

**HISTORY**  
**OF**  
**PORT ELIZABETH**  
**CUMBERLAND CO., N. J.**

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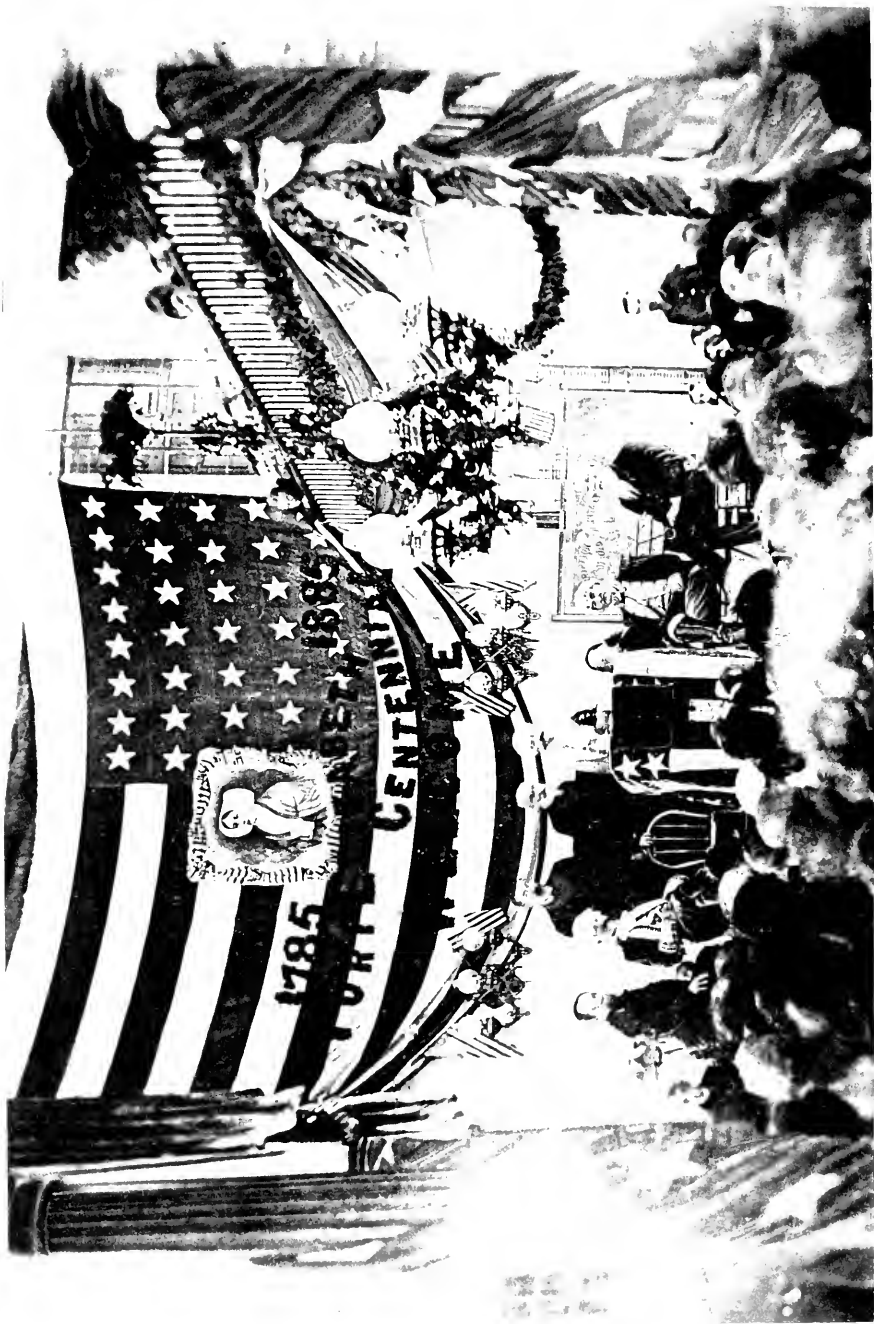














HISTORY  
OF  
PORT ELIZABETH,

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY,

DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME;

WITH AN ARTICLE ON ITS RESOURCES AND A FULL ACCOUNT OF  
THE LATE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

By F. W. BOWEN.

ALSO THE CENTENNIAL POEM

By C. B. OGDEN.

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## PREFACE.

IN presenting this history of Port Elizabeth to our friends and the public, we desire to state that no stone has been left unturned to secure information from every available source. While we have endeavored to be as accurate as possible, there may be some errors. Should any be detected, we hope charity will be meted us rather than adverse criticism.

We desire to acknowledge our indebtedness and extend our thanks to Charles E. Sheppard, Esq., of Bridgeton, to Hon. B. F. Lee, of Trenton, to James Stewart, of Greenwich, Daniel Harris, Esq., Francis Lee, Col. J. Howard Willets, and to all other inhabitants of Port Elizabeth who have rendered us valuable assistance in the preparation of our work. Also to F. L. Godfrey, Esq., Clerk of Cumberland County, who furnished us information from his office, and to C. B. Ogden, who contributed the articles on the Civil War, Resources, and Centennial Celebration.

F. W. BOWEN.

PORT ELIZABETH, N. J., April 4, 1885.



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HISTORY  
OF  
PORT ELIZABETH, CUMBERLAND CO., N. J.

GENERAL HISTORY.

On the 12th of March, 1664, King Charles II., of England, granted the whole tract from the Connecticut to the Delaware River to his brother James, Duke of York, who afterwards became James II.

Before he had taken formal possession of the country he granted, June 23 of the same year, all that portion of his territory lying between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers to John Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. The name New Caesarea, or New Jersey, was given to it at that time in honor of Carteret, who had been governor of the Isle of Jersey, and held it for the English against foreign invasion.

Lord Berkeley became dissatisfied, and by deed of bargain and sale, March 18, 1674, conveyed all of his undivided half of New Jersey to John Fenwick. The deed though made to Fenwick was really for Edward Byllinge, as his funds were used in the purchase, and Fenwick was in equity a trustee for him.

In a short time Fenwick claimed the whole, and difficulty arose between him and Byllinge. It was finally agreed to refer the matter to William Penn to decide. After each party had stated his case, Penn decided that Fenwick was entitled to one-tenth and Byllinge to nine-tenths. Fenwick at first would not be bound by the decision, but finally agreed to it. In a short time Byllinge became bankrupt, and on February 9-10, 1675, he and Fenwick conveyed to William Penn, Gauen

Laurie, and Nicholas Lucas all of their undivided half of New Jersey. Laurie and Lucas were the principal creditors of Byllinge, hence the transfer to them.

It was supposed at the time that the deed was absolute, but by some means Fenwick retained his one-tenth.

On July 1, 1676, New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey, by a line running from Little Egg Harbor to the Delaware River,  $41^{\circ}$  north latitude. George Carteret took East Jersey, and Penn, Laurie, and Lucas, West Jersey. The proprietors designed to have the land divided into one hundred shares, of which John Fenwick owned ten, being the amount to which Penn had previously decided he was entitled.

Many shares were sold, until the proprietors became so numerous it was a difficult matter to get them together to transact the business affairs of the province. It was then decided to have a Proprietary Council elected annually to manage the affairs. The first Council was elected in 1678. The land which comprises Cumberland and Cape May Counties was held by the Indians until 1688, when most of it was purchased by Daniel Coxe, March 30, April 30, and May 16.

The Council soon ordered surveys made in various parts of the province for different persons. In the month of April, 1691, Thomas Budd and John Worledge started from Burlington in a small vessel, came down the bay, and made a number of surveys in the lower part of Cumberland County and in Cape May. On the east side of Maurice River they laid out a twenty-thousand-acre survey for Robert Squibbs, Sr., and Robert Squibbs, Jr., of Westminster, Middlesex County, England. At the same time they ran out the town plot of Dorchester, which contained two thousand acres, and extended from Squibbs's line up the river above the present town of Dorchester, which was not built until the present century.

Just above the Dorchester tract they laid off ten thousand acres for John Bartlett, which extended as far north as Manumuskin Creek. Bartlett conveyed his tract to John Scott, by whom it was sold out in smaller tracts. About 1720 he sold the part where Port Elizabeth stands to John Purple, who was a prominent citizen and the first member of the Board of Free-



holders from Maurice River. This was in 1748, when the county was organized. Purple conveyed his to John Bell, who lived in Maurice River in 1740, at which time he had a tavern there. He was a ship-joiner, and afterwards removed to Little Creek, Kent County, Pa.\*

On August 19, 1771, Bell deeded to Elizabeth Clark, afterward Bodly,† two hundred and thirteen acres, including where Port Elizabeth stands, for two hundred and sixty pounds sterling.

### EARLY SETTLERS.

Who were the first white settlers in the limits of Cumberland County is not known. It has been said that some of the Swedes, who made a settlement farther up the Delaware in 1638, established themselves on the banks of Maurice River previous to any other white settlers in the county, but no evidence has been found to sustain this opinion, although it is not improbable that such was the case. Gabriel Thomas, a Friend, in a book published in London in 1698, speaks of Prince Maurice River, "where the Swedes used to kill the geese in great numbers for their feathers only, leaving their carcasses behind them." How long a time previous to the publication of the book is meant is not known, but it implies that there were some Swedish settlers there previous to its publication. Whether the first settlers or not, the descendants of many of the Swedes are quite numerous to the present time.

About the time John Purple bought the land where Port Elizabeth stands, 1720, settlers are known to have come, and from that time continued to come, so that about 1743 two acres of land were purchased, most probably from John Hoffman, a short distance above Spring Garden Ferry, and a Swedish church was erected for the use of the brethren, and dedicated to the worship of God by Abraham Reineke, Owen Rice, Matthew Rentz, and Pastor Lawrence T. Nyberg, on December 18, 1746. The church was used as such

\* The recorded deed names Pa.

† Usually spelled Bodley, which is incorrect.

previous to its dedication, the first sermon being preached in it on June 27, 1745, and Jeremiah, infant son of Lars and Susan Peterson, was baptized immediately after it. The following are the names of persons who resided in Maurice River and were attached to the brethren: Samuel Cabb and wife, Catherine Paul Camp, Nicholas Hopman and wife, John Hopman and wife, Peter Hopman and wife, Frederic Hopman and wife, Joseph Jones, Abraham Jones and wife, Eric Kyn and wife, — Lommus, Peter Mosslander, Margaret —, a widow, Stephen Mullicas and wife, Eric Mullicas and wife, Lucas Peterson, Lars Peterson and wife, Aaron Peterson, Thomas Peterson, Gabriel Powell, — Purple, Shiloh, an Indian, Samuel Van Immen and wife, David Van Immen, Peter Van Immen, and Gabriel Van Immen.

The book in which the records of the church were kept has been partially destroyed, the first seven leaves having been torn out and lost. The record left commences with the fifteenth page and is dated 1748. There are some family records of births and baptisms in the back part of the book that date back to 1743. The names of the persons who officiated at the baptisms are Paul Brycelus, 1743-54; Mr. Nemberg, 1744-45; Abraham Reincke, 1745-50; John Wade, 1748-49; Gabriel Noesmann, 1750-51; Abraham Seidenius, 1751; Matthew Reiz, 1751-54; Earnest Gemboed, 1755-57. Here there occurs a long interval. John Vexeel, 1768-71. Lastly, Nicholas Collin, 1771-72. From this church the resident missionary would occasionally itinerate by way of Cape May along the Jersey shore as far as Great and Little Egg Harbor. This church was no doubt a success. Just how long it stood is not known. Nicholas Collin is the last minister known to have been there. For a number of years the only stones left standing in the yard were those to mark the graves of Hezekiah Lore and his wife Elizabeth. The one died June 19, 1770, the other January 2, 1761. These stones were removed in September, 1881, by Harry Lore, Sr., to the Methodist Episcopal Church-yard. There is now but little left to mark the spot where the church once stood and flourished.

CONDITION AT THE TIME OF MRS. CLARK'S  
PURCHASE.

As has been previously stated, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark bought the land where Port Elizabeth stands in 1771. At that time it was what would be called a vast wilderness, with no improvements save a few log houses. One was situated in the rear of where Colonel J. Howard Willets now lives. It was the residence (if not at that time, a number of years afterwards) of Patrick Hoy. It is described in several deeds as being "Patrick Hoy's cedar log house." Another stood in the field, back of Captain Smith Mason's. Probably the best set of buildings in the vicinity at that time was what is now known as the "Lore Homestead," on Maurice River. This Hezekiah Lore, the great-grandfather of the present Jonathan Lore, purchased of John Hoffman, and moved on it about 1750. At that time tradition says he owned the only horse and the one ox between Maurice River and Cumberland Furnace. He built the barn, still standing, the frame of which was cut and hewed at Antuxet, and floated down the bay and up Maurice River to the farm. The barn was twenty-five by forty feet in size, and the people who assisted in raising it declared there would never be enough hay raised along Maurice River to fill it. Nathan Hand had a store near "Board Landing," which was near the Eagle Glass-Works, some time previous to the laying out of the town. He probably traded also in wood, lumber, etc. At a very early time the place went by the name of "The Store." People came from far and near, on foot and on horseback, to get their groceries and do their trading in general. After the dam was built across the Menowskin, now Manumuskin, it went by the name of "The Dam" until it was named Port Elizabeth, in honor of its founder, Mrs. Elizabeth Bodly. Mrs. Bodly had laid out by surveyors Eli Elmer and Nathan Hand the town plot, the main portion of which was called the thirty-rod square, bounded as follows: on the north by Broadway, on the east by Second Street, on the south by Lombard (or Quaker) Street, and on the west by Front Street. The first lot was deeded October 1, 1785, to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

What is now known as Glasstown is a part of a tract of one hundred and seventy-seven acres sold by Nathan Hand to James Lee, January 29, 1805, for the sum of two thousand dollars, as hereafter mentioned. Lee sold several lots on the main street leading by the glass-works. The land lying south-east of that street and joining the line of Mrs. Bodly's tract was bought by Joshua Brick, Sr., who opened the streets now existing in that portion of the town, and laid out the land in building lots, many of which were built upon in the early years of this century. The part known as Bricksboro', three-quarters of a mile south of the town proper, was also laid out by Joshua Brick, who commenced selling lots in 1807.

#### ESTABLISHED AS A PORT OF DELIVERY.

In 1789 an act of Congress was passed establishing districts for the collection of duties on imports, and the eastern side of the Delaware, from above Camden to Cape May, was made the district of Bridgeton, with Bridgeton as the port of entry, and Salem and Port Elizabeth as ports of delivery. Port Elizabeth was considered a fine location for business, particularly in wood and lumber; consequently a number of enterprising young men of business saw the advantages of the place, purchased lots, and built dwellings, storehouses, etc. Among these were James and Thomas Lee, Joshua Brick, Isaac Townsend, and Stephen Willis. The place grew rapidly, a large trade was carried on with the West Indies from Maurice River directly for a number of years; but the greater advantages of New York and Philadelphia ended all foreign trade from here more than fifty years ago. Port Elizabeth, in the early part of the present century, was one of the two leading towns in the county; Bridgeton being the other.

#### ROADS.

In 1794 an act was passed by the Legislature to open several roads, among these being one from Port Elizabeth to Bridgeton. This road was located but never opened. The present straight road from Bridgeton to Buckshutem, and from there

across the river to Port Elizabeth, was laid in the usual way in 1810, a short distance north of the former one. The road from Port Elizabeth to Tuckahoe was laid and opened in 1794. The road from Port Elizabeth to Millville as now used was laid out and opened, after a long contest, in 1818. The road from Broadway, leading by the Eagle Glass-Works, was regularly laid out in 1800, July 1.

#### MEADOW COMPANY AND BRIDGE.

By an act of the Legislature, May 27, 1782, a charter was granted to a company to build the dam "from the fast land of Henry Reeves to the fast land of Elizabeth Bodly," also to incorporate the meadow company. The dam was erected, however, previous to that time. By the charter, Abraham Hoffman and Elnuel Edwards were appointed managers until the third Tuesday of the following March, when the owners were to meet at the house occupied by Silas Wheaton and elect others, and transact such other business as might come before them.

In 1821 the Board of Freeholders built a bridge over the Manumuskin Creek in Port Elizabeth, eight rods long, eighteen inches high above all tides in the creek, and twenty feet wide in the clear. In 1838 a new one was built on the truss plan, sixty feet long and twenty feet wide, and is covered. It was built by Amos Campbell, contractor, for the sum of two thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

#### FIRST EMBANKMENT ON THE RIVER.

The first meadow embanked on Maurice River was done by John Hoffman, and was a small lot situated on the north side of Manumuskin Creek, a short distance below where Harry Lore now lives.

#### POST-OFFICE.

The post-office was established in 1802. The following is a list of the postmasters, with the dates of their appointment :

Jacob Hammit,\* 1802; James Lee, 1802; Stephen Willis, November 13, 1810; John Dunham, July 2, 1813; Stephen Willis, March 24, 1814; Thomas Lee, October 31, 1818; Francis Lee, January 2, 1833; Samuel Ogden, April 18, 1836; Francis Lee, December 6, 1836; Jonathan Lore, Jr., June 21, 1841; Jacob P. Bickley, February 5, 1842; Francis Lee, March 6, 1844; Thomas Lee, January 20, 1846; Jacob P. Bickley, June 11, 1849; Daniel Harris, April 2, 1851; John G. Mitchell, January 16, 1854; Daniel Harris, May 26, 1854.

Before the building of the West Jersey Railroad the mail was carried by stage from Camden to Port Elizabeth; Lawrence Cake and Abijah Shull carrying it prior to 1827. The line was bought by David Gale, who ran it for fourteen years, at two periods of seven years each; his brother Samuel being proprietor during the interval. David Gale drove as far south as Cape May Court-House, and sold the line to David Woodruff, of Salem, in 1841. The following were afterwards proprietors: Isaac Murphy, Reuben Powell, John Lummis, Eli Lippincott, David Lee, Joseph Hancock, and Samuel Bishop. The latter, in 1853, ran as far north as Salem, to connect with steamer for Philadelphia. Joseph Clark, John T. Allen, and Enoch Pancoast successively owned the line till September, 1856, at which time Orlando Gibbon became proprietor, and so continued till 1859, when it was discontinued.

## HOTELS.

What was called the Old Hotel stood on the west side of Front Street, between David Lore's store and Francis Lee's house. It was kept by Benoni Dare as early as 1788. It was, no doubt, occupied as a hotel previous to that date, but we have been unable to find anything certain in reference to it. The hotel on the southeast corner of Broadway and Front Streets was built by Mary Beesley, daughter of Mrs. Bodly,

\* The date of appointment cannot be positively ascertained, but he rendered his first and only return from October 24, 1802, to November 18, 1802. At the latter date James Lee became postmaster, and rendered the returns for the balance of the fourth quarter of 1802.

during the summer of 1801. Jacob Hammit kept it from November that year until September 30, 1804, at which time he died. The building was destroyed by fire on the night of May 14, 1883, since which time no licensed house has been kept. Travellers are entertained both by T. M. Sharp, Esq., and Samuel Camp.

The Eagle Glass-Works Hotel was first opened in February, 1807, by Christian Stanger. What was called the "Rising Sun" was also kept in Glasstown.

Francis Lee's house was kept as a hotel by Ingate Stanford in 1847.

A hotel was opened in Bricksboro' in June, 1808, in the house now owned and occupied by Samuel Boggs.

A house was opened at Spring Garden Ferry in June, 1813, by John Gifford.

The following is a list of the proprietors of the different hotels, with the dates of their occupancy :

OLD HOTEL, TOWN PROPER.

Benoni Dare, November, 1788, to November, 1793.

Jonathan Townsend, November, 1793, to February, 1794.\*

Benoni Dare, November, 1794, to September, 1796.

Lot Bowker, September, 1796, to November, 1797.

William Lawrason, November, 1797, to November, 1798.

Joshua Garritson, November, 1798, to 1800.

John Welch, 1800.

Jacob Hammit, November, 1801, to November, 1804.

Eli Eldredge and John Stratton, November, 1804, to November, 1805.

John Stratton, November, 1805, to February, 1808.

Samuel Bassett, February, 1808, to February, 1810.

John Dunham, February, 1810, to June, 1814.

Joseph Turner, June, 1814.

John Brown, June, 1816.

John Kimsey, February, 1817.

\* At this date Townsend applied to remove to another house, and Benoni Dare applied for license for the house where Townsend was. Neither was granted.

- John Ogden, Jr., February, 1824.  
 David W. Carrall, February, 1828.  
 Malachi Knisell, February, 1833.  
 Lewis Nepling, February, 1837.  
 Isaac Mulford, February, 1839.  
 Richard F. Barracliff, February, 1842.  
 Richard Westcott, June, 1843.  
 Mark A. Carrall,\* February, 1844.  
 Ingate Stanford, February, 1848.  
 William J. Royal, December, 1852.  
 William and Albert Stanford, October, 1856.  
 Robert Jerrell, October, 1857.  
 Daniel T. Davis, May, 1860.  
 Joseph Reeves, May, 1863.  
 Joseph Getsinger, May, 1866.  
 Harrison L. Stanford, May, 1867.  
 Leonard Krouse, May, 1868.  
 John D. Paullin, May, 1872.  
 Elmer Murphy, October, 1876.  
 Joseph Reeves, May, 1879. License annulled in October.  
 Henry D. Paullin,† May, 1880.

## EAGLE GLASS-WORKS HOTEL.

- Christian Stanger, February, 1807.  
 John Eggman, February, 1815.  
 William Sands, June, 1815.  
 George Mosbrook, June, 1817.  
 Ephraim Leake, February, 1820.  
 Abijah Shull, February, 1826.  
 Joseph Getsinger, February, 1827.  
 Abigail Getsinger, June, 1830. Rejected.  
 John Welser, June, 1831.  
 No hotel was kept in Glasstown after 1831 until May, 1860. Joseph Reeves went there May, 1862. Joseph Getsinger took it and remained two years. Getsinger was there

\* Mark A. Carrall had no license in 1847.

† Paullin remained until the house was burned.



again in 1865, since which time no house has been kept there as a hotel.

## BRICKSBORO' HOTEL.

Eli Eldredge, June, 1808.

Joseph Turner, September, 1809, to February, 1814.

No hotel kept there until Joseph Turner, June, 1816. No hotel in 1817. George Matthews, 1818. Daniel Vanaman, February, 1819. Since which time there has been no hotel there.

## SPRING GARDEN FERRY HOUSE.

John Gifford, June, 1813.

Daniel Vanaman, September, 1817.

William Tonkins, September, 1818.

No house kept in 1820-1823.

Maurice Carter, February, 1823.

No house was then kept until June, 1829, when license was obtained by Ezekiel Shaw. Since that time no house has been kept there.

## SCHOOLS.

At what date the first school was established in this vicinity is unknown, but there was a school-house at Board Landing on the Manumuskin, near the Eagle Glass-Works, previous to March 3, 1783, it being mentioned in a deed of that date.

That was probably the only institution of learning in the neighborhood previous to the laying out of the town.

June 30, 1798, Mrs. Bodly deeded to the trustees of the Federal School a portion of the present school lot, four rods on Broadway and ten rods on Second Street. Additional land was afterwards obtained, increasing the lot to its present size, which is seven and three-fifths rods on Broadway and fourteen rods on Second Street. A one-story school-house was erected here, probably in the fall of 1798, as the annual town-meeting was held in this house in March of the next year. In 1810, upon the formation of the Masonic lodge, they entered into an agreement with the trustees of the Federal School to build a second story to the building and an entry leading to it. The upper room to be used by the lodge, and the lower for school pur-

poses; and in consideration of so doing, the trustees leased the upper room to them for a term of twenty years. The building fronted on Broadway, and stood until 1854, when the present school building was erected by the trustees of the public school, fronting on Second Street. The property was deeded by the trustees of the Federal School to the trustees of the public school August 25, 1853, the present school system having been established a few years previous to that time.

A number of private schools have been kept from time to time. Among these was one in the house now owned and occupied by Jacob Sheppard, southwest corner of Second and South Streets. Another on the south side of Quaker Street, in the house owned and occupied by Elva Edwards, which has been rebuilt since it was used for school purposes.

#### PORT ELIZABETH ACADEMY AND CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Port Elizabeth Academy was erected by a company, composed of Thomas Lee, Joshua Brick, Dr. Benjamin Fisler, and others, previous to 1810. This was the most noted school in South Jersey in its time. Persons came from a distance to be educated. The best teachers only were employed. The sciences, arts, and languages were taught, geological collections and apparatus were at hand, so that all the subjects could be successfully instilled into the minds of those who were after knowledge. As other institutions of learning were established, this one began to decline, and is now only remembered by the many who were there educated as one of the things of the past. The land and building were sold by Benjamin Fisler, Jonathan Dallas, John Elkinton, Isaac Townsend, and Joshua Brick, trustees, to John Marchiel (Marshall), February 25, 1843, for one hundred and eleven dollars. It was soon turned into a Catholic church, which was dedicated in 1846 by Father Gartland, of Philadelphia, afterwards Bishop of Charleston, S. C. There was no regular priest stationed here, but Father Gartland came occasionally and held mass, etc. The organization continued but a short time. The building stood idle until about 1878; it was then taken down and removed to Dennis Creek, Cape May County, New Jersey.

## METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

During the year 1773, Benjamin Abbott, having been converted the year before and joined the Methodists, entered upon his work as an evangelist. Abbott at that time resided in Pittsgrove township, Salem County. He was no doubt the most remarkable man among early Methodists. Stephens in speaking of him says, "Religious biography hardly records his fellow, except it be in the 'glorious dreamer' of Bedford jail. His early life had been riotously wicked, and, notwithstanding the Spirit of God had often alarmed his guilty soul of its danger, he continued in sin until the fortieth year of his age. When, after the most desperate resistance and a struggle with despair itself, he sought relief in the labors of the field, his troubled heart beat so loud that he could hear the strokes. Finally yielding, he threw down his scythe, and stood weeping for his sins. Such is the reclaiming, the sublime strength of conscience in the rudest soul, when once awakened." In 1778, Abbott attended a quarterly meeting in Maurice River, most probably at Port Elizabeth. About this time the society was organized.

William Donnelly, who resided in Port Elizabeth, was a local preacher of the Methodist connection, and at the time of his death, August, 1784, the question of building a church was being agitated. Henry Reeves offered a lot on the north side of the dam, and Mrs. Bodly a portion of the present church lot.

At the time of his funeral it was decided to bury him on his own land, very near the line of the lot offered by Mrs. Bodly. It was finally decided to accept Mrs. Bodly's offer. Accordingly, on October 1, 1785, for the nominal sum of five shillings, she deeded a lot containing one acre and twenty-seven hundredths, "for the purpose of building a preaching-house on, and a burying yard, and to build a school-house for the use of the neighborhood after the said meeting-house is built." The deed was given to "Phillip Cressey and Abraham Wolson, of Cape May, Henry Firth, of the county of Salem, James Sterling, of the county of Burlington, John Champion, Esq., of the county of Gloucester, and William Furnis, Daniel Heisler, Eli Budd,

and Martin Long, of Maurice River, in the county of Cumberland, trustees chosen in behalf of the society of people called Methodists of the Episcopal Church." On March 28, 1809, Mrs. Bodly deeded another lot, containing twenty-five square rods, bordering on the first lot on the south, to trustees William Silvers, Elisha Smith, Benjamin Fisler, Joseph Gray, John Young, Stephen Willis, James D. Park, Henry Gray, and John Budd, for twenty-one dollars. On December 25, 1840, William Donnelly, administrator of Silas Long, deceased, deeded to Benjamin Fisler, John Spence, William Wriggins, John Wishart, William Heisler, John McKaige, and Jacob Coombs, trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for one dollar, a lot on the northeast side of the church lot, ten links wide and fifteen and a half perches deep. This was to bring the grave of the late William Donnelly within the graveyard. There is nothing to mark the spot, and no one knows just where he is buried. The first church erected on the ground, which was the first church in the county for the exclusive use of the Methodists, was about half the size of the present one, a frame building, and was probably built some time during the year 1786. The present brick edifice was built in 1827. Dr. Benjamin Fisler furnished the plan and superintended its erection. The dedication took place the latter part of 1830, and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Robert Geary, of Bridgeton, from *Ezra v. 9*, "Who commanded you to build this house, and to make up these walls?" When this church was completed, it was considered the most complete and beautiful church within the State south of Trenton.

This church has had connected with it several very acceptable local preachers, the most prominent of whom was Dr. Benjamin Fisler, who was born in 1769, and converted at Fislerville, now Clayton, Gloucester County. He was licensed as a local preacher in 1792, and immediately commenced travelling, first in Nova Scotia, and in 1797 on the Salem circuit. In 1799 he located in Port Elizabeth, practised medicine and preached in a very acceptable manner until July 4, 1854, at which time he died. His last sermon was preached about one week previous to that; his text being from *Gen. xxvii. 2*: "I

an old, I know not the day of my death." Fithian Stratton, who lived at Schooner Landing, on the Menantico, was also an energetic local preacher for a number of years. He died in 1810.

This church has always been served with ministers in connection with other churches. In 1781 it belonged to the West Jersey circuit, and the ministers were as follows:

1781.—Caleb Pedicord, Joseph Cromwell. In November they were changed, and James O. Cromwell and Joseph Everett were sent in their stead.

1782.—Joshua Dudley, Richard Ivy.

1783.—Woolman Hickson, John Magary.

1784.—Samuel Rowe, William Partridge, John Fidler.

1785.—Thomas Ware, Robert Sparks, William Phœbus.

1786.—Jacob Brush, John Simmons, Jacob Lurton.

1787.—Robert Cann, John McClaskey, John Milburn.

Salem circuit was formed in 1788, and Port Elizabeth was included in it.

1788.—Joseph Cromwell, Nathaniel B. Mills, John Cooper.

1789.—Simon Pyle, Jethro Johnson, Sylvester Hutchinson.

1790.—Joseph Cromwell, William Dougherty.

1791.—James Bell, John Clark.

1792.—Benjamin Abbott, David Bartine.

1793.—Willson Lee, Hugh Work.

1794.—Richard Swain, Anthony Turck.

1795.—Moses Crane, Jacob Egbert.

1796.—Robert McCoy, Peter Vannest.

1797.—William McLenahan, Benjamin Fidler.

1798.—Jacob Egbert, Jesse Justice.

1799.—Richard Swain, Wesley Budd.

1800.—Richard Swain, Richard Lyon.

1801.—Thomas Everard, Asa Swain.

Salem circuit was divided into Salem and Cape May circuits in 1802, Port Elizabeth remaining in Salem, and Jesse Justice and David Dunham were the preachers.

1803.—Richard Swain, Asa Smith.

Quarterly meeting at Port Elizabeth, March 5.

1804.—John Walker, John Durbin.

In 1805, Salem and Cape May circuits were again united, and John Walker and Nathan Swain were appointed preachers. Quarterly meeting was held at Port Elizabeth this year.

1806.—William Mills, Caleb Kendall.

Cumberland circuit was formed in 1807, which included all the southern and eastern portions of Cumberland County. The preachers appointed were David Bartine and Joseph Stephens.

1808.—William Smith, Charles Reed.

1809.—Daniel Ireland, John Fox.

1810.—Samuel Budd, Daniel Ireland.

1811.—Thomas Dunn, Joseph Bennett.

1812.—William Smith, Joseph Bennett.

1813.—Nathan Swain, Daniel Fidler.

1814.—Daniel Fidler, Daniel Ireland.

1815.—Solomon Sharp, Nathan Swain.

1816.—Solomon Sharp, Thomas Davis.

1817.—Thomas Neal, Thomas Davis.

1818.—Thomas Neal, John Creamer.

1819.—Edward Stout, John Creamer.

1820.—Edward Stout, Daniel Fidler.

1821.—John Finley, John Collins.

1822.—John Finley, James McLaurin.

1823.—Edward Page, Eliphalet Reed.

1824.—Edward Page, Eliphalet Reed.

1825.—William Williams, William Lummis.

1826.—William Williams, William Lummis.

1827.—John Woolson, Robert Gerry, and Sedgewick Rusling.

1828.—John Woolson, Sedgewick Rusling, and Joseph Ashbrook.

1829-30.—Watters Burroughs, James Ayars.

1831.—William Folk, William Stevens.

1832.—William Folk, Nathaniel Chew.

1833.—John Henry, Joseph Ashbrook.

1834.—Edward Stout, George Raybold.

1835.—Nathaniel Chew, George Raybold.

1836.—William Williams, J. W. McDougall.

1837-38.—J. J. Sleeper, Thomas G. Steward.

1839-40.—J. F. Crouch, Thomas G. Steward.

1841-42.—J. Loudenslager, George Jennings. Mr. Jennings's health failed during 1842, and Dr. Perdew was the supply.

1843.—Abraham Gearhart, Levi Herr.

1844.—D. Duffield, William Rogers. Mr. Rogers's health failed, and Samuel Parker was the supply.

1845.—D. Duffield, Joseph Gaskill.

1846.—Thomas Christopher, Joseph Gaskill.

1847.—N. Edwards, S. B. Beegle. Mr. Beegle left the circuit, and S. Parker was the supply.

1848.—N. Edwards, Joseph White.

1849-50.—Joseph Atwood, J. T. Canfield.

Port Elizabeth circuit was formed in 1851, and Cumberland circuit ceased to exist by that name.

1851.—A. K. Street, W. A. Brooks.

1852.—William A. Brooks, William Walton.

1853.—Edwin Waters, J. B. Heward.

1854.—Edwin Waters, Benjamin Parvin.

1855.—Firman Robbins, William H. McCormick.

1856.—Firman Robbins, M. H. Shimp.

1857.—William Walton, Napoleon B. Todd.

1858.—William Walton, Garner H. Tullis.

1859.—John S. Beegle, Garner H. Tullis.

1860.—John S. Beegle, Willis Reeves.

1861.—James Vansant, John H. Hutchinson.

1862.—James Vansant, Jos. L. Roe.

1863.—David McCurdy, Ananias Lawrence.

1864.—David McCurdy, George L. Dobbins.

1865.—Henry G. Williams, George B. Wight.

1866.—Henry G. Williams, Chas. B. Moffatt.

1867-68.—William C. Stockton, Edwin J. Lippincott.

1869.—Jos. B. Turpin, Joseph Wilson.

1870.—Jos. B. Turpin, John W. Morris.

1871.—Jos. B. Turpin, Joseph O. Downs.

Up to 1872, Port Elizabeth, Dorchester, Leesburg, Heisler-ville, West Creek, and Cumberland Furnace formed the circuit.

1872.—Calvin C. Eastlack.

This year the circuit was divided into two parts, the lower

one called West Creek circuit. Port Elizabeth, Dorchester, and Leesburg formed Port Elizabeth circuit after 1872.

1873-74.—Calvin C. Eastlack.

1875-76.—James Vansant.

1877-78.—Firman Robbins.

1879-81.—Godfrey E. Hancock.

1882-84.—Charles W. Livezly.

1885.—Edwin J. Lippincott.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL PARSONAGE.

The first parsonage owned by the Methodist Episcopal society was situated on the north side of Broadway, where Daniel Harris, Esq., now lives. It was purchased June 12, 1811, of Dr. Benjamin Fisler. On September 5, 1812, the trustees sold it to Thomas Lee.

The present parsonage, situated on the southwest corner of Second and Quaker Streets, was purchased July 25, 1815, of John Eggman for six hundred dollars. It is quite a large, commodious house, and well adapted to the purpose for which it is used.

#### FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSE.

The Friends' Meeting-House, situated on the north side of the dam, east of the road, was built previous to August 13, 1799, it being mentioned in a deed of that date. It was probably built by Stephen Murphy, as he was a carpenter and a member of the society at that time. The deed for the land on which the church stands was given by Henry Reeves and wife, October 16, 1804, to Nathaniel Buzby, James Langstaff, Eli Stratton, and Stephen Murphy, trustees; the price paid being thirty-seven dollars and thirty-three and one-half cents. Cape May Preparative Meeting, belonging to Egg Harbor Monthly and Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting, and Maurice River Preparative, belonging to Greenwich Monthly and Salem Quarterly Meeting, believing it to be right for them to join and form a monthly meeting, laid their desires before their respective monthly meetings, and the monthly to the quarterly meetings.



Their request was granted, and the meeting called Maurice River Monthly, belonging to Salem Quarterly Meeting, was established. The meetings were held alternately at Port Elizabeth and Cape May, commencing with Port Elizabeth, September 28, 1804, and so continued until May 15, 1817, at which time Salem Quarterly Meeting granted that in the future the monthly meeting should be held altogether at Port Elizabeth. This continued until December 2, 1854, when, with the consent of the quarterly meeting, Maurice River Meeting was laid down, and the members, forty-eight in number, were attached to the Greenwich Monthly Meeting. Since that time there have been several appointed meetings held by travelling Friends and others, the last being held on October 23, 1881, and conducted by Samuel Parrish, of Woodbury. There being no Friends in this place, the church was advertised and sold on November 21, 1884, to Captain Thomas M. Reeves for twenty-five dollars. The church is still standing, but will no doubt be removed in a short time. The burying-ground has lately been cleared, repaired, etc., and is now in a good condition.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Although a majority of the inhabitants of Maurice River township at an early date belonged to the societies of Methodists and Friends, still there were some who held to the Presbyterian doctrine. They were scattered all over the township. The Revs. Ethan Osborne and Jonathan Freeman were appointed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia to organize a church in Maurice River. They accordingly met at the house of James Park, in Port Elizabeth, August 12, 1820, and organized a church with the following twenty constituent members: Nathaniel Foster, Lydia Foster, Jeremiah Stratton, Jerviah Stratton, Preston Foster, Mary Van Hook, Ruth Stratton, Hannah Stratton, Hannah Glaspey, Hannah Jordan, Hannah Newcomb, George Bush, Betsey Craig, Robert McGriffin, Mary McGriffin, Virgil M. Davis, Elizabeth Davis, Samuel T. Barry, and Ruth Barry.

Jeremiah Stratton, Nathaniel Foster, and Samuel Barry were chosen elders at this time. No church was ever erected in Port

Elizabeth, but meetings were most probably held in private houses, conducted by the Revs. Osborne, Freeman, and others.

As many of the more influential members resided in Millville, the church was soon called "Millville Presbyterian Church," which was erroneous. The organization was maintained in Port Elizabeth until some time during the year 1823, when it was removed to Millville.

### BAPTIST CHURCH.

This society, according to the minutes of the Baptist Association, was organized in 1810. On the 7th of November, 1807, James Lee and Deborah, his wife, deeded to Elemuel Edwards, William Price, James Prickett, Elias Wilson, John Tice, and Isaac Wynn one and one-fourth acres of ground bounded on the south by the present African Methodist Episcopal Church lot, "one acre to be used for burying strangers without cost," which was given. For the one-fourth of an acre they paid thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

On the 4th of May, 1811, Joshua Brick deeded to Elemuel Edwards, Elias Wilson, John Tice, James Prickett, Isaac Wynn, and William Price, trustees of the Baptist society, a lot on the "southwest corner of Church and R—— Streets, being on the street leading from the glass-works to the 'Turkeyhoe' road."

On the first of these lots a church was erected, which was not completed, although it was used for some time in which to worship. While the troops were quartered here during the war of 1812, to prevent the British from ascending Maurice River, they used the church for a barracks.

In 1832 the society stated in its letter to the Association, "We have nothing especial to report relative to this little church except that it is very weak, and therefore claims an interest in the prayers of those who pray that the walls of Jerusalem which are prostrate may be raised again." They had eleven members at that time, and, as their letter states, were weak but hoped for better days. They made no more reports until 1837, when they had twelve members, and talked of removing to Millville. John P. Walker served them as pastor in 1841,

although he did not live in Port Elizabeth. In 1842 they reported, "At peace with all the world but have no pastor." In their last letter to the Association (1843) they stated, "This church, being small and weak, united its thirteen members with others, December 29, 1842, in forming the Millville Church." The building was left to go down, and was used on several occasions as a place of shelter for sheep that used to graze over the old fields. Several persons were buried in the yard, many of whom have been removed. The only stone left standing at the present time is one to mark the grave of Elemeuel Edwards, who died June 10, 1811, aged seventy-five years, seven months, ten days.

#### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This society was formed in 1836. They bought a one-story frame building, which stood on the north side of Stable Street, between Front and Second, in 1838, and moved it to the south side of Church Street, in the neighborhood of the present building, and fitted it up for a church, which they used as such until the erection of the present building.

May 30, 1861, Thomas Lee and wife, Rhoda, conveyed to Edward Wright and Thomas Miller, trustees of "Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church of Port Elizabeth," a lot of land joining the old Baptist Church lot on the southeast. On this lot the house now occupied by them as a church was soon after erected.

#### SOCIETIES.

##### FRIENDSHIP LODGE, NO. 22, F. A. M.

Friendship Lodge, No. 22, of Free and Accepted Masons was established during the summer of 1810. The first officers in order of their rank were John Dunham, Josiah Ray, William Darmon, John Young, Ephraim Leake, and Jacob Stanger. They occupied the upper room of the old Federal School under the agreement before mentioned. The lodge continued to meet regularly until 1829, since which time there are no records of the lodge known to exist. The Masonic excitement was in the

United States at that time, and it no doubt went out of existence in consequence of it, as did many others. In 1842 it was stricken from the roll of lodges.

#### DORCAS SOCIETY.

A society called the Dorcas Society was organized April 13, 1819, with the following preamble: "Forasmuch as our blessed Lord in His Holy Word teaches us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, relieve the distressed, and visit the fatherless and widow in their affliction; and that, by so doing, we manifest our love and regard for Himself: Therefore, in obedience to His command, we, the subscribers, do agree to form ourselves into a society, which shall be called the 'Dorcas Society of Port Elizabeth;' the object of which shall be to make up articles of clothing for the naked and destitute outcasts of society, and to afford such other charitable offices as may be in our power." Signed Ellen Lee, Mary Brick. Joshua Brick donated five dollars; Stephen Willis, three dollars; and two others, one dollar each. Little is known of its subsequent history, but we do not doubt that many a helping hand was extended to the poor and needy by the good women in this society.

#### LITERARY SOCIETY.

A society known as the Port Elizabeth Literary Society was organized December 2, 1880, with twenty-eight charter members and with the preamble as follows: "Growth and development of mind, together with readiness and fluency of speech, being the result of investigation and free discussion of religious, political, educational, and other topics, the undersigned agree to form a society, etc." The society met in the school-house weekly, and a lively interest was manifested by many of the young people for a time. It finally disbanded October 9, 1883, after having done much to elevate the intellectual and moral standing of its members.

## EAGLE GLASS-WORKS.

The ground on which the Eagle Glass-Works stand was owned by Abram Jones previous to April 15, 1782. At that time he deeded it to his son, Thomas Jones. On October 26, 1785, it was purchased by Nathan Hand, who owned it until January 29, 1805, when he sold one hundred and seventy-seven acres to James Lee, for two thousand dollars. The factories were built by James Lee previous to May 23, 1799. He probably rented the ground previous to buying it. The factories were run by Lee until July 25, 1810, when he sold three-fourths to James Josiah, Samuel Parrish, and Joseph L. Lewis & Co., for ten thousand dollars. On the 1st of September, that year, a partnership was established, to last seven years, under the firm-name of J. Josiah, Parrish & Lee, with capital stock amounting to thirty thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, with James Lee continuing as manager. During the seven years the partnership changed somewhat. James Lee sold his one-fourth interest on August 22, 1815, to Joseph Lewis and Jacob C. Wyckoff for seven thousand dollars. Joshua Brick was in the firm during the time, owning one-eighth. At the end of the seven years the firm-name was J. Josiah, Harrison & Co., and the members thereof, in consideration of twenty dollars, signed their rights to Jacob C. Wyckoff, who was to settle the business. On August 31, 1818, the said Wyckoff conveyed to Samuel P. Wetherell, of Philadelphia, for three thousand and fifty dollars, all the land, buildings, etc., known as the Eagle Glass-Works, containing five acres, two roods, and twenty-eight perches. Mr. Wetherell rented the factories to a company of Germans by the name of Getsinger, until January 28, 1831, when they purchased them of him for four thousand dollars. They continued to run them until February 6, 1846, when they deeded thirty-six tracts of land, of which number one was the Eagle Glass-Works, to George B. Cooper and Charles Townsend, for twelve hundred and fifty dollars. Cooper retired from the firm August 31, 1850, after which Charles Townsend had several partners, among them

John R. Andrews and Francis Allen, all of which firms failed. The factories were mortgaged May 26, 1852, for three thousand dollars, Dr. E. L. B. Wales holding the mortgage. This he transferred to Samuel Townsend, who foreclosed, and on April 30, 1862, they were sold by the sheriff for three thousand three hundred dollars, Samuel Townsend being the purchaser. He rented them for a time to Mitchell & Irwin, after which they stood idle until the fall of 1881, when they started with John Focer as manager, and continued to run under various firms until during the winter of 1883-84, since which time they have been idle.

#### UNION GLASS-WORKS.

These works stood on the north side of the Manumuskin, just west of the road from Port Elizabeth to Millville. They were erected previous to 1811, by Jacob Stanger, Frederick Stanger, and William Shough, on land leased of Henry Reeves. On the 5th of April, 1811, Reeves sold to Jacob Stanger, Frederick Stanger, and William Shough the land on which the works stood for three hundred and twenty dollars, selling to each one an undivided third. On June 6, the same year, they sold to Randall Marshall an undivided fourth for one thousand dollars. The factories were probably run by the said parties until some time during 1814. On November 5, 1814, Joshua Brick, Isaac Townsend, and Stephen Willis, commissioners appointed by the court, divided the property among the four owners. The buildings were afterwards partially destroyed by fire, and finally fell down from age on a still, clear day. A store was established at the head of the dam, on the east side of the road, by Randall Marshall, and probably used in connection with the Union Glass-Works. It has long since been taken down, and nothing is left to mark the spot but a low place in the ground.

#### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

A tannery was established on the place now occupied by John Coombs by Randall Marshall, between August 13, 1799, and October 16, 1804. This was conducted by Marshall until

September 9, 1815, when it passed into the hands of Job Hoff, who continued the tannery business for a number of years, but finally made a failure, and the property was sold by the sheriff to Frederick Faring June 22, 1821. Faring made an assignment, and his assignees sold it to the Bank of Northern Liberties, Philadelphia. It probably ceased to be run as a tannery about this time.

The old Silvers tannery, on the north side of Broadway, was established by William Silvers between 1802 and 1809, who conducted it until April 23, 1818, when it passed into the hands of Samuel Silvers. After the death of Samuel Silvers, May 16, 1829, his property was divided into two lots front and two back; one of the latter being the tannery. The business was probably discontinued soon after the death of Samuel Silvers. Edward Townsend used the building in which to manufacture castor oil for a long time. He also had a drug-store on one of the front lots as late as 1838 or thereabouts.

Isaac Townsend had a large store in the yard north of Francis Lee's house at an early date, which was taken down and removed to Newport, New Jersey, about 1840.

Eli Stratton had a large storehouse, shop, etc., on the south side of Quaker Street previous to 1802.

The store now occupied by David Lore was built on the land owned by the heirs of Mrs. Bodly by Joshua Brick, who kept it for a long time, doing a large business. It was afterwards kept by Brick & Lane, then by Lane. The Lores purchased it April 10, 1847, since which time it has been owned by them.

Isaiah Silvers started a store in Quaker Street, next to the Methodist Episcopal parsonage, in 1840. He sold to Wharton Ogden in 1860, who continued the business there until he built his present store in 1868, on the northwest corner of Second and Quaker Streets.

On what is now the "Hall corner," being the northwest corner of Broadway and Second Streets, Mahlon Foster had a blacksmith-shop previous to 1802, and for a number of years after. He sold the property to Benjamin Fidler, May 12, 1810, who built and kept a store there. He was followed by Joseph

Brown, who was succeeded by Isaac Townsend. It was used by Cooper & Townsend in connection with the glass-works. Also by Francis Lee as a storehouse. In the fall of 1883 it was turned into the present hall, being first used in holding the fall election.

The southwest corner of Second Street and Broadway, on which Francis Lee's store stands, was sold by Mrs. Bodly to Enoch Rogers, October 27, 1796. It passed into the hands of Stephen Willis, who built and established the store. The Lees have owned it and kept store there since May 25, 1819. J. P. Bickley built and kept store where Dr. J. H. Willets's office now stands until the 1st of December, 1857, at which time it was destroyed by fire.

Perhaps the greatest business enterprise ever undertaken in Port Elizabeth was the organization of a company known as "The Port Elizabeth Manufacturing Company." They secured a charter from the Legislature March 13, 1837. The first section states that "Isaac Townsend, Thomas Lee, Joshua Brick, Benjamin F. Reeves, John Getsinger, and Owen Jones, and their associates and successors, . . . shall be incorporated for the purpose of manufacturing cotton, wool, silk, and iron, and also for the purpose of dyeing, printing, and bleaching cotton fabrics." Their capital stock was limited to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. There is no record to show that there was anything done in the matter except to receive the charter.

On account of the channels of trade changing and the business on which Port Elizabeth formerly depended moving to other places, it has lost some of its old-time importance; but even at the present time its prospects for the future are not discouraging. Its present population is five hundred and forty-nine.

The present oldest inhabitant is Mrs. McCullough, aged eighty-eight years; the youngest, William Murphy, Jr., aged two months.

#### NEGRO EXODUS.

In 1824 there was quite an exodus of negroes to Hayti. Captain Samuel Craig, who ran a packet regularly from Port



Elizabeth to Philadelphia, gathered up two vessel-loads of negroes, brought them to Port Elizabeth, where they were re-shipped in the schooner "Olive Branch," Captain John Matthews, and taken to Hayti. Those who had the matter in charge made it appear to the negroes that they were to be taken to a place where everything grew without cultivation, and all they would have to do would be to gather and eat. Several persons went from here, among them being Phebe Bond, Memory Balard, Ned Wright, George Cropper, and John Cornish. A colored girl who worked for John Ogden at the hotel, being desirous of going, but forbidden to do so by Ogden, dressed in men's clothes and secreted herself on the vessel, thus getting away. After getting there and finding it required *labor* to live, as at all other parts of the world, they became dissatisfied, and Ned Wright and John Cornish came back happier than when they went away. Cornish afterwards shot and killed James Corse, and was sentenced to prison for life, but was finally released on account of consumption of the lungs, and died in Bridgeton.

### PUBLIC MEN.

The first Continental Congress which convened at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, recommended that nothing be used that came from Great Britain or any of its dependencies after the first of the next March. A public meeting was held in Bridgeton, December 22, and a committee of thirty-five persons was appointed to see that the recommendation was carried out in this county. Joshua Brick, Sr., and Jonathan Lore were appointed from Maurice River, showing that the spirit of liberty and patriotism was ripe here at an early period.

Thomas Lee was the member of Congress from this district from 1833 to 1837, during Andrew Jackson's administration, with which Mr. Lee was in full sympathy.

Benjamin F. Lee, son of Thomas, has been clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey since 1872.

Joshua Brick was one of the judges of the Court of Errors and Appeals from February 5, 1845, to June, 1846. He was

also a member of the convention that framed the new State Constitution in 1844.

We give below a list of the members of the State Legislature Port Elizabeth has furnished:

*Council.*—Israel Stratton, 1833; Joshua Brick, 1835-36; Israel Stratton, 1837. *Senate.*—J. Howard Willets, 1874-77. *Assembly.*—Joshua Brick, 1781; James Lee, 1805; Stephen Willis, 1812; Thomas Lee, 1814; Israel Stratton, 1823-25; J. Howard Willets, 1871-72; Wilson Banks, 1885.

The following is a list of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas Port Elizabeth has furnished since the Revolution:

Joshua Brick, 1777-82-87, 1822-27-32-37-41-42; James Lee, 1801-06-11-16; John Elkinton, 1808; Thomas Lee, 1813; Stephen Willis, 1814; Israel Stratton, 1823-24-29-34-43-52-57; Joseph Butcher, 1836; Joseph E. Oliver, 1860-62; Daniel Harris, 1866-67-72.

Port Elizabeth has furnished lawyers in the persons of

John Jeffers,	admitted May,	1821.
John Reeve,	“	September, 1828.
Joseph C. Oliver,	“	November, 1877.

#### SKETCH OF MRS. BODLY'S LIFE.

Elizabeth Bodly, daughter of John Ray, was born in Pilesgrove township, Salem County, in 1737. She married Cornelius Clark, a native of Burlington. In 1757 they came to Maurice River and purchased a large tract of land near the mouth of Manumuskin Creek, extending down the river a considerable distance. They probably built and located in what is now Port Elizabeth. The house, being a log one, stood on the wharf a little above Francis Lee's present residence. They had four children,—Joel, John, Susan, and Elizabeth Clark. Cornelius Clark died a young man, and his widow was left with the four young children to care for and a large landed estate to look after and improve, also large meadows and lowlands situated on Maurice River to reclaim from the tide. When done, they proved to be some of the best meadow-land in South Jersey. Elizabeth's second husband was John Bodly. They had two children,—Sarah and Mary Bodly.

The elder died a minor. John Bodly died soon after his second child was born. Joel Clark, the eldest son of Cornelius and Elizabeth Clark, married Ann Dallas, sister of Jonathan Dallas. He died a year afterward, leaving no children. John, the second son, enlisted in the army during Washington's administration to help put down the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania, and died of camp fever. Susan Clark, the eldest daughter, was married to Jonathan Dallas, and died in a short time, leaving no children. Mr. Dallas soon after married Elizabeth Clark, sister of his first wife. They had five children, —Susan, Elizabeth, Ann, Mary, and Holmes Dallas. Mary Bodly's first husband was Maurice Beesley. They had one son, whom they named Theophilus Elmer Beesley, after an intimate friend of the child's father. Maurice Beesley died when his son was quite young. The son afterwards became an eminent physician, and practised with success in the town of Salem and surrounding country for a number of years.

Elizabeth Bodly was a woman above the medium size, black eyes, regular features, and was considered handsome even in old age. She possessed an expanded mind and great benevolence of character. The poor in the neighborhood always found in her a friend indeed. It is said there were very few days in the autumn and winter season when the poor were not found at her door receiving supplies of food and clothing. She was very fond of having her grandchildren around her.

It frequently occurred, when the poor came to ask for assistance, they would tell her some marvellous tales about witches, etc., to all of which she would listen without endeavoring to convince them to the contrary, well knowing that early impressions cannot be eradicated in old age. When they were gone, she would tell the children they must not believe such things, as there was no truth in them.

Elizabeth Bodly died November 25, 1815, aged seventy-eight years, and was buried in the Friends' burying-ground, Port Elizabeth.

Thus closed a long, eventful, and useful life.

## CIVIL WAR.

Port Elizabeth furnished its full quota to the Union ranks during the Rebellion, perhaps more men in proportion to her population than any other town of like size in South Jersey. The following is as correct a list as we are able to give from our available sources of information :

## SECOND REGIMENT.

*Company B.*

William Gifford (corporal), Andrew Gressman, John E. Williams.

## FOURTH REGIMENT.

*Company H.*

Benjamin F. Mitchell, corporal, wounded at Gaines' Farm, Va., June 27, 1862; died from wounds, in hands of enemy, July 20, 1862.

## FIFTH REGIMENT.

John Horton, musician, died on way home, May, 1862.

## SEVENTH REGIMENT.

*Company A.*

Abraham R. Sheppard.

*Company B.*

John A. Barnett, died of dysentery at Arlington Heights, Va., June 26, 1865.

*Company D.*

William Sheppard, died at Beverly, N. J.; Hosea Madden. Principal engagements, Hatcher's Run, Lee's Surrender.

## TENTH REGIMENT.

*Company A.*

George Weiser.

*Company B.*

Azel C. Henderson, died of fever at Washington, December 25, 1862; Richard B. Simpkins, George Stadler, Francis L. Vanaman (corporal), died of fever at Port Elizabeth, October 28, 1863.

*Company K.*

Horace P. Bickley (sergeant), Richard D. Mitchell, promoted second lieutenant Company I; William M. Mitchell, John G. Mitchell, Samuel Mayhew, wounded in jaw at Spottsylvania; Clement Biggs, John H. Smith, shot through lungs at Opequan, Va., September 19, 1864, died from wound September 29, 1864; Edmund T. Smith, missing in action at Winchester, August 17, 1864; Jesse Smith. Principal actions, Wilderness, Va., Spottsylvania, Va., Cold Harbor, Va., Winchester, Va.

## TWELFTH REGIMENT.

Colonel J. Howard Willets, transferred from Seventh Regiment, Company H; wounded at Chancellorsville, Va., and Williamsburg, Va.

## FOURTEENTH REGIMENT.

*Battery C.*

Wesley Downs, colored, was in several engagements, and came home to die.

## TWENTY-FOURTH REGIMENT.

*Company B.*

B. Reed Brown (first lieutenant), Francis Hankins (sergeant), William H. Wills (sergeant), Thomas S. Simmons (sergeant), John W. Simmons (corporal), George Madden (corporal), Henry H. Mayhew (corporal), Henry Adler, died at Washington, from wounds received at Fredericksburg, Va.; Frederick Blindt, Joseph Camp, Thomas H. Gifford, John Gilland, William F. Hogbin, John M. Henderson, John Matticks, Ezekiel Simmons, killed at Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862; Lewis S. Sockwell, Job Sheppard, Benjamin F. Vanaman, died of dysentery, at Washington, D. C., October 8, 1862; William Weiser, Richard Watson Vansant (corporal), John Sheppard, wounded in first battle of Fredericksburg, Va., was captured at Bridgewater, Va., nearly starved at Andersonville, from which he died at Annapolis, Md., March 21, 1865.

*Company E.*

James Craig. Principal actions of regiment, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Va.

## THIRTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

*Company D.*

Jesse H. Reeves, in action second battle of Nashville; James W. Hand, died of dysentery at Tunnel's Hill, Ga., January 29, 1865.

*Company E.*

Samuel Madden, died of fever at Chattanooga, Tenn., February 8, 1865.

## THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT.

*Company E.*

Joseph T. Brown, sergeant.

## THIRTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.

*Company C.*

John N. Loper (corporal), Joseph T. Biggs, Alphonsa A. Jones, Henry V. Madden, Abram Sawyer, Sr., Seeley F. Sheppard.

Joel Madden was in the Third Cavalry, Company G. Seeley Reeves was in a Massachusetts regiment, Fifteenth or Twentieth. Abraham Sawyer, Jr., and his brother Lewis enlisted in another State. Frank Sawyer was in the Fifteenth Regiment of Maine, Company K.

A mound was raised in the Methodist Episcopal Church-yard soon after the war in memory of nine soldiers who were never brought home. They were Samuel Madden, Benjamin F. Mitchell, Ezekiel Simmons, John A. Barnet, Henry Adler, James W. Hand, Clement Biggs, John H. Smith, and Edmund T. Smith.

## NATURAL AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

Geologists tell us that the southern part of New Jersey was the last piece of ocean-flooring raised above the tide-level of the Atlantic; and I have wondered why this assumed fact is not mentioned as explanatory of the assertion that several sections of South Jersey are the last to receive industrial development. According to the last report of the "State Agricultural Experiment Station," there are one thousand square miles of uncleared land south of a line drawn from the city of Burlington to Sandy Hook. From an agricultural point of view, these southern soils have wonderful capabilities, as is attested by the success of Vineland, Hammonton, Egg Harbor City, and other smaller settlements, none of which are over twenty-five years of age. The report concludes: "These are destined to become our most desirable and productive lands." While Port Elizabeth should not be claimed the Arcadia of South Jersey, topographical research reveals the fact that the economical features of its natural resources deserve careful attention. The alluvial soil surrounding the town, though generally light, is very productive when carefully fertilized and cultivated. The outlying farms are chiefly devoted to the raising of vegetables and small fruits for the Millville and Philadelphia markets. Wheat, oats, Indian corn, hay, white and sweet potatoes, are the staple productions, and melons are raised in abundance. Fruits are grown with great success, and this branch of husbandry should be more fully developed; also the raising of sorghum may be done with profit. Apples, peaches, pears, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and currants grow remarkably well, and are sweeter and richer in flavor than the same varieties grown farther north. Indeed, all products are superior in flavor and quality to like products grown in North Jersey, and command higher prices in the Philadelphia and New York markets. This largely arises from the medium annual temperature of  $53.50^{\circ}$ , and the influence of the Gulf Stream, giving us a truly temperate climate. In the commons north of the town, known as the "old sand-fields," the wild blackberry grows abundantly.

Hundreds of bushels are annually picked for market and home consumption. They are usually small, but are noted for their sweetness and excellent flavor,—in these two points far surpassing cultivated varieties. Huckleberries and May cherries grow plentifully in the surrounding swamps, and are largely gathered in their seasons. The most valuable farm-land is the meadow-bottoms, composed of blue mud. It is worth one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, according to condition, and capable of paying twenty per cent. on the investment. This meadow-land is far superior to the swampy bottoms farther up the surrounding streams, and the marshy bottoms down the Maurice. We think farmers should devote more attention to the raising of poultry for market.

The lands surrounding Port Elizabeth are well drained by the Maurice River, and the Manumuskin and Muskee Creeks, and malaria and asthmatic affections are scarcely known. The general healthfulness of the town is also due to the deep wells and almost uniformly soft and very palatable water.\*

Along the Manumuskin are many so-called boiling springs, which bubble up from the foot-hills, and their sparkling and hygienic waters have a wide reputation. The annual rain-fall here is about forty-seven inches. So full and equable is the flow of the Manumuskin the year round, should a dam be erected at any point above the truss-bridge it would form a most excellent water-power for driving manufactories. There are natural banks on either side of the creek, about fifteen feet high, and a lake could be raised from an eighth to a quarter of a mile wide, and about two miles long. The Manumuskin

\* Longevity of life here is the best proof of healthfulness. Many inhabitants live to a ripe old age, and one or two centenarians in the persons of Elizabeth Springer and daughter, deserve special mention. Elizabeth Springer died December 2, 1857, aged one hundred and one years and six months, and was buried in the church-yard at Port Elizabeth. Rev. William Walton preached her funeral sermon from the 116th Psalm, fifteenth verse: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." She was blind for over twenty years, and a highly estimable and Christian lady. Margaret Springer, daughter of the above, died January 31, 1879, aged one hundred years.

and Maurice afford an easy and convenient outlet for the products to Philadelphia; besides, the West Jersey Railroad is but a mile and a quarter from town.

Underlying the surface soil is a stratum of fire- and potter's-clay which could be developed to great advantage. This is not the main clay-bed of two hundred and ten feet in thickness and its outcrop in the line of Atco, as described by State Geologist Cook; for with its dip of thirty feet to the mile, it would be about four hundred feet below the surface at the Port. The clay-bed here is about thirty feet thick, and only a few feet below the surface. The fire-clay was used with much satisfaction about the furnaces of the Eagle Glass-Works, where it withstood an intense heat. This clay is specially adapted to the manufacture of brick and earthenware. In boring for a driven well below Colonel Willets's office, a stratum over thirty feet in thickness was gone through, which was exceeding fine and white, and was pronounced a fine quality of porcelain-clay. Muskee gravel has long been justly celebrated for its excellent quality, and the pits have long contributed to the good roads in this section of Maurice River township. The West Jersey Railroad Company have established their pits here, and thousands of tons are annually distributed along their road. In connection with this stratum of gravel is a dark-brown silicious conglomerate. This stone is extensively used for foundation-work in building,—the pot-house at the glass-works having been built of it entire. Glass-sand is also plentiful, and large quantities are shipped from Lore's Wharf.

The wood industry has always been an important feature of the Port. Many choppers are engaged during the winter in cutting cord-wood and getting out cedar rails. Pine and cedar logs are carted to Fries's and Jones's saw-mills to be converted into lumber. Before the many heavily-wooded tracts were burned on the line of the West Jersey Railroad, the wood industry was much more extensive. In the early morning the first line of teams on their way to the wharves would measure half a mile in length. For the past twenty years the hoop-pole business has been fostered with great profit to the dealers.



The prepared hoops were largely shipped to the Southern States and the West Indies.

Underlying the swamp and marshy bottoms, and deeply imbedded in mud and vegetable deposit, huge cedar logs are found that belong to a pre-historic period. The wood is sound, and is utilized in the manufacture of "split mud shingles," which are highly prized for their lasting properties. In former days the tar and charcoal industry employed many men in the adjacent pine districts, but there is little accomplished in that line to-day. During the operation of the "Cumberland Iron-Works," charcoal was exclusively used for smelting purposes. Bog-ore furnished the metal, and to-day the many iron springs along our streams and through our swamps give evidence that the metal was never exhausted.

In 1876, Dr. J. T. Sharp established a lime-kiln, with a capacity of five hundred bushels.

### SPORTING FEATURES.

The principal varieties of fresh-water fish that abound in the Manumuskin and Muskee Creeks are the chub, pike, sucker, roach, sunfish, and the inevitable eel. In the Maurice, the species are those which inhabit both salt- and fresh-water streams, and are chiefly represented by the catfish, perch, rock, herring, shad, and sturgeon. Now and then a porpoise finds his way up the river, probably being piloted by a school of fish upon which he seeks to prey. Many persons of a piscatorial tendency find much diversion or monetary profit during the fishing seasons.

The larger species of wild animals are yearly growing scarcer. There are yet a few deer, and the red fox and the gray are sometimes run down. The raccoon and opossum are still quite plentiful, and the hare is largely gunned for in its season. There are four species of squirrel in the woods and hedges, and the mink and otter are not yet extinct along the streams. The muskrats are a very numerous family along the banks of the Maurice. But the sport most relished by the townsmen, and especially fostered by the Game Protective

Society, is gunning for wild fowl. Several varieties of duck visit our ponds and streams. Quail, woodcock, English snipe, and the pheasant are more or less abundant, according to locality. The rail- and the reed-bird, however, elicit the most interest. The great September gale of 1876 swept away much of the bank on the west side of the Maurice, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to substantially replace it. The October gale of 1878 permanently opened great breaches all along the west bank, and now the meadows are open from Port Norris to above Port Elizabeth, and are grown up thickly with wild oats. These are the feeding-grounds of myriads of rail- and reed-birds from the first of September to the middle or last of October. Fully two hundred members of the West Jersey Game Protective Society are here at each recurring season, coming by rail or by water from Philadelphia, Camden, Trenton, New York, Newark, Jersey City, New Brunswick, Chester, Wilmington, Norristown, and other places. Four or five steam- and several sailing-yachts—of the former class, Disston's and Gibson's, and among the latter, the old champion "Minerva"—bring a large number of sportsmen to the grounds. From one hundred thousand to one hundred and twenty-five thousand are killed annually opposite the Port alone. A party of nine killed two thousand one hundred during one tide; and so numerous are the rail at times that one gunner will kill fifty before picking them up. One man has killed as high as three hundred and sixty-five, one tide. The best season's work by any *one* resident was accomplished by David Lore, who killed ten thousand birds. These, and similar statements, are sometimes said to be grossly exaggerated, as the most of the rail are shot singly; nevertheless, the facts are abundantly verified. At times the discharges are so rapid, it is found necessary to cool the gun-barrels by immersing them in water, or the gun is laid aside to cool while another fowling-piece is used in its stead. These rail-bird grounds are said to be the best in the United States.





1870-1871

CONTINENTAL PARADE.

1870-1871

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF FEBRUARY  
19, 1885.

It has often been asked why the jollification was made in cold weather. A short explanation of its origin and development fully answers that question, and the Port's patron saint, Elizabeth, may be forgiven for "fixing the date of the centennial anniversary of the place at so cold and cheerless a season of the year." On December 3, 1884, Rev. C. W. Livezly dropped into the studio of C. B. Ogden, and stated he had just received a postal from the presiding elder, Rev. Wm. Walton, requesting him to hold a celebration of American Methodism. Mr. Ogden remarked, "By the way, it has been just a hundred years since Port Elizabeth became a definite village; why not have a double centennial celebration?" After discussing the matter with several influential citizens, it was thought advisable to appropriately celebrate the anniversary of Methodism on the morning of Sunday, the 21st inst., and honor the memory of the Port in a befitting manner on the evening of the same day. Committees were appointed, but the time was found too short to prepare a historic sketch of the Port. Sunday was thought an inappropriate day, and that the centennial should be fixed for the middle of holiday week. As ideas developed, it was deemed best to call a mass-meeting of citizens. Accordingly, on December 16 a meeting was held in Lee's Hall, a committee on resolutions was elected, and an executive committee chosen to devise plans and prosecute the work. The date was fixed for February 19, 1885, being as near Washington's Birthday as convenient. It was thought advisable to celebrate in the winter, that farmers, watermen, and the Eureka Cornet Band would all be at home and ready for the work. A centennial tea-party was mentioned for the evening of the day, and it was not dreamed that the interest would reach any one outside the village. The people thought they might have a baby elephant to amuse and instruct, but after the Executive Committee had met a few times, a veritable Jumbo was found on their hands. With the arrangements already made, it was found inexpedient to postpone to warm weather.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

J. W. B. VANAMAN, *Chairman*.

EMILY T. SHARP.	HESTER HUGHES.
MARGARET L. HAYS.	MARY A. MITCHELL.
ELLEN HARRIS.	F. W. BOWEN.
RHODA LOPER.	HARVEY G. HUGHES.
HANNAH WILLETS.	C. B. OGDEN.
HANNAH B. OGLEE.	REV. C. W. LIVEZLY.
HARRIET J. OGDEN.	FRANCIS LEE.
MARY HARRIS.	DANIEL HARRIS, ESQ.
PRICILLA HEISLER.	WHARTON OGDEN.
AMANDA J. MASON.	MAJOR HENDERSON.
ANN P. VANAMAN.	JOHN S. HEISLER.
MARY PANCOAST.	COL. J. HOWARD WILLETS.
MARGARET SHEPPARD.	JONATHAN LORE.
HANNAH LEACH.	WILSON BANKS.
MARY SHAW.	

The morning of February 19 opened clear, bright, and frosty, with the thermometer at 10° above zero, and two inches of snow on the streets. The cannon pealed forth twice at day-break, three times at sunrise, and five times at eight a.m. By this time the great influx of visitors, by carriage, had commenced to stream into town from the four points of the compass. A large number had arrived by railroad the night before, and with those who came on the morning trains from Cape May and Philadelphia, the crowd swelled during the day to about two thousand two hundred, including residents of the Port. They came from Bridgeton, Millville, Vineland, Maurice-town, Port Norris, Cedarville, Greenwich, Shiloh, Deerfield, and other points in the county, Philadelphia, Trenton, Tuckahoe, Cape May, Clayton, and some from as far west as Chicago.

## THE CONTINENTAL PARADE.

As the stars and stripes floated across the main street, the parade, which was about a square and a half long, moved in the following order: The marshal, Captain Daniel Loper, Jr.,

rode at the head, and was assisted by aides Ludlam Henderson and Harry Lore, Sr., all in Continental generals' uniforms. Then came a pioneer fife and drum corps, followed by representatives of the Manumuskine and Muskee tribes of Indians in their full tribal equipments and on horses. An old emigrant wagon, with flaring canvas top, came next, and bore an Indian damsel and several gayly-dressed children, who sang frontier melodies. On the canvas top was Greeley's injunction, "Go West, young man." The parade moved over "the bridge" to meet Elizabeth Bodly and friend and escort them into town, in memory of the first entrance of that estimable Quakeress to Port Elizabeth. Willie Mason impersonated Mrs. Bodly and Woodruff Boggs the friend. They were given a position in the parade behind the emigrant wagon. Next came Uncle Sam seated on a large mule. The character was taken by Joseph Bacon; and with his white fur hat, high and bell-shaped, his blue swallow-tail coat bespangled with stars, and his red-and-white-striped breeches, did the character full justice. He was escorted by two dashing Young Americas, Harrie and Eddie Lore, on richly-caparisoned horses. These were followed by the minute-men of the twentieth century,—a company of small boys, all dressed alike in Continental uniform, bearing flags and drawing a small cannon. After the Continental civilians on foot came the Continental infantry, with its officers on horseback, John Fries, mounted on a fine charger, being general in command. Next was an old-time wagon carrying a Continental "school-marm" and her nine scholars, whom she was drilling in music. After these came an automatic and life-like Continental gymnast on a horizontal bar. Horsemen from Ewing's Neck formed the advance-guard of a carriage drawn by ponies. In it were seated Furman Campbell, a colonial Congressman, Major Henderson as Washington, Wharton Ogden as Franklin, and Stephen Reeves as Lafayette. The Eureka Cornet Band wagon was drawn by four iron-gray horses, and the seventeen members rendered excellent music on the march; each was in Continental soldier uniform. About fifty Odd-Fellows from Leesburg, and in full regalia, were next in line, and followed by Jonathan Duffield and Henry Adler on horseback, and dressed

as comic countrymen. The glass-factory bell was mounted in a wagon gayly festooned with bunting; a ludicrous darkey was driver, and another plied the clapper. The rear was brought up with the Hessians and cannon under the command of Continental general, Japhet Fox. This cannon was a brass piece, a twelve-pounder, and loaned the people of Port Elizabeth by General Perrine from the State arsenal. After the parade had moved through the principal streets, it broke a little south of the Methodist Episcopal Church to have a photographic view taken.

#### MORNING EXERCISES IN THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The interior of the church was gayly and tastefully decorated with flags, streamers, and evergreens. In the centre of a large ensign back of the platform was a life-sized, three-quarter portrait of Elizabeth Bodly in Quaker costume. She was represented with the deed of the church lot in her hands, and on her way to deliver the same to the trustees a hundred years ago. The portrait was surrounded by festooned flags of all nations, emblematic of her generous aid to all nationalities and conditions of men. To the right of the platform stood a four-by-six blackboard illustration in colored crayon, being a reproduction of her log house on the wharf a century ago. Over the stage was invisibly suspended the inscription worked in evergreen, "1785—PORT ELIZABETH—1885. WELCOME."

A single peal of the cannon at 10.45 A.M. announced the opening of the exercises, over which Rev. C. W. Livezly, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, presided. A strong and well-selected choir sang the opening chorus, "Hail! Smiling Morn," accompanied on the piano and cornet, the former by Mr. Mortimer Mayhew, and the latter by Professor Ruric Cobb, of Mauricetown. Invocation was eloquently offered by Rev. J. R. Westwood, pastor First Methodist Episcopal Church, Millville, and the orchestra rendered "The Red, White, and Blue." Rev. Mr. Livezly gave an address of welcome, which was replete with humor and kindly feeling, and the audience felt at home at once. "La Siècle Quick March" was discoursed, and



General Jas. F. Rusling, of Trenton, was introduced as the orator of the morning. His theme was "A Century of National Life." The orator traced the successive steps of our national development, drew a vivid and glowing picture of the grand expanse of our present national domain, and dwelt on the immense onward strides of our people in science, invention, and the mechanical arts. The speaker's clearness of thought and eloquence of expression frequently provoked rounds of applause, which showed the hearty appreciation of the well-packed audience. At the close of the oration, Rev. Livezly, in a few well-chosen remarks, presented the general with a handsome amber-colored glass fruit-dish, hand-painted and richly mounted in silver, as a token from the people of Port Elizabeth. From the handle was suspended a silver shield, one side bearing his name and the reverse the inscription, "1785—Port Elizabeth Centennial—1885." The general was taken by surprise, and feelingly returned his thanks, closing with the utterance, "I will say, 'God bless Port Elizabeth.'" Then the Rev. Livezly arose again, bearing a *fac-simile* (except the color being azure), and presented it to J. W. Newlin, Esq., "for services expected of him in the evening." The genial editor gave hearty thanks "for being paid before service rendered." The orchestra then played a selection from the "Bohemian Girl," and the audience was dismissed for dinner.

#### BANQUET HALL AND ANNEX.

The lower room of the public school-house was the main dining-hall, and was gayly festooned with ensigns and burgees. The Murphy House adjoining the school grounds was also utilized for dining purposes, and nearly two hundred persons were seated at a time. The repast consisted of roast turkey, chicken, beef, ham, salads, vegetables, preserved fruits, cake, bread and butter, coffee, tea, etc., and the eight tables were elaborately appointed, each being presided over by a matron and four aides. The latter wore rich and high-colored costumes of "ye olden time," and, with their Swiss caps and frills, made a pleasing spectacle. The dinner was served as in "days of yore;" only fifty cents was charged adults, and children were

admitted at half price; the main object being to merely clear expenses. It is not known how many people were supplied, but the entrance to Banquet Hall was crowded for hours, and the hall was patronized till dark.

#### AFTERNOON PROGRAMME.

When the cannon pealed forth at 2.30 P.M., the church was again densely packed. The programme opened with a cornet solo, "Jardin Atlantique," by Professor Cobb. Then came the History of Port Elizabeth, by F. W. Bowen; only a synopsis of events could be given in the time allotted the gentleman, but the reading was received with marked attention, and with many tokens of appreciation. "Auld Lang Sync" was heartily sung by the audience, and was followed by the Centennial Poem, entitled "Footprints," by C. B. Ogden. An article written on the celebration says of the poem, "It was a very interesting and highly creditable production, thoroughly appreciated and admired by all who heard it." After the orchestra rendered the "Marseillaise Hymn," Hon. B. F. Lee, Clerk of the State Supreme Court, and a former inhabitant of the Port, was introduced and made a short address. He gave many interesting early reminiscences, and his highly poetic descriptions were most entertaining. Another selection was rendered by the orchestra, after which the audience was dismissed.

#### RELIC HALL.

A highly-appreciated exhibit of relics was arranged in the second story of the school-house, and presided over by four young ladies, Hattie J. Ogden, Mary H. Oglee, Sallie L. Mason, and Anna Boggs, richly attired in Continental costumes. The room was elegantly decorated with flags, and densely crowded throughout the day. The ages of the relics ranged from seventy-five to six hundred and twenty-three years. The most valuable small objects were displayed in several large glass show-cases. At one end of the room was an old fireplace and chimney, arranged with crane, trammel, pot, andirons, shovel, and tongs. The principal relics and exhibitors of the same were as follows:

Frank Sawyer, tea-canister, 100 years old; Mrs. H. G. Hughes, pocket-book, 125; Mrs. Hannah Oglee, deed, 147; Rev. C. W. Livezly, coin, 623; Jacob Sheppard, silver spoon, 200; Mrs. Henry Rogers, bureau, 121; Mrs. Catharine Boggs, warming-pan, 110; Mr. Sharpless, infant's dress, 100; Daniel Harris, Esq., foot-stove, 150; Mrs. Ellen Harris, hair trunk, 100; Mrs. Lottie Brown, chair, 125; Mrs. Emma Lore, oil painting from Germany, 100; Wharton Ogden, family Bible, 115; Isaac Mayhew, spinning-wheel, 100; Mrs. Hannah Leach, wooden table-castor and brass kettle, 100; Francis Lee, Indian suit from Seminole war, bullet from battle-field below New Orleans, piece of wood from old fort, St. Augustine, Fla., 300; Miss Emily Sharp, silver spoon, 150, gold sleeve-buttons, 100; Mrs. M. L. Hays, love-feast cards, 116, glass plate, 150; Dr. J. H. Willets, cabinet of minerals and ore from North and South America; Mrs. Abbie H. Gheen, silver knee-buckles, 100, Nelson's Justice, 140, Continental money of 1774, invalid's gruel-cup, 100, knitting-sheath, 100; Mrs. Emma Campbell, punch-bowl, ball, and basket, each 100; Captain Daniel Heisler, warming-pan, 120, stand, 100; John Heisler, teapot, 100; Joseph Henderson, earthen pitcher, 100; Mrs. Christina Coombs, high chair of Isaac Townsend; Mrs. Ida Shropshire, horn spoon, 100; Jacob Haley, wooden shoe from England, 190; Miss Sallie Mason, piece St. Augustine fort, 300, paper containing General Washington's death notice; Mrs. Ann Reeves, watch, 110; Clarence Wills, cannon-ball from Revolutionary war; Mrs. F. W. Bowen, fringe from saddle and coat of Captain Lawrence, Revolutionary war; C. B. Ogden, tuckahoe-root, Manumuskinee Indian spears, corn-pounder, stone axes and tomahawks, and Indian ear-rings; Miss Anna R. Gray, silver spoon, 100; Frank Oglee, powder-horn, 103; Miss Maggie Helm, spoon, 150; Mrs. Ella Lore, dishes and books, 100; Nathan Baner, cloth cape, from wool picked from drowned lamb, carded, spun, and woven by his mother, 110 years ago; Mrs. Abbie Gilland, dish from Germany, 100.

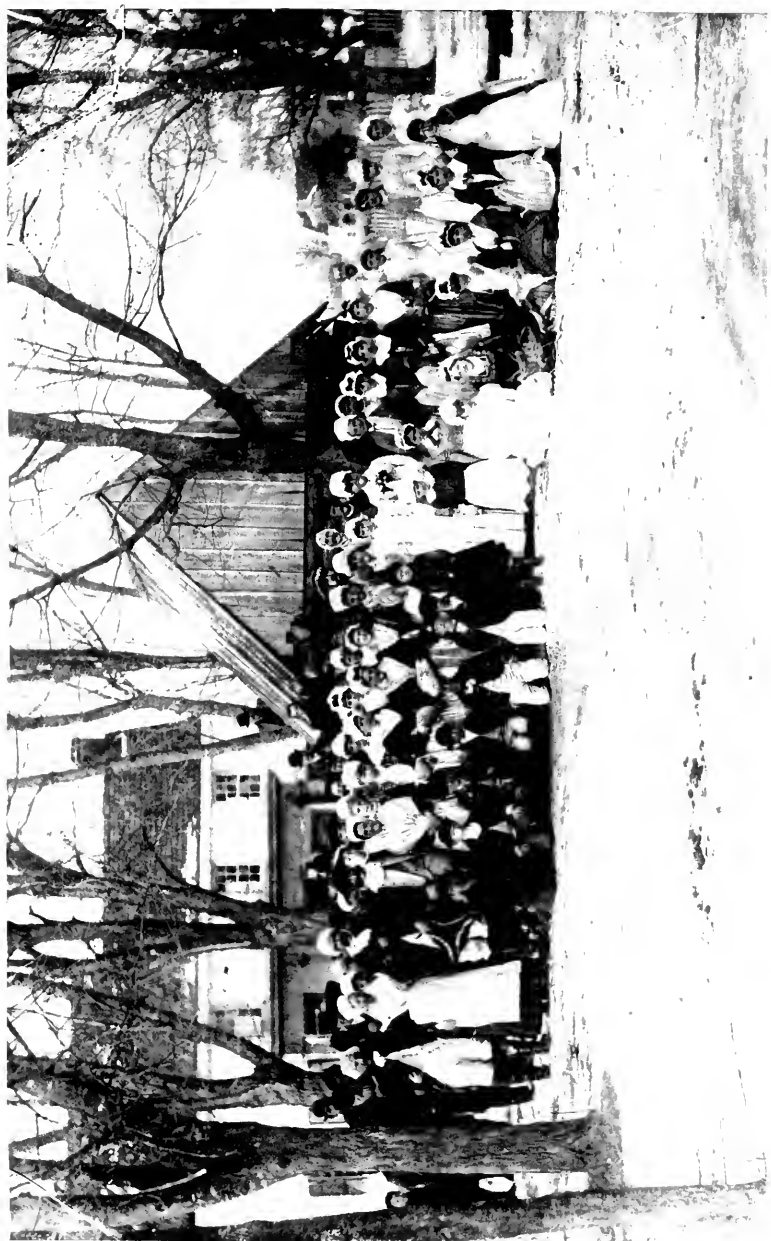
## THE LOG CABIN, AND SOUVENIR CUPS AND SAUCERS.

This reminder of the days of our forefathers was erected under the direction of Daniel Harris, Esq., was twelve feet by sixteen feet, had one door and three windows, and was intended to represent Elizabeth Bodly's log house on the wharf a century ago. It stood on the school-house lot, and was to be headquarters for the sale of the souvenir cups and saucers. It was found to be uncomfortable for the ladies in charge of the latter, and they were, in consequence, principally sold in Banquet Hall. These cups and saucers were gotten up at Trenton by special order, and five hundred were readily sold on the day of celebration and a short time after. The cups were inscribed "1785—Port Elizabeth—1885," in maroon, brown, and mezzotint. In the afternoon about fifty aides were photographed at the end of the log cabin, and they formed a most picturesque group.

## EVENING EXERCISES.

The evening programme was opened at 7.30 by the chorus, "A Hundred Years to Come." John W. Newlin, Esq., editor of the *Millville Republican*, was then introduced as the orator of the evening. His subject was, "Onward March." The speaker drew from the past to show the possibilities of the future. The oration was a masterly effort, eloquently delivered, and many well-taken points were warmly applauded. The choir followed with "A Hundred Years Ago," after which a poem, entitled "My Mother's Green Grave," written in Port Elizabeth, May 12, 1822, by "Caroline," was read by Jennie L. Mayhew, with an ease and grace that won many admirers. At this point Senator Isaac T. Nichols was called for, and responded with a happy address, eulogizing the occasion and the genial people of Port Elizabeth. Music was again rendered, and, after a few apt remarks by Rev. C. W. Livezly, reviewing the day's proceedings, and thanking the audience for their heartiness of participation, upon pronouncing the benediction, the Centennial celebration was declared closed.





MATRONS AND AIDS OF BANQUET HALL

## REMARKS.

Lee's Hall was used as a rendezvous by the people during the entire day and evening.

No more important event has occurred in Port Elizabeth since Dr. Thomas Yarrow delivered his famous oration here, July 4, 1799.

The Port was fortunate in securing so many ensigns, burgees, port signals, and union-jacks for decoration purposes. There were thirty-seven large flags, principally from Mauricetown; Dorchester and Leesburg furnished several. Of small flags there was a large number of every material and size. Not an accident occurred to mar the festivities. The net proceeds from the celebration were five hundred and sixty-one dollars and forty-eight cents. The expenses amounted to four hundred and four dollars and sixteen cents, leaving a balance of one hundred and fifty-seven dollars and thirty-two cents in the hands of the treasurer of the Executive Committee, W. Ogden. On March 9, 1885, a mass-meeting was called in Lee's Hall to vote the net proceeds for a specific object. It was decided to apply them towards putting a new roof on the Methodist Episcopal Church.

## FOOTPRINTS.

PORT ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY, 1685-1785-1885.

A CENTENNIAL POEM,

BY CHARLES B. OGDEN.

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We hail with delight a Centennial morn  
Of chieftain, or hero, or proud nation born ;  
And surely we're pardoned, though humble our station,  
When point we with pride to one spot in that nation.

We cherish our God-given country most grand,  
Bold hearts and strong arms that secured this great land.  
Though sacred we hold ev'ry foot of her soil,  
Most sacred is that where we give it our toil.

We hallow the spot where our eyes first beheld,  
Whence the tyrant Oppression for aye was expell'd.  
In this land of the free, the fair Eden of earth  
Is the home of our childhood, the place of our birth.

So pause we to-day 'long stern Time's rugged way,  
To note the posts gained, and what years ago we say.  
Weird visions in dim, crude perspective arise,  
As the mythical wand brings its constant surprise.

### I.

Go back to the forest primeval, and dream  
When all was dense woodland and meadow and stream ;  
When birds of wild plumage flit through the deep shade,  
And the wild beast's dread footfall was heard in the glade.

While sway massive oak and tall pine in the wind,  
Through thicket and swamp speed the buck and the hind ;  
The panther and wolf, the fierce wild-cat and bear,  
Are ranging at will, or secure in their lair.



Oh! wildness of grandeur of Nature's domain,  
 How fit that the lord that doth first o'er thee reign  
 Is the tall dusky warrior, intrepid and true,  
 Though his palace, a wigwam,—his throne, a canoe!

Thou Lenni-Lenape, though thy numbers be more  
 Than in regions beyond Makeriskiton's\* shore,—  
 The land of thy fathers, the pale-face doth need;  
 The soil is now bartered to the Dutch and the Swede.

Thy tribe, Menomuskin,† enduring and brave,  
 Possess sterling virtues the pale-face might crave:  
 Respect for the rights of each other their care,  
 To elders, most rev'rent,—in traffic, most fair.

Thy canoe shall no longer glide o'er the Muskee,  
 No more on Wahatquenack,‡—coursing to sea.  
 Thou hast speared the last fish; from thy bow take the string,  
 The last arrow has pierced the wild fowl on the wing.

Thy picturesque village from hence must away;  
 So fold to thy wigwam, make haste while ye may!  
 Take care of thy treasures in wampum and bone,  
 Extinguish thy camp-fire! poor Red-man, begone!

Old Sunrise, thou last of the sachems in line,  
 Bid a lasting farewell to this forest of pine!  
 Call around thee thy braves! each papoose is caress'd,  
 The old council-fire quenched, push away to the West!

A moment he turns to his long-buried dead,—  
 An instant, to catch the wind's moan o'er his head:  
 The boughs bend to westward; is't the Great Spirit's hand?  
 At once on the trail starts the copper-hued band.

## II.

Thus find we this region two centuries past,  
 When the pioneer hunter his eye o'er it cast.  
 A spot broken here, and cleared there, as we roam,—  
 The wigwam makes way for the log cabin home.

On the banks of the Maurice the colonist tarried,  
 And hither the first Swedish households were carried.  
 Here, too, was a building to God soon erected,  
 And Moravian doctrines were taught and respected.

\* Indian name of the Delaware River. † Original spelling of the word.  
 ‡ Indian name for the Maurice.

Soon came the staid Scotch; but the English before  
 Had settled along Manumuskin's wild shore.  
 They offered a refuge from Persecution's dread hand  
 To the Quakers, and Wesley's young Methodist band.

As gather these quaintly-clad folk in the wood,  
 Contentment and Peace with bright wings o'er them brood,—  
 And Prosperity hovers her influence to wield,  
 Bringing blessings of bounty to fireside and field.

While sit they about the old yule-log's gay roar,  
 The larder doth groan with abundance of store  
 Of fish and wild fowl, of red deer and the bear,—  
 From the rude cabin-door hurries trouble and care.

Ye hearthe is swept cleane, and ye bright crackling fire  
 Is sending each moment ye merrie blaze higher;  
 Now driving ye shadows about ye clay floor  
 From out nook and corner, from chimney to door.

Right cheerily supper now sings in ye pot,  
 And silent ye reel, its duteous cares all forgot.  
 Ye good-man's cob pipe is a-smoking out sorrow,  
 Ye good-wife is humming o'er duties to-morrow.

O modest Simplicity! was e'er thy intention  
 To yield up thy realm to man's studied invention?  
 That man in his cunning with neighbor should vie,  
 Fret and fever his brain from his birth till he die?

What more to their stock can the New World bestow?  
 Prepared for the morrow, come weal, or come woe,  
 Each cheerfully bends to his task for the day,  
 Giving thanks that each soul can serve God as it may.

### III.

When England's oppression impov'rish'd the land  
 With taxes too grievous for freemen to stand,  
 They hasted to prove a brave heart's resolution,  
 And shed honest blood in the Old Revolution.

As multiply numbers and trade brings supply,  
 Many artisans come their vocations to ply.  
 Far up Manumuskin, through swamp's tangled maze,  
 Vessels sail for milled lumber in these pioneer days.

From the quaint old log tavern whose host is John Bell,  
 Where he cheers the new-comer a homestead to sell,  
 The cedar-log house yields to neater frame dwelling,  
 As rapid as now I the tale am found telling.

Why bend to the woodman these old forest trees?  
 What mean these new streets that the visitor sees?  
 Why the glass-maker here,—the ship-builder, —the hatter,  
 The blacksmith,—the weaver? Pray give us the matter!

We find a new spirit has moved on the scene:  
 In Quaker-hued garb, she's the plain Forest Queen.  
 With a heart great with kindness and wisdom she came;  
 Elizabeth Bodly, we rev'rence thy name!

Thy prudence and industry answer the question;  
 Thine enterprise hardly admits of suggestion;  
 Concerned for the welfare of little and great,  
 Thou wouldst have all succeed in their chosen estate.

By Act of Assembly, as soon as projected  
 A dam o'er the stream Manumuskin's erected,  
 And the town aptly christened "The Dam" was soon made  
 A port of deliv'ry for foreign-built trade.

Though early the date, in importance but third  
 In all of South Jersey,—to some it occurred  
 The name should be changed; and to honor their friend,  
 It was called Port *Elizabeth* for that special end.

The merchantman trader from over the sea  
 Turns hither his prow, bringing coffee and tea.  
 The Indies send fruits; while the Old World, from thence  
 Sends cargoes for barter, or pounds, shillings, and pence.

A building for worship was now a felt need,  
 And before there was one for her own cherished creed,—  
 Mrs. Bodly, whose bounty they never forgot,  
 Gave the foll'wers of Wesley their present church lot.

And this, because Methodists numbered the more;  
 But mainly because of her heart's golden store,  
 Magnanimity this, of soul noble and pure;  
 'Tis a memory kind that shall ever endure.

With jolting and jostling no nerves can withstand,  
 And racket and rumble behind four-in-hand,  
 Comes the lumb'ring old stage-coach, with saint and with sinner,  
 With foam-covered steeds, all in time for "ye dinner."

With blandest of smiles the old host kindly greets them,  
 With hearty good cheer 'round the table he seats them,  
 While off to the office the mail-pouch is carried,  
 As waiting the postman the town-folk have tarried.

The pranks and the games of the youngsters at play  
 Were just such amusements they practise to-day.  
 But the rough leather shoes and the homespun, I ween,  
 Are never to-day in the nursery seen.

## IV.

Again through the land is the call heard, to arm ;  
 Immediate response comes from workshop and farm,  
 And England the second time vanquished, is prone  
 For the thrust at our shipping to quickly atone.

When Conflict to Peace her dominion restores,  
 And Migration speeds faster its tide to our shores,  
 More interest is felt in the culture of mind,—  
 For in this the Old World must not leave them behind.

The spectacled pedagogue holds his "pay school,"  
 And wields misty lore, or the dreaded ferule ;  
 The pupils in homespun "must learn;" for he teaches  
 "Knowledge enters the mind through the ear or the breeches."

While yet the old Fed'ral School System is here,  
 The Academy's praises are sung far and near ;  
 The first in South Jersey, equipments complete,  
 Many students in the classics and sciences meet.

As mark we the footprints down History's page,  
 One noteworthy fact doth attention engage :  
 To the weak and oppressed full protection they gave,  
 An asylum was proffered the fugitive slave.

On leaving their shackles on old Southern soil,  
 They still in this free land were wedded to toil ;  
 And when we with kindness their ignorance shield,  
 They were citizens true, both in workshop and field.

Since penning these lines an old landmark we miss ;  
 Wallace gains a far country still freer than this.  
 Respected by all, of his church the main stay,  
 Full of years, Uncle Billy now passes away.

Then do you remember that true moral teacher  
 Ezekiel Cooper, the old colored preacher?  
 He was Nature's own nobleman, gentle and kind,  
 In meekness possessing all virtues combin'd.

## V.

We rejoice that our kin in the Mexican War  
 Boldly entered those fields of dread carnage and gore,  
 But the Land of the Cactus sapped less of our life  
 Than our own Southern soil in the Great Civil Strife.

When the cloud of Rebellion in mutterings vile  
 Would blacken our ensign, our Union defile,  
 The guns of Fort Sumter aroused Northern fire  
 No tyrant could tame, or his paltry gold hire.

Our boys joined the ranks when the service begun;  
 They fought at Cold Harbor, they bled at Bull Run;  
 At Chancellorsville was their keen metal tried,  
 While some before Fredericksburg gallantly died.

In the Wilderness fought they most valiantly, too,  
 Spottsylvania saw much of their great derring-do;  
 And in Andersonville, foulest den upon earth,  
 Some famishing lay; oh, we knew not their worth!

Let us pause yet a moment to honor our dead;  
 Of their noble self-sacrifice much may be said,  
 But mute is the lip; the heart thrills with emotion,  
 As scan we their deeds claiming life-long devotion.

Come wander with me where the mouldering dust  
 Of the comrades in arms beneath earth's frozen crust  
 Blend with honored civilians; let joy banish pain,  
 For declare these old stones that "they lived not in vain."



You gather to-day to these haunts dear of old  
 To greet a tried friend, and to hear his tale told;  
 You mark the old homestead; old mem'ries revive,—  
 Ev'ry spot is still hallowed; you joy we're alive.

Yes, we live, as our efforts this day do make known.  
 Though the harvest be meagre from all the seed sown.  
 Dead? Like Typhon, of whom sings the old Grecian bard,  
 Though an Etna be on us, we'll surely die hard!

While her love is aglow in the great common heart,  
While each son of distinction espouses her part,  
Secure in their hands the Old Port shall remain,—  
They will guard her best interests, and cherish her name.

Thus note we the footprints adown the long years,  
Of our sowing and reaping 'mid joy and 'mid tears,  
But impatient is Time; so again we commence,  
And will leave the results to a century hence.





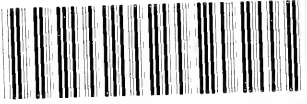








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