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THE  
ATKINSONS,

OF

NEW JERSEY,

FROM

THE RECORDS OF FRIENDS MEETINGS,

AND FROM

OFFICES OF RECORD IN THE STATE.

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EARLINGTON, AUGUST 1, 1890.

116 20



THE  
ATKINSONS,  
OF  
New Jersey.



1890  
EARLINGTON BEE PRINT,  
EARLINGTON, KY.





*George T. Atkinson.*

*Elizabeth B. Atkinson.*

[CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING, FEBRUARY 5TH, 1890 ]







## INTRODUCTION.

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THE celebration of the Golden Wedding of my father and mother, GEO. T. and ELIZABETH B. ATKINSON, of Mullica Hill, New Jersey, February 5th, 1890, created a desire to know more of the family. Having in my possession the Quaker certificates of the marriages of five generations of Atkinsons, it was not very difficult to go back another generation to WILLIAM ATKINSON, who married ELIZABETH CURTIS, in Burlington, the ninth of March, 1686.

I am indebted to JOHN CLEMENT, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, for most of the information contained in this sketch, and have printed his text entire, only adding to it the sketch of my branch of the family, from WILLIAM ATKINSON to the present day.

CHAS. S. FRENCH, of Philadelphia, aided me with information collected during many years of interested work in this branch of history.

Many of the ATKINSONS, of New Jersey, were staunch Quakers in the early day, and many of their descendants are still strong in the faith.

Should additional facts be known of the family by a reader of the following sketch, it is possible a new edition may be printed and such facts be gladly included, if in my possession.

JNO. B. ATKINSON.

EARLINGTON, KY., July 30, 1890.



## THE ATKINSONS.

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ANY one standing on the wharf near the Blue Anchor Tavern, and where Dock Creek falls into the Delaware River, in Philadelphia, Pa., on the 23d day of the Eighth month, A. D. 1681, might have noticed two young men among the passengers of the ship Antelope, just arrived from Belfast, Ireland, with emigrants to America. They were tall, stalwart Scotchmen, and, although wearing the same plain Quaker garb as the most of those around them, showed energy, character and perseverance, which betrayed their nationality and early education.

They stood alone on the shore, and but for the acquaintance made on ship-board, knew no one on this side of the broad Atlantic. They could see that William Penn's "brave town" was in embryo, and but for the few houses in the forest and the cave dwellings in the bank facing the river, there was but little to attract attention or please the eye.

### James and Thomas Atkinson.

These young men were JAMES (who, one account says, came from Drogheda), and THOMAS ATKINSON, who had left their parents and home, with but little save brave hearts



and a determined purpose. They had these elements of success, coupled with industry, economy and sobriety, about them, derived from precept and example at the old homestead. They now breathed the air of political and religious freedom, guaranteed to them by the founder of the Colony, and felt that their rights as men were enlarged, and that the privileges of law-abiding citizens were assured. They were to be participants in the government, and realized the responsibilities thus cast upon them.

They had read the chartered rights, as put before the world by William Penn, for his Colony, and had studied the grants and concessions, as published by the Commissioners for New Jersey, inviting settlers within its borders, and could see that their persons and estates would be secure as against the abuse of power and the tyranny of fanatics ; that individual privileges could not be questioned, nor their property despoiled by persons with pretended authority ; that they were citizens of a Republic with no one to make them afraid.

The time of their arrival must not be computed as under the present calendar, for the eighth month under the old style meant October, and not August ; hence they landed in the autumn after the frosts had colored the foliage and winter was approaching. Much confusion has occurred in historical and geneological matters from not properly regarding the change of the calendar, which was settled by an act of British



Parliament in 1751, and between the time of the first emigrations to Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the present.

These young men probably remained for a time where they landed, finding employment among the emigrants, and occasionally prospecting for land on either side of the river. They wandered through the grand old forests—took boat and passed along the beautiful streams—sometimes following the natives to their villages and partaking of their simple hospitality. Mutual confidence existed, for the dealings of the new comers with the Indians were in good faith, and nothing was taken except for an equivalent.

### Marriage of James.

In these wanderings James met with Hannah Newbie, widow of Mark Newbie—no doubt a bright and attractive woman—who drew his attention away from land and timber for the time being, for they were married at her house according to the good order of Friends in 1684, and he took up his residence there, which was in Newton township, Gloucester county, New Jersey.

This place is deserving of some notice, for here the first Friends' meeting in Gloucester county was held, and to this place "William Cooper and family of Pyne Point resorted." Also in this house Mark Newbie had his bank, probably the





first institution of that character in America. It stood upon the farm now owned and occupied by Charles Cooper, about two miles from Camden City, and near the north branch of Newton Creek. Why this marriage was not solemnized at the Newton Meeting House, which stood but a short distance from the bride's home, has never been explained.

#### As a Member of the Society of Friends.

James Atkinson was an active and influential member of the Newton meeting. He was a representative to the Salem Quarterly Meeting, and attended the Yearly Meeting when held at the same place in 1689. At the Quarterly Meeting at Salem he was appointed a representative on the part of the Newton meeting to attend the next Yearly Meeting, which was held at Philadelphia. He was, no doubt, present at the Yearly Meeting at Salem in 1693, when a committee of Friends from the Burlington meeting was there to offer proposals to end the differences among them, caused by George Keith's departure from the original doctrines of Friends, as laid down by George Fox. Nothing was accomplished, however, and the breach widened until many of the most influential families left the Society. George Keith returned to England, joined the Established Church, and was sent to the Colonies to propagate its doctrines. In 1691 notice was taken



in the Newton meeting of a dispute in the settlement of the estate of Tom White, deceased, between the executors and some of the beneficiaries under the will. This dispute waxed bitter, and was appealed to the Quarterly Meeting at Salem, where the whole question was discussed, and an award made. This was not satisfactory, and an appeal was taken to the Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia. James Atkinson was a participant throughout the most of this trouble, which was not settled until it reached the meeting last above named.

### As a Grand Juror.

James Atkinson's name does not appear in the public and political affairs of the County; and, but for his acting as a Grand Juror in 1686, his name is not found in the public records.

This was the first grand inquest of Gloucester county until after the people living between Penisaukin Creek and Oldman's Creek had declared themselves a separate and independent bailiwick (May 28th, 1686).

This was done by the assembling of the people in public meeting at Arwamus, or Gloucester, and taking upon themselves the power and authority—supposed to rest in the Legislature—of establishing a County out of part of the territory then included in Salem county. When the Legislature again



assembled in 1692. no protest was entered as to this action of the inhabitants of Gloucester county, but officers were appointed, as if the proceedings had been regular.

James Atkinson dealt but little in real estate, and the records only show one tract of land of 300 acres he purchased of William Roydon, in 1688, lying between the head of the North branch of Timber Creek and Sheganees Run, a short distance west from Kirkwood, in Camden county, New Jersey. This he conveyed to Stephen Newbie, son of his wife by her first husband, and who sold it to Henry Fearne in 1700. After numerous conveyances, Esaias Hunt purchased the same tract in 1787 and 1792, and it is now owned by Esaias E. Hunt, and occupied by his son Edward. On part of this tract of land the Indians had a settlement known as Sheganees Field, and through which passed the old King's road, going from Philadelphia to Salem.

To the present generation this appears like a circuitous route between these two places, but it must be remembered that the Indian trails were followed, our ancestors not having means to build bridges, but crossed the streams near their sources, and where they could find easy fording places.

#### Death of James and Hannah Atkinson.

James and Hannah Atkinson in after years removed to



Philadelphia, where they both died—James in 1711, and Hannah in 1713. Hannah was three times married—first to John Day, and their children were Sarah, who married John Durbow, and Grace, who married Edward Pleadwell. The issue of the marriage with Mark Newbie was one son, Edward, and by her last marriage two sons, Thomas and John Atkinson. This is somewhat speculative, being gathered partly from the wills of James and Hannah, of record in the proper office in Philadelphia.

### Thomas Atkinson.

Thomas Atkinson probably remained in Philadelphia for a few years, but in 1691 he is found to be a resident of Mountwell, in Newton township, Gloucester county, New Jersey. Mountwell was the residence of Francis Collins, and included what is now part of Haddonfield, New Jersey. The house stood upon the hill, south of the town, now owned by the Riley Brothers. This appears in a deed from Francis Collins to Thomas Atkinson, dated Fourth month 1st, 1691, for land on the north side of the south branch of Cooper's Creek, about one mile south from Mountwell, and in that deed Thomas is called a brick-layer. Two years after he sold this land to Edward Burrough, who built a house thereon and made it his home.





Thomas Atkinson dealt considerably in timber lands and saw mills. In 1740 he bought one-third of a saw mill of Ephraim Tomlinson—one other third belonging to Means Southwick, and one other third being owned by Thomas Webster. This was on the south side of the north branch of Timber Creek, and where he afterwards bought land of the executors of Joshua Wright, deceased, in 1742, and the same he sold to Joseph Hillman, in 1745. In the last named conveyance Thomas Atkinson is mentioned as living in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

In 1743 he purchased a tract of land of Joseph Hilliard, and one-half of a saw mill. On part of this tract now stands the town of Gibbsboro, and the old saw-mill site is occupied by the extensive paint works of John Lucas & Co., located there by reason of the purity of the water—much used in manufacturing colors. There is the best of evidence to show that Thomas Atkinson was a practical mechanic and a useful citizen. As a bricklayer, he had learned the art and mystery of plastering and laying stone as well. When he first came to Mountwell, he found an Indian trail where the main street of Haddonfield now is, and part of the path going from Burlington to Salem. Thomas Perrywebb had his house and blacksmith shop by the side of the narrow road, and where the lane from Mountwell came into the same, about where Braddock's hardware store now stands. Sarah Norris had



her store and dwelling on the easterly side of the same road, and where Potters street comes into it, and Thomas Redman had his "poticary" shop on the opposite side, near the site of the residence of the late Samuel C. Smith, deceased.

Slow was the progress of the village, for it was not until 1735 that the inhabitants of the township (Newton), at their town meeting, gave the place a name and decided to hold their meetings there, instead of holding them at the Newton Meeting House, as always before.

John and Elizabeth Estaugh had built a large house at their new place (now Woods), and opened a wide avenue (now Tanners street), from there to the Manor House, on the south side of the Salem road, lately the Kirby Mansion.

With these buildings and many others, Thomas Atkinson had something to do, and left the evidence of his handiwork upon them, but time and the march of improvement has destroyed them all. It may be, however, that he wrought upon William Albertson's house, which still stands upon the old homestead farm, and the only dwelling now remaining that was erected so many years ago. It is of brick, two stories high, and in its day was considered large and pretentious.

William Albertson was a wealthy man—had a deer park and a race-course on his estate, where he entertained his friends and visitors. This house stands on part of the land still held by the descendants of the ancestors, on the south



side of Newton Creek, and west of the Blackwood and Camden turnpike road.

### John and Christopher Atkinson.

On the 3rd day of the Second month (April), 1699, there also landed at the same wharf in Philadelphia two other men, of middle age, and the heads of families. They came from the agricultural districts of Lancashire, one of the northern counties of England, and bringing with them all their worldly goods. They were Friends, as was shown by their apparel and manner of speech, and were met by some of their relatives on the shore, who had preceded them to this wilderness country.

The town had assumed some shape, and lines of marked trees showed where the streets were to be opened. The cave dwellers were moving into much better residences, and there was considerable activity along the river, caused by the loading and unloading of vessels laying in the stream. These men were John Atkinson and Christopher Atkinson, who had landed with their wives and children, seeking a home either in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Letters sent them from those already here, encouraged their removal, giving florid accounts of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and, above all, the liberality of the government, and tempted them



to leave the old hearthstones in their native land. How trying was the breaking of these ties—of bidding adieu to old friends and familiar associations. Although suffering for opinions sake had weakened the bonds of friendship and home attachments—and bitter memories would rise up from individual wrong, and the abuse of power—yet there were many regrets that held them back and filled their hearts with sorrow. Neighbors, in all the word implies, were with them at their embarkation, and with tears gave them their blessing, while those in whose veins coursed the same blood as their own, bade them a last farewell, never to look upon them again forever.

“Farewell? A word that must be, and hath been,  
A sound that makes us linger, yet, farewell ”

### William Atkinson.

William Atkinson appears to have settled in or near Burlington about 1683, for in that year he located fifty acres of land on the west side of the Assiscunk Creek, and built himself a house. From whence he came, and the exact date of his arrival, nothing is left of record to show. It may be that he was a creditor of Edward Byllynge and accepted land in the Colony in discharge of his debt, as many had already done. If so, he probably came from London or from Yorkshire, where nearly all of those who had suffered by Edward





Byllynge's failure in business, then resided. Many of the deeds show that land was taken for a claim against him, which induced the owners to break up their homes and cross the sea to occupy their own broad acres, which never could be done in England.

There the tenure was for a term of years; here the holder had the fee and could perpetuate the title to the soil to those of his own blood in such manner as pleased him best. That he was there appears by his acting as a grandjuror in 1686 in Burlington County. In that unique and most interesting record of that Court, commencing in 1681, may be found this entry, surrounded by scraps of history that will settle many doubtful questions among families and antiquarians.

There are the facts and incidents of trials ~~before~~ the Court—curious in themselves and entered in full—so that the reader has it before him, even to the sentence of the convicted person. This, in certain cases, was whipping at the cart's tail, in the public street, from the Court House to the Wharf and back. It must have been a strange spectacle to see our Quaker ancestors, dressed in their plain coats and broad-brimmed hats, executing these sentences, or standing as witnesses of the severe punishment.

The civil list is not absent, for those who sat highest in



meeting or filled the most responsible offices in the Colony are found disputing about their lands, their bargains, and their reputations. At this same term of Court, James Wills was tried—having been indicted at a previous term—for abuse to a female slave which caused her death. Witnesses were called as against and for the prisoner; but the jury acquitted him, and proclamation was made in open Court to that effect.

### Marriage of William.

William Atkinson married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Curtis, of Burlington, New Jersey, the ninth of March, 1686. The following copy of the marriage certificate is found amongst Friends' records in Philadelphia:—

"WHEREAS, There hath been an intention of marriage, duly published at two several monthly meetings of ye people called Quakers, in Burlington, in the Province of West New Jersey, in America, between William Atkinson, of Burch Creek, and Elizabeth Curtis, daughter of Thomas Curtis, of the same parts also; and inquiry being made for the removing obstructions, ye meeting gave assent unto ye same.

"Now, these may certify ye truth unto all whom it doth or may concern, That in ye day of ye date hereof, in our sight and hearing, and in an assembly of ye Lord's people, ye said William Atkinson did take and declare ye said Elizabeth Curtis to be his wife, and ye said Elizabeth Curtis did take and declare ye said William Atkinson to be her husband, according to ye example of ye holy men of God, recorded in ye Scriptures of Truth, each of them consenting and promising to be loving, faithful and true in ye capacity as husband and wife, during ye terms of their natural lives together.

"In testimony whereof, Ye parties themselves have, first of all, subscribed their names, and we also as witnesses, this ninth day of ye third month, 1686.

"WILLIAM ATKINSON,  
"ELIZABETH ATKINSON

"ROBT. YOUNG,	ANN BUTCHER,	THOMAS CURTIS,
"WM. <del>MEYER</del> <i>Buddle</i>	DOROTHY LEEDS,	JANE CURTIS,
"THOMAS BARTON,	JANE SHINN,	SAM'L OGBORNE,
"SIMON CHARLES,	ESTHER SHINN,	JANE OGBORNE,
"JOHN BUTCHER,	MARY ANDREWS,	SARAH HARVIE,
"THOS. BUTCHER,	LIDIA HOMER,	ANN BARTON,
"THOS. LEEDS "		



### William Buys Land.

William Atkinson purchased a town lot in Burlington in 1694, and afterwards removed into Springfield Township, where he bought land of Daniel Leeds, in 1698, and of John Harvey and John Day, in 1711. Here he died in 1714. His children were Joseph, John, Mary, Michael, William, Elizabeth and Isaac, part of whom were minors at the time of his death. By will, dated October, 1714, William left to his son Joseph the farm on which he lived in Springfield, Joseph having the farm re-surveyed.

Joseph Atkinson died in Springfield Township in 1760. Sarah, his wife, and the following children survived him: William, Aaron, Mary, (wife of Jacob Powell,) Sarah, Elizabeth, Lovinia and John. He left the farm received from his father, William, to his sons William and Aaron, who had the farm re-surveyed in 1789.

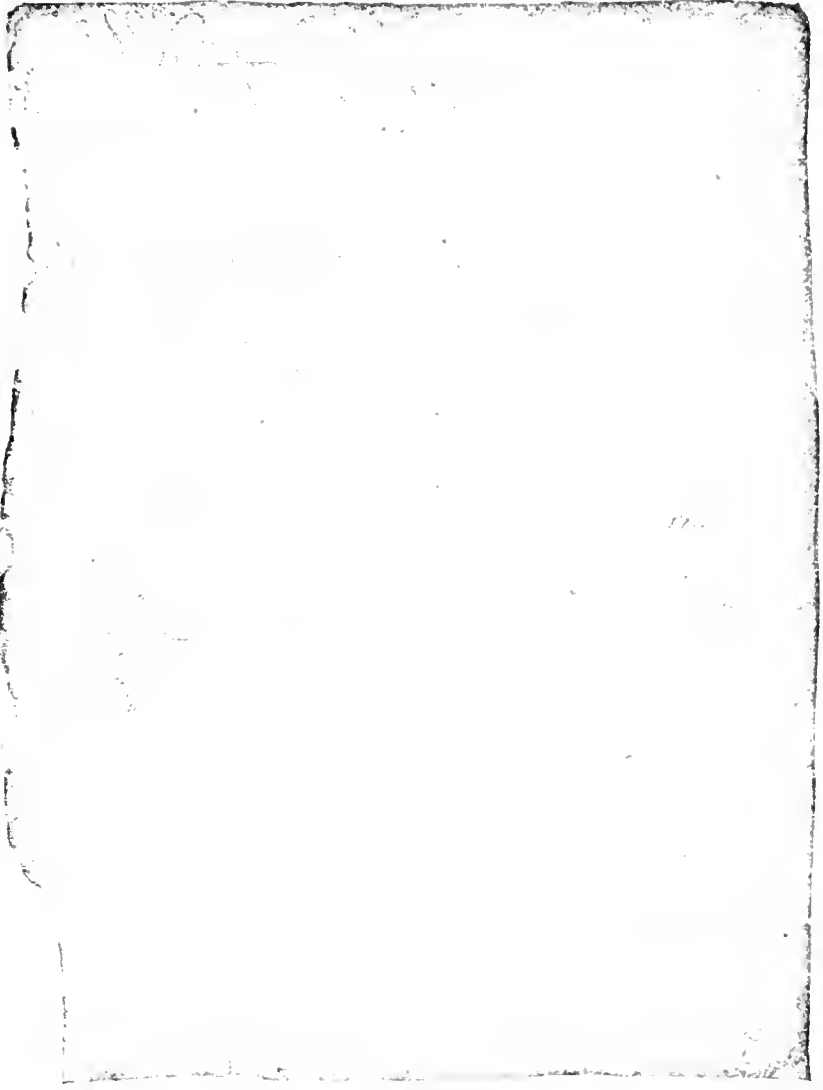
Michael, the third son of William, married Hope Shinn. He died in Springfield in 1746, leaving the following children: Jonathan, Levi, Job, Elizabeth, Mary, and Rachel. *9... done...*

### Marriage of John.

John, the second son of William, married Hannah, daughter of James Shinn, in Springfield Township, West New Jersey, <sup>x</sup>October 21, 1716. The original certificate of this marriage, according to the Order of the Society of Friends, is now

x November. old style









in the possession of Jno. B. Atkinson, of Earlington, Kentucky, the great-great-great-grandson of William Atkinson. The following are the names of the witnesses to this interesting document:—

JAMES WILLS,	JOHN SHINN,	JOHN ATKINSON,
JOHN YARD,	HENRY BURR,	HANNAH ATKINSON
JOHN BUDD,	RICHARD RIDGEWAY,	JAMES SHINN,
JOHN TONKINS,	RICH'D RIDGEWAY, JR.,	ABIGAIL SHINN,
JAMES BUDD,	WM PANCOAST,	RESTORE LIPPINCOTT,
FRANCIS ATKINSON,	JOHN BUTCHER,	HANNAH LIPPINCOTT,
SPENCER JONES,	WM BUDD, JR.,	JAMES LIPPINCOTT,
JOSEPH BURR,	JOHN DAY,	ZACHARY JOSS, <i>Joss</i>
MARY RIDGEWAY,	MARMADUKE COATS,	SAM'L LIPPINCOTT,
DAVID LIVEZEY,	SAMUEL COATS,	JOSIAH GASKILL,
FRANCES ATKINSON,	HOPE SHINN,	MARTHA OWEN,
JOSHUA OWEN,	MARY ATKINSON,	ANN LIPPINCOTT,
	REBECCA GASKILL,	JOSEPH ATKINSON,
	RACHEL JOSS, <i>Joss</i>	MARY CATTELL,
	ELIZABETH BURR,	JOS C. LIPPINCOTT, <i>Jacob</i>
	ANNA COATS,	MARY LIPPINCOTT,
	MARY COATS,	THOMAS BUTCHER,
	MARY BUTCHER,	ZORUBABEL GASKILL,
		KATHARINE CHAMPION,
		SAMUEL ATKINSON.

On the back of this certificate are written the names of the children, born of this marriage, as follows:—

HANNAH, born 4th month 7, 1719.

ELIZABETH, born 3d month 1st, 1731

SAMUEL, born 4th month 16, 1721.

PATIENCE, born 4th month, 1733.

JAMES, born 4th month 20, 1724.

JOHN, born 8th month 2d, 1735.

ABIGAIL, born 10th month 22d, 1726.

DAVID, born 7th month 2d, 1737.

MOSES, born 3d month 9th, 1739

John Atkinson died in Springfield Township in 1769. Hannah, his wife, and all the children, except John and David, survived him. A married life of fifty-three years.



The daughter Hannah married a Cowperthwaite, Abigail married an Eldridge, Elizabeth married a Fenton, and Patience married a Conrow.

Marriage of Samuel.

Samuel Atkinson, son of John and Hannah and grandson of William, married Esther, daughter of Thomas Evens and Esther, his wife, (deceased,) of the Township of Evesham, on the 24th day of February, 1746. The original certificate of this marriage is in the possession of John B. Atkinson, of Earlington, Ky., the following names being attached as witnesses:

		SAMUEL ATKINSON. \
		ESTHER ATKINSON \
MARY WILKINS.	ELIZABETH LIPPINCOTT,	JOHN ATKINSON, \
ELIZABETH LIPPINCOTT,	JOSEPH LIPPINCOTT,	HANNAH ATKINSON, \
JAMES ATKINSON.	WILLIAM EVENS,	THOMAS EVENS,
ABIGAIL ATKINSON,	SARAH EVENS,	ABNER HAINES,
MARY LIPPINCOTT,	JACOB EVENS,	REBECCA EVENS,
EZEKIEL LIVEZEY,	ENOCH EVENS,	ELIZABETH EVENS,
<i>Foster</i> JOSIAH <del>ROSSER</del> ,	HANNAH FOSTER,	JOHN EVENS,
JAMES ELDRIDGE,	ANNIE FOSTER,	RUTH EVENS,
SAM'L LIPPINCOTT,	JANE EVENS,	HANNAH COWPERTHWAITHE,
		ISAAC EVENS,
JONATHAN SHINN,	RACHEL EVENS,	ELIZABETH ATKINSON.
THOMAS WILKINS,	BEULAH EVENS,	

The children by this marriage were:—

CALEB, (married Sarah Champion).	ESTHER, (married Joseph Rogers).
EMPSON, (married Sarah Ridgeway).	HANNAH, (married <sup>Samanth</sup> — Hilliard).
JOHN, (married Elizabeth Borton).	JOSIAH, (married Priscilla Ballinger).
<i>x</i> SAMUEL, (married <del>Elizabeth Conrow</del> <i>Marian Borton</i> )	

*x a soldier in the Revolution - was in the battle of Long Island*



Esther Atkinson died, and Samuel married Elizabeth Conrow. The following were the children by this second marriage:—

KEZIAH, (married Benj. Atkinson),  
 MARY, (married John Atkinson),  
 HOPE, (married Clement Rockhill),

ISAIAH, (married Sarah Eldridge),  
 ELIZABETH, (married Salathiel Townsend),  
 ANN, (never married).

The Benjamin and John Atkinson mentioned as marrying the sisters, Keziah and Mary, were brothers, and not nearly related to the sisters they married.

The third son of Samuel and Esther was John, born August 1st, 1756.

### Marriage of John.

John Atkinson, son of Samuel and Esther, and great-grandson of William, married Elizabeth Borton, at Evesham, Burlington County, March 15th, 1798. The certificate of this marriage is in the possession of John B. Atkinson, (his grandson), of Earlington, Ky.

John purchased a farm near Mullica Hill, in Gloucester County, on which he resided until his death, June 5th, 1837. His wife, Elizabeth, was born August 10th, 1768, and died July 24th, 1838. The children by this marriage who reached maturity were:—

ESTHER, born August 5th, 1799, (married Jonathan Heritage),  
 ELIZABETH, born August 16th, 1800, (married Wm H French),  
 GEORGE T., born October 26th, 1810.  
 JOHN, born March 18th, 1814, (married Anne Albertson; one child living—Francinia).



Esther died February 15th, 1871; Elizabeth died October 3d, 1864; John died, in Colorado, January 13th, 1889.

### Marriage of George T.

George Tatem Atkinson, son of John and Elizabeth, and great-great-grandson of William, married Elizabeth Bond, daughter of Jesse Bond, of Salem County, February 5th, 1840. The children by this marriage were:—

JOHN B., born November 11th, 1840.

LYDIA T., born February 5, 1843; married Robt. Comly.

TOWNSEND, born September 15th, 1745; never married, died April 26th, 1890.

CAROLINE F., born December 16th, 1847; married B. N. Farren, of Massachusetts; died September 3d, 1885.

GEORGE C., born May 15, 1852; married Fannie W. Miller

WARREN, born February 28, 1856.

George T. and Elizabeth B. Atkinson celebrated their Golden Wedding on the homestead, near Mullica Hill, February 5th, 1890, and are enjoying good health at this writing.

### Marriage of John B.

John B. Atkinson, son of George and Elizabeth, and great-great-great-grandson of William, married Sarah A. Black, daughter of William and Ann Black, of Mount Holly, New Jersey, May 23d, 1867.

There were two children by this marriage—John B., born April 29th, 1868; died at Swarthmore College, Pa., October 31st, 1886; Mary Newbold, born May 9th, 1869; now living with her parents at Earlington, Kentucky.





## Other William Atkinsons.

Two William Atkinsons afterwards died in Burlington County, one of Northampton Township, in 1754. His children were: Ann, wife of — Scott, Elizabeth and Hope, minors. His wife Mary (Shinn) also survived him.

And another William, of Springfield Township died in 1767. His children were: William, Hannah and Aden.

In 1747 Thomas Atkinson purchased of James Lippincott a 2-8 interest and in 1748 he purchased of Abraham Griffith a 3-8 interest in the grist or corn mill at Mount Holly, he thereby owning more than one-half of the mill, the water power and improvements. A short sketch of the place may not be uninteresting:

John Ridges, of London, made a survey of 871 acres in Northampton Township, Burlington County, fronting on the North side of Rancocas Creek, and upon which the principal part of the town stands. In 1701 Samuel Jennings, as attorney of John Ridges, sold the same to Joshua Southwick and Edward Gaskill, who built a dam across the creek and erected a grist or corn mill there. In 1720 they made a division of the property and the mills were assigned to Edward Gaskill, who in 1723 sold the same to Thomas Bryant. He sold undivided interests to various persons, among which was 2-8 part to Ebenezer Laige, in 1737, who added a bolting mill,



the first excepting Thomas Olive's mill at Burlington in this part of the country.

After several conveyances Thomas Atkinson became the owner of 5-8 part, as before named, and in 1757 his interest was sold by the Sheriff to his father, Thomas Atkinson. He died the same year, and the Sheriff again sold the property to John Hatkinson (April 2, 1758). By this time a few dwellings had been erected near by, and some mechanics occupied the houses and the little hamlet was called

### "The Mills."

To this mill came people from far and near—even from the seacoast—to get their grain made into flour, and where they waited until the miller could do the work. Here news from all parts of the country could be gathered, and where all the gossip of the neighborhood was discussed; where bargains were made, and where horse-trading, oxen-matching and cattle speculations were carried on. Here the boys came to swim in Summer, and where the lads and lassies met on the ice in Winter with sled and skate to enjoy the season as it passed.

The saw-mill, fed from the same pond, stood on the southerly bank of the stream, and was probably erected before the corn-mill. In 1735 Thomas Atkinson purchased an interest in it of Samuel Gaskill, which he sold to Abraham Farrington in 1740.



It is difficult to place the several Thomas Atkinsons named in the ancient records, at this late day, so as to show their relation to each other and trace the line of either or all to the present. This would be desirable, but the absence of sufficient data prevents it.

In 1691 Thomas Atkinson was a resident of Mountwell, afterwards Haddonfield, and where he remained until 1745; he is called a brick-layer. April 10th, 1693, Thomas Atkinson was grantee in a deed for land in Burlington County. March 5th, 1695, Thomas Atkinson was grantee for a lot in Burlington, and where he then lived; he is called a mason. And January 11th, 1695, Thomas Atkinson was grantee in a deed for a lot of land in Burlington, and where he then lived; he is called a brick-layer.

There was also Thomas Atkinson, the son, and Thomas Atkinson, the father, owners of the mill at Mount Holly, already referred to, who may be added, but will not aid in the solution of the present inquiry.

In 1739 one of these Thomas Atkinsons, of Northampton Township, died, leaving a will in which he named his wife, Sarah, sons, Francis, John and Thomas, and daughters, Christianna Wilson, Jean Jones and Sarah Harris.

In 1757 another of these Thomas Atkinsons, of Northampton Township, died, leaving a will, and named his wife,



Hannah, son, Thomas, and daughters, Rebecca, Esther and Hannah.

Adjoining to the Southwick and Gaskill purchase on the West was a survey of 300 acres, made to John Cripps, and upon which part of the town now stands. Daniel Wills, the Surveyor General, made the location, and as he stood on the Mount (April 18, 1681,) he wrote in his field-book the following: "Within which tract is a mountain to which the Province East, South, West and North sends a beautiful aspect, and named by the owner thereof Mount Holly."

On the Northeast side of the Mount, Nathaniel Cripps, son of John, built himself a house, and where he lived. It stood by the road going from the Northern part of Burlington County to the ferry over Rancocas Creek, and where Freedom Lippincott had his blacksmith shop. Near by Nathaniel Cripps' house was the Friends' meeting-house and grave-yard. The Mount was known as Cripps' Mount, the place of worship as Cripps' meeting-house, and the burial place as Cripps' grave-yard.

To this log building the Friends in that section came for religious worship twice in each week, and where they were frequently visited by preachers from foreign parts traveling in America. Here the philanthropist, John Woolman, worshipped regularly, and where he proclaimed the doctrines of





his sect to the assembled listeners, and where his voice was the first raised in opposition to slavery--then so general among those of his own belief and practice. In this primitive building often sat Robert Dimsdale, Francis Collins, (who had removed from Mountwell to Northampton Township), Benjamin Bryant, Edward Gaskill, Joshua Southwick, and others. Here, also, came Thomas Atkinson (father and son) with their families and others of the name, and sometimes their slaves, as coachmen and attendants.

Here sometimes would a marriage be solemnized, bringing the young people from the whole country side and filling the house to its utmost capacity. The wedding party, on horse-back, with colored servants, also mounted, made a display, however plain the dresses, and on their return be increased by other guests, invited to partake of the feast of good things awaiting them at home.

Here, too, would occasionally be assembled in the burial place many friends and neighbors to inter the remains of some deceased one--perchance the head of a family, or possibly some one just coming to mature age, or cut off in the joyousness of youth to be laid away and seen of those present no more.

The old meeting-house is gone and nothing left to mark its place. Of the grave-yard no evidence remains to show its



boundaries or its extent. Generations have passed away since an interment has been made there, and now none but strangers are about the premises.

“ Hark ! how the sacred calm, that breathes around,  
Bids every fierce, tumultuous passion cease ;  
In still small accents, whispering from the ground,  
A grateful earnest of eternal peace.”

In this now neglected spot lie the remains of many who were conspicuous in their day and generation, and many equally deserving who followed the sequestered paths of life and were surrounded by friends and relatives who bore them the same kind remembrance. But how great the regret that not a stone appears to show their resting places. Friends, relatives nor descendants need visit there expecting to find the particular place where lie those whom they would wish to honor, for weeds and briars, if not the farmer's tillage, have shut it out many years ago. How much of gratitude and respect would be felt by many of these latter generations if their ancestors and the first comers into this land had avoided the spirit and letter of their creed and left some enduring mark, however simple and plain, at the graves of those who passed away before them, so that these burial places could be visited and the moss-covered stones point out the spot so anxiously sought for.

The burial places through the Southern Counties of New



Jersey are innumerable that have been neglected and, in many instances, deserted. Very many of the private yards have been ploughed over and nothing left even to show their locality, while many others, used by a neighborhood, are without fence, the stones broken or carried away, and overgrown with bushes and a harbor for vermin. Others have only a traditional existence, and where lay some of the best people of their generation and whose remains are shrouded with the roots of the timber now growing above them.

As the settlers increased, bridges were built over the Rancocas at "The Mills," and the title of Bridgeton was given the place. This name held good for many years, but at last gave way to that assigned to it in 1681 by John Cripps as he stood with his surveyor on the top of the "mountain," not far distant, and which name will continue to the end of time.

### Samuel Atkinson.

Samuel Atkinson settled in Chester Township, Burlington County, New Jersey, previous to 1719, for in that year he purchased a large tract of land of Thomas Adams, (son of John, the first settler), adjoining his own, and where he then lived. This tract is at the Easterly end of Moorestown (then Rodmantown) and lies on both sides of the King's Road, extending from Salem to Burlington, as laid out in 1681. His



dwelling was a stately mansion for the day in which it was built, for Samuel was a man of considerable estate, and his good wife, Ruth, a daughter of Mahlon Stacy, had brought him a large inheritance. He was a man of influence in his neighborhood, as well in the meeting, of which he was a consistent member, as in the political movements of the times then agitating the people of the Colony.

Part of his old residence is still standing, and is at this writing occupied by Clayton B. Zilley, Esq., who traced his title to the land through the Dudleys and the younger branches of the Atkinsons to the first owner of that name.

His father came to Philadelphia with William Penn, and rendered him some service. This is shown in Samuel Atkinson's will where he mentions that William Penn promised to remunerate his father by deeding him a lot of land in Philadelphia. The death of his father before the deed was delivered led to some doubt, but Samuel took pains to discover the truth, and on examining a plan of the city found that William Penn had written his father's name in a lot on said plan. By this he felt assured the deed was in existence and gave the lot to his two daughters by his will.

'Holmes' map of 'Philadelphia and Environs' began in 1681 shows two lots of land marked with the name of J. Atkinson, one in Bucks County, on the west side of Nesham-





any Creek, and another on the east side of Dublin Creek, a short distance from the river. This is probably the person named by Samuel Atkinson in his will and who was also the owner of the lots within the city limits—a gift from the Patroon."

It is unfortunate that Samuel Atkinson did not mention his father's name, for by this a link would be established and connect reliably some of the later branches of the family with one of the first comers of the name to this region of country. Light may be thrown upon this matter, however, by that indefatigable antiquarian, Thomas Shourds, of Salem County, New Jersey, in his history of Fenwick Colony, pages 502 and 503. There he shows some of the accounts of James Newell, as attorney of William Penn, in which James Atkinson is credited with furnishing beef and pork to Governor Penn and other items. These accounts date in 1685 and 1688 and leave a very strong inference that James Atkinson there named was the father of Samuel, and that he was a butcher and resided in Philadelphia at that time. He (Samuel) was the owner of many slaves, and in his will showed his anxiety for their welfare. He gave them to his children and requested that they be learned to read the Scriptures and be set free at the age of thirty-five years. His will bears date 4th month 13th, 1769, but not admitted to probate until April 13th, 1775, in which year he died. His children were: Thomas, who married Su-



sanna Shinn; Ruth, married Joshua Bispham (his second wife); Rebecca, married Joshua Wright and Thomas Say, M. D., of Philadelphia (his second wife); John; Samuel, married Ann Coates, and William.

On his plantation was a family grave-yard, and where himself and wife and a few neighbors are probably buried. Adjoining to this was a place of sepulchre for his slaves, and where their descendants were brought to be buried for many years after the estate had passed out of the family.

Samuel Atkinson was a member of the Adams meeting and worshipped in the log-house, near where the present house stands, in Moorestown. It was accidentally burned and replaced by one of stone—many years since torn down. It was known as the Chester meeting, and eventually changed to the Moorestown meeting. Some of the oldest members were: William Hollinshead, John Adams, Richard Heritage, Sarah Roberts, Samuel Burrough, Juda Allen, Edward Buzby, Francis Austin, and others.

Stacy Atkinson, who died about 1780, grandson of the first Samuel, was the last of the name owning any of the paternal acres and with him the name was lost sight of in that section of Burlington County. Mahlon Stacy, the only son of Mahlon, lived with Samuel and Ruth Atkinson on the old homestead and died there in 1744, intestate and without children.



Of Mahlon Stacy, father of Ruth Atkinson, it may be said that he came to West New Jersey from Yorkshire, England, on the ship *Shield* in 1678, with his wife, children and several servants. He was a brother of Robert Stacy, one of the Commissioners, and a man of considerable estate. He settled at the Falls where Trenton now stands and erected a grain mill there and soon became prominent in the affairs of the colony. His letters written to friends in England after his arrival here and as printed in Samuel Smith's history of New Jersey, giving his views of the country, are interesting reading. He owned much other land in the Colony. He died in 1703, leaving a widow, Rebecca, and the following named children: Mahlon, who married Sarah Bainbridge, (no issue); Elizabeth, who married Abel Jenny, of Virginia; Ruth, who married William Beaks (three children—Sarah, Stacy and Nathan), Samuel Atkinson; Mary, who married Reuben Pownall; Rebecca, who married Joshua Wright and Thomas Potts, and Sarah, who married Joseph Kirkbride.

Others of the name of Atkinson, residents of West New Jersey, and doubtless connected with those herein before written of, should be mentioned here.

John Atkinson lived in Hunterdon County and died in 1750. His wife Martha and children not named survived him.

In the Surveyor-General's office in Trenton is found that Thomas Atkinson located land in Burlington County in 1694,



William Atkinson located land in Burlington County in 1694.

Samuel Atkinson located land in Burlington County in 1715.

Records of Middletown monthly meeting (opposite Trenton) show that Isaac Atkinson, of Bristol, Pa., married Sarah Hough, April 23d, 1708. Samuel Atkinson, born ~~July~~<sup>July</sup> 17th, 1685, the son of Thomas and Jane. Thomas Atkinson died September 1st, 1687. John Atkinson died March 2d, 1688. Hannah Atkinson died August 9th, 1699. John Athinson born June 18th, 1718, the son of John and Mary.

Chesterfield monthly meeting records show certificate of removal of Samuel Atkinson and wife to Newton (near Had-donfield) October 3d, 1719.

The same records show certificate of Joseph Atkinson, of Burlington, to marry Mary Arenson, daughter of John and Mary, July 7th, 1721.

Samuel Atkinson, of Falls meeting (opposite Trenton) ~~married~~ Ruth Beaks July 2d, 1714.

William Atkinson, of Falls Township, Pa., married Mary Hough, daughter of Richard, February 6th, 1704.

Bowden's History of Friends, 1854, tells of Aaron Atkinson and William Eills (preachers) who visited the Colonies in America in 1698. Aaron came from Cumberland, and was at the time of the visit about 33 years of age. He had been





educated a Presbyterian, but at the age of 29 was convinced of Friends' principles by the preaching of Thomas Story. He and his friend landed in Maryland, and in the sixth month of that year attended the yearly meeting of ministers at Samuel Janney's house, in Burlington, and afterwards went to New England.

Rachel Atkinson, a widow, who lived in Chester Township, died in 1758. She was a sister of Thomas Wallace, and in her will named the following children: Lydia, Susan, Abigail and John, all minors.

Joseph Atkinson, of Springfield Township, in his will mentioned his wife, Sarah, and children, William, Aaron, Mary (wife of Jacob Powell), Sarah, Elizabeth, Lavinia and John. He died in 1760.

Hope Atkinson, a widow, died in Springfield Township in 1761. In her will she names a daughter, Hannah, and a son, Michael.

In the Township last named died Michael Atkinson in 1772. He had no children, but named in his will his brothers Job and Amos and his sister Hannah, wife of Shaddock Pan-coast.

Except in the case of the decendants of William Atkinson, no attempt has been made to trace any particular line of this family, the purpose being to fix a starting point for such as are interested in and desirous of knowing of his or her ances-



tors. It is a commendable ambition to seek for one's blood through its various ramifications, whether of high or low degree; whether of gentle or plebian extraction. It is always a curious and sometimes an important study, leading one through the labyrinths of musty records, questionable documents and doubtful traditions, often in the wrong direction, with the path so dim and the way so blind that hope deserts us and the search is abandoned in despair.

" As some lone miser, visiting his store,  
Bends at his treasure, counts, recounts, it o'er  
Hoards after hoards his rising raptures fill,  
Yet still he sighs, for hoards are wanting still "

The following information was furnished by the Rev. John Atkinson, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, who was born on September 30, 1797, in the village of Flemington, New Jersey, and who was licensed to preach August 14, 1814, and has been actively engaged in the Methodist ministry ever since:—

### Timothy Atkinson.

Timothy settled in Maryland (date unknown), and had two sons, Thomas and John. Thomas was born May 20, 1703. He moved to New Jersey, and on October 19, 1728, married Hannah Doddridge, daughter of Philip Doddridge, of Woodbridge, New Jersey. Thomas afterward moved to Huntingdon County, on the Raritan River, building the second mill that was built in New Jersey.



C. T. Atkinson, of Bardstown, Kentucky, has the family Bible of Joseph Atkinson, the son of Thomas (printed in 1747). The following is a copy of the records in this Bible.—

“ Thomas Atkinson, son of Timothy, was born in the year 1703, May 20.

“ Hannah Doddridge, daughter of Philip, born at Woodbridge, 1708, May 22, and joined in marriage to the above Thomas Atkinson, 1728, October 17. Age of our children as followeth:—

“ ANN, born 1729, August 14

“ TIMOTHY, born 1732, April 28

“ FRANCES, born 1734, March 16

“ PHILIP, born 1736, February 10.

“ THOMAS, born 1737, May 31

JOHN, born 1740, January 1

ASHER, born 1742, August 1

JOSEPH, born 1744, July 1

HANNAH, born 1748, June 9

ENOCH, born 1750, January 1

“ Taken from the original and transcribed by Joseph Atkinson, 1775, November 12.”

Joseph Atkinson had three wives. The first was ~~Jeremimah Pratt~~ *Jeremimah Pratt*. One child, Asher, the result of this marriage, born April 29, 1770. Jeremimah died July 3, 1783.

On June 7, 1787, Joseph married Susannah Rakestraw, a widow, and by her had two children—Elizabeth, or Betsy, Atkinson, born March 9, 1788, and James, born February 20, 1791.

After the death of Susannah, Joseph married Sarah Alexander. The children of this marriage were:—



*Albert Kaitlin*

Sarah, born April 24, 1794; married ~~Alex G.~~ Pearson; died 1888, leaving two children—Alex Pearson (unmarried), of Vineland, New Jersey, and Elizabeth, wife of the late Admiral De Kraff, residing in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mary, born November 7, 1795; died in infancy.

John, born September 30, 1797; married, November 22, 1848, Ella Whitney (widow) at Quincy, Illinois; now living at Benton Harbor, Michigan; three children by this marriage—Sarah (Winans), now a widow, with sons Charles A. and Edward; Mary (Newcomb), with two children, David B. and Mary (of Henderson, Kentucky); Chas. T., of Bardstown, Kentucky, with three children, Alma, Florence<sup>me</sup> and Allen.

The following marriages of Friends are from the Pennsylvania archives:—

## MIDDLETOWN MONTHLY MEETING.

1688. JANE ATKINSON to WILLIAM RILES  
 1711. MARGARET ATKINSON to SAMUEL HILLBORN  
 1716. MARY ATKINSON to CEPHUS CHILD  
 1717. JOHN ATKINSON to MARY SMITH

## FALLS MONTHLY MEETING.

1704. WILLIAM ATKINSON to MARY HOUGH  
 1708. ISAAC ATKINSON to SARAH HOUGH  
 1722. WILLIAM ATKINSON to MARGARET BAKER.  
 1750. RACHEL ATKINSON to THOMAS STAPLER

## BUCKINGHAM MONTHLY MEETING.

1763. CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON to LYDIA CONBY.





- 1788 JOSEPH ATKINSON to RACHEL CHILD  
 1799. THOMAS ATKINSON to SARAH SMITH

## WRIGHTSTOWN MONTHLY MEETING.

1742. WILLIAM ATKINSON to MARY TOMLINSON  
 1744 THOMAS ATKINSON to MARY WILDMAN  
 1764 MARY ATKINSON to JAMES MOORE  
 1766. MARY ATKINSON to JOHN ROSE.  
 1796. JANE ATKINSON to CHARLES REEDER  
 1802. PHEBE ATKINSON to WILLIAM NEEDL.  
 1802 JOHN ATKINSON, JR., to MARY ATKINSON  
 1806 JOHN ATKINSON to ELIZABETH HARKING  
 1807 JONATHAN ATKINSON to ESTHER SMITH  
 1807. TIMOTHY ATKINSON to DEBORAH SMITH

In the Pennsylvania Colonial Records, vol. 1, page 182, "at a meeting of the Council, in the Council Room, in Philadelphia, ye 17th of ye 3d month, 1686. James Atkinson's complaint against Henry Stretcher and Charles Hames, was Read, setting forth their abuse to him in his Doeing his office, viz: gathering ye Proprietors quitt rents." Stretcher was a member of the Assembly, and at the next meeting of Council, the "Offense" was proved.

William Atkinson was elected Coroner of Bucks County in 1721, and remained in office until 1740.

In "an account of the Lands in Pennsylvania Granted by William Penn to several Purchasers within the Kingdom



of England, Ireland and Scotland, 22d of 3d month, 1682." is found the name of Samuel Atkinson, 125 acres.

In Pennsylvania archives, 1736, is found the deposition of Susannah Atkinson, wife of Michael Atkinson, said Michael Atkinson, "a hearty, bold mon" was taken prisoner by Charles Higenbothom during the trouble between Pennsylvania and Maryland about the ownership of lands on the Susquehannah River.



















