

Healthful, Historic Hopewell - Nomer Gray - 1897

Rev. 4/2/2022 - Text transcription of scan of original booklet - D. Dixon, edited by Carol Errickson

This is a text transcription of a scan of *Healthful, Historic Hopewell* by Nomer Gray, published in 1897.

The 57-page booklet features brief descriptions of the advantages and business opportunities of "progressive" Hopewell, and includes 40 photographs.

This document contains all the text and all the images in the original booklet. The building photos also are annotated with their current street address.



Another similar booklet promoting Hopewell was published a decade later.

- *1909 Hopewell New Jersey* (Fry & Whitehead, 1909, 54 pp.) focuses on describing the advantages of Hopewell as a place of residence, with 36 photos and many business ads.

The Herald also published two special editions highlighting the businesses and people of Hopewell. Many of the photographs are repeated between the two booklets, and in the Souvenir Edition.

- The 1900 Souvenir Edition, September 19, 1900, features over 50 sketches and 27 photos of representative businesses and business people of Hopewell and the surrounding area.
- The 1914 Progress Edition, May 1914, features over 70 sketches and 60 photos, focusing more on the prominent municipal leaders and business people, and also covers Pennington.

Many of the photographs are repeated between the two booklets, and in the Souvenir Edition.

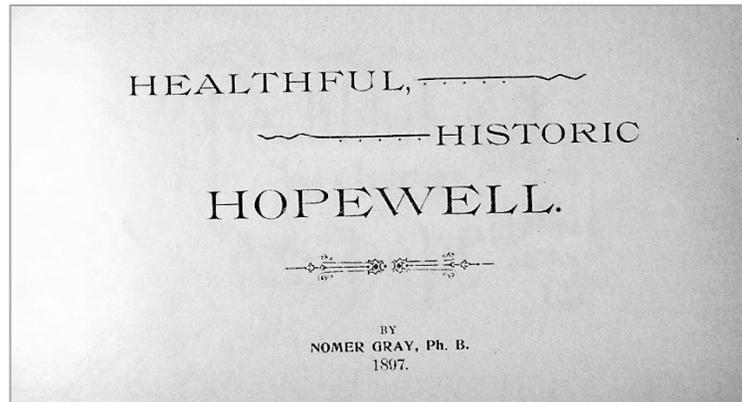
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Healthful, Historic Hopewell

By Nomer Gray, Ph. B. 1897.

C. E. Voorhees, Newspaper and Job Printer, Hopewell, N. J., 1897



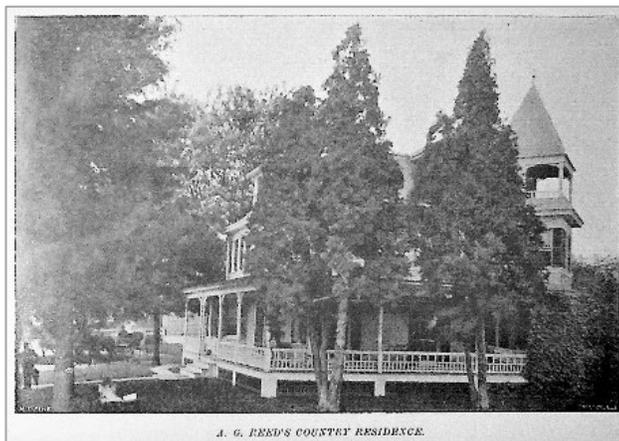
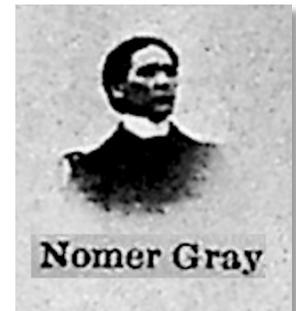
Booklet, 7 1/4 x 4 3/4 in.

Cover + 56 pages - with 40 photos (32 of buildings and 8 of people)

The author, Prof. Nomer Gray (1871 -1956) was appointed principal of Hopewell public schools in 1894 at the age of 23, and later taught in the New York City school system, before retiring to Hopewell after his retirement.

Gray also authored the 1896 pamphlet, *Hopewell's Celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence / The Unveiling of the Houghton Memorial* (25 pp.).

The printer, C. E. Voorhees, was the publisher of the Hopewell Herald, and also published the 1896 pamphlet.



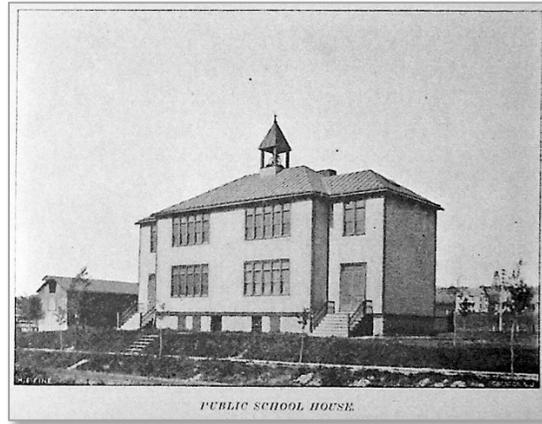
A. G. Reed's Country Residence [235 Pennington-Hopewell Rd.]

Introduction

The illustrations in this book give some idea of the prospective views of Hopewell. Located as it is, midway between New York and Philadelphia, the two metropolitan centres of the United States, on the main line of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, it possesses superb advantages for trade and travel. The attractiveness of the town, the picturesqueness of its environs, the healthfulness of its climate, the social worth and well-regulated character of its citizens are qualities par excellence, combining to make the borough a most desirable place for residence.

Ralston Heights, which lie on the north side of the town, extend eastward and westward. The panorama from them is most beautiful.

Regarding the healthfulness of Hopewell, perhaps no better idea of its salubrity may be obtained than by stating that Webster Edgerly, President of the Ralston Health Club, known the world over as the greatest organization of its kind on record, of all places in the East, chose Hopewell as his place of residence. "Healthful Hopewell" has become proverbial.



Old School Baptist Meeting House — Built, 1747; Re-built, 1822. [46 W. Broad St.]

Public School House [12 Model Ave.]

Pennington and Trenton lie live and twelve miles, respectively, to the west. Besides the railroad connection, a beautiful macadamized road affords a pleasant communication between these places. Princeton and Lawrenceville, seats of learning, lie about eight miles to the southeast. Trolley roads connecting all these places with Hopewell are contemplated, and at no distant day, it is safe to say, this will in fact be accomplished. Already it is connected with the important towns and cities by the long-distance telephone.

Hopewell is not only a town well located, but well laid out. Its buildings are modern in their appointments: its streets are made attractive by handsome homes, well-kept lawns and beautiful shade trees. In every part of the town there is an air of thrift and neatness which cannot fail to impress the most unobserving.

Hopewell is unlike most progressive towns in two important respects: It is free from debt, and has a low rate of taxation.

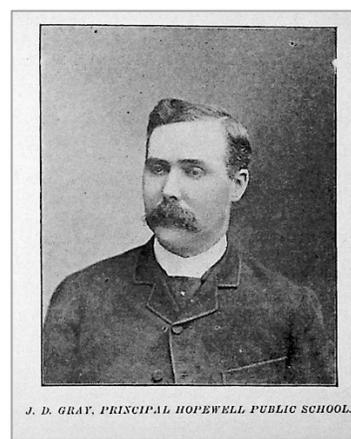
A Water Company supplies the town with water of exceptional purity and softness. The reservoir is situated on the Mount Rose hill, two miles south of town. City people accustomed to the advantages of hydrant water, will recognize the value of this luxury.

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The abundant water supply and the two well-equipped Fire companies reduce the danger and losses occasioned by fire to a minimum; two Building-Loan associations in prosperous condition and a National Bank paying large dividends evince the substantial wealth of the town; its half-dozen factories, which have been run steadily during the recent panic, are an index to the ability of its business men; the fact that there is not a vacant house in town, and that there is a constant demand for more, in spite of the rapidity with which they have been built, are proofs of its progress.

Hopewell lies in a rich farming district. Several large stock farms lie within a radius of two miles, the most important of which is that owned by K. S Wells. It has stores of all kinds, carrying large stocks of goods.

These facts we submit most cordially to our readers, and invite all who are seeking a place of location to visit our town before deciding to settle elsewhere.



Residence of Louis Labaw [8 Louellen Ave.]

J. D. Gray, Principal Hopewell Public School

Historical Sketch

From a historic standpoint Hopewell is one of the most important towns in the State of New Jersey. Here lived the Rev. Isaac Eaton, and here he founded the first Baptist denominational school. It was also the home of the distinguished benefactress, Elizabeth Hobbs, as well as John Hart, signer of the Declaration of Independence. Here dwelt Hart's compatriot, Col. Joab Houghton, and it was he who made the first call for volunteers ever made in the Colony of New Jersey against British oppression.

Now, these two revolutionists lie buried in the shadow of the Old School Baptist Meeting House, in front of which the call was made, and in which they loved so much to worship.

It was in Hopewell that Washington held a council of war with Lee, Sterling, Greene, LaFayette, Steuben, Knox, Poor, Wayne, Woodford, Patterson, Scott and Duponceau prior to the battle of Freehold. The Weart homestead was the scene of this event, and still stands as one of the most sacred monuments of the Revolution.

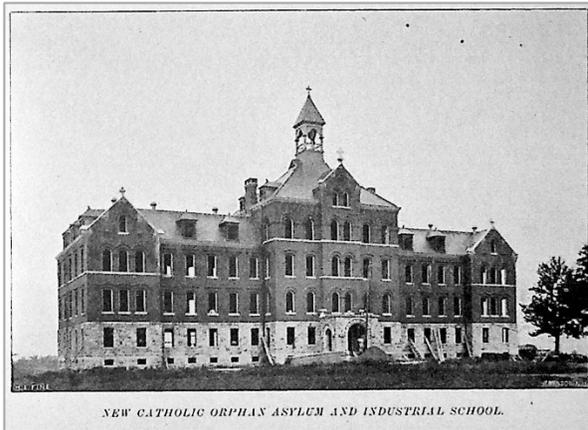
Not only in the colonial period did Hopewell play an aggressive part, but also in the late Civil War. James Manners Weart, a native citizen, was the first volunteer from New Jersey who offered his services to suppress the Rebellion. That same patriotic and chivalrous spirit still hovers about the place and has given color to the social and business life of its people.

Schools and Colleges

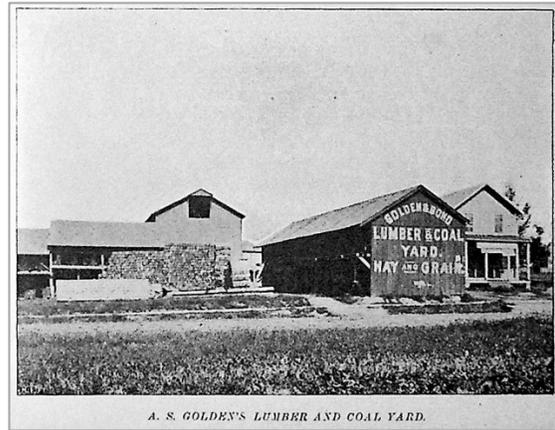
Early in its colonial history Hopewell laid a solid foundation for the education of its youth. Its public school is now under the supervision of J. D. Gray, A M., Litt. D., a man of rare ability and large experience in public education. He is assisted by three well-trained teachers.

At present a large Catholic Orphans' Home is being built on the south side of town. Pennington Seminary and Lawrenceville Preparatory School lie within a radius of about five miles. Both schools prepare for any college in America. Princeton, the seat of Princeton University and Evelyn Female College, is within an hour's drive. The State Normal and Model Schools, at Trenton, as well as the business colleges, owing to their proximity and easiness of access, attract many local students.

Educationally, Hopewell is well located.



New Catholic Orphan Asylum and Industrial School [130 Hopewell-Princeton Rd.]



A. S. Golden's Lumber And Coal Yard [24 Model Ave.]

Building Facilities

A brick-yard, two stone quarries, two large lumber yards, supplying all kinds of building material, two sash and blind factories, and skilled mechanics residing in town, make Hopewell's facilities for building exceptionally good.

Banking Facilities

A National Bank and two Building and Loan Associations furnish ample accommodations to the commercial community and to those wishing to build homes.

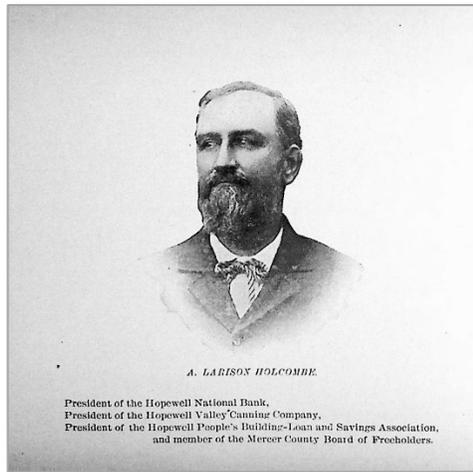


Hopewell National Bank

A. L. Holcombe President
J. S. Van Dike Vice-President
John N. Race Cashier

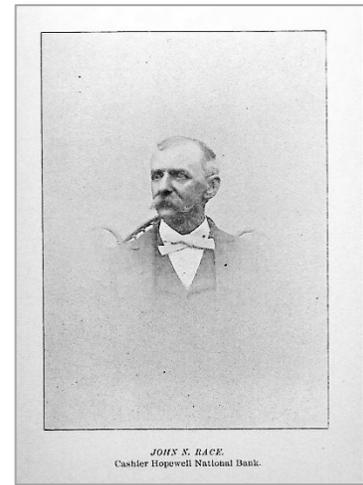
Capital. \$50,000
Surplus. \$10,000
Loans and discounts. \$109,000
Deposits. \$72,000

Hopewell National Bank [13 E. Broad St.]



A. Larison Holcombe

President of the Hopewell National Bank.
President of the Hopewell Valley Canning Company.
President of the Hopewell People's Building-Loan and Savings Association, and member of the Mercer County Board of Freeholders.



John N. Race

Cashier Hopewell National Bank.

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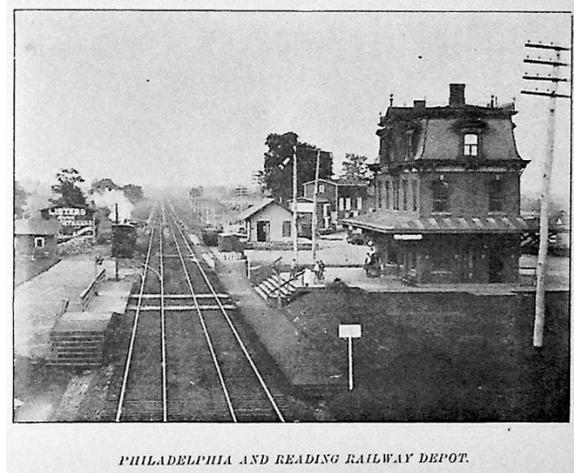
Railroads

Hopewell is situated on the New York Division of the P. & R. Ry. system. It has unsurpassed train service for all points, East and West. The station does a business of \$75,000 per annum, and has twenty-three arrivals and departures daily.

W. H. Slugg, Agent

Time Table

East Bound		West Bound.	
A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.
1.36	2.37	1.57	1.40
5.18	3.16	5.51	2.52
6.28	6.08	6.19	5.17
7.04	7.08	7.14	6.36
9.36	7.54	9.01	
10.37	10.22		



Philadelphia and Reading Railway Depot

[2 Railroad Pl.]

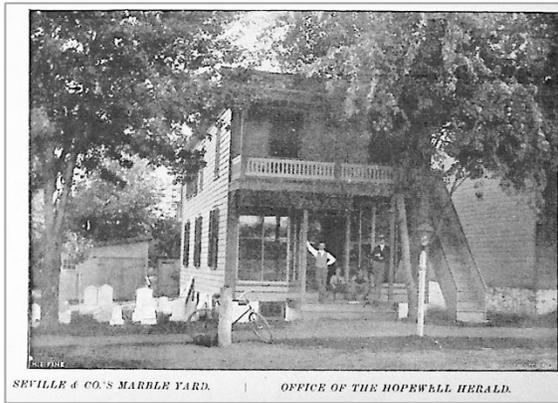
Manufactories

There are within the Borough two Sash and Blind Factories, one Shirt Factory, one Creamery, one Saw Mill, one Feed Mill, one Brick Yard, two Stone Quarries, one Bakery, two Marble Yards, one Printing House.

In addition to the above manufactories there are a number of various other industries, giving employment to labor and profit to their proprietors.

Printing House

The Hopewell Herald has a well-equipped plant. Besides issuing a live, weekly paper, which has a wide and increasing circulation, Mr. C. E. Voorhees does a large amount of job work and miscellaneous publishing.



Seville & Co.'s Marble Yard / Office of the Hopewell Herald [5 Railroad Pl.]

The Shirt Factory [37 Railroad Pl.]

The Sash and Blind Factories

Are now building. One is practically completed. Both will be in operation before the close of the present year.

The Shirt Factory

A. L. Holcombe President
Thos. Vaughn Proprietor

The factory proper is a brick structure, 40 x 100 feet. From fifty to seventy-five hands are employed and about \$25,060 are paid out annually in wages. Mr. Vaughn is the manufacturer of the celebrated Dorbess shirt and night robe. It is owing greatly to Mr. Vaughn's business ability that the factory was run steady during the recent panic.

Brick Yard

Surrounding Hopewell are the richest deposits of clay to be found in the State. It is from these deposits that Patrick Cahill manufactures his superior brick.

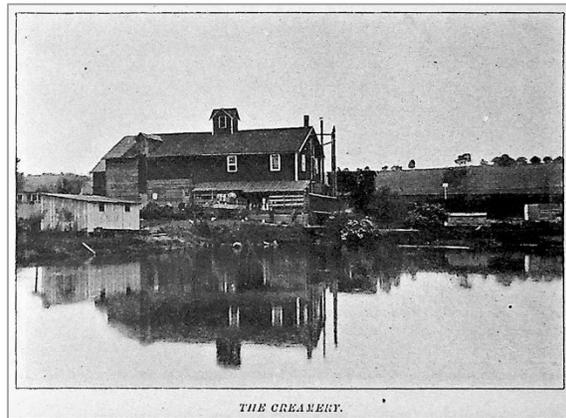
Saw Mill

A. G. Fetter is a manufacturer of car, ship, and wagon timber, and has a large foreign trade.

The Hopewell Valley Canning Company

A L. Holcombe	President
J. Hervey Stout	Vice President
W. I. Phillips	Secretary And Treasurer
G. E. Snowden	Superintendent

This company has been in operation several years. At no time has it been able to supply its orders. Owing to the superior quality of its tomatoes it commands a larger price for its goods than any firm in the business. Its output is 250,000 cans every season.



The Cannery [2 Somerset St.]

The Creamery [56 Model Ave.]

Hopewell Creamery

Hernig & Northrup Proprietors

This creamery has large facilities for making butter and ships great quantities of milk and cream. Its capacity is 10,000 pounds per day.

Stone Quarries

Englebright & McQuade have superb facilities for supplying crushed stone, and have had a large experience in macadamizing roads. At present they are running three plants and employing about two hundred men.

Mr. J. S. Cope has also a well-equipped plant, and has won a reputation in the stone business.

Merchantile Business, Etc.

The rapid building going on in town and the increased-stir on the streets during business hours are gratifying evidences of an annually increasing business.

There are two large lumber firms in town, owned, respectively, by Blackwell & Hill and A. S. Golden. Both deal extensively in coal, feed, hay, grain, and mason supplies. By their promptness and reliability they have gained the entire confidence of the business community.

Among the best established retail grocers are F. F. Holcombe, N. D. Blackwell, and T. J. Sheppard. The two former are also carrying on a large dry goods business.

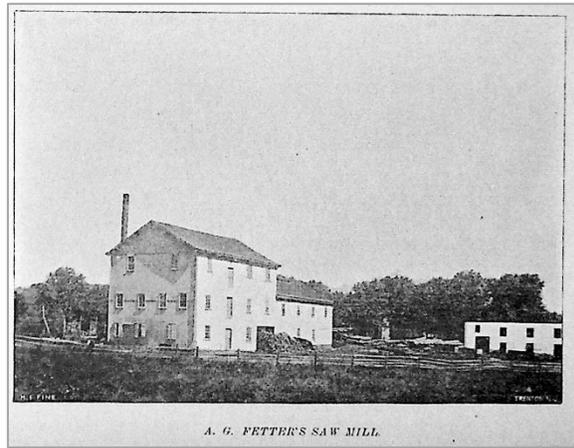
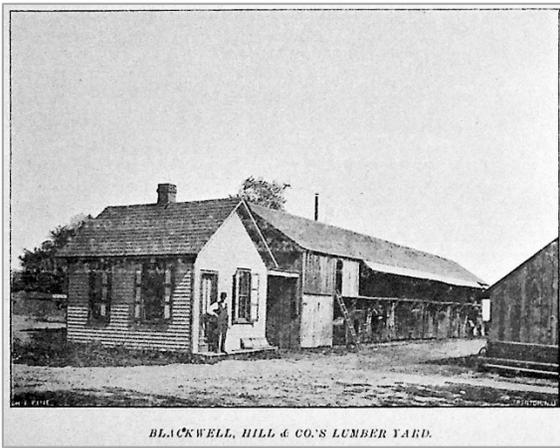
C. L. Williamson's dry-goods store, in the Holcombe Building, is one of the finest and best conducted stores in town.

J. M. Ege's hardware store is located on Broad street. By his strict attention to business and integrity he is enjoying the large competency he is entitled to. His store is well stocked with all kind of goods in his line.

George E. Pierson, one of the youngest and most progressive of our business men, is the leading druggist. His store is handsomely and tastefully arranged.

Andrew Cray is the proprietor of the Central Hotel. His courtesy and obligingness has made him popular among his townsmen and built up for him a large business.

E S. Wells has a large stock farm of about three hundred head of horses. He has been quite as successful in breeding horses as in inventing "Rough on Rats."



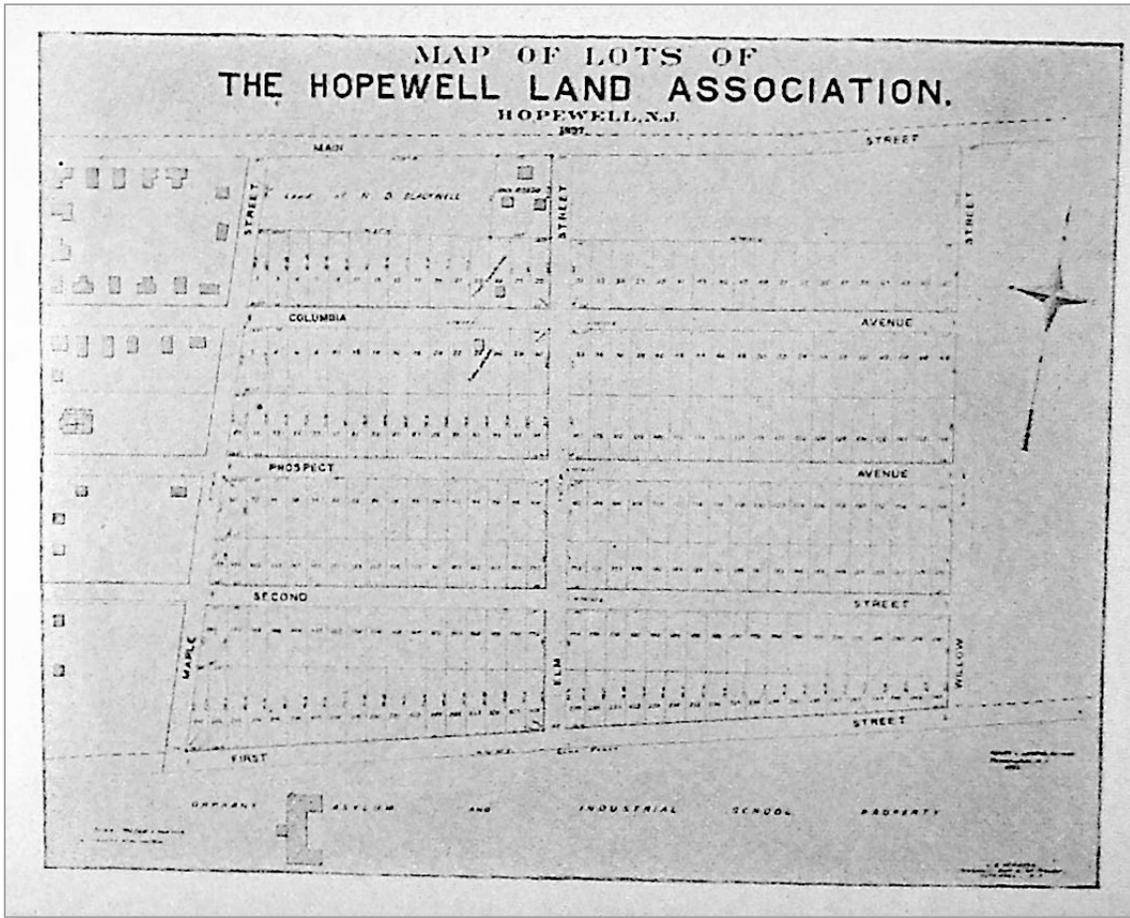
Blackwell, Hill & Co's Lumber Yard [43 Railroad Pl.]

A. G. Fetter's Saw Mill [93 Model Ave.]

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Real Estate

The great demand for lots for business and dwelling purposes has stimulated the formation of two Building and Loan Associations and the Hopewell Land and Improvement Company. The latter company is owned by Blackwell & Brophy. It has valuable suburban property.



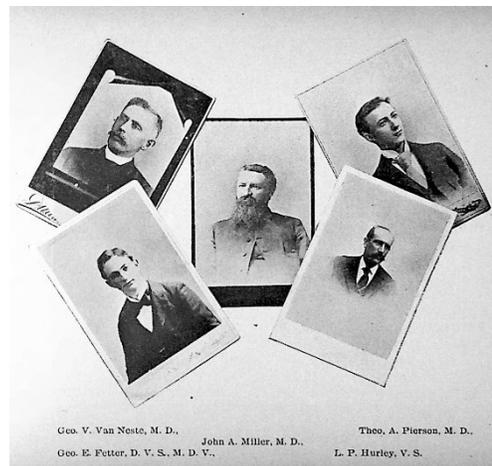
Map of Lots of the Hopewell Land Association

- Top to bottom: Main, Columbia, Prospect, Second, First
- Left to right: Maple, Elm, Willow

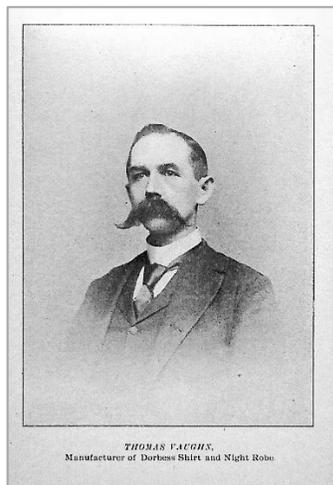
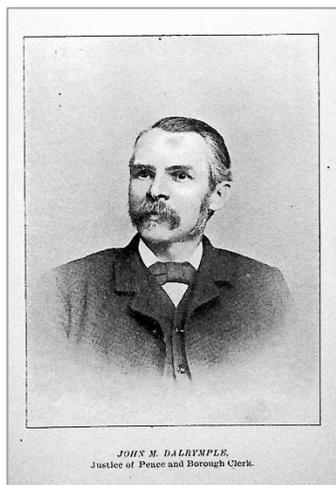
[Photos of People]



- T. J. Sheppard, J. C. Harrison, Thomas Vaughn
- Lawyer J. C. Harrison, Jr., A. L. Holcombe,
 Mayor Wm. W. Drake, C. L. Williamson,
 Wm. H. Slugg
- Nomer Gray, George E. Pierson,
 J. Mason Ege, D. A. Northrup, John N. Race

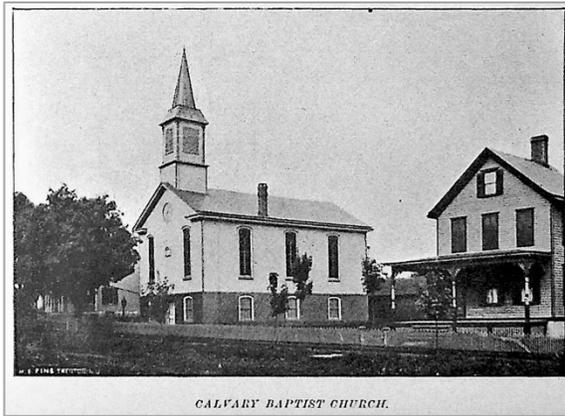


- Geo. V. Van Neste, M.D.,
 Theo. A. Pierson, M.D
- John A. Miller, M.D.
- Geo. E. Fetter, D.V.S., M.D.V. ,
 L. P. Hurley, V.S.



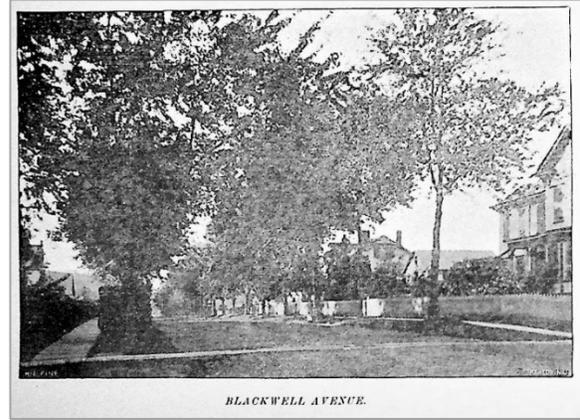
- John M. Dalrymple, Justice of Peace and Borough Clerk**
- Thomas Vaughn, Manufacturer of Dorbess Shirt and Night Robe**
- Webster Edgerly, President of Ralston Health Club.**

[Photos of Buildings]



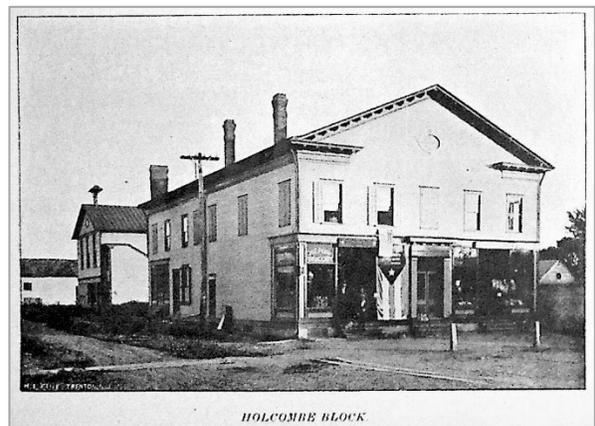
Calvary Baptist Church [3 E. Broad St.]

Presbyterian Church [79 W. Broad St.]



Methodist Church [20 Blackwell Ave.]

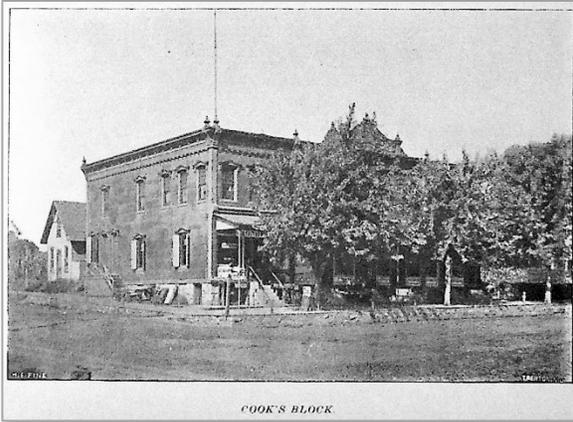
Blackwell Avenue



Central Hotel, Andrew Cray, Proprietor [15 E. Broad St.]

Holcombe Block [1 W. Broad St.]

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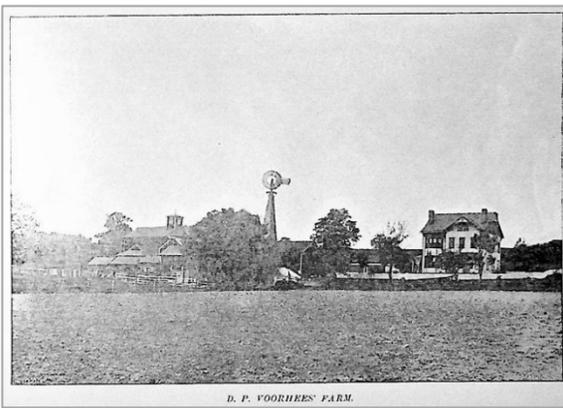
COOK'S BLOCK



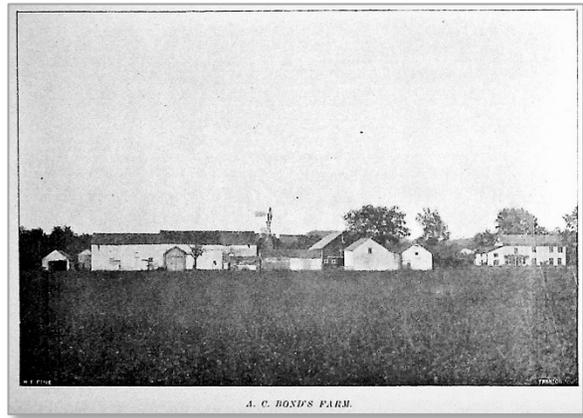
E. S. WELL'S STOCK FARM, GLENMOORE, N. J.

Cook's Block [2 East Broad St.]

E. S. Well's Stock Farm, Glenmoore, N. J.



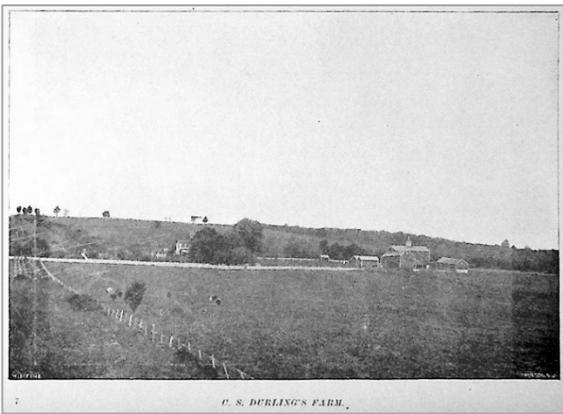
D. P. VOORHEES' FARM.



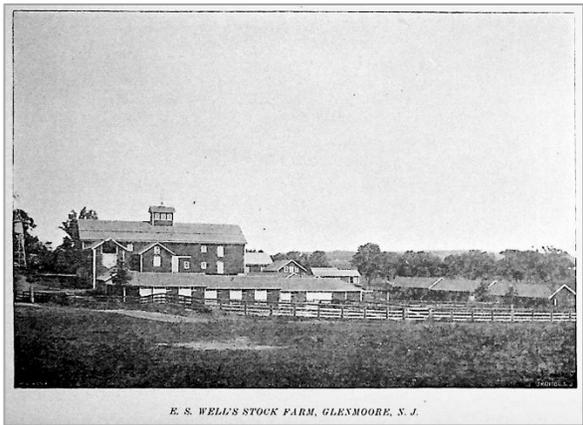
A. C. BOND'S FARM.

D. P. Voorhees Farm

A. C. Bond's Farm



C. S. DURLING'S FARM.

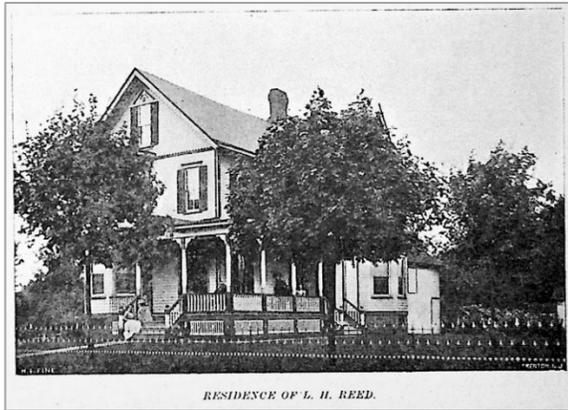


E. S. WELL'S STOCK FARM, GLENMOORE, N. J.

C. S. Durling's Farm

E. S. Well's Stock Farm, Glenmoore, N. J.

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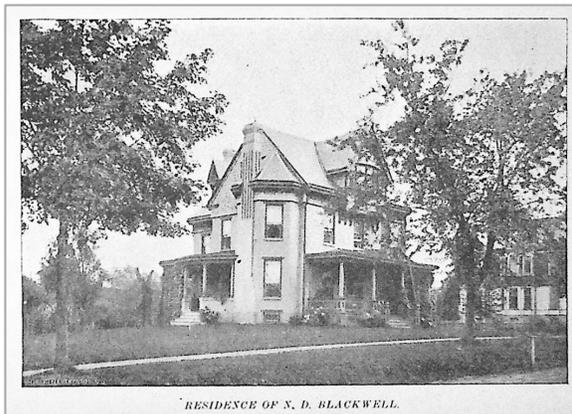
RESIDENCE OF L. H. REED.



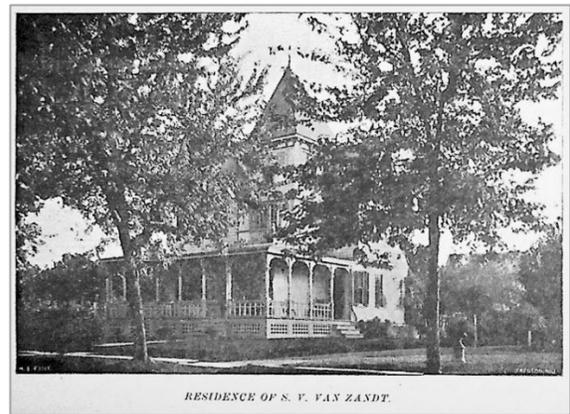
RESIDENCE OF A. S. COOK.

Residence of L. H. Reed [15 N. Greenwood Ave.]

Residence of A. S. Cook [10 E. Broad St.]



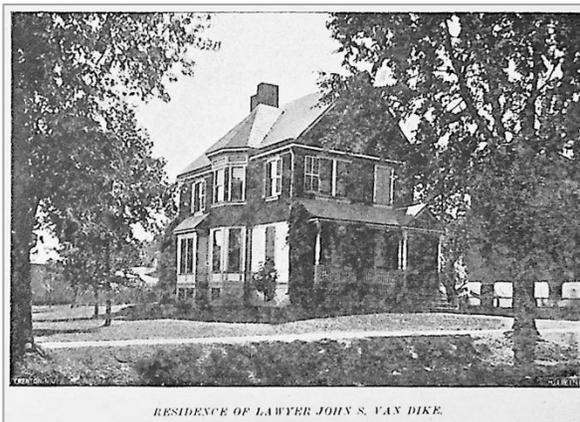
RESIDENCE OF N. D. BLACKWELL.



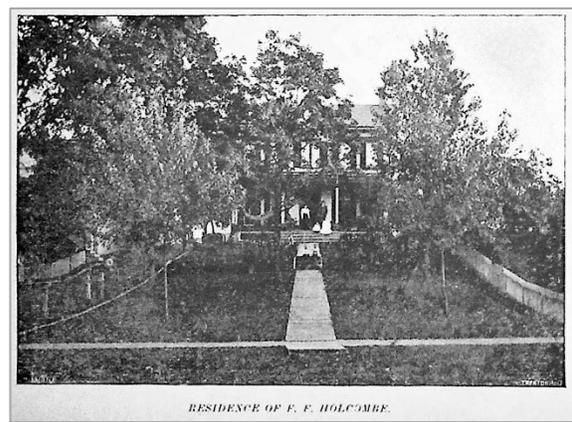
RESIDENCE OF S. V. VAN ZANDT.

Residence of N. D. Blackwell [35 E. Broad St.]

Residence of S. V. Van Zandt [14 Blackwell Ave.]



RESIDENCE OF LAWYER JOHN S. VAN DIKE.



RESIDENCE OF F. F. HOLCOMBE.

Residence of Lawyer John S. Van Dike [29 E. Broad St.]

Residence of F. F. Holcombe [57 W. Broad St.]