



# Hunterdon Herald

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

Volume 1, Number 1



## The First Residents of Hunterdon County

The first residents of Hunterdon County were the Indians or Native Americans. They arrived many thousands of years ago during a time known as the Ice Age. A great glacier - a thick sheet of ice - covered the land all the way to the North Pole from New Jersey. The weather was much colder than today. Most plants we know did not grow here at the time. The small bands of paleo-Indians lived by hunting and fishing. Paleo- means ancient or pre-historic. They hunted large animals including mammoths (extinct animals like elephants with a shaggy wool hair), mastodons (another extinct relative of the elephant), saber-tooth tigers, caribou, musk oxen, wild pigs, deer and bears.

They fished in the many rivers in the area. They caught cold water fish, clams, and oysters. They also captured birds such as geese and ducks for food.

To hunt the large animals, the paleo-Indians learned to cooperate - to work as a team. Learning team work helped them stay alive. Because they had to wander around to find food, they learned a lot about the land, the plants and the animals. This, too, helped them stay alive.

These skilled hunters made spears and axes with sharp edges of stone.

They made the spear points and ax points from a very hard stone called flint. The hunters would carefully chip the ends of the stone with a round rock until it was sharp. The chipping made the edges look like a series of half circles. This is called fluted so we call the axes "fluted ax heads" and the spears "fluted spear points."

One of the most important inventions of the paleo-Indians was the atlatl (aht-LAH-tul). This is a wooden handle with a weighted rock. The spear sits in the atlatl. When a person swings the atlatl, it makes the spear go faster and straighter. This made the spear better for hunting. It helped the hunters capture more food to feed their families.

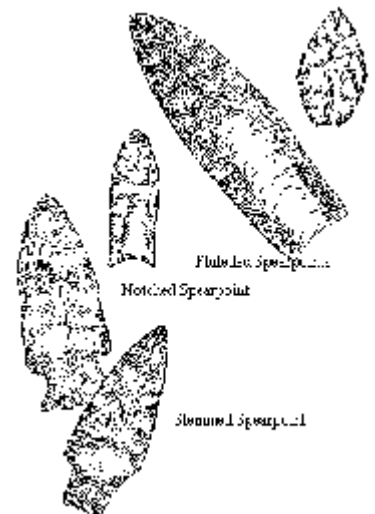
Gradually - it took thousands of years - the weather changed. The Ice Age was over. Guess what! With the warmer weather, plants and trees started to grow. In fact, so many trees grew that all of Hunterdon County, all of New Jersey, all of the area around New Jersey turned into a giant forest. The forest was full of animals for the Indians to hunt.

The forest was so big that the Indians who lived in the area became known as the Woodland Indians.

One of the group of people known as the Woodland Indians called themselves the Lenape. The Lenape lived in the area that became New Jersey, New York City and parts of Pennsylvania.

The Lenape became known to other Indian groups as very smart and peaceful people. When others had problems, they called upon the Lenape for help.

The Lenape were the first residents of Hunterdon County. We can learn much from them.





## Where Did Our County Come From?

You live in the most beautiful county in New Jersey. It has everything - rolling hills, lots of creeks and rivers, good farm soil, open spaces, old villages and farms.

Hunterdon County was created by the King of England in 1714. It was set off from a county named Burlington. The original Hunterdon County was the biggest county in the whole state! It went all the way from the Assunpink Creek in Trenton to the New York state border. As time went on, several other counties were carved out of old Hunterdon. They were: Morris County in 1738; Warren County; then Sussex County was cut off from Warren; and last, in 1839, Mercer County was founded.

Hunterdon County was so big that it took two days to travel by horse from one end to the other. During the Revolutionary War there were more people living in Hunterdon than any place else in the whole state. There were so many mills grinding grain that Hunterdon became known as "The Breadbasket of the Revolution." What do you think that means?

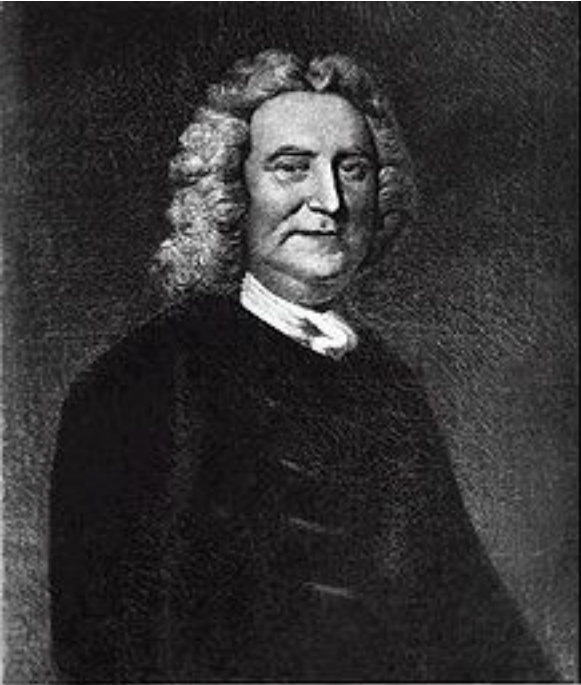
Can you guess how the county came to be named Hunterdon? Back in 1714, the Royal Governor was a man named Robert Hunter. He was so well-liked and so highly thought of that the King decided to call the new county "Hunterdon" in his honor.

## Hunterdon's Boroughs, Towns, City and Townships (Municipalities):

- Alexandria Township
- Bethlehem Township
- Bloomsbury Borough
- Califon Borough
- Clinton Town
- Clinton Township
- Delaware Township
- East Amwell Township
- Flemington Borough
- Franklin Township
- Frenchtown Borough
- Glen Gardner Borough
- High Bridge Borough
- Hampton Borough
- Holland Township
- Kingwood Township
- Lambertville City
- Lebanon Borough
- Lebanon Township
- Milford Borough
- Raritan Township
- Readington Township
- Stockton Borough
- Tewksbury Township
- Union Township
- West Amwell Township

## Alexandria Township

In 1765 when it became a separate township, Alexandria was named for one of its large landholders, James Alexander.



Who was James Alexander, and why was he famous? James was a Scotsman from Stirling, a city in Scotland. His family castle still stands there. James Alexander came to this country in 1715. He, like George Washington, was a surveyor. He also was a lawyer and a member of the Royal Provincial Council. The Provincial Council was the governing body of the colony of New Jersey and answered to the King of England. James Alexander was a very important person!

Along with all of his accomplishments, James Alexander was a friend of Benjamin Franklin with whom he conducted scientific experiments. In fact, he and Franklin formed the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. That was like a club where very intelligent men debated scientific thoughts.

Alexander always spoke out for freedom and uniting the colonies. He was a man ahead of his time because the Revolutionary war didn't start until twenty years after his death in 1756.

James Alexander's son, William, became one of George Washington's most trusted generals. He was known as

General William "Lord Stirling" Alexander. Remember that his father came from Stirling in Scotland? Well, William discovered that he had inherited the title of Earl of Stirling even though he was born in America. And he insisted that he be called by his title, "Lord Stirling." Even though he had a royal title, he fought for this country to be free from England. He was a great general.

## Indian Chief Buried In Flemington



In the family burial ground of the Case (formerly Kase) family in Flemington stands a large marker in honor of Chief Tuccamirgan.

When the Case family came here from Germany in the early 1700's they settled along Tuccaminjah Creek - now known as the Mine Brook in Flemington. Not far from Philip Case's log cabin lived a group of Indians whose chief was Tuccamirgan. Peaceful by nature, the Indians helped cut logs for the white settlers' houses. It is even said that they hollowed out gum tree logs so that the Case babies could have cradles.

Legend tells us that Tuccamirgan's wife had no children and would help the Cases care for their little ones. In this strange land the Indians were so helpful to the Case family that they all lived peacefully as brothers.

When good Chief Tuccamirgan died in 1750, he was buried in the Case family burying ground, which is located along Bonnell Street today. His grave is marked by a stone monument large enough that it can be seen for a long distance. It was put up in 1925 and reads:

"In Memory of the Delaware Indian Chief, Tuccamirgan."

## Immigration To 1800

An immigrant is someone who travels from one country to live in another. When these people move from one country to another, it is known as immigration. Immigration is important to Hunterdon County, in fact, to our whole country. Everybody who lives in the United States, except the Native Americans, are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Descendants means all the children and grandchildren and so on.



Like the rest of the United States, Hunterdon is a better place because of immigration. The immigrants brought some of our favorite foods - pizza, bagels, noodles, sausages, perogies, pretzels and ice cream - and music. There would be no music on MTV if not for the immigrants, each bringing a type of music from his own country and blending it to make American music.

The first immigrants to settle in Hunterdon were English Quakers, Dutch and German Reformed, German Lutheran and French Huguenots. Quakers, Reformed, Lutheran and Huguenots are religious groups. They were being mistreated in their homelands because of what they believed. This is called being persecuted. They took the long, dangerous ocean voyage to escape this persecution and to start a new life.

They settled in Hunterdon and became farmers, merchants and traders. They opened businesses, built homes, churches and schools.

Soon English immigrants who belonged to other religious groups settled in Hunterdon. These were joined by Scottish immigrants.

These immigrants came as families to live in Hunterdon. It is hard to believe, but when these first immigrants came to Hunterdon, it was considered the wild frontier! And they were considered pioneers!

French Huguenots settled in the parts of Hunterdon now known as Grandin and Hamden in Clinton and Franklin Townships. The first German immigrants settled in Readington, Clinton, Lebanon and Tewksbury Townships. So many Germans settled in Tewksbury that the largest settlement was known as New Germantown.

Almost 200 years later, when the United States was at war with Germany, New Germantown changed its name to Oldwick.

Because of all the good farmland, Hunterdon grew faster than other parts of New Jersey. You can fool your parents and other adults by asking which county had the largest population in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. Today nobody would think it was Hunterdon, but it was! Up until 1830, Hunterdon was one of the most populated counties in New Jersey.

Soon a new group of immigrants would come to the United States to work. Things would change. Big cities with lots of people would develop away from Hunterdon. Only a few of these immigrants would come to Hunterdon.

## Name That Town!

Often towns and settlements (very small villages) are named after people, especially heroes. Two great heroes of our country are George Washington and **Benjamin Franklin**. More towns in the United States are named after these two heroes than anyone else. We have a **Franklin Township** in Hunterdon County.

Sometimes the name is from the first settler in an area or a famous person who lived there. Flemington and Readington are two such places in Hunterdon.

**Samuel Fleming** settled in the town that now has his name over 200 years ago. People called the settlement Flemings. Then it became Fleming's Town and now **Flemington**. The "Town" part was shortened to "-ton" - something that happens often with town names.

**John Reading** was one of the most important men in colonial New Jersey. When the new township was created in 1730, it was called Reading's Town. Later, the name was shortened to **Readington**.

Many small settlements have names that go back hundreds of years. In Clinton Township there is still a settlement named Allerton. The **Aller family** had farms and mills in the area over 170 years ago. It became Aller's Town then **Allerton**.

Sometimes a name is just too hard to say. This is the case of the town named Millet-Prevost. Two hundred years ago there was a terrible war in the **country of France**. Many of the French people escaped the war by coming to our country and some settled in Hunterdon.

Paul Henri Millet-Prevost, his family, and a group of his friends settled near the Delaware River in Hunterdon and developed a large settlement there. It was named for their leader. People who couldn't say the name called it the town where the French lived. It became **Frenchtown** - named after the group of people who lived there.

In addition to -town or -ton, -ville is often used with a person's name to name a location. **John Lambert** was a famous resident of the large town where the ferry boat crossed the Delaware River. The town didn't have a name. It was called after whoever owned the ferry company. It was Coates Ferry, Wells Ferry and Coryell's Ferry in turn. The people who lived there decided they needed a name for their town that wouldn't change so often. In 1814 they voted to name it after Mr. Lambert and called it **Lambertville**.

**Benjamin Riegel** operated a ferry crossing from Holland Township to Pennsylvania in 1806. He called the settlement **Riegelsville** after himself. In 1837 a bridge was built across the river so people didn't need the ferry much any more. The name lasted much longer than the ferry boat.

Once in a while a town is named after some historical event or feature. **High Bridge** is such a town. When the railroad was first built over 100 years ago, the **railroad workers built a very high bridge over the river**. Today it doesn't seem such a mighty bridge, but when it was built, it was famous. People would travel just to look at it. They said they were going to see the High Bridge, a name the settlement soon took.

**Activities:**

- On a map of Hunterdon County, find other town and settlement names that could be named after people. Can you figure out what the name was?
  - Hint: Remember, often -ton, -town, -ville, or -burg is attached to the person's name to name a settlement.
- What other types of names can you find? Animal, vegetable or mineral names? Names from important features?

## Word Search

Print out this page and see 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.

ALEXANDER  
IMMIGRANT  
CARIBOU  
REVOLUTION  
FRONTIER  
TUCCAMIRGAN

HUGUENOTS  
BRIDGE  
PALEO  
FLINT  
STIRLING  
VILLAGE

ATLATL  
LENAPE  
FERRY  
SETTLEMENT  
GLACIER

HUNTER  
CABIN  
PIONEER  
FOREST  
TIGER

BREADBASKET  
MASTODON  
FISH  
SPEARS  
HOMELAND

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



*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>

### **Resources for Teachers**

Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission  
c/o Administration Building, 71 Main Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
Phone: (908) 788-1256  
Fax: (908) 788-1259  
e-mail: [cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us)  
Internet: <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us>

Hunterdon County Historical Society  
114 Main Street  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
Phone: (908) 782-1091

**The Hunterdon County Library has a vast New Jersey Reference Collection. The following are some significant books in the collection.**

### **Society**

- Bebout, John E. Where Cities Meet.
- Cooley, Henry Scofield. A Study of Slavery.
- Cunningham, Barbara. The New Jersey Ethnic Experience.
- Jamison, Wallace N. Religion in New Jersey.
- Kipel, Zora. Ethnic Directory of New Jersey.
- New Jersey Historical Society. New Jersey: the Afro-American Experience.
- Resnick, Abraham. New Jersey: Its People and Culture.
- Starr, Dennis J. The Italians of New Jersey.
- Stevens, Stephanie. For a Better Life: A History of the Polish Settlement in Readington Township.

### **Agriculture, Industry, and Transportation**

- Kovi, Louis V. As Ye Sow.
- Schmidt, Hubert G. Agriculture in New Jersey.
- Anderson, Elaine. The Central Railroad of New Jersey's First 100 Years.
- Boyer, Charles Shimer. Rambles Through Old Highways and Byways of West Jersey.
- Cawley, James. Along the Delaware and Raritan Canals.
- Cawley, James. Exploring the Little Rivers of New Jersey.
- Cawley, James. Along the Old York Road.
- Cunningham, John T. Made in New Jersey.
- Cunningham, John T. Railroading in New Jersey.
- Haussamen, Brock. The Iron Horse in Somerset County.
- Lee, James. The Morris Canal.
- Lee, Warren F. & Catherine T. A Chronology of the Belvidere Delaware Railroad.
- McClellan, Robert J. The Delaware Canal.
- MacDonald, William H. Central New Jersey Chairmaking in the Nineteenth Century.
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- Murray, Thomas C. The Seven Wonders of New Jersey.
- Sim, Robert. Charcoal Burning in New Jersey.
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- Stevens, Stephanie. Forgotten Mills of Readington.
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- Veit, Richard F. The Old Canals of New Jersey.
- Weiss, Harry B. Early Brickmaking in New Jersey.
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- Weiss, Harry B. Early Sawmills of New Jersey.
- Weiss, Harry B. The Early Woolen Mills of New Jersey.
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- Weiss, Harry B. Some Early Industries of New Jersey.
- Weiss, Harry B. Whaling in New Jersey.
- Yoder, Clayton P. Delaware Canal Journal.

### **Native People of New Jersey**

- Brinton, Daniel. The Lenape and Their Legends.
- Cross, Dorothy. New Jersey's Indians.
- Heckewelder, John. History, Manners and Customs of the Indian Nations Who Once Inhabited Pennsylvania and Neighboring States.
- Kraft, Herbert C. The Lenape.
- Philhower, Charles. Indian Love of New Jersey.

- Schenick, Herschel, Indians of New Jersey.
- Weslager, C.A. The Delaware Indians.
- Weslager, C.A. The Delaware's Buried Past.

### **General References & Local History**

- Gordon, Thomas. History of New Jersey - 1834.
- Green, Howard L. Words That Made New Jersey History.
- Lurie, Maxine N. A New Jersey Anthology.
- Mappen, Marc. Jerseyana: The Underside of New Jersey History.
- Stockton, Frank. Stories of New Jersey.
- Weise, Harry. Life in Early New Jersey.
- Herdan, Andrew C. Union Township: Rural Recollections.
- Hagman, Paul J. One Town Around: West Portal in Pictures.
- Stout, J.E. Facts and Fantasies of Franklin.

### **No Classroom Should Be Without**

- Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission. The First 275 Years of Hunterdon County.
- D'Autrechy, Phyllis B. Hunterdon County Place Names.
- The WPA Guide to 1930's New Jersey.