

**REAL AND IDEAL BLOOMFIELD:
THE BRIEFLY-TOLD STORY OF
CHURCH-TOWN, TOWNSHIP AND
INCORPORATED TOWN OF TO-
DAY**

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Real and Ideal Bloomfield: The Briefly-told Story of Church-town, Township and Incorporated Town of To-Day by Stephen Morris Hulin

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STEPHEN MORRIS HULIN

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Real and Ideal Bloomfield



Pause here and see the village green.
These elms have mark'd the years that pass
With sturdy growth. See how they lean
And spread their shadows on the grass.

REAL AND IDEAL

BLOOMFIELD

The Briefly-told Story of Church-Town, Township and
Incorporated Town of To-day

BY

STEPHEN MORRIS HULIN

ILLUSTRATED

BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

Press of Graebe-McGovern Co., Newark, N. J.

1902.

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Miss Helen R. Gardner

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INTRODUCTION.

WHEN one has a picture taken the artist's expectation is that the person who is sitting will "look pleasant." In the fifty or more picturesque views here presented, the town of Bloomfield, arrayed in her autumn finery of foliage, was taken at her best, though she is always attractive. The photographer, engraver, paper-maker and printer have jointly produced a general view of the town—oldest and newest features combined—that it is hoped will be acceptable to all. In the conception, preparation and presentation of this work the aim of the publisher has been to produce a faithful reflex and truthful description of Bloomfield, "without gloss or glamour, varnish or vincer." The pictures certainly are truthful, even to the poles and wires that encompass the landscape here and there ; but these are not the permanent features of an Ideal Town, and will in time disappear, as the underground system comes into use. We must commend especially the public spirit of the Patrons of this book. The list printed on the last pages embraces the names of those who responded as subscribers in advance, and thus guaranteed the necessary expense attending this production.



Church, School House and Lecture Room, 1848.

BLOOMFIELD IN COLONIAL TIMES.

TWO hundred years ago, as "woodland, upland and meadow," the present town-site of Bloomfield was occupied for the "outlying plantations" of those pioneer settlers who in 1666-7 founded their "Towne on the Passaicke," to which they gave the name of Newark. The church-town thus established by the men from Milford, Branford and Guilford, was of ample size for future growth. Viewed at this day they were religiously narrow, but broad in their conception of duty to others, generous in treaty with the Indians, whose prior right to this soil they recognized, and before taking extinguished by satisfactory purchase. By moral and legal right they acquired a clean and undisputed title at once to the 50,000 acre territory extending from the town-bounds of the Elizabeth Colony on the south to the older Dutch settlement, Acquackanonck, on the north, and from the banks of the Passaic River westward to the crest of Watchung Mountain. Of this original town-site the Bloomfield of to-day covers but a small part, midway between river and mountain-top. But it is a goodly heritage.

Reference to the oldest allotments of land by deed or patent, shows that the settlers invariably designated their claims by marked trees as a beginning point on one of the streams. Access to running water was essential to a plantation, and tracts so taken embraced usually eighty or a hundred acres. The descriptions were of land "on Second River," "Third River," "Wigwam Brook," "Toney's Brook, etc. These various streams not only now afford natural surface drainage for roadways, but also in early times supplied abundant water power for the sawmills and gristmills set up by these pioneer inhabitants.

The exploration and settlement of this part of Newark thus closely followed the first allotment of six-acre home-lots on the immediate bank of the Passaic. The log houses, the old mills, the dams "fastened to the contrary side of the stream" long time ago faded from the landscape, but ancient farm-houses of hewn stone are in evidence to-day here, and there, along the oldest highways.

"Watsessing Plain" and "Watsessing Hill" were the first names given to localities in the southern part, and "Stone House Plain," referring to the extreme northern part, is in deeds earlier than 1700. "Third River" and "Second River" located the plantations between. There were sixty or more "resolute Puritans" with rude homes here at the beginning of 1700, and they went to church and voted on town affairs at the one rude meeting-house in Newark.

From that time forward, for fifty or sixty years, they were loyal subjects of the Crown under King William, Queen Anne and the Georges, making history in quietude, until the little matter of threepence a pound tax on tea,