

HISTORICAL ADDRESS
JULY 4, 1876

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DELIVERED AT WIGWAM GROVE, JAMESBURG, NEW JERSEY
JULY 4TH 1876, BY T. WILTON HILL, CASHIER
FIRST NATIONAL BANK JAMESBURG,
NEW JERSEY

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: ___ In response to your request, I present for your consideration such items of local interest as I have been enabled to gather in the time allotted me, reminding you that care, research, and comparison of notes, involving much time is essential to an accurate historical sketch. It is well that this Centennial year brings the consideration of so useful and interesting a subject to our minds, causing us to search for and bring to light traces and evidences of our mighty achievements and material progress, as well as relics and traditions that otherwise would soon be gone forever. The landmarks of the century previous to the one that has just closed—how few that are!—how age crumbles them, or improvements and progress ruthlessly destroy! If, in our Centennial Jubilee, we make a full and truthful memorial of the past and inspire our children to record, from time to time, more faithfully than we have done, then will the historian of the next century have an easier task and more satisfactory data to work from. As Jersey men, rejoicing in our State, we point with pride to the noble position she has maintained; her loyalty and patriotism, ever true; her responses, prompt and decisive. One of the original of the thirteen States, the third to approve of the Declaration of Independence, which she did July 17th, 1776, having in fact anticipated the Continental Congress some two days. Her Provincial Congress assembled at Burlington, June 10th 1776. Action was taken preparatory to a declaration of independence. Appointment of a committee to draft a constitution, whose report was adopted July 2nd,—the royal governor, Franklin, being arrested and imprisoned and sent to Connecticut, where he was held during the war.

In colonial days when the first settlements were made in this vicinity of which we now find any mention, New Jersey was divided into the provinces of East and West Jersey, and the Duke of York, under date of March 14th, 1682, had confirmed the sale of the province of East Jersey to the twenty-four proprietors, including James, the Earl of Perth, from whence Perth Amboy derived her name; and Robert Barclay, from whom the title to a part of Edmond Rue's farm was acquired, with only three intermediate changes. The representative of the proprietors appear to have been very active in disseminating favorable accounts of Easy Jersey, and the first settlers were every enthusiastic in the descriptions of their new homes and prospects. Further inducements were made by the proprietors in 1684 granting fifty acres to each head of a family settling in the province and twenty-five acres for each of the other members of this household—old or young. Under this provision, James Johnstone came from Edinburgh in December, 1685, and settled on the banks of the Manalapan, between here and Spotswood. He soon purchased additional land extending towards the Machaponix, and no doubt was the first person to reclaim land that can be included in our bounds. At a little later period, William Davison, also from Scotland, settled on a tract of land, commencing at a point about two hundred feet this side of the residence of Isaac S.

Bucklelew, extending beyond Daniel R. Shenck's and including most of the land now spoken of as the Davison district. His numerous descendants have done much towards redeeming the land and advancing the agricultural interests of our neighborhood. His grandson, Paul Davison, deceased only a year or two since, was known to most of us, and the widow of his grandson, William Davison, the venerable Sarah Davison, still lives in our midst. The letters written by the first settlers to their friends at home, describing the country and offering inducements for their friends to follow, are worthy of notice. I will quote in illustration some that I find published.

“Wolves are so far from troubling men, that if a man should lay a glove upon a carcass or their prey, they will yell, but not come nigh it. You cannot come nigh a rattlesnake but they will rattle with their tail, whereby a man is advertised either to kill them or go by them. They frequently charm the squirrels or other little beasts off the tops of the trees into their mouth, and that without touching them with their teeth, which if they did they would poison themselves. The flea, that is troublesome on the low and marshy grounds, is not found on the uplands. I am mightily will pleased with my coming over; neither do I think I could live again in Scotland. It is a place that produces many fine fruits and physic herbs. The woods are stored with wild deers, conies, wolves, bears, raccoons, some beavers, and several other beasts which have fine furs, and fish and water-foul for the killing. The timber are mostly oak of all sorts, walnut and chestnut. Strawberries grow very thick upon the ground amongst the trees, so that some places in the woods are in summer, as it were covered with a red cloth. The land is exceeding good which is yet to take up, much better than what is inhabited. There is very much ‘syder’ here, which is our principal drink. The Indian natives are not loving people. The men do nothing but hunt and the women they plant corn and work at home. They come and trade among the Christians, with skins or venison, and in the summer time they and their wives come down the rivers in their canoes, which they make themselves of a piece of great tree, like a little boat, and there they fish and take oysters. What I most earnestly desire of you for the encouragement of this plantation is that you would be instrumental to send us over some ministers, who I dare engage, shall ever afterwards be thankful.”

Among the articles named that the people along the coast at Amboy dealt in, is included the flesh of the whale, salted. I find but little of interest in connection with the development of the tracts mentioned, up to the commencement of this century. The old building still standing on the State Reform School farm alone remains to remind us of the seventeenth century, and of that we have no knowledge. Tradition alone tells us that it was used as a prison-house during the French war. Some old grave-stones are found in the graveyard attached to it bearing date previous to that term. On the mill-stream, a little this side of Outcalt's mills, there can still be found the remnants of a dam that was used in connection with a forge in existence previous to the Revolutionary War. On what was known as the Faulkner tract, and was inhabited mostly by the Indians as late as 1758, the patent line reaching on the farm of Edmund Rue, at the edge of Manalapan brook, thence along the farm of Alexander Redmond and others, can still be traced to the Delaware river. Here was the scene of Brainerd's great work. Historians have sought to locate his settlement, and have traveled hither and thither to find the spot of his Bethel, but it is for us, in these woods, reverently to bow as we realize that we are on the soil he was wont to tread; that over these hills and vales he journeyed on his mission of love fraught with such wonderful power. Almost within stone's throw of this stand, on the farm of Alexander Redmond and the

adjoining land of the widow Lane, was the Brainerd settlement. Many of the cellars were still preserved when Mr. Redmond purchased the property in 1841, and he still has stones that were used as hearths, as well as many relics of the Indians that have been exhumed. The old apple and cherry trees of the settlement were then quite numerous; some of the apple trees, I believe still remain. This brook from whence this grove takes its name was called by them "Wigwam brook", and has its source in springs located in their settlement. In the life of John Brainerd, published by the Presbyterian Board, the year 1754 is spoken of as one of the great despondency for the missionary, as "Bethel, to procure which, as their permanent home, David Brainerd had paid the debts of the Indians, amounting to some 90 Pounds, and aided them to clear its forests with his own labor, was now passing from their hands forever." A short time after, the Scotch society, which had supported him in his missionary field, withdrew that assistance, and Brainerd sought other service. In this connection it is interesting to read an old deed in the possession of Mr. Alexander Redmond, by which it appears that on the 12th day of July 1754 (the year I above mentioned), the Rev. John Brainerd conveyed to Peter Deremer the land adjacent to Wigwam brook, including lands now owned by Mrs. James Redmond, Alexander Redmond, Edmund Rue, and the estate of James Buckelew. The historic character of this locality becomes still more interesting when we remember that Brainerd's helpmate was the Rev. William Tennent, at the time the remarkable as well as powerful pastor of what is now known as the Old Tennent Church. After Brainerd went to Newark in 1755, the Scotch society made an agreement to give him 25 Pounds per annum for visiting the congregation once a week, catechizing their children, and sometimes administering the Communion on the Lord's day, hoping thereby to keep the Indian congregation together.

Thus I have given you the first historic facts connected with our immediate vicinity. Nothing of special interest is found worth recording until the year 1800. The main path of the Indians was located thirty miles below us, running from the Shrewsbury river, following the shore of Raritan bay, and crossing the Raritan some three miles above the side of Perth Amboy. In 1682, the date of the creation of Middlesex county, the only road of importance what is now called the old road running from the vicinity of Elizabethtown Point to the present site of New Brunswick, thence to the Delaware river. The Raritan river was then fordable at low water; Inian's ferry, now New Brunswick, not being established until 1697. In 1683, the proprietors made strenuous efforts to open a road from Perth Amboy to Burlington, to draw off the travel that was then taking the road just mentioned, and in 1684, Deputy-Governor Lawrie succeeded in opening the road, which is still used, and connecting it with a ferry-boat at Amboy. Notwithstanding aid was sought from the assembly to compel people to travel this road, the old Dutch road was the most popular. It is a singular fact to note that the trouble of our section of country in regard to rapid and direct communication with New York, has been continued from that early period to the present changing from turnpike to railroad in course of time. Let us hope that it will not be another century before we have direct railroad connection with New York. In the eighteenth century the cry was "turnpike monopoly." In the nineteenth century we have had the cry of "railroad monopoly". In 1716 by acts of the assembly, the system of road-making and regulating was adopted similar to that of the present and more care was given to the subject. In 1734 the Bordentown and Washington South River road was opened, and once a week a freight wagon was run, connecting with boat for New York. Under these circumstances, the settlement of our section was very slow. The saw-mill, grist and fulling mill had been established previous

to the year 1792, and together with one or two buildings for residence and a small store, constituted what was then known as Ensley's Mills. Billy West's tavern stood on the corner of the Half-acre road, just inside of Mr. J.D. Buckelew's present enclosure; most of us remember that the last of it was taken down only three or four years since, it having for a year previous been used as a canning factory. November 15, 1800, John Mount bought the mill property of George Rossell, and it was for eighteen years afterward known as Mount's Mills. Mount prospered and added to his lands from time to time, until he owned most of the land on the west side of Manalapan brook, lying between the present lands of Alexander Redmond and the Estate of Abraham S. Davison. In 1818 the mill property was turned over to William Gordon, who married the only child of John Mount, after which the place was called Gordon's Mills, and so continued until November 10th, 1832, when Mr. James Buckelew; purchased Mounts entire interest, from which date it was known as Buckelew's Mills. At that date the property consisted of the saw-mill, still preserved; the grist mill, since enlarged and improved; the fulling-mill standing at the easterly end of the grist-mill, long since destroyed; the dwelling-house, now the enlarged and remodeled residence of Mrs. James Buckelew; also the dwelling now occupied by Mrs. Marsh, then standing near the center of the present road, one end being used as a store and the dwelling occupied by James D. Browne. On the west side of the brook, opposite the saw-mill stood a small home, now on the south side of willow street. The old Gwinnip house stood on the lot corner of Church street and Gatzmer avenue, near where the willow trees still bend and from where our cannon this morning blazed forth the salute to our glorious flag. Simon Van Wickles residence, now the home of Nelson B. Smock, stood near its present site, while the old Peter Deremer house, since metamorphosed into James Redmond's beautiful residence, told of a generation familiar with Brainerd and his Indian friends. Opposite was the farm-house of William Davison built in 1807, since removed by his son, the late Abraham S. Davison to the site of the present family homestead. At West's tavern were three log-houses, and at the other end of the settlement on the grounds of Col. I.S. Buckelew's lawn was the dwelling of Daniel Davison, afterward moved and changed into the house now occupied by Mrs. Mahala Mount. James Farrington kept the store for sometime, and was succeeded by James Buckelew, followed by John A Davison, and in 1848 by James Redmond. The building of the Camden and Amboy Railroad formed an epoch in the history of this section of New Jersey, and helped to open the township for settlement. James Buckelew's interests were at an early period fully and largely identified with that road, no doubt anticipating therefrom great advantages for his embryo village. The Camden and Amboy Railroad was chartered February 4th 1830; one million dollars of stock subscribed by April 12th; work was commenced by June or July, and September 19th, 1832, the track from Bordentown to Hightstown was first used with horse-cars, and on December 17th 1832, passengers were conveyed from Bordentown to Amboy by horse-cars. The first car of freight over the road was drawn by horses driven by Mr. Benjamin Fish, leaving Amboy January 24th, 1833. Mr. Fish was one of the original directors of the company, and now residing in Trenton at a ripe old age, retains his interests in the road as well as his position in the board of directors. It was not until September of the same year that trains were drawn by a locomotive, the "John Bull." The cars were like the old-fashioned round-body coaches, doors at the side, and calculated to hold six persons. It seems strange to relate that fatal accidents should happen to cars drawn by horses, yet we record the accidental death of a passenger by the upsetting of a car, near the station called "West's Turnout". He was a stranger, yet the sad rites of burial

were performed by our villagers, the funeral services being held at West's tavern. The railroad, as originally laid out followed the present line of the Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad, diverging therefrom a little this side of the present engine-house, crossing Gatzmer avenue on a curve, passing a little north of L. Cox's residence, and thence at an angle across the lot of J.D. Buckelew's canning factory, the old race-course, and entering the present road near John Bennett's. The granite stones upon which the bend of the road was originally laid are still found along the old line. The first station-house stood near the site of the present willow trees opposite the residence of Charles Worts, and was a one-story building. The railroad was straightened in 1850 and the station built on its present site.

The Camden and Amboy Railroad passed under the control of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company by lease, on January 1st 1872 and that with all the company's roads south of it, together with the branches from Bordentown to Trenton and from Jamesburg to Monmouth Junction, was constituted the Amboy division, and Isaac S. Buckelew appointed superintendent.

In 1833, James C. Stout erected a small building for a store, near the present crossing of Gatzmer avenue with the Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad. Nevertheless it was several years before the railroad company thought it advantageous to stop for passengers at "West's Turnout," Spotswood being the nearest stopping-place. Probably this had something to do with the success of the store opposite West's, for it had been unoccupied sometime, when in 1851 Mr. J.C. Magee renovated it, and opened his first store in Jamesburg. I say "Jamesburg" for by this time the village had acquired its name, and it came about in this way. The district school-house was located half a mile from the mill, on the Englishtown road. In 1846 there was a division of the district, because the trustees refused to admit a colored boy to the school. One district built the school-house now at Monroe, and Mr. James Buckelew built a brick school-house on the lot, now the parsonage lot of the Presbyterian church, and the use of which he gave to the district for many years. When the building was completed the question arose, what shall we call our school? The answer rang out, "Jamesburg" in honor of the man by whose immense energy, tireless perseverance, shrewdness, and sound judgement, the village owed its bright prospects, and a stone was cut "Jamesburg, 1847", placed on the gable end, from whence the town acquires its name. The name at first was not popular on the railroad; perhaps they wanted to use up the old tickets marked "Wests;" at any rate, the conductor would call "Wests", and then in an undertone, "Jamesburg." July 21st, 1845, James Buckelew and Nathaniel S. Rue established a stage line between Freehold and Jamesburg, connecting with the railroad for New York – fare eighty-seven and one-half cents – carrying in the second year of their enterprise five thousand and seventy-four through passengers. Afterwards they established a through line from Philadelphia to Long Branch, often sending out from here as many as thirty coaches and wagons to accommodate their patrons. Many of you remember with what pride Dent Miller, with four in hand, would bring in his heavy loads of passengers. This gave way to the Freehold and Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad, which was surveyed in 1851 by Colonel I.S. Buckelew, under direction of General William Cook, chief engineer of the Camden and Amboy railroad Company, was completed so that regular trains commenced running from Freehold July 18th 1853. Of an enterprise so largely beneficial to the community, so successfully carried out and maintained by its very efficient head, we are justly proud and gladly record the honor he has fairly earned of being superintendent of the best-manager railroad in our country. It is interesting to some of us, especially to residents of Upper Jamesburg, to recall the fact, that

the first regular morning train left Freehold at 6:30A.M., running through to South Amboy, and connecting there with the New Brunswick boat for New York and that Charley Worts was the engineer. Wiseacres would shake their heads and say, "that boy will smash everything to pieces and send his passengers to Flanders;" but Charley still lives (and so does his reputation) as a bold firm, and faithful engineer. At this period in our history there arose a demand for increased mail facilities, Spotswood being the nearest post office, and sharing with Cranbury in the distribution of our mail matter. I am told that it would sometimes require two weeks for the transit of letters from Brooklyn here. John A. Davison, who had kept the store at the Mills very acceptably for some years, on account of failing health relinquished the business in 1848, and was succeeded by James Redmond. Soon after assuming the business in the building now the wheelwright-shop of James Buckelew's sons, then standing on the lawn east of the bank, Mr Redmond received his commission as first postmaster of Jamesburg. He retained his commission until 1853, although for the last three years of his term his brother William was the acting postmaster. In 1853, Joseph C. Magee relinquished the old store opposite West's tavern, opened a store in the building erected for that purpose by Mr. Buckelew, beyond the bank, and succeeded Mr. Redmond as the second village postmaster, which position he retained for nearly fifteen years. He was succeeded in office by George Van Artsdalen, who held it for nine or ten years, and this spring turned over its trust to our present patriotic postmaster, Mr. Harrison W. Crosby. It was not until after Mr. Magee had been postmaster some two years that he succeeded in having a direct mail from the cities of Philadelphia and New York. Previous to that time, all our mail matter from the cities was sent via Freehold, requiring from two to three days for the transit. The next growth of our place manifested itself in a yearning after greater opportunities for spiritual blessings and Christian worship. Sunday-school had been held in the old school-house at Monroe, for a number of years previous to its removal, conducted by Billy West of West's tavern. Methodist preaching had also been frequently held there, the father of Asbury Fountain often coming over from Deep Run to officiate. After the building of the Jamesburg School-house, opportunity was given for an additional Sunday-school, and through the exertions of Mr. James Buckelew and Alexander Redmond, the foundation was laid of the now prosperous Jamesburg Sunday-school. God blessing the efforts of that school, a few years witnessed the commencement of the Presbyterian church. Organized June 6th 1854, with eleven members; church building dedicated June 26th 1854, which building has been enlarged two or three times since, and now has seating capacity for six hundred persons. The successive pastors have been, the Rev. J. Halstead Carroll, William M. Wells, and Benjamin S. Everitt, the latter still ministering to the wants of his flock. The wonderful growth of this church, from a membership of eleven persons in 1854 to that of four hundred and twenty in 1876, attests alike to the blessings of god and the faithfulness of his people, while the broad and liberal spirit of its officers, that unites into one band of worshipers and workers all followers of the Master, whatever have been their previous preferences of doctrine, attests the value and power of Christian unity, and breathes of the millennial, when there shall be but one Shepherd and one fold. As the church prospered, so have her great handmaids, education and charity, advanced in our midst. The school-house build by Mr. Buckelew in 1847 was moved to its present site corner of Church street and Gatzmer avenue, in 1866 to make room for the erection of a parsonage. A two-story building was erected, and the slab seats and straight benches gave way to more comfortable backs and convenient desks. The State of New Jersey itself became wider awake on the subject of education, enlarged and

liberal ideas were scattered, the normal school established, school fund provided, and finally modified compulsory education adopted. Under such circumstances we could not help growing, and the year 1875 found us clamoring for enlarged rooms and the best instructors. Through the generosity of Mrs. James Buckelew, and her sons and daughter, the school-house and lot were deeded to the district, and by the expenditure of \$1500 the building was enlarged, remodeled, refurnished, and ample room afforded for our children to receive the care and attention of skilled teacher, with the most improved requisites furnished. A desire for a more advanced system of education led the Messrs. Buckelew, in 1873, to erect a building for the Jamesburg Institute, and Mr. M. Oakey, in the fall of that year opened his school under that title for the instruction of young men. It is satisfactory to note that his labors are appreciated, and to feel that his institute will grow with us. With the development came the organization of Fidelity Lodge, No. 14, Independent order of Odd Fellows, which was instituted July 6th 1870, and has shown by its faithful work the beauties of its Order. Their record shows a membership of ninety at this present time, the distribution of a relief fund of \$400 during the six years of their existence and the accumulation of a lodge fund, and a provision for widows and orphans of \$2000. Soon after the organization of Odd Fellows, the Independent Order of Good Templars was organized under the name of Everitt Lodge, and has done its work in the temperance cause. Allied to the power and habit of dispensing is that of acquiring, and if our people were taught the first, certainly opportunity should be given for the development of the latter. In our modern system, success in finances is closely allied with sound banking institutions. The founder of Jamesburg, early in the history of national banks, took the steps essential towards supplying that need, and in January 1864, in connection with his sons Isaac S., John D., and F. Lemuel Buckelew, Mr. Joseph C. Magee, John G. Schultz and Nathaniel W. Morris (who were the first board of Directors) and some twenty of their neighbors formed the two hundred and eighty-eighth national bank, styled the first National Bank of Jamesburg. Twelve years have passed, and its surplus fund, now twenty-five percent of its capital stock, and the return of never-failing dividends to its stockholders, tell of success. While its \$100,000 of bills discounted tell of so much fresh capital loaned to the community; for let the record tell, that not one dollar of purchased paper has ever passed through its books. We have before us today a reminder of still another, not exactly a Jamesburg institution, but a State institution, in which we feel a deep interest in common with the rest of our citizens. The New Jersey State Reform School, located on a farm of nearly five hundred acres, two miles from our town was created by act of the legislature ten years ago, and governed by a board of trustees appointed by the governor, has sought the improvement and elevation of boys that would otherwise be likely to fall into heavy crimes and a source of trouble to themselves and the State. Our town has been constantly represented in its board of trustees by either Mr. John D. Buckelew, or his brother, Colonel Isaac S. Buckelew. We have met its board of officers here at Jamesburg and at the school have met the boys intrusted to their care, and studied somewhat the problem they are striving to work, and we feel, what I think most of you feel, that the mantle has fallen on fit shoulders, and that the superintendent of the New Jersey State Reform School is imbued with a soul designed by God for the very work he is engaged in and that some of us will live to see the great good that he is now accomplishing for those boys and the State.

The Jamesburg Sunday-school Convention, which has been held here in Wigwam Grove for the past ten consecutive years is worthy of a moments consideration. Founded in 1866 by Mr. J.D. Buckelew, superintendent of Jamesburg Sunday-school, in connection with Mr.

Franklin Dey, of Mercer county, and other superintendents and friends, for the purpose of giving the scholars a picnic, and at the same time furnishing them and their friends with exercises and addresses calculated to both instruct and enhance the interest of Sunday-schools, it has grown into a convention of magnitude, requiring the management of a thoroughly systematized organization, which has been found in the board of officers and teachers of the Jamesburg Sunday-school, who are now recognized as ex officio the Jamesburg Sunday school Convention Association. The convention is held at Wigwam Grove on the fourth Wednesday in August in each year, and strenuous efforts made for addresses from able and popular Sunday-school workers (representing various Christiana denominations), illustrations of the most improved methods in teaching, together with attractive and inspiring music. It has been estimated that from ten to twelve thousand persons have attended this convention annually for the past few years.

Fernwood Cemetery, adjacent to Wigwam Grove, beautifully situated with a commanding view of the lake and the landscape beyond it, hallowed by its associations with the work of the devoted and faithful Brainerds, is most appropriately set apart for its sacred purpose. The association was formed in 1853, and the first land selected for cemetery purposes was on the northside of the Camden and Amboy Railroad, about three-fourths of a mile west of the present depot. Objection being made to its location by consent of its lot-holders it was changed to the present site, and sanctioned by the legislature, who in the winter of 1861, passed the act which created the present "Fernwood Cemetery Association". Under its present charter, Messrs. T. S. Snedeker, J.C. Magee, Wh.H. Courter, J.B. Thomson and C.W. Johnson were its first board of trustees, and Mr. J.D. Buckelew, treasurer. The plot of ground containing a little over three acres was generously donated to the association by Mr. James Buckelew. Among the first family plots selected and improved was one by Mr. Buckelew. On the shaft erected to his memory is the simply inscription: "Born August 13, 1801. Died May 30, 1869." There are at present seventy-one lot-holders, and the interests of the association cared for by Messrs John D. Buckelew, Cornelius W. Johnson, William H. Mount, William H. Courter, and T. Wilton Hill as trustees, and Mr. F. Lemuel Buckelew as treasurer.

The Jamesburg Agricultural Society was formally organized on the 27th of April 1852, with Mr. James Buckelew as president, and Joseph C. Magee and William H. Courter as secretaries. The society was nominally in existence the previous year and consisted of the following gentlemen: - James Buckelew, Alexander Redmond, Aaron Gulick, Samuel R. Forman, Charles Middleton, Thomas S. Snedeker, Ralph Stults, Frederick Farr, and Stephen Van Wickle. They organized and held an agricultural fair October 6th, 1852, for the sale, purchase, and exhibition of stock, farming implements, and produce, offering no premiums, but giving every opportunity for a free and complete exhibit of everything useful to the farmer. The fair was a success, and resulted in the formation of the society, having for its object the benefit and improvement of the farming community. Fairs were held here for five years, attracting many visitors and disseminating much good. The society was the first of its kind organized in the county, - in fact for a number of years, the only society. Of late years it has confined its labors to the distribution of seeds and miscellaneous documents through its corresponding secretary, William H. Courter.

The Jamesburg Mutual Building and Loan Association was organized February 18th 1869, agreeably to act of the legislature passed February, 1849. At first the number of shares was only three hundred and forty-nine, but as the association proved successful additional

shares were taken from time to time, and in October, 1872, a second series was started with five hundred and forth-three shares. The association has loaned to its members \$81,000 on bond and mortgage on property located mostly in Jamesburg. At the present time the shares in the first series are four hundred and twenty-five, valued at \$128.29 each, and in the second series five hundred and three shares valued at fifty-six dollars and ninety-one cents each. The officers of the association consist of J.C. Magee, president, John H. Heath, vice president, George S. Courter, secretary; T. Wilton Hill, treasurer; William H. Courter, solicitor; J.D. Buckelew, V.W. Mount, Samuel Marryott, F.L. Buckelew, H.W. Cosby, George A. Shultz and W.E. Paxton directors. But I fear follow-citizens, I am trying your patience, yet there is much that could be told. You are mostly familiar with the growth of our town since 1866, when Mr. Magee moved to his uptown store. How gradually house after house has gone up. I will only say in regard to that growth, that a private memorandum, found in Mr. J.D. Buckelew's diary gives the census of our village complete, in 1855, as follows, thirty houses and two hundred inhabitants: while the census taken last week enumerates one hundred and thirty houses and six hundred and ninety seven inhabitants. We have in our village a manufacturing establishment, completed during the last few years, that must affect us materially. The shirt manufactory of Downs, Gourlay & Finch gives employment to four hundred persons of our village and vicinity, distributing wages amounting from \$1000 to \$1500 per week. Another decade may tell of wonderful results springing from this first manufacturing enterprise of our village. I might tell of our patriotism. In the days of the Revolution our whole State was forward in the cause of liberty and freedom. In 1778, when the British evacuated Philadelphia and the American army pursued, the memorable days of June 26th, 27th and 28th found the inhabitants of this vicinity on the alert, especially a part of Washington's army passed within hailing distance. When the cry of victory came they united with old Monmouth, and are to this day as proud as she to recall the heroism of that noble woman whose memory is revived by a tardy, but suitable tablet now being erected at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Let us not forget the heroine, Molly Pitcher. The war of 1812 had its patriots from our midst, and our state to this day, regularly reminds two venerable ladies of our town the debt of gratitude she owes the memory of their dear ones for lives sacrificed on their country's alter. In the rebellion, our township and town were firm and true. The monument erected in the yard of the first church at Cranbury bears witness to the long list of heroes who gave their lives to the holy cause; and the pen of the historian has already given an immortality to their names and records. To-day, the military bearing of our marshal recalls the faithful major of the gallant Fourteenth New Jersey Volunteers, and the captain of our cavalcade earned his title by meritorious conduct on the field, while Company H of the Fourteenth, and other New Jersey regiments, have their representatives among us. Let it be remembered to honor and credit alike of the committee and our township that in response to the demands of the President for our quota in 1864, a subscription was taken for the placing of requisite number of men in the field, and so generous was the response that only fifty per cent of the money subscribed was required, the remaining fifty per cent being returned to the subscribers pro rata. That committee consisted of Ezekiel Silvers, Gilbert S. Davison, and Isaac S. Buckelew. Jamesburg has been ably represented by her sons from time to time in our legislative halls as well as in various county offices, and rejoices to-day in the presence of Mr. John D. Buckelew, at home on furlough from his mission as United States Consul at Stettin, Germany. God grant that well may ever

try to maintain the glory of our town as ably as it has been done, and have as pure a record left for our children's children!

Transcription Notes:

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For permission contact:
Jamesburg Historical Association
203 Buckelew Avenue
Jamesburg, NJ 08831-1642
732-521-2040
<http://www.jamesburghistory.com>