

ABSEGAMI:
ANNALS
OF
Eyren Haven and Atlantic City
1609 to 1904

Being an account of the settlement of Eyren Haven or Egg Harbor, and Reminiscences of Atlantic City and County during the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

ALSO
Indian Traditions and Sketches

of the region between Absegami and Chichacki, in the country called Scheyechbi.

With Maps of the New Netherlands (1656), West New Jersey (1698), New Jersey (1904), Atlantic County and Atlantic City

BY

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ATLANTIC CITY

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VOLUME I

Printed for the Author—Nineteen Hundred and Four.

First Families of Eyren Haven.

1633 to 1833.

EYREN HAVEN—"the harbor of eggs"—was the Low Dutch name for Egg Harbor, now Atlantic County. The first word was soon shortened to Eyre or Eyer, giving the country the name of Eyer Haven, and this in turn was changed to Egg Harbor by the first white inhabitants, who lived on the banks of the Mullica, at a place known as Clark's Landing.* This first settlement was so named in honor of Captain James Clarke, who made regular trips with his vessel to New York, taking out peltries and timber and bringing back cloth, ammunition and other goods required by the settlers. This was about the year 1679. Previous to the settlement of Clarke and others on the Atlantic County side of the river, Eric Mullica, a Swede, about 1645, had settled on the Burlington County side, fifteen miles from the bay, at a place now called Lower Bank. Mullica had come to America in the man-of-war "Kalmar Nyckel" or the sloop "Gripen," in 1638, when fifteen years of age, and stopped at a Swedish settlement along the Delaware. A few years later he removed to Eyer Haven or Egg Harbor and became head of a family of eight persons. When quite old he sold his property to Joseph Pearce, and removed to the place now known as Mullica Hill, in Gloucester County, where he died in 1723, aged one hundred years. Mullica Township and Mullica River were both named in his honor.

*The crew of the Dutch ship "Fortuyn" landed in this vicinity in 1614, during the season of birds' eggs, which must have been in the months of May or June, for in their explorations of the marshes, they found immense quantities of gulls and other meadow birds eggs, and this fact induced the Dutch adventurers to name the place Eyren Haven, the "harbor of eggs."

**Discoveries by
De Vries.**

Mullica was the first white settler within twenty-five miles of what is now Atlantic City, but previous to his time, in 1633, David Pieterszen de Vries, the Dutch navigator, sailed up the river, and in his journal he speaks of meeting Indians and seeing a flock of wild pigeons that darkened the sky. Robert Evelin, writing in 1648, says the country hereabout, including Egg Harbor, abounded with geese, swans, ducks and other wild fowl. He saw turkeys, one of which weighed forty-six pounds, and pigeons in abundance, and adds: "There were elk and doe that brought forth two young at a time."

PASSING OF THE WILD FOWL.

It is noticeable that the gulls, terns, herons, sandpipers and other water birds that once made their home along our coast, are being gradually exterminated. About 1877 the writer visited a small island in the mouth of Corson's Inlet, near Sea Isle City, and found breeding there thousands of tern, skimmers and plover. One could hardly walk without treading on the eggs, and the sky was one great shadow of screaming, frightened gulls. All is now changed, for the birds have either been killed or driven away. On a small island back of Stone Harbor, a decade or two ago, fully a thousand pair of the pretty black-headed gulls came every June to breed; now an occasional pair make it their home. Gunners and summer resort promoters have exterminated these birds. The disappearance of the birds from their former breeding places has been noticed by the older residents more than by the younger folks, for the reason that twenty years or more ago the meadows and woodlands were fairly alive with a dozen species, none of which are now to be found.

A colony of green herons each season made their home on Seven Mile Beach. They nested in the holly and cedar trees, as many as half a dozen pair in each tree. Now they are almost all gone, and those that remain are being killed. The black skimmer, a handsome bird, used to be common enough on any of the islands along the Jersey coast. It bred extensively on the low, sandy beaches. Like the herons, they are now nowhere to be found during the summer months. A man who is a bird lover declared recently that it was his belief that not a single pair of black skimmers was bred in South Jersey last season.

Perhaps the most notable bird of New Jersey that is being rapidly driven away is the osprey, or fish hawk. In bygone years, before man ventured to establish a summer resort on Seven Mile Beach, that grandly wooded island was the favorite home of the fish hawk. Year after year, as long as the oldest resident of South Jersey could remember, the hawks came up the coast in the month of March, and when they came the fishermen were jubilant, for they knew the fish were in Jersey waters. Recently the osprey has failed to appear in its former large numbers, and each year finds them growing less. Farmers all through the southern section of the State are solicitous for the fish hawks' welfare, and to have a pair breeding somewhere

FIRST FAMILIES OF EYREN HAVEN.

James Clark, on the farm is considered an honor. The State has passed a law protecting these birds, and to kill one and be caught means a fine of \$50.

the Scotchman. Of the various species of ducks that were former summer visitors on the South Jersey marshes, not one remains. The natives tell of thousands of snipe that not so many years ago frequented the beaches. They, too, are gone.

The first inhabitants of Clark's Landing were English and Scotch emigrants, one of whom, as already stated, was James Clarke (1679), a Scotchman and a sailor, who constructed a boat which he called the "Royal Charles." He sailed this boat between Long Island Sound and Chesapeake Bay until 1690, when she was wrecked off Barnegat, the crew escaping to the shore.



In 1718 Clark's Landing contained forty dwellings, a trading house, a log church and a population of 270 persons. In 1735 it was a flourishing village of more than four hundred inhabitants. The primitive log cabins had given way to commodious frame houses, a frame church had been built, and another building served the triple purpose of store, trading post and town hall. By this time most of the original settlers had died and were buried in the old graveyard by the river.

Forty years later, the breaking out of the Revolution called every patriot to arms. The younger men of the place enlisted in the Continental army. Of the remaining residents many were driven away by the British invasion of 1778, and fear of future depredations or the

Clark's Landing discovery of more congenial quarters prevented them from returning to their old homes. With its population

thus depleted, prosperity declined and the place sank into an insignificant hamlet. The only reminder of the original settlement is the old graveyard. Some of the tombstones in this are almost covered with sand and the inscriptions upon others have been effaced by the hand of time. Two, however, are still decipherable; one marks the grave of Mrs. Ruth Clark and the other that of her husband, Thomas Clark. The former died in 1745 and the latter in 1752. This Thomas Clark may have been a

descendant of Captain James Clarke, the builder and commander of the "Royal Charles." Buried in this obscure corner of God's acre, away from the madding crowd, but near to nature's heart, we can imagine Thomas and Ruth Clark saying, in their lifetime—



When death shall come and end this strife,
When waits my tired body for the tread
Of bidden guests to view the silent dead,
O, do not wish me back to life;
Nor come not near
With signs of grief, nor flowers round my head,
But of the dead let kindly words be said
Without a tear.

In an old churchyard, 'neath the shade
Of spreading maple or stately pine,
Under the myrtle and the ivy vine -
There at the last let me be laid.
In this quiet grot
No foot intrusive will my peace disturb,
But the song of bird o'er me will be heard,
Entrancing the spot.

The violet and the primrose,
The buttercups and daisies fair will bloom
Above me, and there in my lonely tomb,
In Death's embrace, I'll find repose.
The lark and the thrush,
The robin and the wren will flit around,
From tree-top to ground, waking with their sound
The old churchyard's hush.

FIRST FAMILIES OF EYREN HAVEN.

Proposal by Proxy.

Thomas Clark's first wife was named Hannah. It is related by Miss Sarah N. Doughty, of Absecon, a descendant of the Clarks and a lady very well informed on the history of the county, that not long after Hannah Clark died, her afflicted husband directed his oldest son Thomas, then about eighteen years old, to go to Saybrook, Conn., whence the Clarks had migrated about 1720, and bring back "Ruth," that he might marry her, and if she would not come, to bring some one else who would consent to become his wife. The obedient son feared not the consequences of a step-mother, but went on horseback to Connecticut, sought Ruth and "proposed" to her in behalf of his father. Ruth answered "yes," and forthwith arranged for the journey. In due time she arrived in Egg Harbor, accompanied by her prospective stepson, and was married to Thomas Clark. Besides his first born son, the elder Thomas Clark had two sons, David and Elijah, the latter a brave Revolutionary soldier, who was in command of the fort at the Fox Burrows at the time of the British invasion, in October, 1778. Miss Doughty, a descendant of the older brother, Thomas 2d, was the organizer of Lafayette Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Atlantic County. She is active in religious, charitable and patriotic work, and still lives at the old Doughty homestead at Doughty Mills, above Absecon. This property was left to her by her father, General Enoch Doughty, a captain in the war of 1812-15, and afterward advanced to the rank of General. Adjoining the homestead is an old landmark, commonly called "Doughty's Cabin," which is really not a cabin, but a two-story log house, built of cedar logs before 1740, and used as a storehouse for many years.



Doughty's Cabin, above Absecon.

Thomas Clark 2d married Sarah Parker, of Saybrook, Conn. As a bridal gift she received a set of "guinea gold beads," as our informant says, and these beads are now in the possession of the

Endicott and Pennington.

Misses Porter, of South Pennsylvania avenue, Atlantic City, daughters of the late Judge Joseph Porter, of Waterford, and descendants of Thomas and Sarah Parker Clark.

Judge Porter was a member of the first board of directors of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad. He was also the owner of extensive glass works at Waterford, and his four daughters conducted the well-known Porter Cottage, Atlantic City.

The settlers who followed Mullica and Clarke were mostly whalemens from Long Island. In 1726 John Budd, son of Thomas Budd, conveyed part of Absecon Beach to James and Andrew Steelman, Jonathan Adams, John and Peter Scull, Peter and John Conover, Richard and Thomas Risley, Samuel Gale and Edward Doughty. Andrew Steelman subsequently became the owner of most of these shares, and in 1736 obtained by deed the three hundred acres which John Scott, of Rhode Island, had located on the same beach in 1714.

Joseph Endecott, a son of Zerubbabel Endecott, and descendant of Governor John Endecott, of Massachusetts, settled near the present shire town of Mount Holly, Burlington County, in 1698. From him are descended a number of persons more or less prominent in the history of Atlantic County. John Endecott came from England in 1628. He was Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts, and longer at the head of the administration than any other Governor. His grandson Joseph, christened at the First Church of Salem, July 17, 1672, removed to Northampton (Mount Holly and vicinity), in the county of Burlington, in 1698. Joseph's son John and grandson Benjamin lived in New Jersey. The latter suffered much during the Revolutionary war. In Atlantic County and in other parts of New Jersey are now many descendants of old Governor John Endecott, of Massachusetts, occupying positions honorable to themselves and their renowned ancestor. One of these is Hon. Allen Brown Endicott, judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The descendants of the Governor now spell the name with an *i*, instead of *e*.

Ephraim Pennington, who came from England, swore allegiance to the New Haven Colony in 1643. His son Ephraim removed to Newark. The grandson of Ephraim (second) was Samuel, who married Mary Sandford. They had nine children. Their fifth child was William S. Pennington, Governor of New Jersey from 1813 to 1815. Their eighth child, and brother to the Governor, was Nathan. Nathan Pennington, born at Dutch Farms, volunteered at the age of nineteen in the Revolutionary war. He served also against the whiskey insurrection. During the Revolution he was taken prisoner and sent to Quebec, where he nearly died of starvation, but finally escaped. He was at Chestnut Neck, in old Gloucester County, in charge of captured property, when he married Margaret Wescoat Leonard, daughter of Colonel Richard Wescoat, a man famous in those days in the history of "The Forks," and afterwards a resident of Mayslanding. Nathan Pennington and Margaret Wescoat Leonard, his wife, had nine children. Their descendants, especially on the female side of the family, are numerous and highly esteemed in Atlantic County to this day, while the men bearing the honored name of Pennington are scattered abroad upon the sea and in different parts of the land. One of his descendants is Dr. Byron C. Pennington, of Atlantic City. Dr. Pennington's cousins, Judge Endicott, County Clerk Lewis P. Scott and former Judge Joseph Thompson, are also descendants of Nathan Pennington. These gen-



The Boardwalk—Westward from the Casino.

FIRST FAMILIES OF EYREN HAVEN.

Covenhoven tlemen are all prominent in the affairs of Atlantic County, and Dr. Pennington stands at the head of his profession in Atlantic City.

and Conover. Peter Covenhoven, or Conover, purchased land in what is now Atlantic County in 1695, between which date and 1698 he took up 150 acres in one tract, also 250 acres bounding on Great Egg Harbor River and Patconk Creek.

The founder of this family was Wolphert Garretson Van Courvenhoven, who came from Amersfoot, in the province of Utrecht, Holland, in 1630, and settled near Albany. He soon afterwards removed to Manhattan Island and was enrolled among the burghers of New Amsterdam, now New York. In 1636 he bought a tract of land on Long Island of the Indians, for which he received confirmation of patent from the Dutch in 1658. This tract was known as Flatlands, and here he died in 1662. He had sons Jacob, Garret and Peter, all born in Holland, who came over with him in 1630. The son Peter, from whom descended the Conovers of Atlantic, was married three times. He first married Hester Symons Dows, December 2, 1640; second Alye Sybrants, November 22, 1665; third Josyntee Thomas, May 19, 1699.

Peter Conover was settled in New Amsterdam (New York) as early as 1633. He engaged in mercantile pursuits with his brother Jacob, who was a miller, a considerable trade being carried on in flour, which was bolted in windmills. Jacob became embarrassed in some private speculations and Peter separated his business connections. The property of Jacob, consisting of a good stone dwelling and a mill, was sold. Peter continued his mercantile pursuits and also engaged in brewing, then a profitable business. He also held civil positions and was a magistrate in 1652-4-8-9 and 1661-3. His residence in New York was in Pearl street, near Whitehall, and his place of business at the corner of those streets. He was also a lieutenant in the military service under General Stuyvesant, and on several occasions was in service against unfriendly Indians. In 1663 the Dutch who were settled at Esopus (now Kingston), on the Hudson River, were set upon by a large band of savages. The male portion of the settlers had gone to the field to their accustomed labor, when a number of savages entered the village in a careless manner, sauntering among the inhabitants. Soon after, they sounded their war whoop and began to kill or take captive the women and children. Many of the men were also killed in the field. The total loss of the Dutch was seventy; twenty-five killed and forty-five taken captive. Twelve dwellings, being every house, were destroyed. The mill alone was left. General Stuyvesant ordered Captain Martin Kriger and Lieutenant Covenhoven to retaliate. Their company consisted of two hundred and ten men, of whom forty were friendly Indians, and they marched to Esopus late one afternoon in July. Proceeding four miles, they halted until the moon rose and then marched again, but the country being wild they could not proceed by night. The day being come, they marched forward, felling trees to cross streams, for they had wagons and a cannon. With great difficulty they proceeded twenty-four miles and came within four miles of an Indian fort, to which all the captives had been taken. Lieutenant Covenhoven was sent forward with one hundred and sixteen men to surprise the fort, but the Indians had decamped to the mountains, taking their captives with them. Covenhoven continued in hot pursuit and reached an Indian camp, but that too was deserted. The pursuit was given up after burning up the Indian stores of maize, beans

**Revolutionary
Conovers.**

and grain growing. They then marched to another fort, thirty-six miles distant, when a fight took place and several savages were killed.

Some years later Covenhoven became involved in lawsuits and his temper was soured by some adverse decisions in suits to which he was a party. As he thought these decisions unjust, he made some remarks derogatory of the character of the court, for which he was sentenced to a brief imprisonment and fined. For these reasons he left New Amsterdam in disgust, and Valentine's New York Manual says he retired to a farm which he owned at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, where he spent most of his time.

The surname of this family, originally Courvenhoven, it is said, means "cold farms." In earliest New Jersey records it is given as Corvenhoven, Covenover and Covenhoven, and about the time of the Revolution many members adopted the spelling now generally used of Conover. The descendants in old Gloucester of Peter Covenhoven have a good Revolutionary record. One Peter Covenhoven was a lieutenant, commissioned November 14, 1777; Isaac, John and Joseph were privates. Of those who gave their names as Conover, David, Jesse, Micajah, Peter and Peter B., were soldiers in that war. The family branched over into other counties, and among these Isaiah Conover was a member of the Legislature many years ago from Salem County. Another descendant named Joseph went to old Monmouth County, and was in the Legislature in 1824-26. The given names of Peter and Joseph are quite frequent among descendants of the first Peter. The name of the founder of the Conover family, Wolphert Garretson Van Courvenhoven, means Wolphert, the son of Garret of Courvenhoven. Garret, the father of Wolphert, must have been born over three hundred years ago, as his grandson, Peter, was in business in New York in 1633. The Conovers have substantial claim to be considered an old family, as their known family record dates back at least three centuries.

A bond of friendship seems to have existed between the first settlers and the Indians. Strong Hands, an Indian chief of the Delaware tribe, in an address to his people, is said to have alluded in grateful terms to the kindness of the "good pale faces who dwell by the little river"—the Mullica.

Whales were quite numerous along the coast in those early days, and the business of the whalers was very profitable. De Vries, in his journal of March, 1633, speaks of having speared seventeen whales, but captured only seven of them, on account of his poor harpoons. The houses of the early whalers were on the beaches, where they had their apparatus for securing the oil and places for storing the bone. The journals of the old navigators and the files of old newspapers refer to great numbers of whales found along the entire Jersey coast.*

* New Jersey Archives, Vol. XI., pp. 46, 203, 592; Vol. XII., pp. 125, 129; Vol. XIX., pp. 149, 332, 335-6-7.

FIRST FAMILIES OF EYREN HAVEN.

Whales and the Whalemén.

It is recorded that in 1803 an immense whale stranded on Absecon bar and was towed into the inlet. While the men were congratulating themselves on their lucky find, a man by the name of Inman came from Great Swamp and demanded half of the oil and bone. He alleged that he and his brother had killed the whale, and proved his assertion by identifying a piece of the harpoon that had broken off in the whale. The men refused to divide, and Inman appealed to the courts and won his suit. The supposed windfall proved a loss of four or five thousand dollars. In 1844 a whale came ashore on "Point-of-Beach," at Absecon Inlet, and portions of the skeleton were washed out by a storm tide in 1868. On February 2, 1887, a grampus whale was captured at the lower end of Atlantic City. Another of the same species was captured at Brigantine on March 26, 1895. It was on exhibition in Atlantic City. These whales were seen by the writer. The former was a female, twelve feet in length, and weighed twelve hundred pounds. Concerning this curiosity, Prof. Angelo Heilprin, of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, said:

"It is a form practically unknown on this side of the Atlantic, and, indeed, as far as I have been able to determine, one which has never before been noted as occurring on the American coast. It is the variety known to naturalists as *Grampus Rissoanus*, Ricco's dolphin, a form peculiar to the Mediterranean and adjoining seas, and first described in 1812. The animal is apparently of full size, and is readily distinguished from other allied cetacian forms by the peculiar slaty lines which traverse the body in all directions. Its occurrence on our coast is an interesting feature in geographical distribution and proves the impracticability of drawing sharp lines of demarcation in the delimitation of marine faunas." This whale was also exhibited in Philadelphia, and was pronounced a rare curiosity by leading naturalists of New York, Philadelphia and Washington. It was subsequently preserved by a taxidermist, and sold to a museum in Kansas City, Mo., a model, however, being secured by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. On May 4, 1900, another whale was washed upon the beach near the Brigantine Life Saving Station. It measured thirty feet.

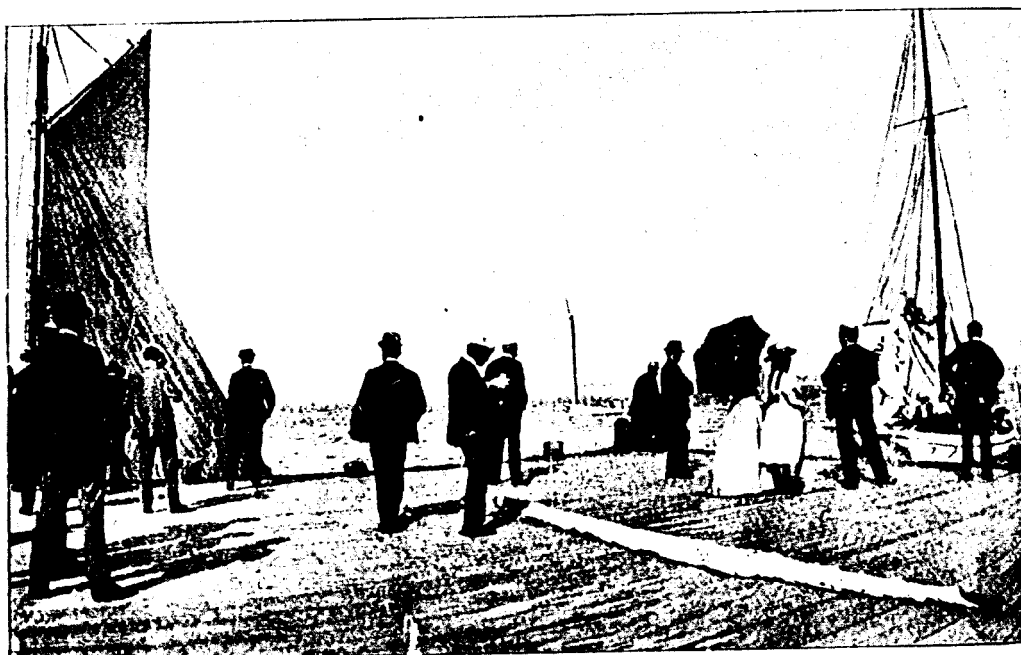
The origin of old Gloucester (whereof Atlantic County was formerly a part), "the only county in New Jersey that can deduce its existence from a direct and positive compact between its inhabitants," dates from May 28, 1686. The persistent efforts of Edward Byllinge to assume the government of the Province of West Jersey, and the firm resistance of the proprietors, caused much confusion among the emigrants and delayed the development of the colony. During the interval of the sittings of the legislature from this cause, which extended from May, 1682 (excepting one day, November 25, 1685), to November 3, 1692, the people settled about Newton, Gloucester, Red Bank and Egg Harbor met at Arwames or

HESTON'S ANNALS.

**Origin of
Old Gloucester.** Axwamus (Gloucester) on May 26,
1686, and two days later adopted what
may be termed a county constitution,
which was intended to apply to the third and fourth
tenths, being the territory lying between Pensaukin and
Oldman's creeks.

CONSTITUTION OF OLD GLOUCESTER.

The following is a literal copy of this constitution, taken from the
oldest book of records in the Clerk's office at Woodbury, extending
from 1686 to 1712:



GLOUCESTER ye 28th May, 1686.

By the Proprietors, Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Third and
Fourth Tenths (alias county of Gloucester,) then Agreed as fol-
loweth:

Imprimis—That a Court be held for the Jurisdiction and Limits
of the aforesaid Tenths or County, one tyme at Axwamus alias
Gloucester and another tyme at Red Bank.

Item—That there be fower Courtes for the Jurisdiction aforesaid
held in one year, at ye dayes and tymes hereafter mentioned viz:
upon the first day of the first Month, upon ye first day of ye fourth
month, on the first day of the seventh month and upon ye first day
of the Tenth month.

Item—That the first Court shall be held at Gloucester aforesaid,
upon the first day of September next.

Item—That all warrants and sumons shall be drawne by the Clarke

FIRST FAMILIES OF EYREN HAVEN.

Extracts from Old Records.

of the Courte and signed by the Justice and soe delivered to the Sheriff or his Deputy to Execute.

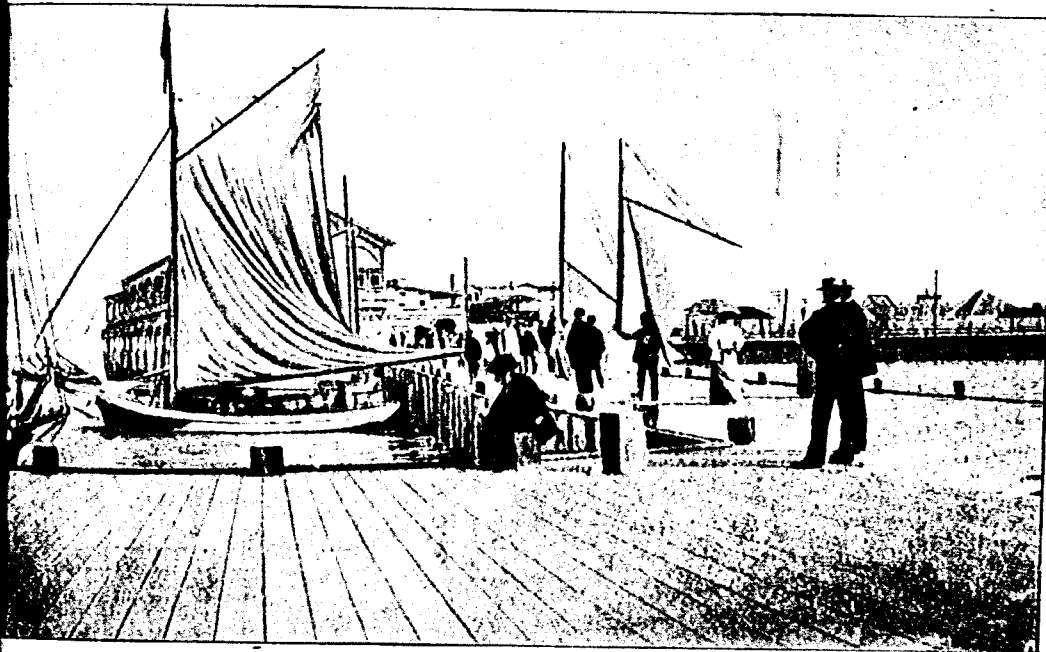
Item—That the bodye of each warrant, etc., shall contayne or intimate the nature of the action.

Item—That a copy of the Declaration be given along with ye warrant by the Clarke of the Court, that soe the Defendant may have the longer tyme to Consider the same and prepare his answer.

Item—That all sumons, warrants, etc., shall be served and Declarations given at least ten dayes before the Court.

Item—That the Sheriffe shall give the Jury summons six days before the court be held on which they are to appear.

Item—That all persons within ye Jurisdiction aforesaid bring into the next courte ye mark of their Hoggs and other Cattell, in order to be approved and Recorded.

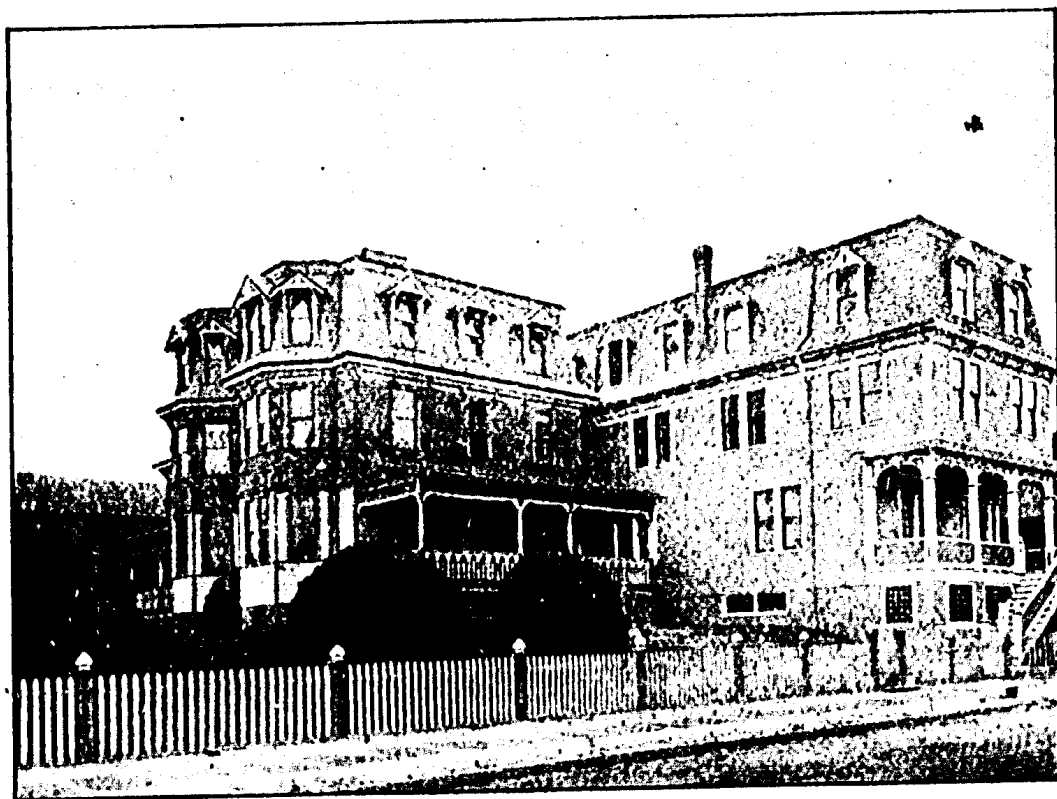


In 1692 the statute erecting Cape May County indirectly sanctioned the irregular proceedings of the Gloucester settlers in associating themselves together, by reciting that the province had "been formerly divided into three counties." Oldmixon, in his "British Empire in America," published in 1708, says of West Jersey: "It is not divided into shires as East Jersey is, though Dr. Coxe, when he was Proprietary, ordered seven counties to be laid out, as Cape May County, Salham County, Gloucester County, etc., but his successors did not go on with the project." Again he says: "The tract of land

**Egg Harbor
Annexed.**

between Cape May and Little Egg Harbour goes by the name of Cape May County, but we do not understand that there is any other division of this province honored by the name of county."

It was probably intended that the eastern boundary of old Gloucester County should be a straight line drawn from the headwaters of the Pensaukin to the headwaters of Oldman's Creek. At any rate, Gloucester County did not originally extend to the ocean, for a law passed in



Home of the Disbanded Atlantis Club.

1694 reads: "Forasmuch as there are some families settled upon Egg Harbour, and of right ought to be under some jurisdiction, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid that the inhabitants of the said Egg Harbour shall and do belong to the jurisdiction of Gloucester to all intents and purposes, till such time as they shall be capable, by a competent number of inhabitants, to be erected into a county, any former act to the contrary notwithstanding."

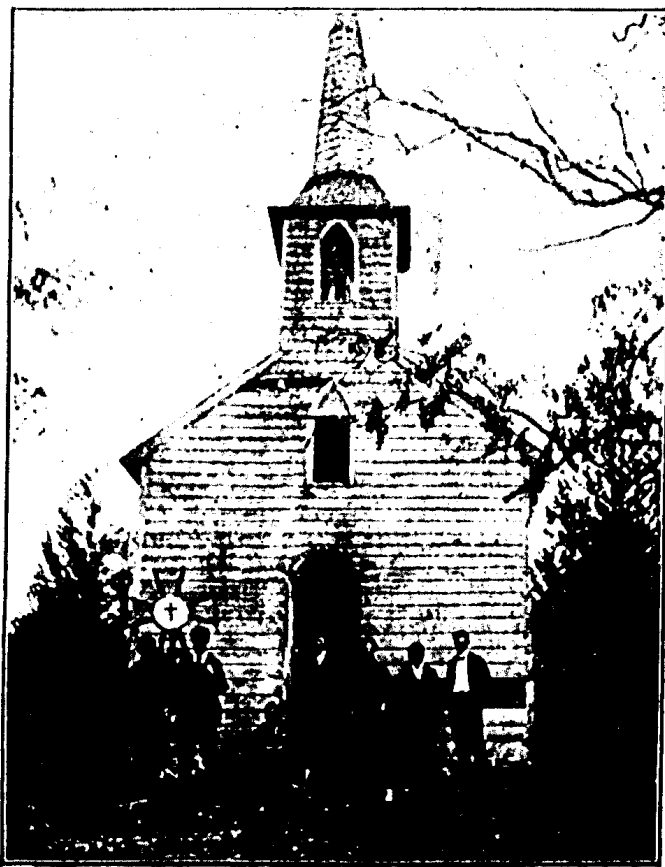
**An Old Timer's
Recollection.**

In a letter to the author, written in 1888, the late Edwin Salter, of Forked River, Ocean county, says: "Forty-odd years ago, when I followed a sea-faring life, I visited Absecon Beach, and have vivid recollections of my last visit, in the days of the Mexican War. My vessel had loaded at New York with supplies for Zach Taylor's army on the Rio Grande. A stress of weather compelled us to put in at Absecon and remain awhile. Around old John Horner's big fire place we discussed the war, Generals Taylor and Scott, Polk and Tyler, and other exciting topics of that day. Horner kept the tavern at the inlet. The old settlers thereabouts, Adams, Steelmans, Lakes and others—where are they? And the immense shallow vats for making salt from sea-water—are they in operation yet? And what a time there was about land titles, caused by a once-noted lawyer named Joseph West, better known as Joe West, who claimed land anywhere and everywhere. Poor Johnnie Horner was a firm believer in Joe West and was greatly cast down when his friend Joe was landed in State Prison for dealing in fraudulent titles. One deed of West's, purporting to be of ancient date, it was proven, was written in modern times, by the water mark in the paper, which showed the paper was made long after the pretended date of the deed. But West was a splendid talker. I have spent hours listening to his pleasant tales, in which he mixed reality and romance so well that the listener could not tell one from the other. Horner was a descendant of the old Quaker stock of Horners, whose pedigree is preserved for over two centuries, but he himself had somewhat degenerated from the strict life of his ancestors. The Adamses, too, were of good old Quaker stock, whose pedigree is equally as old."

Joseph West, a lawyer by profession, was the son of George West, who lived in an old-time mansion at Catawba, two miles or more below Mayslanding, overlooking the Great Egg Harbor River. The old fashioned house was opposite the old Catawba Church, still standing, but rapidly falling into decay. The West family lived in elegant style. "Joe" West became noted in this section of the State, and was generally feared and despised by people with whom he had business transactions. His father and mother and two brothers all died at about the same time, and people were suspicious as to the cause of their sudden deaths. One brother, James S., died on August 24, 1829; another, George S., ten days later; his father a week later, and his mother five days later—all four within the space of twenty-two days. Their graves may still be seen in the rear of the old Catawba Church. Another brother, Thomas B., had died three years before, after two days' illness. In September, 1829, "Joe" was the only survivor of a family of six, and had absolute

**West Family
and Catawba.**

control of the estate. He lived extravagantly, drove about the State with four dun mules, with a mulatto driver, and attracted much attention. He took with him silk bed-clothing for his personal use at whatever hotel he stopped. He was an expert in looking up land titles and set up claims to land which, as a lawyer, he could contest in the courts or settle for cash. But trouble came to him at last and his estate was sold by the sheriff. His conviction for forgery was in Burlington County and he was sentenced to five years, but was released before the completion of his sentence. His wife was a conscientious



The Old Catawba Church.

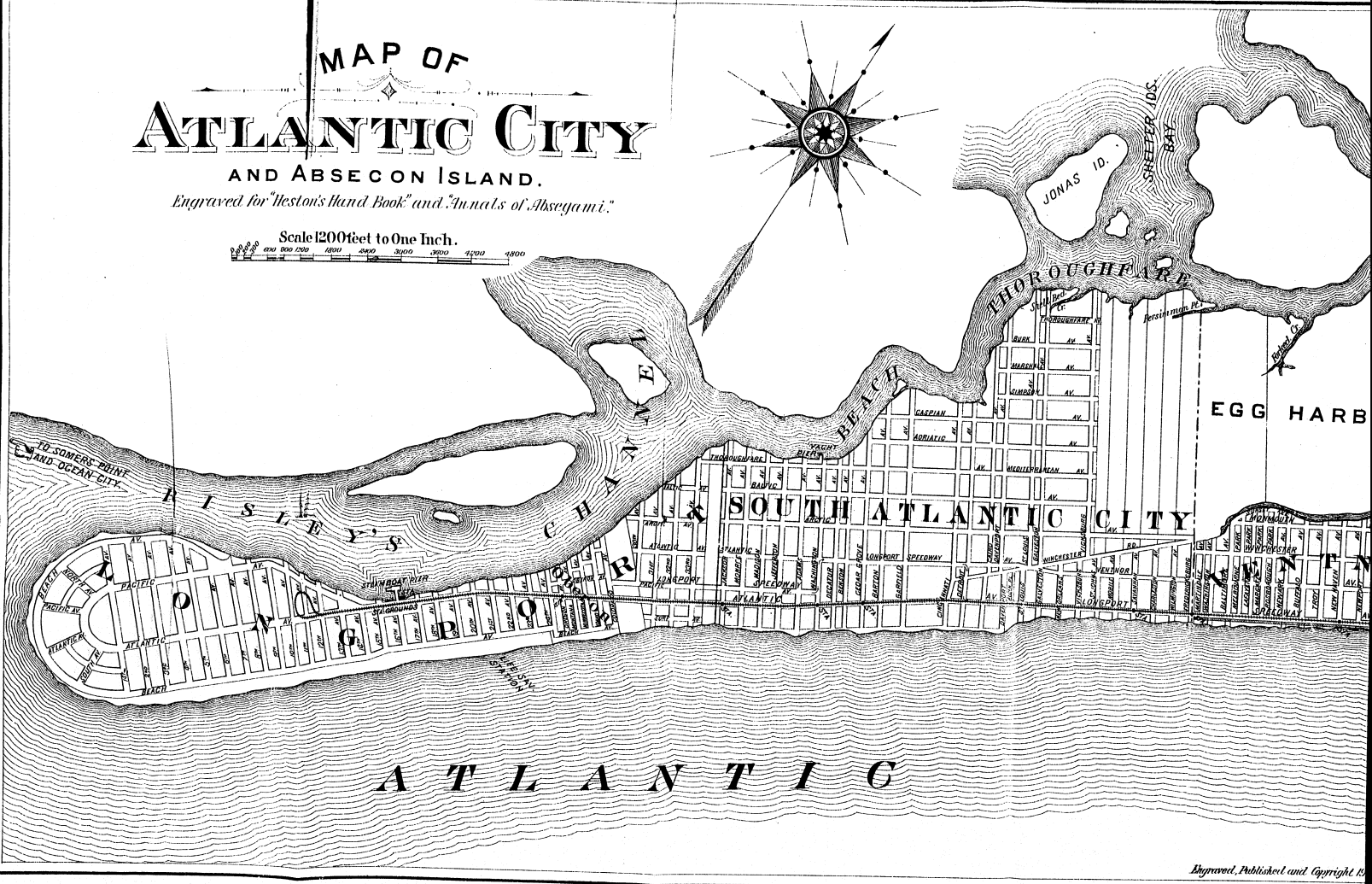
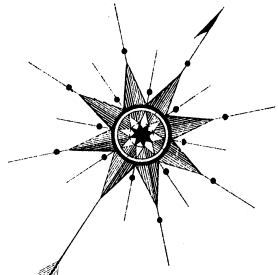
woman, worthy of a much better husband. Before her marriage she was Miss Huldah Stewart, daughter of Charles Stewart, of Philadelphia. The Catawba property was purchased at sheriff's sale by General Enoch Doughty, and is now owned by Miss Sarah N. Doughty.

MAP OF ATLANTIC CITY

AND ABSECON ISLAND.

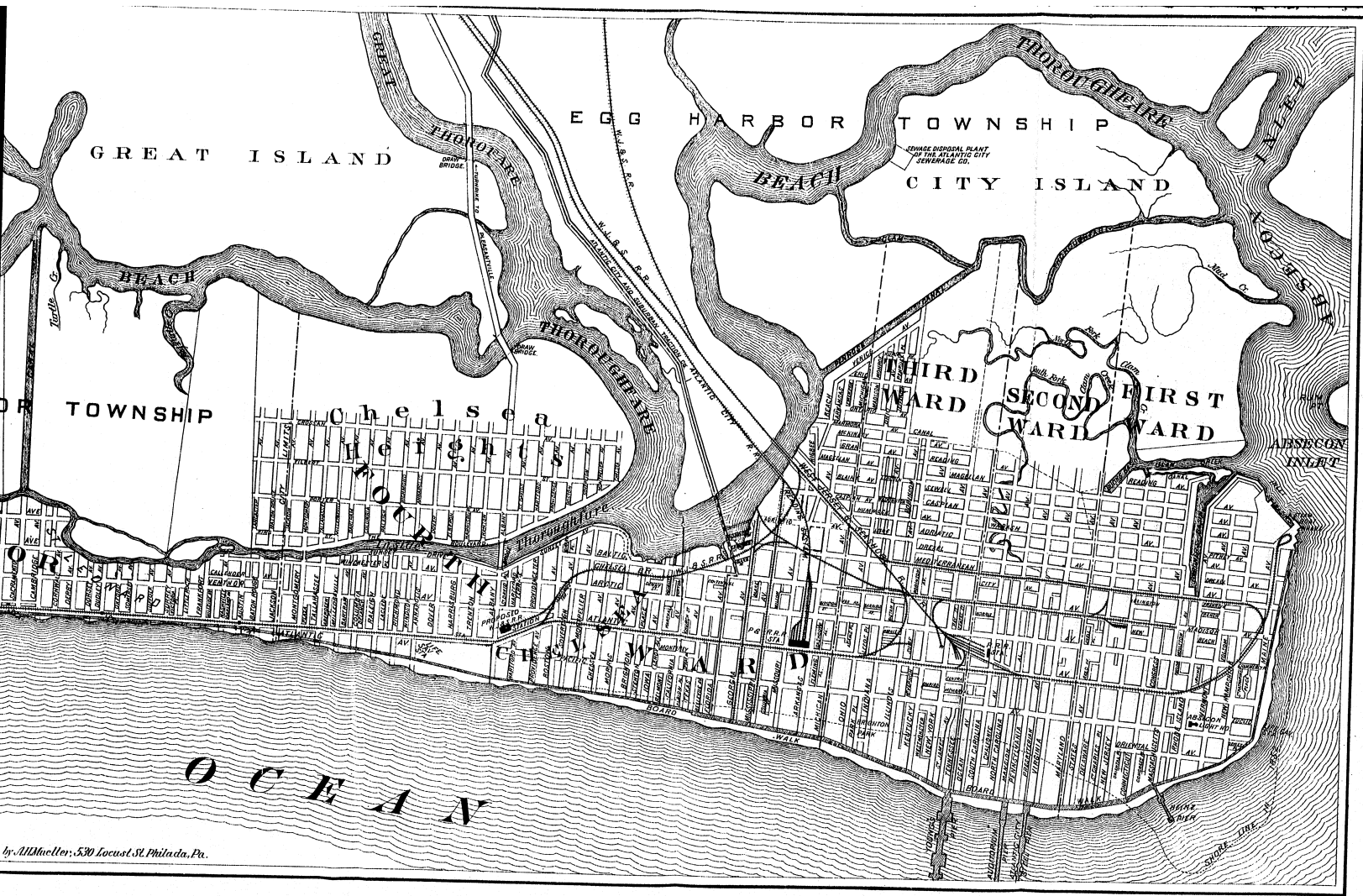
Engraved for "Heston's Hand Book" and "Annals of Absecon."

Scale 1200 feet to One Inch.



A T L A N T I C

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