



Hunterdon Herald

A Publication of the Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission
For children kindergarten through 4th Grade



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The Lenape Way Of Life

The early Lenape Indians had no permanent homes. They followed the herds of animals for hunting and the annual run of fish in the rivers, and knew where and when fruit, berries, nuts, and other plants would be ripe. It might mean spending a month or two in one spot, but then they would have to move. Their houses were skins over young trees that could easily be taken down and moved to the next site.

Then a big change came in their lives; they discovered farming. It meant clearing the land, hoeing it, and planting seeds. The young plants had to be cared for, so the Lenape had to live near their gardens.

The Lenape had a legend about how farming began. It said that two braves were out on a hunting trip, and had killed a deer. They were roasting the leg of the deer for their dinner, when a beautiful maiden appeared and asked for something to eat. They shared their dinner with her, and went to sleep. In the morning the maiden was gone. Where she had been sitting the night before, there were different plants growing. Where her right foot had been, there was corn; at the spot of her left foot were beans; her right hand left squash; her left hand left tobacco. This was her way of thanking them for dinner.

Staying in one spot meant that more comfortable housing could be built. They cut young trees, and placed them 15" apart in a straight line. They made another line opposite at the distance they wanted the width of the house. The tops of the young trees were tied together. Tree bark was used to cover the house frame to keep out the bad weather. The bark was quite thick. Sometimes mats were woven from grass to line the inside walls. Two platforms lined each side of the house. The lower one was for sitting and sleeping, while the upper one was for storage. A pit was dug for a fire, with a hole in the roof for the smoke to escape. Some of these long houses were built to be shared by parents, their grown children, and their grandchildren. In this case, several fire pits would be dug. Sometimes a pit was dug inside the long house for storing food.

Early cooking was hard to do, other than roasting things in the fire. A skin was hung from a tripod of three poles, and liquid was placed in it. Stones were placed in the fire, and when they were hot, they were lifted out and placed in the liquid. The stones cooled off very quickly, before the liquid could boil.

The Lenape near Phillipsburg discovered soapstone, and mined it. It was a soft rock that could easily be carved. For the first time, cooking pots could be made that could go right into the fire.

There were trade routes the Lenape used to buy things that were not available where they lived. This was how the Indians in Hunterdon County were able to get soapstone for pots and pipes.

Soapstone is very heavy, so the Indians were happy when they discovered that by mixing clay with sand or ground up shells, and baking it in the fire, they could make cooking and storage pots.

Each invention made life a little easier.

Round Valley



Did you know that Round Valley was once a volcano? Well, it was - but that was early in the formation of the earth. There is no history of it exploding as volcanoes do, so we can probably say that it was active when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

We know that the American Indians lived in the valley more than three thousand years ago. Spear points and ax heads have been found

that experts have dated to that time. There are legends that Round Valley was the home of an Indian King and that there were Indian burial sites along the top of the mountain. These are legends, but they may be true.

During the Revolutionary War several New Jersey families had farms in the valley. These people were patriots, that is, they believed that our country should be free of English rule. The Stevens family was one of these wealthy families. Because the English soldiers were trying to capture important people, the Stevens men sent their women and children to live at their homes in the valley. Round Valley was very safe and could be easily defended because there was only one natural entrance. After the Revolutionary War the Stevens moved to Hoboken, New Jersey, where they founded the Stevens Institute of Technology, a very famous college, even today. They built a railroad, and invented many things such as the steamboat.

Farmers continued to live in Round Valley until the State of New Jersey bought the whole valley in the 1950's. It was purchased to become a reservoir because the people in cities to the east needed pure drinking water. Round Valley was the only natural valley in northwest Jersey big enough to become a reservoir. It was during the 1960's that all of the farm houses were either moved out or torn down, and the valley was filled with water.

Today it is a beautiful lake and park - open to all of the people of New Jersey. The water from it is pumped downstream to the cities of our state.

Activity:

Take a ride to Round Valley. Think of its history - how it was a volcano, then an Indian stronghold, then a farming place, and now a huge reservoir. Look at the valley and you will understand why it has always been called "Round Valley." Think about all of the creatures and people who have inhabited Round Valley. Maybe if you walk around you might even find an Indian spear point.

Yesterdays School

Have you ever heard your Mom and Dad talk about what school was like when they were young? It sounds like life on another planet, doesn't it? Different clothes, no computers, and nobody had even heard of the internet!

Let's go back even further in the history of this county and peek in at children of the early 1800's and their school.

Students in the 1800's had no school buses, and parents thought it was fine if their children walked up to four miles one way. That means that they could walk four miles to school - and four miles home again! Before going to school, chores had to be done. Almost everyone in Hunterdon was a farmer, and children had chores on the farm.



School started at 9 o'clock in the morning, and was over for the day at 4 in the afternoon. School was open a half day on Saturday. Weekdays, students brought lunch from home - things like a cold piece of meat or a hard-boiled egg. Molasses or bacon fat on homemade wheat bread was also a common lunch. Drinking water was pumped from a well or a spring.

Heat in the school was from a wood stove. Parents had to supply the wood. If the parent forgot to bring some wood, his child would be made to sit far away from the stove where it was colder. This was to remind the student that his father forgot his supply of wood. Do you think that parent forgot after that?

There were no public schools as we know them. If there was a school in your district, it had been built at the expense of the people who lived there. Those same people hired the teacher and paid for each child to attend. There were winter and summer terms, and each child's tuition was about \$1.50 per term.

Many of the teachers were men. They were hired not for how well they could teach, but how well they could discipline the children! In those days children were spanked or hit with a stick if they did anything that the teacher thought was wrong. The teacher also stayed with the families of the children he taught. That was called "boarding out" and each family had to board the teacher for a few weeks.

There were very few books. If a student had books at home, he or she could take them to school. Every family had a Bible, and most children learned to read from the Bible. Other subjects that were taught were called ciphering, orthography, geography and reciting. Aren't they strange names? Ciphering is called arithmetic today; orthography is spelling and language usage; reciting is reciting long memorized poems or passages from the Bible or classical literature. Any copying that was done, was done on a slate using a slate pencil. After students did their lessons well and could write nicely, they were allowed to use a goose quill pen and write in a copy book. Paper was very expensive, and copy books were handled carefully. The writing in them was beautiful - they were a source of great pride to a family.

Students had to memorize everything and then recite it back to the teacher. When a lesson was mastered and recited perfectly, then a student was moved on to another higher level. There were no grades as you know them; students progressed when and however they could. The school was only one room, and children of all ages were in that one room. Little children, as young as three, were sent to school along with boys and girls as old as seventeen and eighteen - all in one room!

Remember we said that Hunterdon County was all farms? During the planting and harvesting times the whole family had to help on the farm. When the family was busy with farm work, children did not attend school. They could go only when they weren't needed on the farm. Many children were lucky if they could attend school two months of the year.

Activities:

1. Do you think it was easy to get an education in the early 1800's? If there is a one room school house in your town, go and see it. You will be surprised!
2. Think of what children learned in school in the 1800's. Compare their lessons with yours. How are your studies different?

The First Railroad Comes to Hunterdon



The steam powered railroad train was the first great change in the way people traveled since the invention of the wheel 10,000 years ago. It's hard to believe that trains have been around less than 200 years.

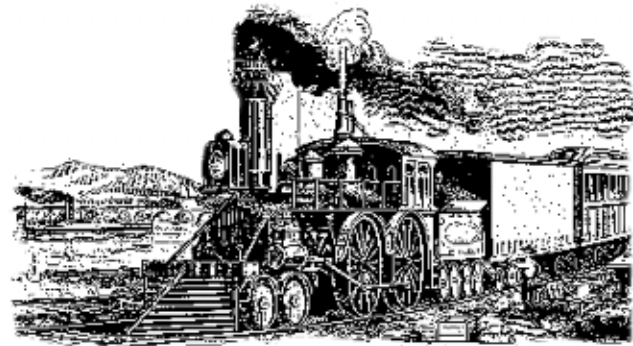
John Stevens, whose father lived in Round Valley in Clinton Township, built the first railroad tracks and first steam locomotive in the United States. He built a circular track in Hoboken where he lived, and successfully ran his train on it in 1825.

Railroads were an instant hit. Within 10 years, there was a railroad mania in the United States with many railroad companies trying to build tracks from cities to cities. One company, the Elizabethtown-Somerville Railroad, built tracks half way across the state. Another company, the Somerville-Easton Railroad, was established to build tracks in the other half of the state - through Hunterdon

County.

But the company had a problem. In the western part of Hunterdon, in Bethlehem Township, was a steep hill called Jugtown Mountain. The hill was too steep for the tracks. They had to go the long way around the mountain. This meant that the railroad would miss the main towns along the route: White House and Clinton. It would also cost more money to build than the company had.

The company built the tracks as far as a point south of White House and stopped. It was 1847. Then the two companies had an idea. The Elizabethtown-Somerville and the Somerville-Easton companies became one company - which was called the Central Railroad of New Jersey. It now had enough money to build the tracks clear across the state, the long way around Jugtown Mountain.



The first train rolled through on July 4, 1852. The people were surprised! It used to take three days to go to New York City from Hunterdon. With the train, you could go to the City and come back the very same day. You can understand why the people were so happy with the trains.

Something else happened with the coming of the railroads. New settlements developed and some old settlements got a new life.

Since the tracks couldn't get to White House, a station was built south of the village. It was called White House Station, and soon grew bigger than the older village.

Lebanon Borough got a station, which quickly became a major center for shipping farm crops to the big cities.

The closest the rails came to the town of Clinton was two miles to the east. Travelers took a stagecoach from the station into town. It wasn't long before a new village grew around the station. Today that village is called Annandale.

A station north of Annandale was built just past the railroad's high bridge. The town of High Bridge grew up around the station.

Another station was built in Clarksville. Because of the station, the Gardner brothers opened a furniture factory. That gave work to a lot of people. To honor the brothers, the residents changed the name of their town to Glen Gardner.

North of Glen Gardner, the tracks curved around to pass Jugtown Mountain. Because it was a good place for the rails to bypass the mountain, another railroad company, the Lackawanna and Western Railroad, built tracks there. It was a major station for the transfer of coal from the coal mines of Pennsylvania. The place where tracks join is called a junction. A town, famous as a coal and railroad center for nearly a century, grew up there. At first it was called Junction. Later it was re-named Hampton.

Activities:

1. In the years that followed, other railroads were built in Hunterdon. Some of them are gone now, their tracks ripped up. Others still operate. Find these different names today. Find the names of railroads, and locate as many as you can.
2. Is there a railroad that is a fun ride today? Some abandoned railroads have become parks where the tracks have been ripped-up. Can you find any?
3. Some old railroad stations are used for other things today, like stores and restaurants. Can you find them? Finding these things is like detective work. This is how historians work - like detectives. It is what makes history fun for so many people.

WORD SEARCH

Print out this page and find out how many of the following words can you find? Seek them by reading forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally - always in a straight line. Some of the letters in the diagram are used in more than one word and some are not used in any words. When you locate a word in the diagram, draw a loop around it. Put a check mark next to the word in the word list.

BRAVES

RAILROAD

CIPHERING

RESERVOIR

CLAY

SEEDS

SOAPSTONE

COAL

FARMING

STAGECOACH

GEOGRAPHY

STEAMBOAT

INVENTION

TRIPOD

LEGEND

VILLAGE

LOCOMOTIVE

VOLCANO

MAIDEN

WOOD

N	I	H	B	R	A	L	P	I	T	C	L	D	O	S
T	V	M	A	I	D	E	N	R	O	I	O	F	E	O
D	O	P	I	R	T	N	U	A	R	O	R	L	F	A
R	L	T	M	S	C	A	L	S	W	F	A	E	L	P
N	L	F	A	R	M	I	N	G	N	Q	D	G	I	S
E	S	T	E	A	M	B	O	A	T	U	N	E	M	T
V	T	U	S	I	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	Y	O
I	A	A	E	L	N	E	L	T	N	I	O	D	H	N
T	G	N	E	R	E	S	E	R	V	O	I	R	P	E
O	E	K	A	O	S	E	W	O	I	H	G	G	A	S
M	C	J	A	A	T	N	A	C	L	A	Y	E	R	Y
O	O	N	S	D	E	E	S	N	L	L	D	T	G	R
C	A	L	E	N	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	A	O	R
O	C	I	P	H	E	R	I	N	G	I	B	M	E	V
L	H	T	S	E	V	A	R	B	E	P	S	R	G	H

Slavery - the Ugly Side of History

As time went on, another small group of immigrants arrived in Hunterdon. These immigrants didn't want to come here. They had to. There were African slaves. Slavery is when people can buy and sell other people like they were animals.

Slave traders bought native Africans in their homeland and brought them to the United States where they were sold to other people to do work. Most African slaves worked on farms, some were servants, and a few worked in mines and iron works. Most slaves were in the southern part of the United States where they worked on large plantations for rich farm owners.

Slavery was never popular in Hunterdon because so many Quakers lived here. Of all the people in those days, members of the Quaker religion hated slavery more than any other. Because of the Quakers, most Hunterdon slave owners freed their slaves long before anyone else.

The Quakers did things to help the slaves get their freedom. In Quakertown in Franklin Township, for example, the Quakers raised money to buy a slave from his owner. The Quakers then freed the slave and helped him earn enough money to buy his wife and children from the slave owner.

In the early 1800's, Hunterdon was one of the largest counties in New Jersey -- yet it had the least number of slaves. In 1830 there were 184 slaves in Hunterdon. By 1840, only 34 slaves were left. In fact, as the slave population decreased in Hunterdon, the population of free Africans increased rapidly because Hunterdon had a reputation for treating all people with respect.

Hunterdon also had a large population of free black people whose families had never been subjected to slavery. They had lived in the county since the early 1700's. These families were concentrated in Tewksbury and Readington Townships where they were landowners and good citizens. The Array Van Guinea family of Readington owned large farms. They donated the land on which the Lutherans built their first church. Two of Array Van Guinea's sons fought in the Revolutionary War.

There is a slave cemetery in Dilts Corner in Delaware Township, and state and county records show the names and owners of Hunterdon's slaves. For example, Thaddeus Lattern was a 14 year old slave owned by a farmer named Peter Huffman. He worked on the farm. Thaddeus' two little sisters, Martha, age 6 and Julia, age 8, worked as slave-servants in the home of John and Asa Lowe. Another slave cemetery is located on the hill behind the Readington Dutch Reformed Church in Readington Township. Flemington's Presbyterian Church has graves of early slaves. James Jackson was a slave who worked in the grain mill of Jacob Torston. Nancy Trenisan was a slave-servant in Torston's home.

The HCC&HC is committed to the preservation of Hunterdon County history and offer Hunterdon Herald as an aid in assisting teachers in their efforts to expose students to the rich heritage of our County.

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Additional information concerning cultural and historical organizations, records and endeavors is available through the office located at 3 Chorister Place, Flemington. Write to: Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, c/o Administration Bldg., 71 Main St., Flemington, NJ 08822 or call 908-788-1256. Visit our web site at: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us>