

**THE SHARK RIVER DISTRICT,
MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY :
AND GENEALOGIES OF CHAMBERS,
CORLIES, DRUMMOND, MORRIS,
POTTER, SHAFTO, WEBLEY AND WHITE**

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The Shark River district, Monmouth County, New Jersey : and genealogies of Chambers, Corlies, Drummond, Morris, Potter, Shafto, Webley and White by George Castor Martin

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GEORGE CASTOR MARTIN

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**BY
GEORGE CASTOR MARTIN**

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**1914
MARTIN & ALLARDYCE
ASBURY PARK, N. J.**

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The Discovery of the Land.

"This is a very good land to fall in with and a pleasant land to see."—From the log of the "Half Moon."

Sir Henry Hudson, in the "Half Moon," in the latter part of August, 1609, left Delaware bay, and on Sept. 2 passed Barnegat inlet, then unnamed, and anchored for the night along the Jersey coast, probably off the site of the present Asbury Park.

"At 5 o'clock we anchored, being light wind, and rode in eight fathoms of water, the night was fair. This night I found the land to have the compass eight degrees. Far to the northward we saw high hills; for the day before we found not above two degrees of variation."—Log of the Half Moon," dated Sept. 2, 1609.

The high hills referred to were probably the Highlands, or they might have been the sand hills behind Asbury Park. The "Half Moon" arrived off the Narrows the next day at 3 o'clock. There is no doubt but that the anchorage referred to was between Asbury Park and Long Branch, and it is more than likely that it was at or near the former place, for, the Highlands would not be so "far to the northward" from Long Branch, and they may be plainly seen from the deck of a vessel off the beach at Asbury.

The Purchase of the Land.

Three Indian deeds cover the section of New Jersey embraced by old Monmouth county. They were dated in January and April, 1665-6, and were duly acknowledged before Governor Nichols of New York. On April 7, 1665-6, the governor signed the Monmouth patent.

A most curious sight the acknowledgment of these deeds must have been. Sixteen Indians, 13 white men, the governor and his executives. The Indians in their primitive dress, the whites in the dull garb of Quakers, Puritans and Long Island Dutch, the governor and his men in the uniforms of their rank.

The Indians who deeded the land were: Popomora or Popomera and his brother Mischacoing, Manavendo, Emerdesolsee, Checawsen, Shenhemun, Cramanscum, Winegermeen, Mecca, Taplawappamund, Mattamaluckanick, Zawpochammund, Kack-enham, Cattano, Norchon and Qurrmeck.

The white men who purchased the land were: James Hubbard, John Bowne, John Tilton, jr., Richard Stout, William Goulding, Samuel Spicer, Richard Gibbons, James Grover, Walter Clarke, William Reape, Nathaniel Silvester, Obadiah Holmes and Nicholas Davis, all, with the exception of the first mentioned, in the Monmouth Patent as the first proprietors.

Monmouth County was named and established March 7, 1682-3.

Revolutionary Days Around Shark River.

Shrewsbury, in which township the Shark River section lay during the struggle for independence, harbored many who preferred the British yoke to freedom.

Britten, Briton or Britton White, Josiah White, Ebenezer and Peter Wardell, Samuel, John and Morford Taylor, Peter Van Note, James Mount, Clayton Tilton, James Curles (Corlies), John and Robert Morris, Robert Stout, John Williams, and his son John, Christopher and Oliver Tallman, John Warde, Michael, William and James Price, James Pintard, Samuel Cook, James Boggs, Asael Chandler, John Hankinson, Timothy Scoby, William Lawrence, Tobias Kiker, Richard Lippincott, Benjamin Woolley, Nathaniel Parker, John Hampton, and Jacob Emmons, were all "fugitives and offenders," Tories who assisted the British against their own relatives and countrymen. The lands of the above mentioned were confiscated and sold at Tinton Falls, March 29, 1779, and on May 3, of the same year, notice was given for all who had claims on any of the estates sold to bring their accounts before the Court of Common Pleas at Freehold before the twentieth of the month that they might be settled.

Some of the Tories regained their lands and their descendants are still among us, but many escaped to New York and went to England and Canada. Britton White, Josiah White, John Morris, Robert Morris, James Corlies and Benjamin Woolley all

have descendants now living between Deal and the Manasquan.

During the Revolution, the Continental government established many salt works along the New Jersey coast. One was located on the south bank of Squan Inlet, one on the south bank of Shark River Inlet, another on the south bank of Shark River about where the bridge now enters Belmar.

Salt was necessary for the use of the Continental army, and the rebel salt works were made the object of special attention by the British army. In April, 1778, on Sunday, the fifth, to be exact, a large party of British, mostly "Greens" and Highlanders, landed on the south side of Squan Inlet and destroyed the salt works, broke the massive iron kettles used to boil the sea water, and burned all the houses within easy reach. They recognized none among the inhabitants as friends, and greatly to the rejoicing of the rebels, it was the Tories that suffered the greatest loss. The troops later crossed the inlet and burned every house to the northward with the exception of that owned by Derric Longstreet, a Tory.

The next day, April 6, 1778, the same party landed on the south side of Shark River Inlet and destroyed both salt works there. The troops were reported to have been 135 in number, and while at work on the second building were surprised by a body of 15 mounted militia men, who routed them so badly that in reembarking the British sank two of their flat-bottomed boats.

About the time of the destruction of the salt works on Shark River, a farmer, one John Davis,