

the neighborhood, he entered the shop of his father with a view of acquiring the blacksmith's sturdy craft. At the age of twenty-one years he was admitted as a partner in the general business of blacksmithing and the manufacture of machinery. He in 1862 purchased the interest of his father, which was greatly extended and improved. Water-wheels are made a specialty in his establishment, and the fact is conceded that the turbine water-wheels here produced are not excelled in America.

The excellence of these products is in a great degree due to the mechanical knowledge and business capacity of Mr. Risdon and his associates. A more detailed history of this branch of industry will be found in the chapter on manufacturing interests in this work.

Theodore H. Risdon was in January, 1859, united in marriage to Miss Josephine Bryan, of Mount Holly, to whom was born one daughter, Theodora, now in the eleventh year of her age. Mr. Risdon is a prominent member of Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church of Mount Holly, and has officiated for eleven years as one of its vestrymen.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### BASS RIVER TOWNSHIP.<sup>1</sup>

**Descriptive.**—Bass River is one of the southeastern border township of the county. It is bounded on the north by Randolph and Woodland townships, on the east by Little Egg Harbor township, on the west by Wading River, which separates it from Randolph township, on the south by Mullica River. It was formed from Little Egg Harbor and Washington townships in 1864, and derived its name from a small stream, called Bass River, which rises in the northeasterly part of the township. The township contains 47,245 acres of land, with a population of about 900. In dimensions its greatest length is fourteen miles, its greatest breadth is seven miles.

**Natural Features.**—The general surface of Bass River township is undulating, with a few hills in its northern part. The soil is sandy and gravelly, except in the southern part, which is alluvial deposit. A large portion of this township is sterile and barren, and covered with a dense growth of scrub oak and pine. The township is watered on its western boundary by Wading River and its tributaries. Bass River takes its rise in the northeasterly part of the township, and flows through its centre and empties into the Mullica River. This river has been well known for the great number of rock fish or bass which has been caught in its waters, and hence received its name from the earlier settlers. The original name

<sup>1</sup> The publishers are indebted to Leah Blackman, author of "History of Little Egg Harbor," for much valuable material in relation to this township.

given to it was Rock River, which gradually assumed its present name.

The principal road running through the township is the one leading from Tuckerton to Washington, and from New Gretna to Penn's Place, Randolph township. The roads, except in the southern part, are not well improved. It has no railroad facilities, which, indeed, are not at present demanded, owing to its sparse settlement.

Iron ore has been discovered in this township in large quantities, but is not being worked at present.

With its cedar swamps and cranberry bogs in the northern part of the township, its fertile lands and fisheries in the southern part, Bass River township yields its inhabitants a good living.

**Early Settlement.**—It appears that the first white settler within the limits of the township was an Englishman named John Mathis, who came from Long Island in 1713. Shortly after, he in company with Moses Forman and William Birdsall purchased from Daniel Leeds, one of the New Jersey proprietors, a tract of land containing two hundred and fifty acres, at that time called Biddle's Island, but now known as Daniel Mathis' Island. Within a year after the joint purchase, Moses Forman and William Birdsall sold their interest to Mathis, who remained, and had the island cleared into a farm. From this time on, all his operations appeared to be successful, and he went on purchasing tract after tract of salt marsh, cedar swamp, and woodland until he owned many thousands of acres.

In 1716, John Mathis married Alice Higbee, widow of John Higbee, and eldest daughter of Edward Andrews, the founder of Tuckerton. Mathis' wife brought him a valuable personal property. She had the reputation of being a "strong-minded woman," who was possessed of unusual business talents, ordering and arranging her affairs with the utmost regularity and good judgment, and it is also affirmed that she was a greater speculator than her husband, and it was in a measure owing to her influence and speculative passion that he became such an extensive landholder.

Taking into consideration the age in which she lived, and also the meagre opportunities for acquiring knowledge, she had a fair education. She is described as a large, tall, and muscular woman, of a dark complexion, with black eyes and black hair, which she inherited from her father, Edward Andrews.

John Mathis' wife had two children by her first husband; these were Abigail and Edward Higbee. Abigail Higbee was born the 22d day of the 5th month in the year 1713. She married Robert Leeds. Their children were Solomon, Rebecca, and Mary. Edward Higbee was born the 4th day of the 6th month in the year 1714. He married and lived in Atlantic County, N. J.

John Mathis had six sons and one daughter, viz.: Micajah, Job, Daniel, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Eli, and Sarah.

After John Mathis had got his island farm into successful operation, he purchased eight hundred and thirteen acres of John Budd, and on this tract cleared a farm now known as the Frenches', or more properly the Thomas E. French farm, on the east side of Bass River. His next location and also formation of a farm was what is usually denominated the Enoch Mathis or Smith Mathis farm, which is situated on the west side of Bass River, opposite his farm on the east side of the river. The next farm he established was which now constitutes the Arthur Cranmer place, and also the Daniel Sooy farm. John Mathis was a large slaveholder, and employed most of his negroes in clearing uplands.

It will be seen that at this time John Mathis had four farms carried on under his superintendence, which he continued to do until his sons married, when he deeded each one of them a farm and set them to work for themselves. John Mathis was not only a farmer and land speculator, but he was a money-lender. During the Revolutionary war he loaned the government a considerable sum of money, but when pay-day came the government had nothing to pay with except Continental paper, which was next to nothing. Mr. Mathis was compelled to take large packages of the worthless script, which was preserved in the Mathis family for generations. The war proved a ruinous thing to John Mathis' money affairs, but did not interfere with his extensive real estate.

John Mathis was the first king's magistrate appointed in the township then embraced in Little Egg Harbor. He purchased his copy of the laws of New Jersey from Richard Smith, of Burlington, the father of Smith, the historian of New York and New Jersey, in 1732. He was intimately associated with the leading business men of his time, and was familiarly known as Great John Mathis.

**CRANMER FAMILY.**—In 1729, Stephen Cranmer settled at Bass River, on the farm known as the Caleb Cranmer farm, which lies contiguous to the river. Stephen Cranmer was considered one of the wealthy men of Bass River, and a man of considerable influence in the place of his adoption, and for some generations his posterity were people of wealth and influence. The Cranmers of New Jersey claim to be the descendants of Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was burned at the stake for his devotion to Protestantism by order of Queen Mary, at Smithfield, England, May 21, 1556.

The Cranmers do not all spell their names alike: some have it Cranmer, others Cramer, and still others Crammer, but the variation is easily accounted for. In old times most people had but little if any learning, and orthography suffered in their hands.

William, Josiah, and probably Thomas Cranmer were the forefathers of the Cranmers of Ocean County, N. J., and John and Stephen were the ancestors of the Cranmers of Burlington County, who settled at Bass River.

The Cranmers are notable (especially former generations) for being partial to family names, it being a tradition among the family that there were six Josiah Cranmers, all residing within a short distance of each other, and in order to distinguish one from another they were denominated thus: Old Josiah and Young Josiah, Big Josiah and Little Josiah, Over the Creek Josiah and Poplar Neck Josiah. The descendants of Stephen Cranmer were quite numerous, many of which still reside in the township, and are classed among the more prominent farmers in Bass River township.

**THE FRENCH FAMILY.**—At an early date there was a family by the name of French who settled in the lower part of Burlington County, and it is probable that Francis French, Sr., was a descendant of this family. Some time before the Revolutionary war, Francis French, Sr., settled at Bass River, and purchased a farm containing eight hundred and thirteen acres of land of Benjamin Mathis, and turned his attention to tilling the soil. He was twice married, his first wife being a French, and his second wife was Phœbe, daughter of Jacob Cranmer. He had three sons, Thomas, William, and Jacob. Thomas married Hannah Johnson, of Atlantic County, N. J. Their children were William, Francis, Joseph, Thomas, Jr., David, John, Rachel, Sarah, Ann, Mary, Abigail, and Elizabeth.

Capt. William French, as he is styled, has had two wives; his first wife was Lavinia, daughter of Isaac Cranmer, his second wife was Phœbe, daughter of Daniel Mathis (2d). His family consisted of Hannah, Martin Van Buren, Livingston, Hiram A., Nelson, Ebenezer T., Mary Jane, Matilda, and Arabella.

Hannah married and resides in Philadelphia; Martin Van Buren married and resides at Jersey Shore, Pa.; Livingston married Sarah, daughter of Lloyd Jones, of Tuckerton; Hiram A. married Mary, daughter of Jesse R. Sears; Nelson married Carolina Collins, of Atlantic County; Mary Jane married Josiah Hackett, of Salem, N. J.; Arabella married Thomas Ballinger, of Medford, N. J.

**Second Branch.**—Francis French (2d) became quite an extensive landholder, and was a man of fine business qualifications. His sons are the principal business men of Bass River township. He married Ann, daughter of Daniel Mathis (2d). Their children were Thomas E., Daniel, Lewis, Burrows, Levi, Francis, Mary Ann, Phœbe, Leah, Ellen, and Anna. Thomas married Jane Gaskill, of Tuckerton. Daniel married Elizabeth Giberson, of Atlantic County. Lewis married Mary, daughter of Reuben Cavilur. Burrows married Mary, daughter of David Cavilur. Levi married Julia, daughter of Joseph Adams. Francis married Ella, daughter of Joseph B. Sapp. Mary Ann married John Franklin Cranmer. Phœbe married Alfred, son of Joel Bodine. Anna married Dr. Clark.

**Third Branch.**—Joseph French married Martha,

daughter of Josiah Cale. Their children were Maria, Eliza, Martha, Margaretta, Mary, Josephine, Lavinia, and Emma.

*Fourth Branch.*—Thomas French, Jr.'s, first wife was Harriet, daughter of Micajah S. Mathis. He married his second wife at Jersey Shore, Pa., where he resides.

*Fifth and Sixth Branches* were David and John, who died unmarried.

*Seventh Branch.*—Rachel French married John Lowland. Their children were Thomas, Sarah, Asbury, Marshal, Henry, Elmira, Abbie, and James.

*Eighth Branch.*—Sarah French married Charles Adams, of Bass River township.

*Ninth Branch.*—Ann French married Sylvanus Seaman, and had children.

*Tenth Branch.*—Mary French married John Hewling, and removed to the West.

*Eleventh Branch.*—Abigail French married George Allen. Their children are Ellen, Hannah, Thomas, Achsah, Mary, Harry, George, John William, and Joseph.

*Twelfth Branch.*—Eliza French married Lewis Giberson, and had five children, respectively Hannah, Thomas, Sarah, James, and Julia.

**THE LEAK FAMILY.**—Capt. John Leak, an Englishman by birth, came to America at an early day, and settled at Bass River, during which time he followed the occupation of surveyor. He married Martha, daughter of Samuel Rose, and took up his abiding-place at Bridgeport. His wife is said to have been a very beautiful woman, and attracted much attention by her beauty during her reign. John Leak became one of the leading men of the township of his adoption, and it is said he "fared sumptuously every day." Capt. Leak's children were Samuel, William, George, John, Mary, Achsah, Phebe, and Martha.

Samuel Leak married Sarah, daughter of Micajah Mathis, Sr. Their children were John, Stacy B., and others whose names we have no knowledge of.

John Leak married Rosanna Allen, and had children,—Sarah, Kesiah, Mary Eliza, Martha, John, Amy, and Phebe.

Stacy B. Leak married Hannah, daughter of Hezekiah Adams (2d). Their children were William, John, Mary Ann, Esther, Achsah, Hezekiah, Abigail, and George.

William Leak married Catharine Loveland. Their children,—George, William, Catharine, Mary, and Elizabeth.

George Leak married Hannah Mathis.

Mary Leak married Joseph Allen, of Bass River.

Achsah Leak married Chalkley Cranmer, and after his decease she married Joseph Sears.

Phœbe Leak married John Towers, and had one daughter, Phœbe.

Martha Leak married Reuben Clark.

**THE ADAMS FAMILY.**—Hezekiah Adams, Sr., settled in Bass River township at an early date, and

purchased the farm now owned by his grandson, John Adams. Among his contemporaries Hezekiah Adams had the reputation of being an honest man, which Pope says is the noblest work of God. The Adamses are people of a social, friendly, and pleasing address. Hezekiah Adams had children,—Joseph, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Charles, David, Dorcas, and Mary.

Joseph Adams married and removed to the West.

Hezekiah married Margaret Humphrey. His family consisted of William, Ellis, John, Joseph, Humphrey, Enoch, Hannah, and Phœbe.

Jeremiah Adams married Elizabeth Jenkins. They were the parents of Reuben Adams.

Charles Adams married Hannah Jenkins. Had seven children,—Joseph, David, Mary, Sarah, Dorcas, Hannah, and Rebecca.

David Adams married Mary Ann, daughter of Daniel Mathis (3d), and became the proprietor of the present Bass River Hotel.

Dorcas Adams married Isaac Cranmer, son of Caleb Cranmer, Sr.

Mary Adams married Caleb Cranmer, Jr.

**THE LOVELAND FAMILY.**—The Lovelands were natives of Connecticut, and came to Burlington County, N. J., and settled in Bass River township prior to 1800, and purchased a small tract of land and commenced farming.

Charles Loveland was a sea-captain, who sailed a brig and made voyages to foreign ports. He married Mary Gleason, of Connecticut, and had children,—Charles, Mary, Abigail, Elizabeth, Esther, Henrietta, and Catharine.

Samuel Loveland married and remained on the old homestead. His children were Samuel, Charles, Sarah, Jesse, Catharine, Jemima, and Joana.

But few who bear the name of Loveland reside in the township.

**THE SEARS FAMILY.**—Joseph Sears was one of Bass River's pioneer settlers. The time he settled in Bass River township is not known. He purchased a few acres of land and reared up a home. He was married twice. His first wife was Catharine Carter, who was a granddaughter of John Cranmer, Sr., of Bass River. His second wife was Achsah, widow of Chalkley Cranmer, Sr. His children were John, Haman, Louisa, Rebecca, Mary, Chalkley C., William C., and Jesse R. Sears.

Joseph Sears was a sea-captain, and followed the water.

**Township Organization.**—The act of Assembly establishing the township of Bass River bears date March 30, 1864, and the description embodied in said act reads as follows: "All those parts of the two townships of Little Egg Harbor and Washington, beginning at a point opposite the mouth of Belangy's Creek, in the division line between Burlington and Ocean Counties; thence running a northerly course up Belangy's Creek, the several courses thereof, to the

main stage road leading from Tuckerton to Bass River; thence a northerly course to the point where the line between the townships of Little Egg Harbor and Southampton intersect the boundary line between Burlington and Ocean Counties; thence along the said line of said Southampton township to Pappoose River; thence down the same, several courses thereof, to its mouth; thence down Mullica River to division line of Burlington and Ocean Counties, to the place of beginning."

### Civil List.

#### CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS.

Levi French, 1864-66, 1879-81; Joseph B. Cramer, 1867-69; Z. M. P. Mathis, 1870-73; Daniel M. Mathis, 1874-76; Charles A. Cramer, 1877-78; John O. Mathis, 1882.

#### TOWNSHIP CLERKS.

Chalkley C. Sears, 1864-65; Nathan Moore, 1866, 1868; Caleb J. Mathis, 1867; Joseph L. Hilliard, 1869; Robert F. McKeen, 1870-82.

#### ASSESSORS.

Caleb L. Adams, 1864; Arthur H. Cramer, 1865-66; Daniel M. French, 1867-68; Caleb J. Mathis, 1869-70; Joseph French, 1871-72; William H. Mathis, 1873-81; David R. Adams, 1876-77; Levi French, 1878; Chalkley S. Cramer, 1882.

#### COLLECTORS.

Thomas E. French, 1864; Daniel F. Sooy, 1865-66; Jessie R. Sears, 1867-68; Levi French, 1869-76; Joseph B. Lamson, 1877-79; Mark W. Adams, 1880-82.

#### TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

Jesse R. Sears, 1864; Daniel M. Mathis, 1864-67, 1880-82; William J. Palmerteer, 1864-65; William French, 1865, 1869; Thomas E. French, 1866-68, 1870; Chalkley C. Sears, 1866-67, 1871, 1873-75, 1878; Elihu M. Sears, 1868; P. K. Mathis, 1868-69; John S. Cramer, 1869-70, 1874-75; John O. Mathis, 1870-71; Isaiah A. Allen, 1871; Hiram E. French, 1872; David W. Mathis, 1872-75; Joshua Green, 1872-73; William W. Cramer, 1876-78; Benjamin F. Headley, 1876-78; Chas. B. Cramer, 1876; Levi French, 1877; Daniel M. French, 1879; Richard S. Bartlett, 1879-82; Joseph B. Lamson, 1880; Eli Mathis, 1880-81; William G. Cramer, 1882.

#### CONSTABLES.

Caleb Mathis, 1864; Charles A. Green, 1865; Joseph Adams, 1866-67; Joseph B. Cramer, 1868, 1878-82; Arthur H. Cramer, 1869-77.

#### JUDGES OF ELECTION.

Joseph B. Cramer, 1864, 1867; Eli Mathis, 1865-66; William N. French, 1869; John F. Cramer, 1870-72; David R. Adams, 1873; Jeremiah Mathis, Jr., 1874-77, 1882; James E. Cramer, 1878-81.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Nathaniel Moore, 1864; Joseph French, 1869-70; Joseph L. Hilliard, 1870; Eli Mathis, 1874; Magor Mathis, 1874, 1880.

#### OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Levi Adams, 1864-66, 1868; Eli Mathis, Sr., 1867, 1869; Joseph Adams, 1872-74; Eli Algar, 1875-82.

**Schools.**—This township takes its rank among the first in the southern part of the county as to her educational facilities. There are five school districts respectively,—Harrisonville, Union Hill, Bass River, New Gretna, and East Bass River, which are numbered 104, 105, 106, 107, and 108. The amount of apportionment from State appropriations, \$1414.80; amount of apportionment from surplus revenue, \$85.20; total amount received from all sources for public school purposes, \$1500; present value of the school property, \$2800. Whole number of children

of the school age residing in the district, 323; average number of months the schools have been kept open, 8.4; average number who have attended school during the time it has been kept open, 123; number of male teachers employed, 3; number of female teachers employed, 2; average salary paid male teachers per month, \$30.18; average salary per month paid female teachers, \$34.07.

**The Friends' Meeting.**—The Friends' meeting-house which stood for many years at Bass River Neck, on the lower road leading from Bass River to Bridgeport, was erected about the time of the Revolutionary war by the Friends of Bass River township. At the time this church was erected there appeared to have been a separation between the Friends of Tuckerton and those of Bass River. The church at Bridgeport was resigned to the new denomination of Friends, or Hicksites, as they were called.

The members of the Hicksite branch continued to hold meetings in their new church for several years, until many of the more leading spirits removed to other sections of the county, and the Friends gradually decreased in membership until there was no one left to go to this little church except Lucy Ann Evans, and on meeting-days she would go to the meeting-house and sit during the usual worshiping hours all alone, herself being sole minister and audience. This practice she kept up until her death, which occurred in 1834.

**The Methodist Episcopal Church.**—Although the Methodist Episcopal Church is fully a century old, not a single record of its organization or later progress is extant. The historian was unable to find out from the pastor more than the present membership and the erection of the present church. He has, however, from other sources obtained a few facts regarding its early history. A class was formed at nearly the period of the Revolutionary war, almost contemporaneous with the founding of the Friends' Meeting. No church building had then been erected, and services were held in private dwellings in the neighborhood. Soon after the class was formed they organized themselves into a separate body and erected a church at Bass River, where they continued to hold religious worship until 1850, when the old church was deemed inadequate to hold the congregation, which had increased in membership. The present church is a frame structure, situated on the road leading from New Gretna to Red Tavern, and cost \$2500. It has a membership of thirty. The present pastor is Rev. William Stately.

**The First Presbyterian Church of Bass River.**—Presbyterian services were first held in Bass River at the house of Capt. Charles Loveland, later at the house of John Leaks, by Rev. John Brainard, who visited this place at an early date. Services were held in private dwellings and school-houses in Bass River for many years, and in 1849 a lot was given by Joseph Cranmer, and the present church was erected

at a cost of two thousand dollars. The church is of wood, and is situated at New Gretna, on the road leading from Tuckerton to Washington. The first stationed pastor was Rev. William C. Davis, who remained here for several years. The present pastor is Rev. Albert Worthington. The present membership (1882) is fifteen.

**Burial-Places.**—There are three graveyards in Bass River township, all of which were established by the different churches where they are located. The oldest interment made in the township was at Bridgeport, which was laid out at about the time the Friends' Meetings were established there. In this ancient city of the dead lie the remains of Lucy Ann Evans, who departed this life in 1834. She was for many years a minister of the Friends at Tuckerton.

The Methodist burial-ground at New Gretna was established many years ago, and contains many old graves, of which nothing stands to mark the last resting-places of the old pioneers who are interred there.

The Presbyterian graveyard, which is located at New Gretna, also contains many graves, with only common field-stones stuck up to mark the resting-places of some departed friends.

#### VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.

**New Gretna**, or Bass River, as it was formerly called, is located in the southeastern portion of the township, and is a small and somewhat scattered hamlet. It contains one Methodist and one Presbyterian Church, one hotel, one wheelwright-shop, one blacksmith-shop, post-office, four stores, and a few scattered dwellings.

The hotel was erected in 1851, by Thomas French, who carried on the business for a short time, and was succeeded by Franklin Adams, who purchased the property in 1856, and has carried on the business since.

Among the early merchants of New Gretna was John Miller, who carried on the business as early as 1812 for a period of years. He was succeeded by William Allen, who carried on the business for a period of twenty-five years. Since that time there has been a succession of merchants in New Gretna. The present merchant is Francis French.

Adolphus H. Lansing erected a wheelwright-shop in 1856, and did quite an extensive business in the manufacture of heavy wagons, which he shipped to the Western States. The wheelwright business is still carried on by Mr. Lansing. Among the early blacksmith-shops in Bass River was the one erected by Caleb Cranmer, who rented it to John M. Cook, who carried on blacksmithing for several years. The present blacksmith is Joseph Truax. The post-office at New Gretna was established in about 1853, with Franklin Adams as postmaster, which position he now holds. The office was formerly kept in a store erected by Mr. Adams. At the time he purchased

the hotel property it was moved to a building adjacent the hotel, where it is at present located.

The first physician to locate at New Gretna was Dr. P. K. Hillier, in 1866, who followed the healing art for several years, and was succeeded by Dr. Stamsly G. Clark, and he by the present physician, Dr. Moses W. Reeves.

**Red Tavern** is a little hamlet situated about two miles northeast from New Gretna, in a farming district. It contains one hotel and a few dwellings. The hotel was erected prior to the Revolutionary war, by William Davis, who carried on the business for several years. In 1816, Recompense Darby became the hospitable host, and carried the business on for a few years. Since Mr. Darby disposed of it the old tavern has passed through many hands. In 1853, Francis Adams purchased the property and carried on the business until 1855, since which time it has been closed.

**Harrisville** is a small hamlet situated on a branch of Wading River, about seven miles from its mouth, in the northern part of the township. It is the seat of a flourishing paper-mill. This mill was erected in about 1834, by an incorporated company, and was operated under the management of William McCarty. This company carried on the manufacture of hardware manilla paper for about twenty years, at which time the company dissolved, and the mill was closed for a short period. The present operators are the Messrs. Richards, formerly of Philadelphia. The number of hands required to run this mill is ten. The principal shipments are made to New York and Philadelphia.

**Bridgeport** is situated on Wading River, in the western part of the township, and contains one hotel, post-office, and a few dwellings. The hotel was first kept by Joseph Townsend, in 1840, who carried on the business for several years, and was succeeded by Robert McKeen, who in connection with the hotel opened a store, and carried on the hotel and store business until his death, since which time the business has been conducted by his widow, Mrs. Catharine A. McKeen.

The post-office is kept by Mrs. Catharine A. McKeen.

**Industrial.**—The principal industry carried on in Bass River township is ship-building. The first vessel built at Bass River was the brig "Argo," which was built about 1800. She was built at Micajah Mathis, Sr.'s, landing, on what is known as the "Francis French farm." Soon after the building of the "Argo," Micajah Mathis built at the same place a large sloop called the "Hope." She was designed for the purpose of carrying lumber from Egg Harbor to New York City. Since the construction of these two vessels ship-building has been carried on to a considerable extent at Bass River. The principal ship-yards at Bass River are on the Francis French place and Caleb Cranmer place.

The cultivation of cranberries is carried on to some extent in this township. There is a great amount of valuable cranberry soil within its boundaries.

Bass River township is noted for its valuable winter fisheries.

The saw-mill at the head of the west branch of Bass River was erected at an early date. In 1767 it was sold by High Sheriff Imbey, and was then called Baker's mill, probably after its founder. Eli Mathis, Sr., was the purchaser of the mill at sheriff's sale, and during the same year Eli Mathis sold the mill tract, containing twenty-one acres, and also one-half of the mill, to his brother, Micajah Mathis, Sr., and it is probable that these two men sold the mill and the twenty-one-acre survey to Ebenezer Tucker, who owned and operated the mill for many years, until it was burned by the British in 1778.

Page's saw-mill, as it is now called, was erected by Ebenezer Tucker, in about 1800. This mill is located on the west branch of Bass River, and has been in operation until 1881.

Large quantities of wood, rails, and charcoal were formerly exported from Bass River to New York and other cities.

CHAPTER XXII.

BEVERLY TOWNSHIP AND CITY.<sup>1</sup>

**Geographical and Descriptive.**—Beverly is one of the river townships, and was taken from Willingboro' township in 1859. It is bounded on the northeast by Burlington, on the southeast by Willingboro', on the south and southwest by Delran, the Rancocas being the dividing line, and on the west and northwest by the Delaware River.

The following is the act incorporating the township:

"SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey,* That the township of Willingborough, in the County of Burlington, shall be and the same is hereby divided into two townships in the following manner, that is to say: All that part of the said township south of the southerly line of the Burlington and Bridgeborough turnpike road shall constitute and be known as the township of Willingborough, and all that part lying north of the southerly side of said turnpike road shall constitute and be known as the township of Beverly.

"Sec. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the inhabitants of the township of Beverly are constituted a body politic and corporate in law, and shall be styled and known by the name of 'the inhabitants of the township of Beverly, in the County of Burlington,' and shall be entitled to all rights, powers, authority, privileges, and advantages, and subject to the same regulations, government, and liabilities as the inhabitants of the other townships in said County of Burlington are or may be entitled or subjected to by existing laws of this State. . . .

"Sec. 5. *And be it enacted,* That the inhabitants of the township of Beverly shall hold their first town-meeting at the town hall in the city of Beverly, in said township, on the second third day in the third month (March) next."

This act approved March 1, 1859.

<sup>1</sup> By W. H. Shaw.

**Natural Features.**—This township contains four thousand six hundred and seventy-two acres of land, which in the pioneer settlement of this section was not considered worth clearing up for farming purposes, as the soil was sandy, and considered by the early settlers unfit for agricultural purposes. However, the soil was easy to work and near the city of Philadelphia, where all kinds of fertilizers could be purchased at reasonable prices, and with a plentiful application of such the soil of Beverly has been brought up to a high state of cultivation, and is one of the principal truck-raising townships along the Delaware. The surface of the township is quite level and free from streams, there not being any that flow across the township. The Camden and Amboy Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad passes through the township parallel with and about half a mile from the Delaware River, giving the people in the two villages and the city of Beverly the best of facilities for reaching the city of Philadelphia twelve or fifteen times per day. Besides the railroad there are steamers plying between Beverly and Philadelphia every few hours. The population of this township for 1880 was 3128, and the city of Beverly 1753.

For pioneer settlers, see Beverly City.

**Civil Organization.**—The following is a copy of the proceedings of the pioneer town-meeting of what is now Beverly township:

"At the annual town-meeting of the inhabitants of the township of Beverly, held on the 8th day of March, 1859, the following-named persons were elected to the several respective offices: Clerk, John P. McElroy; Assessor, Richard F. Wilmerton; Collector, Abraham Marter; Chosen Freeholder, Samuel C. Deacon; Commissioners of Appeals, Samuel Perkins, Nathan Crane, Michael Davis; Surveyors of Highways, Charles E. Fenimore, Micajah Dobbins; Judge of Election, Henry V. Fenimore; Constable and Overseer of the Poor, Edward Swanson; Overseer of Highway, Job Kimble; Town Committee, John W. Fenimore, John A. Warren, Charles Master; School Superintendent, Abel H. Nichols; Pound-keeper, John L. Shaw.

"Attest, JOHN P. McELROY.

"One hundred dollars was voted for township purposes."

"Attest, JOHN P. McELROY, CL."

We herewith give a complete list of clerks, assessors, collectors, chosen freeholders, township committee, justices of the peace, and constables from 1860 to 1882, inclusive.

CLERKS.

William C. Stokes, 1860-62; Charles E. Fenimore, 1863; Richard S. Adams, 1864-67; Jacob Perkins, 1868; Samuel Weigand, 1869-70; J. Ritner Praul, 1871-82.

ASSESSORS.

Richard F. Wilmerton, 1860-63, 1865; Peter Powell, 1864; Ellis P. Townsend, M.D., 1866-67; Job Kemble, 1868; R. S. Adams, 1869; William E. Blow, 1870; C. C. McElroy, 1871-76; Richard V. S. Perkins, 1877; Charles K. Vanciver, 1878-82.

COLLECTORS.

George W. Perkins, 1860-62; Charles C. McElroy, 1863; Abraham Merritt, 1864-71; Charles E. Fenimore, 1872-82

CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS.

Samuel C. Deacon, 1860; Abraham Marter, 1861-62, 1864-66; Paul Jones, 1863; Abraham Perkins, 1867-69; Edward K. Marter, 1870-73, 1875; Abraham Perkins, Sr., 1874; Franklin P. Jones, 1876-78; Andres Ridgway, 1879; Davis W. McClellan, 1880-82.