850) , Joseph Batterson and Mary J.Brown,June26, 1859, _____ and Ann Bodine, March 2, _____ , Jesse Broom and Sarah Ford, Mar. 4, 1854 (?), Abraham Brown and Isabele McCrane, Oct 1, 1854, John Brown and Annjalene Ford, Jan. 16, 1851, James Couch and Mary E. Ireland, Mar. 1, 1855, Hiram Crowley and Ruth Taylor, May 7, 1851, Abraham Duffy and Ketura McCollum, Jan. 19, 1851, Win. Ellett and Margaret Wacks, Aug. 2, 1849, Thomas Ford and Ellenor Ford, June 29, 1850, Josiah Ford and Tabitha Ford, May 26, 1851, Robert Ford and Mary Ford, August 19, 1854, Jonathan Gifford and Ann Peterson, Oct. 1, 1850, Joseph Green and Ann Roberts, Jy 22, 1854, Edward Gunneir and Catherine Webster, May 19, 1850, Win. Halloway and Roxanna Maxwell, My 22, 1859, Benjamin Harris and Hannah A. Palmer, My 7, 1859, Joseph Hufferman, and Anna Singlet(on), Mar 4, 1854, John LeMunyen and Catherine McDaniel, Nov. 26, 1848, Charles Letts and (Jane) Truax, Je 15, 1846, McCallom McAlcom ? Daniel and Louisa White, Jy 7, 1849, George Meyers and Reid, Nov. 9, 1848, Theodore Miller and Mary Ann Kell, Mar. 12, 1854, JohnMoorandMargaretta Ford, Mar 1, 1861, Mason Naylor and Elisabeth Boyd, Oct. 21, 1849, Abraham Nichols and Elizabeth Wentling, Mar. 9, 1859, Samuel Nickels and Ann Ford, Je 4, 1851, Isaac Reed and Mary J. Coalman, Mar. 1, 1855, Samuel Taylor and Hannah Ann Cline, My. 28, 1854, Samuel Tunis and Margaret Myers, Dec. 5,1850, Reuben White and Sarah Smith, ,Caleb Ford and Rebecca J. White, Mar. 4, 1854, Thomas Cramner and Rebecca Crammer, Sept. 20, 1851, Elija Potter (?) and Angeline Woolf, Mar. 5, 1853 A copy of this marriage list has been forwarded to the State of New Jersey, Department of Archives.