The Villages of Bucks County
a guidebook
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Bucks County, one of the three original counties in Pennsylvania, has a rich historical and cultural background. The unique villages of Bucks County are an important part of the county's heritage. There are over one hundred villages remaining in Bucks County—some are beautifully preserved, while others have been nearly obliterated by new development. The Bucks County Planning Commission has undertaken a comprehensive study of the county's villages in an attempt to understand the problems this type of settlement faces and to look for a solution to these problems. As part of that comprehensive study, this guidebook was prepared to encourage people to notice and appreciate the architectural, historical, and cultural uniqueness of the county's villages.

The Village Guidebook identifies and describes the villages of Bucks County. The first step in the preparation of the Guidebook was to visit each village. During these field visits, a variety of community characteristics was noted. Location maps were also prepared for each village. Since villages are unincorporated and have no fixed edges, the exact boundaries of the villages are not shown. The edge is often more a perception than a geographic location.

In addition to a description of the present state of each village, a brief history is provided, along with a history of the township in which the village is located. This background contributes much insight as to why the settlement is located where it is, how it was named, and why it exists at all.

The purpose of the Guidebook is not to provide a land use or historic inventory for each village. Rather, the intent is to describe the villages; what makes them unique or interesting and what may detract from the village atmosphere. Another purpose of the Guidebook is to encourage people to explore the villages and to encourage residents and property owners to think about their village and what they would like it to be.

Finally, one of the most important reasons behind the Guidebook is to determine the problems presently experienced in the villages. The next phase of this study, The Village Handbook, will address these problems and suggest methods to make improvements where improvements are warranted and to preserve those positive aspects for the enjoyment of future generations.
What is a Village?

"Village" is a word that can easily be defined in different ways by different people. In this guidebook, a village is generally conceived of as a relatively small clustered settlement which is often dominated by houses of a single historical period. Frequently, the houses are spaced closely together at a crossroads, evoking the image of the village as an identifiable place. The following are characteristics typically associated with a village:

a. rural setting, usually at a crossroads.
b. small, compact development pattern.
c. usually small or narrow lots.
d. pre-twentieth century in origin
e. nuclear origin (mill, store, tavern, extended family farmstead).

Types of Villages

Today, the villages of Bucks County can be grouped into three basic categories: hamlets, residential villages, and commercial villages. Hamlets are the smallest type of village, consisting of a few houses at a crossroads or in close proximity to each other. Hamlets generally have no commercial uses or services. Some examples of hamlets in Bucks County are Uhlerstown, Fairhill, and Passer.

A residential village is the "classic" form of a village: a settlement which is mostly residential but which also contains community related services such as a post office, church, and general store. Examples of residential villages are Carversville, Blooming Glen, and Wycombe.

A commercial village is often the twentieth century or "motorized" form of a previously residential village: a settlement which is largely (and originally) residential in use, but is characterized by commercial uses or services that draw on a broader region for support. Commercial uses found in this type of village might include gas stations, antique and furniture stores, restaurants, inns and taverns, and other shops or offices. Examples of commercial villages are Ottsville, Point Pleasant, Upper Black Eddy, Pineville, and Springtown.

There are some villages which do not fit into any of the above categories. For example, Lahaska, the location of a tourist attraction with many specialty shops, is entirely different in character from the villages described above. Also, some villages which were once distinct residential settlements have largely disappeared into surrounding residential, commercial, office, and industrial development. Such villages include Oxford Valley, Neshaminy, Warrington, and Cross Keys.
Early Bucks County Villages

The earliest transportation routes in Bucks County followed the Indian paths which existed long before the first Europeans arrived. These paths were eventually widened to accommodate the wagons and stagecoaches used to transport goods and people. From the beginning, Bucks County's roads were frequently travelled due to the county's strategic location between Philadelphia and New York. From 1730 to 1830, taverns grew and prospered along these transportation routes, serving as stopping points for travellers. Many of the taverns were located at crossroads on the routes. Settlements often grew up around these taverns, which is why villages today are frequently found at crossroads.

Narrowsville, Bridgeton Twp.

Although it appears that most villages were established because of their proximity to major transportation routes, it is not true in every case. Another common location was near the streams which powered grist and saw mills. For example, the

Phillips, Mill, Solebury Twp.

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1Bucks County Chronicles, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit #22, Doylestown, PA, 1977, p. 167

Hagersville Hotel--Hagersville, East Rockhill Twp.

The Delaware River and Delaware Canal were two other major transportation routes where early villages were established. Taverns and inns served the needs of river boatmen. After the Delaware Canal opened in 1833, even more taverns, and subsequently villages, sprang-up along the canal route.
village of Phillips Mill is located near the grist mill built at the mouth of Phillips Creek in 1756. Some villages grew up around extended family farms. Several villages along the Delaware River are located at the landing sites of ferries which were once the primary means of crossing the river. One village (Durham) was established because of its proximity to iron ore. This village in northern Bucks County started out as a colonial mining and industrial settlement.

As the early villages grew, they often became service centers for the surrounding rural community as well as providers of food and lodging for travelers. These settlements became the sites of general stores, post offices, small industries, and, occasionally, political rallies. However, as convenient and low cost transportation became available, people began to travel to larger towns to take advantage of the diversity of goods and services offered there. Today, with a few exceptions, villages are primarily residential in nature.
Architecture of Bucks County Villages

Architectural styles in Bucks County villages cover the full range of historical periods from early Colonial to Victorian to contemporary architecture. Familiarity with the major architectural styles makes a visit to the villages even more interesting and rewarding. Also, by knowing the period of the architecture, it is possible to estimate approximate dates of the buildings and communities. The following is a brief overview and description of the major architectural styles in Bucks County.3

Early Colonial architecture in Bucks County consistently exhibits two basic characteristics. First, it is conservative in style. This conservatism was probably the result of the large number of austere Quaker and German settlers and Bucks County's rural isolation from the architectural trends of urban areas. The second basic characteristic is the excellent quality and outstanding workmanship of early county houses. This characteristic is easily seen in the many stone houses, some as old as 250 years, which are still in use today. Entire farms, including barns and outbuildings, have survived from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, testifying to the skill of early builders.

Late Medieval, near Carversville, Solebury Twp.

When the first settlers arrived in Bucks County they were concerned with erecting a shelter as quickly as possible. Their first permanent housing was generally built of logs; however, fieldstone was in plentiful supply and settlers often built a sturdy stone cottage next to their original log cabin. By the time the next generation of settlers was ready to build (1700-1730), their parents had succeeded in meeting basic survival needs. Therefore, the second generation could concentrate on building larger, more comfortable houses. This early architecture was in the late medieval tradition which is typified by a steeply pitched roof, little or no eave overhang, and a floor layout one room in depth.4

3 Most of the information for this section was found in: "History of Bucks County Architecture," Margaret Byr Riche, Bucks County Chronicles, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit No. 22, Doylestown, PA, 1977, pp. 256-267.

New construction was at a standstill during the Revolution. Once the war was over, building continued and slight changes began to appear in the strict Georgian style. The new style, known as Early Federal, maintained the Georgian symmetry, but added new touches in detail and decoration. For example, doorways and mantelpieces were more decorative and carved wood or molded plaster garlands were commonly used for embellishment. However, many

In the mid-1700's, the medieval tradition was gradually replaced by the Georgian style. This style is identified by its symmetry—usually a simple one or two story box with a central doorway, two windows on either side of the door, and five windows across the top. The first twin-door houses were constructed during this period. These may have been early two-family dwellings or simply a single-family house with two front doors. Several excellent examples of twin-door dwellings are found in the village of Brownsburg in Upper Makefield Township.

Americans wished to break away from all types of European influences and rejected the new style which had originated in Scotland and England. The New Federal period lasted from about 1789 to 1820. Another development during this time was the covering of masonry with plaster. The plaster was put on both new and existing homes and was done primarily for better insulation. White and gray were the most popular paint colors during this period.

Between 1820 and 1850 the Greek Revival style swept the country, particularly the east coast. This style, with its ties to the ancient Greeks and their democratic government, seemed particularly appropriate for this era of American history. Based on Greek temples, the style in Bucks County is characterized by porches supported by columns, front
A return to medievalism occurred with the Romanesque revival in both the 1840's and 1870's. The round arch was the most prominent feature of this style. The earliest examples of Romanesque architecture were generally less massive than later buildings. The Italianate was another popular architectural style in Bucks County between the 1840's and 1870's. The identifying characteristics of this style are square towers, a low pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, decorative brackets beneath the eaves, and tall narrow windows. The Episcopal Church in Buckingham is a fine example of the Italianate style.

Victorian architecture became most popular in the United States between 1860 and 1900. Dramatic changes were taking place in America at this time due to rapid industrialization and the expansion of the railroads. In housing, heavy timber frames were being replaced by lighter two inch boards.
held together by wire nails. This innovation allowed architects to break away from box shaped houses. The mass production and shipping of doors, windows, roofing, siding, and decorative details was one outcome of the Industrial Revolution that had a great impact on Victorian architecture. Without these low-cost, factory produced components, the elaborately detailed houses of this period would have been affordable only to the rich.\(^5\) The village of Wycombe in Buckingham Township is recognized for its many beautiful Victorian houses.

The Second Empire style, popular in Bucks County between 1860 and 1890, is identified by a mansard roof. This style was originated in France and, rather than copying previous architectural styles, it was considered original and modern. The mansard roof increased the attic space and many existing buildings were remodeled to include this type of roof. The Second Empire lost its popularity soon after the Panic of 1873 and the depression that followed.\(^6\)

\(^{5}\)Ibid, p. 239.

\(^{6}\)Ibid, p. 242.

\(^{7}\)Ibid, pp. 263-264.

Queen Anne Victorian (ca. 1883), Kintnersville, Nockamixon Twp.

The Queen Anne style was one of the most important influences of the late Victorian period. The identifying features of this style are a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, a dominant front facing gable, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, asymmetrical facade, and a wide front porch which extends along one or both side walls. Decorative detailing often included delicate turned porch supports and spindlework ornamentation.\(^7\) This complicated and intricate architectural style represented a major departure from the previously common rectangular and square houses.

Although Queen Anne was the dominant style of housing between 1880 and 1900, it was somewhat less common in the northeastern states. Where the style does occur in the northeast, the decorative detailing is usually less elaborate than in the south and west. Also, in the northeast, the
buildings were often of masonry construction. Both of these characteristics are seen in many of the Queen Anne style homes in Bucks County.

Beginning in the late 1800's, the dominant movement in American architecture was towards an Eclectic style. This movement used styles and motifs from many periods including Medieval, Colonial, Classical Greek, and Italianate. As opposed to the free mixture of styles that was common in the Victorian era, the early Eclectic movement emphasized the recreation of realistic versions of the original European styles.

The second phase of the Eclectic movement, which began around the turn of the century, was dominated by architectural modernism. These modern houses included the Prairie, Craftsman, and Modernistic styles. The Eclectic movement, which has alternated between copying and rejecting previous architectural styles, has continued to be the principal influence in American architecture since the 1940's. More recent houses which have emerged in the 1950's and 1960's are the Ranch, Split-level, and Contemporary styles.

Craftsman, Pipersville, Bedminster Twp.

Neoclectic with Victorian features

Starting in the 1970's and 1980's, there has been a swing back towards a style based on early architectural traditions. Known as Neoclectic, this style has not attempted to closely copy the past as the early Eclectic did. Instead, certain features of past styles are taken and adapted to modern materials and housing forms. Although not as common in the villages, this style is seen in many newer houses being built in the county.

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8 Ibid, pp. 266-268.  
10 Ibid, p. 475.  
11 Ibid.
In Bucks County's villages, most houses were built prior to the 1940's, and many are much older, dating back to the 1700's. Trying to determine the style and age of a village house is not always an easy task. One difficulty often encountered is a house which exhibits the characteristics of several architectural periods. Two examples of this occurrence previously mentioned are the early stone houses which were later plastered and mansard roofs which were added to existing houses. There are many other examples of Federal, Victorian, Gothic, and Italianate features added to an existing house in an attempt to update the building's architectural style. Determining the original architecture of a house disguised in this manner is a challenging task.
the municipalities of

Bucks County
Unless otherwise noted, the historical backgrounds of the townships and villages were taken from George MacRenolds' *Place Names in Bucks County*, second edition published by the Bucks County Historical Society in 1955.
Bedminster Township

Bedminster Township

Bedminster became a township in 1741. The name comes from the town of Bedminster, England. Bedminster was settled almost exclusively by Irish and Germans, so it is curious that the township was given an English name. However, Bedminster may have been suggested by John Chapman, the English surveyor who laid out the township. The Irish were the first settlers to arrive in Bedminster. Before the end of the eighteenth century, many of these Irish families migrated to North Carolina and parts of the Great Smokey Mountains. The German Mennonites arrived in the township shortly after the Irish. Several Mennonite families moved north to Ontario, Canada around the same time that many of the Irish were moving south.

Bedminster

This settlement was originally known as Bedminsterville. Chair making was an important early industry in the village. Bedminster was also known for its country store, which was one of the largest in the county. The first store was built in 1834 and a new and bigger store was built in 1860. On October 2, 1886, the entire store, plus a furniture depot and several other buildings were destroyed by fire. Lewis Keller, the owner at the time, survived this major setback and went on to build "the finest and largest country store of that time north of Doylestown."1

1Place Names in Bucks County, p. 19.

The village post office, which was established in 1851, is still in use and an old two-room schoolhouse now serves as the township municipal building. There are many interesting older homes in Bedminster. Most are well maintained, although a few of the homes are showing signs of deterioration. All together, there are about fifty homes in the village. Bedminster's main street has a moderate amount of traffic passing through it, but the side streets are very quiet. Large shade trees enhance the character of this attractive village.
Deep Run

This settlement was named Deep Run by the early Irish settlers because of the unusual depth of the nearby stream. (However, this stream no longer runs very deep due to erosion and sedimentation.) The name Deep Run is actually older than the name of the township itself which was originally known as “Deep Run territory.” A log school house was built in 1746 by the area Mennonites. The building was first used as a church, but later became a school where classes were taught exclusively in German for over 100 years. The log structure was eventually torn down and another school was built in its place. A small one-room brick school building is still located at the intersection of Irish Meeting House Road and Kellers Church Road.

The Deep Run Mennonite Church was built in 1841 and was often called the Irish Meeting House. Today, there are two large, brick Mennonite Churches in Deep Run. Both have sizable cemeteries and are known respectively as East Deep Run Mennonite Church and West Deep Run Mennonite Church. Besides the two large churches, school house, and a few residences, the area around Deep Run consists mainly of farms and farmland.

Elephant

Elephant consists of a tavern and two houses at the intersection of Ridge Road and Elephant Road. The name of this hamlet originates from the Elephant Hotel sign which portrays the image of a white elephant. The original sign was obtained by Dr. Henry Mercer and now hangs in the Mercer Museum in Doylestown. A replica of the first sign still swings from the small crossroads tavern. The ruins of a stone foundation occupy one corner of the intersection.
Keelersville

This village is located in both East Rockhill and Bedminster townships. Keelersville was apparently named after the Keeler family, although this family was never numerous in the area. About 100 years ago, Keelersville consisted of a store, hotel, shops, a large tannery, and a leather factory. The Tohickon Union Church was originally built of log in 1745. The first church was built on the East Rockhill Township side of Old Bethlehem Road, while the present church, built in 1837, is located in Bedminster Township. The Tohickon Union Church was unique because it was built with two entrances on the facade—one for each of the two denominations who shared the building.

The church is now the St. Peter's Tohickon United Church of Christ and is the primary landmark of the village. Two old schoolhouses are also found in the village. Keelersville is a residential community with a riding stable as its only commercial use. Many large shade trees enhance the village atmosphere.

Kellers Church

This community is one of the oldest Bucks County settlements north of Doylestown. The focal point of the village is St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Henrich Keller founded the congregation in 1744, making it the second oldest Lutheran Church in the county. The actual church building has been replaced several times since the first log structure was built in 1751. The present church, a magnificent stone structure, was built in 1894 at a cost of $12,000 which was a large sum of money at that time. In addition to the large church and cemetery, a few residences are located in the hamlet.

Pipersville

This settlement was first known as Pipers Tavern after Colonel George Piper, a Continental Army officer who ran the village tavern from 1778 to 1823. After Colonel Piper died in 1823, the village became known as Kechlins Tavern for Piper's son-in-law who took over the business. The tavern was a very interesting structure because of the different architectural styles which were incorporated into it over the years. The original tavern was built in 1759, and additions were constructed in 1784, 1790, and 1801. The original tavern was torn down in 1884 and replaced by the present structure. The village name was changed to Pipersville in 1845 when the post office opened.

Today, the Pipersville Inn remains the focal point of the village, although a new facade has recently been added to the building. The Pipersville library was established in 1877 and now resides in a small chapel which was built in 1886. The village is primarily residential with a few commercial uses. Many of the houses are Victorian in style. Traffic through Pipersville is fairly steady, but heavy trucks are detoured around the village's main street.
Bridgeton Township

1. Narrowsville
2. Rupletown
3. Upper Black Eddy
Bridgeton Township

Bridgeton Township was created in 1890 through a division of Nockamixon Township. The township name stems from the impressive covered bridge which once crossed the Delaware River between Upper Black Eddy and Milford, New Jersey. This bridge was one of the last remaining of the eleven original covered bridges which connected Bucks County to New Jersey.

Narrowsville

Narrowsville is located in a dramatic setting of steep cliffs and woodlands. The cliffs, which reach a height of about 500 feet above sea level at their highest elevation, are known as the Palisades or the Nockamixon Cliffs. This formation is considered one of the outstanding scenic geologic features of Pennsylvania. Narrowsville is located at the base of the cliffs at a point where they are very close to the Delaware River. Reputedly, the hotel and other buildings near the cliff do not come into direct contact with sunlight for weeks at a time during the winter months.

Because Narrowsville is so small, it is hard to classify it as a village. In addition to the large three-story hotel (now the restaurant) there is only one house located across the road on the river side. However, there are a few other old stone houses scattered up and down the road from Narrowsville which might be considered a part of the village.

Rupletown

Rupletown was home to many canal boatman and their families in the days when the Delaware Division Canal was still in operation. Rupletown, which is situated on the high plateau above the river, was also referred to as "The Hills" or the "Hill District" by residents of Upper Black Eddy and the river lowlands. The village was named after the Ruple family who left the village over 100 years ago.

The older part of Rupletown appears to be located at the intersection of Bridgeton Hill Road and Chestnut Ridge Road. A good view of the valley below is available near this point. There are many newer homes in the area and, because they are so spread out, it is difficult to determine the village boundaries. A ball park, the township municipal building, and Bridgeton Elementary School are also found in or near Rupletown.

Several of the front yards along Bridgeton Hill Road have large boulders scattered across the lawn. These boulders are part of the same diabase formation found in Ringing Rocks Park just north of Rupletown. The rocks in the park are so named because of the bell-like sound they produce when struck with a hammer.

Upper Black Eddy

Upper Black Eddy, the largest village in Bridgeton Township, was a sizable settlement 150 years ago. At that time it contained forty houses, three hotels, and a variety of stores and shops. It was a busy town even before the days of the canal when it was a popular harbor for the rafts and boats used in the early lumbering industry. The village was probably named by the rivermen after the whirlpools and counter currents in the river. It was also once a summer resort for residents of Philadelphia and New York who were seeking solace from city life.

Today, Upper Black Eddy is a very attractive village with over 100 houses and numerous stores and shops. In the summer, fruitstands sell the produce of nearby apple, peach, and plum orchards. Two historic inns are located in the village, the Upper Black Eddy Inn (1830) and the Bridgeton House (ca. 1836). The village is spread out along River Road, although the center of the village is quite compact. Many of the older Victorian homes are located near the town center. However, there are also several large, attractive stone houses near the village edge.
Bristol Township

1. Edgely
2. Newportville
Bristol Township

The Swedes and Dutch were the first settlers in Bristol Township. However, most of these people leased the land and did not stay in Bristol very long. The Quakers were the next settlers to enter Bristol and they became the dominant group in the township for over one hundred years. The township was called Buckingham and also New Bristol before its official name became Bristol in 1720.

The Bloomsdale Ferry and Ferry House, established in 1770 just north of Bristol Borough, played an important part in the maneuvering of the Continental Army late in 1776. The ferry was also used by Aaron Burr in 1804 as he fled south following the duel in which he killed Alexander Hamilton. The ferry was closed down in 1840 after seventy years of service.

Edgely

This village was originally known as Cold Spring because of its proximity to two springs. Edgely also served as a train station for the New York Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The name Edgely was given to a large estate adjoining the station. The long edge of this property bordered on the Delaware River and this may be the source of the village’s name. The first Baptist church in Pennsylvania was founded in Edgely in 1684. The Bloomsdale Farm of the D. Landreth Seed Company was located on 540 acres between Bristol Borough and Edgely. This farm was established in 1784, making it one of the oldest seed farms in the United States.

Edgely seems to primarily consist of commercial uses and small single-family homes. There are a few older houses in Edgely that were built in either the eighteenth or nineteenth century, but most appear to have been built in the 1950’s. The village is located between two busy intersections and is surrounded by intense development.

Newportville

Newportville is found at a picturesque location along a wooded section of the Neshaminy Creek. The village was called Neshaminy in 1836 when the post office was established, but after only two weeks, the name was changed to Newportville. Newport was the original name of the village and this name continued in use even after the "ville" was officially added.

Newportville is a relatively large village and contains several dozen residences and a few commercial uses. Most of the houses are small single-family homes which were probably built in the 1950's. A large inn and a tavern appear to be two of the oldest buildings in Newportville. A church, fire house, barber shop, and a farm produce stand are also found in the village.

The Newportville Inn (ca. 1729)
Buckingham Township

1. Bridge Valley
2. Buckingham
3. Buckingham Valley
4. Forest Grove
5. Holicong
6. Lahaska
7. Mechanicsville
8. Mozart
9. Pineville
10. Spring Valley
11. Wycombe
Buckingham Township

The township's name is derived from Buckinghamshire, the home of the Penns in England, which is also the source of Bucks County's name. Buckingham Township originally consisted of both Buckingham and Solebury townships. The two townships were split sometime before 1703. Most of the early settlers were Quakers who had originally settled in Falls Township but later moved to the "woods," as Buckingham was then known. There were several Indian settlements in the township when the first white people arrived. The early settlers were principally farmers and artisans who fared well on the township's fertile soil.

Judging by the number of schools founded early in the township's history, the residents considered education quite important. Among the first schools were: the Buckingham Friends School, built in 1794; Tyro Hall near Holicong, founded in 1792; and Buckingham Boarding School for Girls, founded at Holicong in 1830. The Hughesian Free School was founded in 1811 for children of poor parents. However, the school was turned into a private school in the year of its founding due to the lack of poor children in the township.

Bridge Valley

This village takes its name from the eight-arch stone bridge which once crossed the Neshaminy Creek. The bridge was built in 1795 and remnants of it can still be seen.

However, a newer bridge now carries traffic over the Neshaminy. Bridge Valley contained a considerable number of businesses in the 1860's and 1870's including a tavern, store, hotel, wheelwright and blacksmith shop, grist mill, saw mill, and post office. Today Bridge Valley is principally residential, consisting of several newer homes. The only commercial activity is a leather crafts shop located in one of the residences.
Buckingham

Buckingham had many different names before its present title was chosen. Most of the earliest names were those of the landlords of the village tavern, which was established in 1732. Buckingham was first known as Bogarts Tavern during the Revolutionary War. In the early 1800’s, the village was called Vanhorns Tavern. Later still, it was called Wilkinson’s Tavern after Colonel Elisha Wilkinson, the tavern’s “most noted and popular host.”¹ During the 1800’s the village was frequently called Snaptown, supposedly after one of its well known residents who was a “surlly and snappish individual.”² After Colonel Wilkinson left, the village became known as Centreville due to its location in the center of the township. The name Buckingham was finally chosen in 1872 when the post office was established.

Modern day Buckingham is a large village consisting of about forty houses and numerous commercial uses. Many historic structures are still found in the village. There is an assortment of residential, commercial, and institutional uses in Buckingham, but commercial uses seem to predominate. While many structures are well maintained, others appear to be somewhat neglected.

Traffic is a major problem in the village. The intersection of three major roads (routes 413, 263, and 202) fragment the village, preventing free pedestrian movement. In addition, the heavy truck traffic is noisy and distracting. Although Buckingham has many interesting houses and structures, the traffic problems have destroyed much of the village atmosphere.

Buckingham Valley

Buckingham Valley is located to the south of Buckingham Mountain. The village grew up around the railroad station which area farmers used to send their produce to market. A hay press and other facilities used by the farmers once operated here.³ This station, located on the New Hope-Ivyland line, is still seen in the valley.

The village is now predominantly residential, consisting of a mixture of new and old homes. The houses tend to be spread out along the road, making it difficult to determine where the village begins and ends. A few commercial uses exist in Buckingham Valley including a nursery/greenhouse, a restaurant, and a gun and weapon specialties shop. The village is surrounded by a pleasant combination of large shade trees and open fields and has not changed much since the early 1900’s, when the photograph below was taken.

¹Place Names in Bucks County, p. 38.
²Ibid., p. 39.
³Buckingham: A Glimpse of History, produced by the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, Doylestown, PA.
Forest Grove

This village was originally known as Forestville but the name was changed to Forest Grove when a post office was established in 1877. The name was probably chosen because of the wooded groves which still surround the village. Forest Grove once contained a general store, blacksmith shop, and lodge hall. The village is still Victorian in character. An antique shop, church (founded in 1853), autobody shop, and about two dozen houses are presently found there. The edges of the village are well defined, making Forest Grove an excellent example of a small, rural settlement. Forest Grove is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Holicong

Prior to 1800, this village was known as Grintown. One explanation of this unusual name is that a local character wandered about the village with a continual grin on his face. Another explanation is that the local character caused everyone else to laugh as they passed through the village. The next name, Greenville, may have been in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, who was commonly seen in the village during the Revolutionary War. The name was changed to Holicong in 1881 after the post office was established. This name is a corruption of the word "hollekonk" which, in turn, is believed to be a corruption of an unknown Lenape Indian word. Holicong was once the location of the noted Martha Hampton School for Girls which opened about 1824.

Unfortunately, the rural village atmosphere of Holicong has been lost to the heavy traffic on Route 202. The road widens to three lanes at this point and traffic passes through at a relatively high rate of speed. The lack of sidewalks and the high speed traffic make walking through the village somewhat hazardous. However, there are many large street trees and several interesting old houses found in Holicong.
Lahaska is the site of the Buckingham Friends Meeting, which is the oldest place of worship in the township. The meeting was founded in 1701, and the first meeting house, a log structure, was built between 1705 and 1708. The present meeting house was built in 1768. In 1874, the village consisted of fifteen houses, a store, hotel, coach factory, and a few shops. A notable scythe and axe factory was located about two miles north of the village. This was also the year a post office opened in Lahaska. The name Lahaska originates from a Lenape Indian word meaning "the place of much writing." Probably a treaty or a similarly important event once took place there.

Today, Lahaska is almost exclusively commercial in nature. Many of the old homes and buildings have been converted into the shops and stores; however, much of the tourist attraction known as Peddler's Village is comprised of new construction. Because of the tourist-like atmosphere, it is difficult to imagine what the original village actually looked like. Several large parking areas are scattered around the village to accommodate shoppers. A flea market is also located on the southern side of Route 202, opposite the shops. Despite the heavy traffic, many pedestrians walk on the road. On busy days, the large number of cars and people slows the traffic attempting to pass through the village.
Mozart

Mozart was first known as Concord, probably after the historic Massachusetts town of the same name. The village’s name had to be changed in 1894 when the post office was established because another Concord post office was already in existence in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Supposedly, the new name was chosen by local old-time fiddlers in honor of the celebrated Austrian composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. More than a century ago, a large wagon building plant was located in Mozart.

Mozart remains a small residential village in a rural setting. The edges of the village are well-defined. Several architectural styles and periods are represented in the village.

Mechanicsville

This village has gone through several name changes over the years. Originally called Fentons Corner, it was later named Newark and then Halifax. The village name was finally changed to Mechanicsville in 1830 when the post office was established. The origin of this name is unknown and is a little ironic considering the rural nature of the surrounding land.

Samuel "Seedsman" Wilson started a seed business in Mechanicsville in 1876. This eventually grew into the largest U.S. seed business run by an individual. At one time, Wilson circulated 50,000 seed catalogues a year and his market included Australia, Bermuda, Russia, France, and England. When the Wilson seed house went out of business, the majority of other business activities in the village eventually disappeared.

Mechanicsville is predominantly residential with the exception of an antique store, furniture store, church, and post office. Most of the older village homes, including several fine period houses, are located near the intersection of Durham and Mechanicsville roads. The tree lined roads are an attractive asset of the village. The land surrounding Mechanicsville is largely rural in nature although suburban development has begun to encroach on the village. The village character is also somewhat diminished by the fast moving traffic on Durham Road (Route 413).
Spring Valley

Spring Valley is a picturesque community along Mill Road and Route 202. The name of this village originates from the springs and spring-fed streams found in the area. The village's name was changed for a time to Mechanics Valley when a new post office was opened in 1870. However, local people continued to think of the village as Spring Valley and the name was eventually changed back. Watsons Creek, which flows through the village, powered two grist mills and a saw mill. A corn-drying kiln, one of the few in the county, also operated in Spring Valley. At the time, there was a steady demand for dried corn because it could be ground much earlier than "green" corn and could be packed in barrels for export.

Spring Valley still has many historic buildings and several of the old structures along Route 202 are in the process of being restored. The houses along Mill Road retain the character of the old settlement, but the properties along Route 202 have been adversely affected by the volume of traffic travelling on the road at high speeds.

Pineville

This village was first named The Pines because of four pine trees which once grew along the side of an old school house. The school, which was erected in 1768, was leased for one peppercorn a year. The school building was torn down over 130 years ago after having served the children of Buckingham, Wrightstown, and Upper Makefield townships for almost ninety years. Goods and services provided in Pineville have long met the needs of the surrounding community.

Today, Pineville continues to maintain a mix of residential and commercial uses.

Among the commercial enterprises found there are antique shops, a tavern, greenhouse, general store, auto repair shop, a lamp store, and a Scottish food store that attracts a clientele from throughout the Philadelphia area. The main road through the village is heavily travelled; however, there are three less busy roads which branch out from the center of the village. There are several attractive houses in Pineville, including some large Colonial stone houses. The edges of Pineville are defined by the surrounding farmland, while the center of the village is easy to identify by the post office, tavern, and intersection.
Wycombe

Wycombe came into existence when the Northeast Pennsylvania Railroad was built through the village between 1890 and 1891. In 1891, the year the railroad reached New Hope, a post office was established in Wycombe. The villagers suggested the name "Lingohocken" for the new post office; however, postal authorities rejected the name because it sounded too much like "Wingohocken," another Pennsylvania post office. Despite the rejection of the name, a Lingohocken Fire Company still exists in Wycombe. From 1890 to 1896, both the railroad station and the village were known as Walton, after an old family of that name. In 1896, the village became known as Wycombe, a common place name in Buckinghamshire, England.

Wycombe is one of the best preserved Victorian villages in Bucks County. Visiting Wycombe is like travelling back in time. Especially noteworthy is the uniformity and excellent condition of the many late-Victorian homes in Wycombe. The residents have restored and maintained their homes with care to preserve the historical integrity of the structures. The village is also fortunate to be located on a tree-lined street which sees only a moderate amount of traffic.

Wycombe was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Sixteen buildings and structures are considered historically significant. Among these structures are the Wycombe Station (1891), the Lacey Grist Mill (1743), the Coal and Lumber Yard/Feed Mill (1927), and the Carver/Slack Farmhouse (1790). Wycombe Hall, built in 1909, was originally used as two stores and an apartment, and later as an oyster saloon and ice cream parlor. The Wycombe Independence School House was built in 1913 so that the village children could attend one school (the main street through Wycombe forms a section of the boundary between Buckingham and Wrightstown townships.) In addition, several structures were designed by the noted Doylestown architect, A. Oscar Martin.4

Doylestown Township

1. Edison
2. Tradesville
Doylestown Township

Doylestown Township, which once included Doylestown Borough and parts of New Britain, Buckingham, and Warwick townships, was officially established in 1819. The first attempt to organize Doylestown Township took place in 1814, but the petition was turned down for unknown reasons. Several settlements once found in the township have since disappeared. Among these lost settlements are Rittersville, Southwork, and Wranglestown. Also, before the borough was established, the North Main Street section of Doylestown was known as Germany.

In 1900, the county's first improved road surface was tried experimentally on Route 202 in Doylestown Township. Fordhook Farm of W. Atlee Burpee and Company was also established around the turn of the century as a test farm for Burpee's seeds and plants. The property is presently being operated as a bed and breakfast inn managed by Burpee's grandchildren.

Edison

This village was first known as Bridge Point because of the seven arch stone bridge built over the Neshaminy Creek in 1800. However, the village may have been called Bridge Point as early as 1764 because an earlier bridge was also located at this spot. In the early 1800's, the village was a manufacturing center of considerable importance. This was largely due to Dr. Samuel Moore who arrived in Edison from Cumberland County, New Jersey in 1808. Dr. Moore was a very enterprising businessman and, while in Edison, he bought the grist and oil mills, established a woolen factory and saw mill, built shops, a school house, and several dwellings. When the post office was established in 1880, the settlement was renamed Edison in honor of the famous inventor.

Edison was fortunate when Route 611 was rerouted around the village. Otherwise, a charming Bucks County village would very likely have disappeared. Edison is located on a quiet tree-lined street. Several old stone and stucco houses are found in the village. The Old Bridge Point School, established by Dr. Moore and in use from 1818 to 1882, is beautifully restored and is now used as a residence. Another large building, possibly a former factory or mill, has been converted to an apartment house. An interesting curved stone bridge crosses the Neshaminy as one approaches the village edge. There are still a few commercial and business uses in Edison, including a used furniture store, a contractor-excavator, and a restoration corporation. A working quarry is located just north of Edison.

Tradesville

For many years a successful country store operated in Tradesville. The village was first known as Stuckerts Corner, the name of an early storekeeper. The village name was changed to Tradesville in 1854 for unknown reasons. A post office was established in 1881, but was discontinued sometime before 1914. The present village of Tradesville is located at a busy intersection. Despite the fairly heavy traffic through Tradesville, a village atmosphere remains. The village consists of a gas station on one corner and several houses on the remaining corners. Most of the houses are large older structures and one is currently being restored. Numerous large street trees add to the attractiveness of the village.
Durham Township

1. Durham

2. Durham Furnace
Durham Township

Durham Township was settled much earlier than the surrounding townships because of the iron deposits found in the Durham Hills. Although the township was not officially organized until 1775, the area had been known as the Durham Tract and retained essentially the same boundaries after the township was established. Settlers lived in the area as early as 1698 when the first forge was erected. A blast furnace was built in 1727 and was in operation until 1789. During the Revolutionary War, the furnace was used to make large quantities of shot and shell for the Continental Army. The Durham Furnace Company, which operated the furnace at the time, owned the entire township of Durham plus some adjoining tracts in Springfield Township and Williams Township in Northampton County. The property was eventually divided into 44 tracts when the company partnership was dissolved.

The original blast furnace ceased operation in 1789, and the land was not used again until 1848 when two new furnaces were built near the mouth of Durham Creek. These furnaces were then replaced by a more modern blast furnace in 1876 which was used until 1908. Robert Durham built the first Durham boat for use on the Delaware River at the mouth of Cooks Creek. The boats were used to transport the pig iron, stoves, and bar iron from Durham Furnace to Philadelphia and other markets.

Durham

This village is the site of the original Durham Furnace and the old mining settlement. The furnace was converted to a grist mill in 1812 and was once used to grind the meal for a well known cracker manufacturer. Mine Hill, which is located near the village, was the source of iron ore for the first furnace. Durham was also sometimes called Bockhouse, Longtown and Steckels.

The present village of Durham is a very attractive residential community and is principally found on a side road off of Route 212. Approximately forty houses are in the village. The houses are a mixture of old and new structures. The old mill, which stands on the site of the 1727 furnace, has been restored and is now owned by Durham Township. The Durham post office occupies part of the mill.

Durham Furnace

This settlement is the site of the anthracite burning iron furnaces established in 1848 and 1850. These furnaces were replaced by a larger and more modern furnace in 1876. This furnace was eventually closed down in 1908 and demolished in 1912. A combination of old and new housing is found here as well as a large vacant factory building. While most of the houses are well maintained, others look somewhat run down. One building appears to have once served as a general store.
East Rockhill Township

1. Hagersville  2. Rockhill Station
East Rockhill Township

Until 1890, Rockhill formed a single township. Then, after a twenty year contest in the county courts, a decision was reached in favor of dividing the township into East and West Rockhill. At one time, Rockhill Township included Sellersville, Perkasie, and Telford, making it the largest township in the county. The original township was established in 1740 and was named Rockhill due to the numerous rocks and hills found throughout the area.

Although the first landowners in Rockhill were English, the first people to actually settle in the area were German Mennonites. Rockhill was also known as "Servants" during the very early days of the county’s history because the land had originally been reserved by William Penn for indentured servants.

Hagersville

Hagersville is situated on the border of East Rockhill and Bedminster townships. The village was named in honor of a prominent local politician, Colonel George Hager. The Hager family was actively involved in the public affairs of both central and upper Bucks County. Samuel Hager, who was one of the most active family members, founded Perkasie Borough.

Hagersville appears to have been a very busy town in the 1870’s, with a store, hotel, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, and two coach factories. Mail arrived every third week on a stage line from Line Lexington.

Today, Hagersville is quiet and quaint, with many trees and flowers adding to its charm. Several of the homes are quite old and are well preserved and maintained. Most of the older homes are found near the center of Hagersville, while newer homes generally are spread out on either side of the village center. However, there are also two relatively large new apartment buildings in the village center. These buildings tend to stand out because they contrast with the Victorian architectural style of the older village houses.

Rockhill Station

Rockhill Station takes its name from the mountainous ridge which extends across the northwestern parts of East and West Rockhill townships. The area of the township where Rockhill Station is located was largely uninhabited 150 years ago and was marked as “woodlands and rocks” on the atlases and maps of that time.

Rockhill Station is the only village in the township not located at a road intersection, and it is the only one that is not partially located in another municipality. Rockhill Station is also the location of the only confirmed discovery of gold in Bucks County.

All of the dozen or so buildings in Rockhill Station are wood-frame and masonry residences. Although none of the buildings is distinguished architecturally, the buildings have a consistency of scale that gives the village a uniform character. Distinct boundaries are formed by the woods, quarry, and railroad tracks.
Falls Township

1. Fallsington
Falls Township

Peter Lindestrom, a Swedish engineer, first mapped and surveyed the Falls area between 1654 and 1656. The township was laid out as a legal subdivision of the county in 1692. Strangely, the court appointed commission who wrote the report left a blank for the township name. Even at that time, the area was well known as Falls due to its proximity to the Falls of the Delaware. However, the commission may have felt that William Penn would want to name the township himself.

Swedes were the first potential settlers to petition for land in the township, but the petition was not granted because the land had not yet been bought from the Indians. Eventually, English Quakers became the first permanent settlers of the township. A timber swamp once occupied about 100 acres in the north central part of the township. William Penn regarded the swamp as his own and became uncharacteristically angry upon discovering that people had nearly destroyed it by cutting the timber.

In the nineteenth century, fisheries, tobacco raising, and dairy farming were the foundation of the township economy. Later, truck farming and sand and gravel mining grew in importance. The 6500 acre King Farms Company, formerly located in the northeastern part of the township, was once the largest vegetable farm east of the Mississippi River. In the early 1950's, dramatic changes in the township’s population and economy took place following U.S. Steel's construction of the Fairless Works on 3,939 acres of farmland.

Fallsington

This village takes its name from the nearby Falls of the Delaware. Fallsington was founded and settled almost exclusively by Quakers, and several Friends' meeting houses were built here. The first meeting house was built in 1692, the second in 1728, and the third meeting house, which is still in use, was built in 1841. A post office was established in Fallsington in 1849. Fallsington is a beautifully preserved village and is listed on the National Register of Historic Districts.

Although surrounded on all sides by intense development, the people of Fallsington have somehow maintained the village character and historic atmosphere. The village is fairly large, containing many restored stone and frame houses. Huge trees are seen throughout Fallsington. Among the historic structures in the village are the Fallsington Friends' Meeting House (1841), the Stagecoach Tavern, the Moon-Williamson House (ca. 1685), and the Burgess-Miller House (1685). Fallsington welcomes visitors and maintains an information center. Special events and guided tours are held throughout the year.
Haycock Township

1. Applebachsville
2. Strawntown
3. Thatcher
Haycock Township

Haycock Township was established in 1762. The township was created from the odds and ends of land left over after all the adjacent townships had already been laid out. The first settlers in the area were principally Irish and German and probably arrived sometime prior to 1750. Indians were numerous in Haycock Township when the early pioneers arrived. Farming was difficult due to the rough and rocky soil. The most important early industries were lumbering and pottery. The township takes its name from Haycock Mountain which resembles a series of hay cocks (hay raked into piles prior to being loaded on wagons).

Applebachsville

From 1735 to 1837 the land where the village of Applebachsville is presently located was known as the Stoke’s Tract or Stokes Meadow. After owning the land for over 100 years, the Stokes Family sold the 377 acre tract to George Dutch, "an eccentric New York sea captain." The captain built a large mansion on the tract in the hopes that a life of clean country living would reform his son’s drunken habits. Apparently, the captain’s plan was unsuccessful because his son sold the land in 1847 to Paul and Henry Applebach only five years after receiving the land from his father.

The Applebachs, descendants of the Afflerbach family of West Phalia, Germany, soon laid out building lots on either side of Old Bethlehem Road. The tract grew into a town of thirty houses and, with stagecoaches passing through the town everyday, Applebachsville became known as the "Metropolis of Haycock."

A church known as the "German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed and Mennonite Church" was built in 1855. The church articles stated that certain visiting Christian ministers could preach or hold funeral services at the church "except Methodist preachers, to whom no permission under any circumstances shall be granted."

Today, Applebachsville is not much bigger than it was in the 1850’s. A fire company, church, store, butcher, and approximately thirty houses are found there. The village is shady, pleasant, and quiet. The houses are attractive and well maintained and there are many large, old trees throughout the town. While the road through the village is moderately well travelled, the traffic does little to detract from the pleasant atmosphere of the village.

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Strawntown

Strawntown is an old village which existed even before the days of the stage coach routes. The village is named after the Straw family, who were at one time numerous in Haycock Township. In an 1832 edition of Gordon's Gazetteer of Pennsylvania, the village is described as having fourteen houses, a store, and a tavern. The tavern was in existence prior to the days of stage coaches, although the exact year it was built is unknown. Once the stage coach routes from Philadelphia to Bethlehem were established, the tavern in Strawntown became a regular stopping point. Although the original tavern was quite small, several additions were built throughout the years.

The village of Strawntown is rather difficult to identify as one travels along Old Bethlehem Road; even the tavern is easy to overlook because there is no sign in front (although there are some neon signs in the windows). The houses on either side of the tavern are spread out along the road, making it hard to determine where the village begins and ends. The village is situated along an attractive stretch of Old Bethlehem Road and benefits from the presence of many large shade trees.

Samuel B. Thatcher

Thatcher

Although Thatcher is an old settlement, the name of the village did not appear on maps until 1891 when it was shown in Noll's Atlas of Bucks County. The village was named after a prominent resident, Samuel B. Thatcher, who held many important positions in the county during the latter part of the 19th century. Among other positions, he served as director of the Quakertown National Bank. A post office was established in Thatcher in 1889, but has long since been discontinued.

Thatcher is a tiny hamlet today. The village is situated in a pleasant and quiet location surrounded by open fields and woods. One of Bucks County's twelve remaining covered bridges crosses Tohickon Creek just down the road from the village. Known as Sheard's Mill Bridge, it is 130 feet long and was built in 1873.

The principal landmark in Thatcher is a large wooden building which was formerly the Thatcher General Store. There is still a rusting "Thatcher" soft drink sign and a wooden "General Store" sign nailed to the front and side of the building. If it were not for these signs, it would be quite difficult to know when you had arrived in Thatcher. The building has a porch across the entire front, making it easy to imagine how the country store might have looked when it was in operation. However, the building is in disrepair and the porch is filled with old wooden crates, detracting from what might otherwise be a handsome, historic building.
Hilltown Township

1. Blooming Glen  3. Hilltown  5. Louxs Corner
Hilltown Township was organized around the year 1722 and was the first township established northwest of Buckingham Township. Many of the early settlers were Welsh and the original name suggested for the township was "Aberystwith," after a town in Cardiganshire, South Wales. Ironically, there are no Welsh place names in the township (or the county) to commemorate the Welsh settlers who helped found both Hilltown and New Britain townships. Other early names suggested for the township included "Society" and "Muscamickan." Although it seems logical to assume that the township was named for the numerous hills in the area, the township's name was Hilton for at least the first thirty years of its existence. The origin of this name is unknown; however, the present name of Hilltown is almost certainly a misspelling or adaptation of Hilton.

Fairhill

The village of Fairhill was originally known as Schnabletown. Abraham Schnable, a German blacksmith, was one of Fairhill's first settlers. The name of the village was eventually anglicized to Snoveltown. The present name of Fairhill can be attributed to the breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside. Allegedly, under the right conditions, it is possible to see seven counties from the eastern end of the village: Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Philadelphia, Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton. In addition, the hills of Northern New Jersey are sometimes visible from this point.

When a post office was established in 1890, the village name was changed to Garisville because the name Fairhill was already in use at another post office in Philadelphia. However, the post office was discontinued after only five years, and the name reverted back to Fairhill. A boot factory, employing 25 people, operated in the town between 1875 and 1890. A Fairhill cabinet and casket maker also had a successful business during that time.

The present village of Fairhill is surrounded by open fields, woodlands, and a beautiful view. Several large Colonial style stone houses, maintained in excellent condition, can be seen in and around the village. Traffic through the village is light, making Fairhill both a quiet and attractive place to live.
Hilltown

Hilltown is located along a former stage route which ran between Line Lexington and Applebachsville. The post office, which is still in use, was established in 1817 making it one of the oldest post offices in the county. Around the mid to late 1800's the village was known as Mt. Pleasant and, during this period, a half-mile horseracing track was located nearby. The track was laid out by Noah Webster, a local horse fancier, and the track's harness races attracted a considerable number of spectators until the track was closed in 1916.

According to Hershey's Directory of 1811, Hilltown consisted of a store, hotel, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, and seven or eight houses. The village today is not much larger than it was in 1871. However, the Limekiln and Hilltown pikes, which bisect the village, are certainly much wider and more heavily travelled than they were one hundred years ago. Some buildings, such as the post office and the Hilltown Inn, are now located very close to the shoulder of the road. Despite the proximity to the road, the village of Hilltown is quite attractive and, for the most part, is surrounded by open fields. Several well preserved, three story stone and stucco houses are found in the village. In addition to residential uses, Hilltown also contains some commercial uses such as the inn, an auto body shop, and a gas station.

Keystone Point

This hamlet received its name in 1921, after a conference was held by the residents to choose a suitable name. The consensus was "Keystone Point," which was chosen to link the village to the state of Pennsylvania. Keystone Point is small, consisting of several houses, some of which are big, handsome brick homes. Keystone Point also contains a few commercial uses such as a gas station and a large (and popular) diner. The village is principally located along the very busy Bethlehem Road and many people using this road probably do not realize they are passing through Keystone Point.
**Blooming Glen**

For a short period of its history, Blooming Glen was known as Perkasie. During the 1870's, the village went by the name of Moyers Store and contained one of only two post offices in the township (the other being in the village of Hilltown). The name change to Blooming Glen probably occurred in the 1880's.

Today, Blooming Glen is a large village with numerous homes and businesses. Many handsome residences and large shade trees are located along Blooming Glen's main street. One of the few drawbacks to this attractive settlement is the heavy traffic which tends to speed through the village on Route 113 (Souderton Road). Blooming Glen is surrounded by a picturesque setting of rolling hills and farmland.

**Leidytown**

This village takes its name from the Leidy family who first arrived in Philadelphia in 1727. Zachariah Leidy was the landlord of a three story inn in Leidytown which served as a stopover for coaches travelling between Philadelphia and Bethlehem. A cabinetmaker's factory, which employed several expert woodworkers, was in operation in Leidytown from 1880 to about 1910. A tannery was located across the road from the cabinetmaker's factory and was in use for about fifty years after the Civil War. In addition to these two factories, the village contained several stores and shops.

Presently, Leidytown is a small, pleasant village consisting of approximately twenty homes. The houses are spread out and it is hard to locate a clear village center. Many of the homes in the village are relatively new, but some Colonial stone houses from the original settlement remain. One drawback to the village is its location on a fast and busy road.

**Louxs Corner**

Prior to the early 1950's, Louxs Corner was known as Albrights Corner. The village was named after Daniel Albright, a prominent resident who was born in Germany and arrived in America in 1791. A store was opened in Albrights Corner in 1788 and remained in operation until the late 1800's or early 1900's. The store was the center of business in the village and, when the store closed, much of the village activity departed with it.

Today, Louxs Corner is a very small village surrounded by open fields and woodlands. There are three older homes at the corner, one of which is located on a large working farm. A combined flower shop and residence, which appears to be in a converted barn, is also found in the village.
Lower Makefield Township

1. Woodside
Lower Makefield Township

Makefield was established as a township in 1692. At that time, the township included the area now covered by both Upper and Lower Makefield. This large territory was divided into two townships in 1753. The name may have been derived from Macclesfield or Maxfield, which were both eighteenth-century names for the same town in Cheshire, England. Several Quakers emigrated from Cheshire to Pennsylvania and spelled the name of their new home the way they pronounced it, "Makefield." The early Quaker settlers attended the Falls Monthly meeting house. In 1750, the Makefield Friends were granted their request to create a separate meeting and, two years later, the Makefield meeting house was built near Dolington.

Lower Makefield remained almost exclusively agricultural until well into the twentieth century. Despite the township's dramatic population growth from 1,841 people in 1940 to 17,000 people in 1980, a substantial amount of land still remains as farmland or open space.

Woodside

This village has gone through several name changes, as have many Bucks County villages. At the time Place Names In Bucks County was written, the settlement was known as Woodside and, before that, Biles Corner, Summerville, and Edgewood. However, the name Edgewood is still seen on a few signs in the area and the village is on Edgewood Road.

Today, Woodside is almost completely surrounded by new development. The intersection of Stony Hill and Yardley roads is so busy that a traffic signal was installed. Many of the older village buildings have fallen into disrepair and, in some cases, are boarded up and vacant. Evidence of the village's former commercial life can be seen in an old gas station with rusting gas pumps and the closed general store. Woodside, with its old stone houses and abandoned buildings, looks strangely out of place in the midst of new apartments, condominiums, and shopping centers.
Lower Southampton Township

1. Trevose
Lower Southampton Township

Southampton was originally laid out in 1692 and, at that time, its territory included Upper and Lower Southampton and Warminster Townships. Warminster was divided off in 1703. Upper and Lower Southampton formed a single township until 1928. The township was then divided because of a large increase in population. The name of the township was taken from Southampton, Hampshire, England, a port town on the English Channel. The area was settled very early, first by the English and, later, the Dutch who came from New York and settled in the southeastern section of the township. Southampton was once known for its diverse mineral deposits. A rich deposit of black lead (graphite) was discovered about 1750 and a mine was worked in the township until 1840.

Trevose

Trevose was first called Ridges after William Ridge who, prior to the Revolutionary War, owned much of the land on which the village was built. Although the origin of its second name is uncertain, the village was known as Brownsville until 1873. The main road through the village is still called Brownsville Road and serves as the dividing line between Bensalem and Lower Southampton townships. In 1873, the New York Branch of the Reading Railroad was completed through the village. The railroad company chose to name the station Trevose after a Bensalem estate of that name.

Trevose is a large village, principally located on Brownsville Road and Old Street Road. Fortunately, much of Trevose was by-passed when the "new" Street Road (Route 132) was built. Although Trevose varies in condition and type of development, some sections of the village are removed from the numerous and intense commercial uses which are typical of the area. Trevose is particularly nice along Old Street Road and south of the train station. In these areas, the old stone and stucco houses have been well preserved and numerous trees enhance the village. Also, the newer residential development seems to blend in well with the older dwellings. Trevose's commercial district is located along Brownsville Road. This part of the village is more densely developed than the residential sections of Trevose.
Middletown Township

1. Maple Point
2. Bridgetown
Middletown Township

The western boundary of Middletown is formed by the Neshaminy Creek, contributing to the township's very irregular shape. Middletown was formed as a township in 1692. Prior to 1703, the township was known as Middle Lots and was also called Middle Township until 1714. These names were chosen because of Middletown's central location in the settled portion of Bucks County. English Quakers lived in Middletown even before the arrival of William Penn and the township was well settled by 1750. A Friends' meeting was established in 1682 and the first meeting house was built by 1690.

Bridgetown

This small hamlet is located at the point where Core Creek empties into the Neshaminy Creek. One of the several mills which once operated along the creek was located in Bridgetown. The village was apparently named because of the two bridges crossing the creeks. Today, two large stone houses and the large building which was formerly occupied by the mill are found in Bridgetown. A few other very attractive houses are found to the west of Neshaminy Creek. The village setting is quaint but its character is somewhat diminished by the heavy traffic on Newtown Pike. The area immediately surrounding Bridgetown consists of woods and open fields; however, major development is taking place nearby.

Maple Point

Maple Point is a small settlement which takes its name from the former Maple Point School District. This school district no longer exists and the original schoolhouse was converted to residential use sometime before 1955. Maple Point presently consists of a few houses, including one particularly large and beautiful Colonial house which is surrounded by enormous trees. A farm which boards horses is found in the midst of the village. Although an orchard and farm are in operation near Maple Point, a considerable amount of residential development is taking place around the village.
Milford Township

Many of the first Pennsylvania Germans in the region entered Bucks County through Milford Township. Although the earliest landowners in the township were English, most of them were absentee owners and, by 1750, almost all of Milford Township's residents were German immigrants. Milford was organized as a township in 1734, the name being chosen because of the numerous mills and fords along the township's streams. Originally known as Lower Milford, the township name was shortened to Milford when Upper Milford Township became part of Northampton County in 1752.

Although the township was principally agricultural, cigarmaking, and whip-stock making (coach and buggy whips) were important early industries. In fact, Milford was once the largest manufacturer of whip-stock in the United States. In the 1870's the annual sales of one distributor in Trumbauersville reached 14,000 dozen. Most of the whips were made by workers at their homes, rather than in factories, and the whip-stock produced exhibited a high level of craftsmanship.

Brick Tavern

This village takes its name from the Brick Tavern, an old inn which is still in operation. The tavern was built in 1818 out of bricks fired on the site. The bricks were formed from local red clay, common in that area of the county. This clay was also used to make redware pottery. The tavern became a popular stopping point for travelers on the road between Philadelphia and Allentown. When the stage was replaced by a trolley at the turn of the century, the Brick Tavern provided a place for trolley passengers to leave their horses. Because the tavern had a large weighing scale and holding pen, the area was also a center for cattle sales. In addition, the tavern contained the village post office and general store. Other businesses in the community included a farm implement shop, a shoemaker, a butcher shop, and a blacksmith shop. When the trolley line closed, the village was no longer the center of activity it once had been.

Today, the village consists of a few residences and the tavern. There is little evidence of the many enterprises which once conducted business in the area. The village of Brick Tavern is principally surrounded by open farmland and rolling hills.
Finland

The name Finland is relatively recent and may have first been used when a post office was established in 1886. Early in the twentieth century, this area was known as "The Poconos of Philadelphia" and "The Fineland." Thus, the village name probably started out as Fineland and this was later contracted to Finland. During this time, Finland served as a summer resort for Philadelphia and Wilmington residents, many of whom built cottages along the banks of Unami Creek. Several church camps were also established in the area and were frequented by residents of less distant communities such as Lansdale, Quakertown, and Allentown.

Similar to many Milford Township villages, cigarmaking was an important industry in Finland. At the turn of the century, Finland boasted the Schuler Cornet Band, an all-male band with the exception of the conductor who was a female member of the local Pfaff family. Apparently, this family was quite large, as it made up most of the band members as well as supplying many workers to the village cigar factory.¹

Finland is located in a beautiful wooded and rocky setting. The Unami Creek and winding narrow roads enhance this picturesque place. The Finland Suomi Inn, an interesting stone and frame structure, is found at the village center. The Finland Mennonite Church and a few attractive stone and frame houses are also located in the village.

Geryville

Geryville was originally known as Aurora and this name was in use on maps as late as 1850. The village name became Gery when a post office was established in 1865. This name was later changed to Geryville when Jesse Gery was appointed as post master in 1871.

The village tavern obtained a license in 1796 and, three years later, became the headquarters for the Fries Rebellion. The Geryville Publick House is still in operation and the building has been maintained in excellent condition.

Geryville was once the home of many commercial enterprises. In 1850, a tannery and pottery carried on a thriving business in Geryville. According to Hershey's Gazetteer of Bucks County, the village consisted of a hotel, store, several shops, and a dozen houses in 1871. As mentioned under the township history, Milford was once a major producer of whip-stock. Conrad Miller, a resident of Geryville, was among the finest craftsmen of this local product. A three story cigar factory was built in 1897. The factory was in operation until shortly before World War II when one of the business partners left and invested his money in a cigar factory in Spinnerstown. The building remained standing until it was demolished in 1976.²

Today, Geryville is a small, quiet village consisting of about a dozen stone and frame houses and the tavern. A moderate amount of traffic passes through the village and some new residential development is found in the vicinity of Geryville. Overall, the area has retained a pleasant rural atmosphere.

¹Roger Baldwin, Ph.D., Wandering through Milford Township, 1984, pp. 54-57.
Milford Square

Prior to 1850, this village was known as Heistville in honor of the Heist family of Upper Bucks. The early settlers of Milford Square were principally German Mennonites. An important contribution of this settlement to the surrounding community was the German language newspapers and periodicals published there between 1850 and 1881. The Patriot and Reformer, a newspaper established by John G. Stauffer in 1867, attained the widest circulation of the German newspapers. Stauffer was both editor and owner of the publication, and his much discussed editorials contributed to the success and influence of the newspaper. In 1881, Stauffer moved his publication office from Milford Square to Quakertown and, soon afterwards, the paper became the Quakertown Free Press.

By the late 1800’s, Milford Square was an industrious community containing cigar and coach factories, stores, shops, a hotel, and a population of about 150 people. Whip-stock making was an important home industry in Milford Square. There were also numerous mills along the Unami Creek and Licking Creek.

Milford Square has retained an old-fashioned village character and it is easy to imagine how this community might have looked in the nineteenth century. The old cigar factory is now occupied by Center Line Manufacturing (makers of 3-D name plates for car dealers) and the Mill Store which still sells all types of farm and garden supplies to the surrounding area. Other commercial enterprises in Milford Square include a delicatessen restaurant and a variety of small shops. The residences are principally older frame houses. Modern intrusions into Milford Square have been kept to a minimum since most of the new development has taken place outside of the village center. Numerous trees and a rural surrounding also add to the charm of Milford Square.

Mumbauersville

This small village was founded by the Mumbauer family who were among the early settlers of Milford Township. Many members of the Mumbauer family lived and worked in this area. Mumbauersville was once home to a successful cigar making industry. Today, the village is comprised of a saw mill, farm, and a few residences located on a scenic winding road, surrounded by woods and fields.
Spinnerstown

The name of this village comes from the Spinner family, who owned both the village tavern and store in 1850. Other enterprises found in Spinnerstown at that time included a cigar manufacturer, a tannery, a plow manufacturer, and a saw mill. The Spinnerstown Creamery, which produced butter and cheese for the local dairymen, was established in the 1880's. Although the original building was burned down, the creamery was rebuilt and has since been converted to apartments.

Among the village's historic landmarks are the Spinner House and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located about one-half mile west of Spinnerstown). The Spinner House, built by Edwin Spinner in the 1800's, is unusual because it is possibly the only remaining house in Pennsylvania with both Baroque and Pennsylvania Dutch Fraktur Art on its walls and ceilings.3 (The border of this page is based on a motif found in the master bedroom of the Spinner House.) St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church is the oldest Lutheran Church in Bucks County. One of the church's first pastors is believed to have been the Rev. Dr. Henry M. Muhlenberg, the founder of the Lutheran Church in the United States. The records of this church go back as far as 1734, although the year the first church building was constructed is unknown.

A picturesque village, Spinnerstown seems to have changed little since the 1800's. The store (which still sells penny candy) and the Spinnerstown Hotel remain in operation at the center of the community. The residences are older frame houses and have been well maintained through the years. The farms, open fields, and woods surrounding Spinnerstown help to define the village boundary while providing a scenic view for residents and visitors of Spinnerstown.

3Ibid, pp. 88-91.
Steinsburg was once a thriving community with numerous small businesses. An 1860's map of the area shows two tanneries, a saddler and harness maker, a boot and shoe maker, and a butcher. The cattle used by these businesses were driven through the streets of Steinsburg and most of the village residents built fences to protect their front yards from the cattle.

A coach maker, carpenter, black smith, miller, general store, and creamery were also in operation during the mid-1800's. The Steinsburg Hotel opened in the 1700's when it was known as the White Swan or the Swain Tavern. This handsome stone building is now used as a private residence. One unusual enterprise found in Steinsburg was Erdman's Bottling Works which made soft drinks from 1929 until the early 1960's.4

Today, Steinsburg is a quiet, residential community with little evidence of the many businesses which once operated in the area. The majority of the houses are older buildings, constructed of brick or stone. The village edges are well defined and most of the surrounding countryside consists of farms and woodlands.

New Britain Township

1. Fountainville
2. Line Lexington
3. Naces Corner
4. New Galena
5. Newville
New Britain Township

When New Britain Township was organized early in the eighteenth century, it contained considerably more land than it does today. The township then included New Britain Borough, Chalfont Borough, and part of Doylestown Township. New Britain Township was settled much more slowly than the adjacent townships, and some Indians continued to live in New Britain Township after most had left. A major reason for the slow infiltration by white men was that the township contained many large landholdings whose owners never settled in the area. A group which called themselves the "Free Society of Traders," obtained a grant of 20,000 acres in New Britain late in the 1600's. Apparently, the group intended to establish a feudal manor, but the plans were never carried out and the land remained vacant for at least thirty years. Sometime after 1719, the large landholdings began to be divided and sold and the first settlers (Welsh Baptists from Philadelphia County) moved into the area. Squire and Mary Boone, the parents of Daniel Boone, were two of the township's early settlers.

Fountainville

Fountainville is located in three townships: Doylestown, New Britain, and Plumstead. The village takes its name from the Fountain Inn, whose sign pictured a fountain. The inn was probably named because of the artesian wells that once flowed in the area, some of which rose above the ground like fountains. The hotel, a large two-story stone building on the east side of the intersection, closed in 1857 and became a private residence. The post office was established in 1875 and is still in operation. Fountainville now consists of a few residential and commercial uses at the intersection of Swamp and Ferry Roads. Two of the homes are large stone structures and the post office and a delicatessen are located in another large building. Swamp Road (Route 313) is quite busy and divides the village in half.
Line Lexington

In 1800, this village was known as Middletown because of its location near the midpoint of the Philadelphia-Bethlehem coach line. Line Lexington was then located in three townships: Hilltown and New Britain townships in Bucks County and Hatfield Township in Montgomery County. Early in the 1800's, the village name was changed to Lexington for the town in Massachusetts where the first battle of the Revolutionary War took place. However, when the post office was established in 1827, the village had to be renamed Line Lexington because there was already another Lexington in Pennsylvania. The Lexington Mennonite Church, located on a hill overlooking the village, started out as a log church in 1752. A stone church was built in 1808 and subsequently replaced by a third structure in 1868.

Line Lexington is a large village, now located on Township Line Road, east of Route 309. Originally, the village was located in both Bucks and Montgomery counties; however, the amount of traffic and development along Route 309 has completely cut-off the Bucks County side of the village from the Montgomery County side. Surprisingly, the section of Line Lexington in Bucks County has remained intact and is far enough from the highway to retain the village character. The village contains several side roads and many large older homes. Although the village is not in picture-perfect condition, it has a comfortable, lived in atmosphere that some meticulously restored villages lack.

Naces Corner

Naces Corner is a small crossroads village consisting of about five houses, a small farm market, and the Hilltown Baptist Church. This church broke away from the Lower Hilltown Baptist Church in 1781, supposedly due to differences in the congregation's views concerning the Revolutionary War. The church was rebuilt a number of times over the years. The present Hilltown Baptist Church is a very large building which is the dominant feature of this hamlet.
New Galena

This village is located just north of the famous galena or "lead" mines which once operated in New Britain Township. The ore was discovered around 1860 and the mines turned into a large, successful operation during the 1860's and 1870's. Mining shacks sprang up and the site became such a curiosity that guards had to be posted around the property to fend off Sunday sightseers.

Before the galena was discovered, the village was known as Wetherills after Samuel Wetherills, the owner of the village grist mill for many years. Following 1860 and the discovery of the ore, the village became known as "the Lead Mines" until the name New Galena came into use. When a post office was established in 1898, the name was changed to Levin because another Pennsylvania post office already used the name Galena.

Today, there is no indication that a booming mine town once operated nearby. New Galena is a small, quiet residential settlement located directly north of Peace Valley Park and Lake Galena. The village is surrounded by woods and open space in a picturesque setting.

Newville

Newville is located at a point where five roads converge. The configuration of the intersection divides the village into segments. Newville is in a rural setting and is residential in nature. Structures in Newville consist of several large houses and barns, some of which are showing signs of deterioration. The New Britain Township municipal building, located to the south of the village, occupies a brick structure once used as a schoolhouse.
Nockamixon Township

1. Bucksville
2. Ferndale
3. Kintnersville
4. Revere
Nockamixon Township

Nockamixon became a township in 1742. At that time, the territory also included Bridgeton Township. When Bridgeton was split off in 1890, Nockamixon lost one-third of its land. Besides Tenicum, Nockamixon is the only township in Bucks County to have an Indian name. The name is probably a corruption of an Indian word meaning "at the place of three huts" or "at the place of soft soil." Before Europeans arrived, Nockamixon was a popular Indian territory. The last of the township's Shawnee Indians migrated to the Susquehanna River in 1730. Nockamixon was subsequently settled by Europeans about 1735.

The township was once known for the red tulipware (a type of pottery) produced there. The manufacturing of charcoal was also an important industry in Nockamixon.

Bucksville

Bucksville is a small village which was founded by the Buck family--one of the first families to settle in Nockamixon. The village consists of about twenty houses along Harrow Road (Route 412). Bucksville does not have a distinct center or focal point. Although some of the houses are in rather poor condition, a few nice stone farmhouses are located to the north of the village. One of the houses, dated 1795, serves as a bed and breakfast inn. A small shopping center is found to the south of the village and Palisades High School is located to the northeast.

Ferndale

Until 1880, Ferndale was known as Rum Corner because of the distillery which operated there. The name was changed to Ferndale when the post office was established. In 1880, Ferndale had numerous enterprises including wheelwright and blacksmith shops, several mining shoe factories, and a creamery. The Nockamixon Union Church, once located west of Ferndale, was organized in 1752. The first building to house the church was a log structure built in 1760. This original church, along with its graveyard, has completely disappeared. Presently, St. Luke's Evangelical Church and a large graveyard are located on a hill overlooking the village.

Ferndale still has several commercial uses, including a jeep dealership and a junk yard in the center of the village. There are some attractive older homes in Ferndale, but a few are in need of repairs. A handsome stone inn is located on the edge of the village. Many newer single-family homes have been built in and around the village.
Kintnersville

This village was named for the Kintners, a prominent German family who first arrived in Philadelphia about 1763. The German name was actually Gunther, but was changed to Kintner after the family's arrival in America. Members of the Kintner family served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and also held several county government offices. In 1860, the village contained twenty houses, a hotel, store, lumber mill, and a large flour mill.

Kintnersville is located at a busy intersection, and a steady stream of traffic passes through the village. Kintnersville contains several commercial enterprises including a combination bar/hot dog stand, antique store, used tire store, and a motorcycle shop. A gift shop is located in the old grist mill, which is dated 1749. The western side of the village is against a steep hill and several older, attractive houses are built on the hill. The buildings are located close to the edge of the road and the shoulder is quite narrow, making it difficult for pedestrians to avoid walking on the road.

Revere

Before the post office was established in 1894, this village was known alternately as the Sorrel Horse, Kintners Tavern, and Rufes Corner. Several names were suggested at the time the application for the post office was made. However, all of the suggested names were rejected until Revere was proposed in honor of the Revolutionary War hero.

Revere is a small but busy village located along a rural stretch of Easton Road (Route 611). The center of Revere is the general store which provides a convenient shopping place for many area residents. A florist, delicatessen, and post office are also located here. Revere contains only a few houses, most of which appear to have been built in the 1940's. Open farm fields surround the village.
Northampton Township

1. Churchville
2. Jacksonville
3. White House
Northampton Township

Northampton, which became a township around 1722, was named for the parliamentary borough of Northamptonshire, England. The first Europeans to settle in the township were English immigrants who came to America with William Penn or arrived shortly afterwards. The Dutch settlers, most of whom came after 1720, and the English settlers, eventually became the two dominant groups in Northampton. By 1784, the township had 813 inhabitants. Northampton township was known for its excellent agricultural land and was also once noted for its livestock production.

Churchville

This village was originally known as Smoketown. Supposedly, the early Dutch settlers were habitual smokers of long-stemmed pipes, and the name Smoketown was bestowed on the village by its non-smoking neighbors. The settlement was renamed Churchville following the building of the North and Southampton Reformed Church in 1816.

Churchville is a large village, located on both Second Street Pike and Bristol Road. While some commercial establishments are present, Churchville is primarily residential in nature. Many beautifully maintained Victorian houses, surrounded by large shade trees, are seen throughout the village. A small train station is also located in Churchville. Trains are currently not running through the village (the line was never electrified) and the station building is now being leased as a residence.
Jacksonville

In historical references to Jacksonville, there is a good deal of confusion about the name and location of the village. Some references describe Jacksonville’s location at a place where there is no apparent evidence of a settlement. Among the past names attributed to the village are Tinkertown, Coxville, Cuckolds-town, Cuckold’s Town and Cuckold’s Manor. The present name of Jacksonville came into use about 1850 and was chosen in honor of Andrew Jackson.

The present village of Jacksonville is located at the intersection of Almshouse and Jacksonville Roads. A stone schoolhouse, now converted to a residence, and a few older homes are still standing in the village. A large horse farm with a stately stone house and huge shade trees is situated on the northeastern side of Almshouse Road. Continuing development in the area can be expected to add to the already heavy traffic through the village.

White House

White House was sometimes called Groveland because of a nearby school house and district of that name. Following an 1857 robbery of a large quantity of pork, the village was also occasionally referred to as Hogtown. Today, White House is a residential village consisting of about a dozen houses located on a busy road. There are at least two white houses in the village, so the present name is still appropriate. White House is located very close to Tyler State Park, so the surrounding land is largely undeveloped.
Plumstead Township

Plumstead Township

Plumstead was a heavily timbered territory complete with Indians and wild animals when the first settlers arrived. Black bears and wolves were common at the time. In fact, the last timber wolf captured in Bucks County was trapped in Plumstead Township in 1800. According to George MacReynolds, Plumstead "is a part of the country replete with historic interest and Indian lore. Its traditions and legends center around a life not unlike that of Western Border life, but a long time before there was a West, for then the West was East."¹

Plumstead was organized as a township in 1725. The name may have originated from Francis Plumstead, a London iron trader who owned land in the area, but who never came to America. Another possibility is that the township was named after one of the four Plumstead parishes in England. The English Quakers were the first settlers to move into the township, followed by the Scotch and Irish and, finally, by the German Mennonites.

Curley Hill

The first schoolhouse in Plumstead Township was located in Curley Hill. Joseph Doan is believed to have been an early teacher at the school. He later became one of the notorious Doan Outlaws during Revolutionary War times. The origin of the name Curley Hill is unknown, although there is one theory that the nearby town of Danboro was once known as Clover Hill and this name was somehow altered to Curley Hill.

Today, Curley Hill is a quiet, picturesque hamlet situated on the northern branch of the Neshaminy Creek. Several attractive stone and frame houses are found in the village. Tall shade trees, the stream, and a small bridge all add to the charm of Curley Hill.

¹Place Names in Bucks County, p. 310.
Danboro

Until the Revolutionary War, this village was known as Clover Hill because an abundant amount of red clover grew on the surrounding farmlands. Daniel Thomas later re-named the settlement "Danville," presumably after himself. Thomas was an early settler in the area and held several county offices between 1794 and 1811.

The Danville Inn was once a stagecoach stopover. Samuel Nicholas was both the owner of the stage line and the landlord of the inn. The inn was later known as the Sign of the Golden Fleece, and in 1837 became known as the Golden Lamb Hotel. In 1834, the village's name was changed from Danville to Danborough, and this name was later abbreviated to Danboro.

Today, Danboro is a pleasant community with mixture of residential and commercial uses. Among the commercial enterprises in the village are a tavern, cycle shop, rug cleaning business, and body shop. A fruit farm, which is situated at the southern edge of Danboro, sells a variety of produce. A small white church near the village center also serves as the Danboro community building. A wide variety of architectural styles, ranging from Colonial to contemporary, are seen throughout Danboro.

Dyerstown

This quaint village was named after John Dyer, an English Quaker who arrived in Philadelphia with his wife and children in 1714. Dyer, a millwright, moved to the village site along Pine Run in 1718 and built his first mill around 1722. Dyer's Mill may have furnished some of the flour for General Washington's troops when they were camped at Doylestown in June of 1778.

John Dyer played an active part in having the Easton Road (now the Old Easton Road) extended from Horsham in Montgomery County to Dyerstown. The road reached the village around 1723 and was known as Dyer's Mill Road for nearly one hundred years after its extension to the village.

The population of Dyerstown was almost equal to that of Doylestown until the Revolution. After the war, the village's size remained the same, while Doylestown Borough continued to grow.

In 1939, Route 611 (Easton Road) was rerouted around Dyerstown. A visit to this lovely village confirms that the diversion of the busy commercial highway away from Dyerstown has helped to retain the village's quiet, rural character. The stone and frame houses in Dyerstown are beautifully restored and maintained, and there are many large trees throughout the village. The interesting historic structure which was once the village mill is now occupied by an inn and restaurant.
Gardenville

The focal point of Gardenville has long been the village tavern, originally built around 1732 when Durham Road was extended to the Tohickon Creek. At that time, the intersection where the tavern is located became an important center of travel in the region. The village was originally known as Brownsville after Thomas Browne, an English Quaker who was one of the earliest settlers in Plumstead Township. The name was chosen by some of Browne's descendants who had settled near Gardenville. Later, the village was called Prices Tavern (after an innkeeper) and Gotwals (for the village storekeeper). When the post office was opened in 1857, the new name of Gardenville was chosen. This name was suggested because of the presence of a beautiful flower and vegetable garden cultivated by a neighborhood German woman.

The intersection of Point Pleasant Pike and Durham Road remains a busy crossroads. The amount of traffic passing through the village has apparently necessitated the installation of a flashing traffic signal. The old tavern, now the Gardenville Hotel, still appears to handle a sizable amount of business judging by the additional rooms which were recently built onto the older part of the hotel. In addition to the tavern, Gardenville has a few other commercial uses including a small general store, an auto body shop, a wood shop, and a post office. Another building appears to have once been used for commercial purposes, but is now vacant and somewhat deteriorated. The remainder of the village consists of a mixture of old and new houses.

Hinkletown

This village's namesake, Philip Hinkle, bought 153 acres of land in the area from an absentee landowner in 1766. He continued to buy land in and around the village and eventually built the Hinkletown Hotel in 1793. Hinkle worked as both an innkeeper and a farmer during the Revolution; he also had a reputation as a talented auctioneer.

Today, Hinkletown is a small hamlet located at the crossroads of Durham Road and Stump Road. There is no longer any commercial activity in Hinkletown. The village is principally surrounded by open farmland and three of the houses in Hinkletown appear to be residences of working farms.
Kendigtown

Kendigtown is located along Point Pleasant Pike, which was once the main route across Bucks County to New Jersey. When larger highways were built, this route became less frequently travelled and Kendigtown became somewhat isolated. The village was named for the locally prominent Kendig family. Their name was often spelled "Kindig" and the village was also known as Kindytown. Kendigtown remains a small, quiet settlement extending along a short stretch of Point Pleasant Pike. The village is residential and contains about a dozen houses built in a variety of architectural styles. A particularly interesting and nicely restored Colonial stone house is found on Gayman Road, just off Point Pleasant Pike.

Landisville

Landisville is named after Abraham Landis who, in 1783, bought a large tract of land where the village is now located. Abraham was the grandson of John Landis, one of the three Landis brothers who emigrated from Germany to America in 1717. Landis either bought or built a mill along Pine Run which operated for many years until it was torn down in 1931. A blacksmith and wheelwright also ran businesses in the village.

A small white building near Landisville once served as a meeting house for the Orthodox Friends who had separated from the Plumstead Monthly Meeting. The meeting house was built around 1830 and was torn down more than forty years ago. When a post office was established in 1897, the village name was changed to Ely because a post office with the name Landisville was already in operation in Lancaster County. However, residents never really called the village Ely, and the name reverted to Landisville once the post office was discontinued.

Landisville is located along a quiet stretch of Landisville Road. The village extends from the intersection of Burnt House Hill Road to a small stone bridge which crosses a branch of Pine Run. Landisville is a small residential community and consists of about ten houses, most of which are situated on the northern side of the road and face cornfields to the south. Large shade trees are also numerous in this pleasant village.
Plumsteadville was originally known as Harts Tavern. James Hart built the tavern around 1751 after he had bought 400 acres of land in the area. By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, a few houses had also been built in the vicinity of the tavern. After the war, John Rodrock bought the tavern and the village became known as Plumstead. A post office, one of the earliest in the county, was established with Rodrock as postmaster. There is evidence that the village was known as Rodrocks after 1800. In 1832, a "new post office" was established and called Fisherville (the origin of this name is unknown). The village was once again known as Plumstead from 1840 until 1846 when it received its present name of Plumsteadville. At one time, Plumsteadville was known all over the eastern United States and Canada for the excellent vehicles produced at the carriage, sleigh, and wagon works of Aaron Kratz.

Today, Plumsteadville is a relatively large commercial village. The tavern, now the Plumsteadville Inn, remains the focal point of the village. Plumsteadville contains many commercial uses, as well as about thirty to forty single-family homes and three apartment buildings. Several of the village businesses are located in converted residential dwellings. A small shopping center is presently being planned for the village at the intersection of Route 611 and Stump Road. In addition, a strip shopping development is already in operation just south of Plumsteadville.

The heavy traffic and the width of the road through Plumsteadville bisects the village. However, the presence of the traffic is almost certainly the reason for all the commercial development located in and around Plumsteadville.
Point Pleasant is located on the boundary line formed by the Tohickon Creek between Plumstead and Tincum townships. The village was originally known as Pearsons Landing or Pearsons Ferry because Enoch Pearson established a ferry there in 1739. The privilege to run the ferry was granted to Pearson after much competition with the adjoining landowner for the operating rights.

The village's name was changed to Point Pleasant in 1828 when the first post office opened. This name was chosen because of the scenic area in which Point Pleasant is located. The ferry was the only means of crossing the river until 1855, when a five span wooden covered bridge was completed. This bridge was destroyed by a fire in 1892 and was subsequently replaced by a steel bridge. In 1903, four spans of the steel bridge were washed away by a flood. Although the bridge was rebuilt at least two more times, today there is only a concrete bridge foundation crossing the river at Point Pleasant.

A grist and saw mill was erected along the Tohickon Creek sometime between 1748 and 1765. This mill was bought by Jacob Stover in 1803 and was owned by the Stover family until it closed in 1925. The mill has since been converted to a very attractive residence.

The present village of Point Pleasant is both residential and commercial. Point Pleasant is quite large, with approximately 100 single-family homes and several side streets that all converge near the village center. Among the commercial uses found in Point Pleasant are antique and gift shops, a nursery, plant shop, tavern, restaurant, general store, and a canoe and inner tube rental business. River Road (Route 32) is the main road through Point Pleasant and the traffic can be heavy at times. Walking through the village can be hazardous because of poor visibility and the narrow road shoulder.

Many of the houses in Point Pleasant appear to be quite old and are beautifully restored. The setting in which the village is located is still quite attractive and is surrounded by wooded hills on one side and the Delaware River and Canal on the other.
Richland Township

1. California
2. Paletown
3. Rich Hill
4. Shelly
Richland Township

This township was organized in 1734. The first settlers in Richland were from England, however, German settlers arrived soon after the English. This region was called "Great Swamp" by early residents, and the name is still commonly used in the area. The earliest date that the name Richland was used appears to be 1703. This name is attributed to the fertile, "rich lands" once cultivated by the Indians. Richland is the only township in Bucks County which was laid out in the same direction as the major points of the compass, and its orientation and symmetrical configuration look strangely out of place among all of the oddly shaped townships in Bucks County.

California

Frederick Wolf, a wealthy German, built a large three story brick hotel in this village in 1849. Because this was the same year as the California gold rush, Wolf called his new inn the California Hotel. The sign which hung in front of the hotel pictured a man carrying a sack of gold on his back. Although the hotel was built in 1849, the earliest the name California is shown on a map is 1876. At one time, California also contained a grist and saw mill.

The California Hotel remains at the center of this small village. The large hotel, although in need of repairs, has great potential for restoration to its original condition. Unfortunately, the sign showing the prospector no longer hangs in front of the hotel. Most of the remaining development in and around California is residential and agricultural. A meat packing plant is also located a short distance east of California on Cherry Road. The roads through the village are fairly quiet and there are several handsome frame and stone houses in the area.
Paletown

According to a former resident of Paletown, pale or picket fences enclosed many of the village yards around the time of the Civil War. These fences were similar in design and all were painted white. The distinctive appearance created by the pale fences is allegedly the source of the village’s name.

Today, Paletown is a small village consisting of older frame houses, barns, and a few newer homes. Some of the houses and barns are rather rundown and in need of repairs. The old picket fences of the 1860’s no longer enclose the yards of Paletown. The village is situated in a pleasant and quiet location, and is principally surrounded by farmland.

Rich Hill

Rich Hill is located on the border of East Rockhill, West Rockhill, and Richland townships. Rich Hill grew up along the Old Bethlehem Pike and was by-passed when the new Route 309 was built. The village was once known as Bunker Hill, however, the name was changed to Rich Hill when a post office was established in 1883. The new name was probably derived from the name of the township.

Rich Hill has remained a small, residential village consisting of a few houses at the cross-roads of Rich Hill Road and the Old Bethlehem Pike. The stone houses found at the intersection are quite large and, for the most part, have been well maintained over the years. Large shade trees also enhance the setting of this picturesque community.
Shelly

This village was once known as Shelly Station because it grew up around a station on the Bethlehem Branch of the Reading Railroad. The railroad station was apparently named after the Shelly's, a prominent family in Richland and Milford townships. Eventually, the word "station" was dropped from the name.

Today, Shelly appears to be located on both sides of Route 309, however, the traffic has divided the settlement into two separate communities. The main part of the village is located near the railroad tracks, east of Route 309. This part of Shelly is a large, well-defined village. There are many attractive older frame houses which give Shelly a quaint, old-fashioned atmosphere. Although the village is very close to Route 309, it is well-screened from this busy highway by trees and other vegetation. In addition to residential uses, Shelly contains a Mennonite church, a large fire company, and a small industry adjacent to the railroad tracks.
Solebury Township

1. Aquetong
2. Carversville
3. Centre Bridge
4. Cottageville
5. Lumberville
6. Phillips Mill
7. Solebury
Solebury Township

Solebury and Buckingham once formed a single township. Although the exact date of their separation is uncertain, the split occurred sometime before 1703. The origin of the name Solebury was unknown for many years. Eventually it was determined that a village of the same name (spelled "Soulberry") existed in Buckinghamshire, England. This name may be translated to "Plough Manor" or "Ploughland," an appropriate name for an agricultural township.

Solebury Township boasts a rich historical background. Among the famous men emanating from early Solebury families are Samuel D. Ingham, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury; General Zebulon Pike, soldier and explorer; and Colonel George Wall, Revolutionary War veteran. In addition, Thomas Paine reputedly wrote "Common Sense" while staying at the Thompson-Neely House in Solebury Township.

Aquetong

This village was originally known as Paxsons Corner. Benjamin Paxson, a Quaker, was a prominent citizen of the village. Paxson was also a loyal supporter of the Revolutionary War effort and, on several occasions, played host to officers and soldiers of the Continental Army in his colonial mansion known as "Rolling Green." The name of the settlement was changed to Aquetong around 1884 when a post office was established. Aquetong is an Indian word meaning "place of the pines." In 1872, the community consisted of a store, several shops, and about sixteen dwellings.

Aquetong is principally a commercial village located on heavily travelled Route 202. There are many antique shops there, several of which appear to double as residences. The Bucks Country Winery, which contains a museum of artifacts used for early wine production, is located in Aquetong. The village contains several large, beautiful Colonial stone houses. There are also numerous shade trees throughout the village. Although a few of the houses are located on Aquetong Road, the heavy traffic on Lower York Road tends to divide the village in half.

1Place Names In Bucks County, p. 411.
Carversville was once the site of a gathering place for the Lenni Lenape Indians. For this reason, the first pioneer settlers called the site "Indian Village." The earliest settlers arrived on horseback, but wagon roads were developed by 1730 so that the residents could haul wool and produce out of the settlement and bring lumber which was rafted down the Delaware River. During the 1800's, numerous industries were located in Carversville. These industries included the Fritz Mill, Stover's Mill, the Suggin Bag Manufactory, a sash and blind mill, the Milton Woolen Manufactory, and the Roram Hat Factory.

The community was known as Milton from about 1800 to 1833. Milton is probably a contraction of the village's earlier name of Milltown. When the post office was established in 1833, the name was changed to Carversville for the Carver family who were early settlers of the area.

The Excelsior Normal Institute was dedicated in Carversville on October 8, 1859. The school was organized and built by the leading citizens of the village so that the local children could attend a higher grade school without being sent away from home. The Institute came to be considered one of the best schools of its day in Bucks County. During this time, Carversville had many thriving businesses and services including two general stores, a creamery, an ice cream parlor, a hotel, a dance hall, blacksmith, wheelwright, barber, saddler, harness maker, tinsmith, and several woodworkers and housebuilders.

When the Excelsior Normal Institute eventually closed its doors in 1877, the property became a summer resort known as Hillside Home and Pleasure Park. Later still, the building was used as an orphanage until it was torn down in 1937.

During the twentieth century there has been a decline in commercial uses in the village while residential uses have experienced a moderate increase. Presently, there are about ninety houses and twelve commercial enterprises in Carversville. The commercial center is located at the intersection of the main roads. The Carversville Inn serves as the village focal point.

Carversville remains relatively untouched by new development. It is located in a picturesque woodland setting where the three forks of the Pauncassing Creek meet to form the main stream flowing through town. There are many fine examples of the Colonial, Federal, and Victorian architectural styles and most houses and buildings are in excellent condition. Homeowners have restored their properties with great attention to the style and details of the original structure. Carversville is included on the list of the National Register of Historic Districts.2

Centre Bridge

Centre Bridge was first known as Readings Ferry after Colonel John Reading. Colonel Reading came from Dublin, Ireland in the mid to late 1600's and established one of the earliest river landings above the Falls of the Delaware. The ferry, which was probably started by 1711, went through the hands of several operators and was subsequently known as Robinsons Ferry and, later, Mitchells Ferry. Eventually, both sides of the ferry were sold to the Centre Bridge Corporation, and the ferry was discontinued in 1813 when the bridge was built. The village became known as Centre Bridge due to its central location between New Hope and Lumberville. In 1923, the second wooden bridge was struck by lightning and destroyed by the ensuing fire. The event was preserved on canvas by the famous American landscape painter, Edward W. Redfield, who witnessed the spectacular fire and painted the burning bridge on the following day. A detail of Redfield's painting appears on these two pages.

Centre Bridge experienced its greatest growth
in the early 1800's. As a result of the steady flow of traffic over the bridge, business in the town prospered. Village commerce became even more successful when the Delaware Canal began operating there in 1833. Some of the commercial enterprises found in the village during this time included a general store, tavern, inn, plus blacksmith, carpenter, mason, and wheelwright shops.

The growth of Centre Bridge was essentially ended in 1860 by the construction of the Belvidere Delaware Railroad. The railroad, with its low cost transportation of coal, caused a significant reduction in the canal traffic through Centre Bridge. After the arrival of Edward W. Redfield in 1898 and, later, fellow artists Kenneth and Alfred Nunamacher, Centre Bridge became a part of the artist's colony which grew up around New Hope.

Centre Bridge has changed little since the 1800's. The village, which is included in the National Register of Historic Districts, consists of 62 structures and all but two of these are considered of historic value. The village has several excellent examples of Georgian and Federal architectural styles, which date from the nineteenth century. Examples of Spanish Colonial and Mediterranean architecture, distinguished by their pink color, are also found in the area. Centre Bridge is further enhanced by the many large shade trees found throughout the village. The most obvious modern feature in Centre Bridge is the ice cream stand located in the village center.

Due to the widening of River Road, many houses are very close to the road's edge. The traffic on River Road is heavy at times and walking in the village can be hazardous due to the narrow road shoulder. Another traffic related problem is the configuration of the main intersection which creates a confusing traffic pattern. Despite these traffic problems, Centre Bridge remains a shady example of a charming Bucks County village.\(^3\)

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\(^3\)Source information from "Historic Centre Bridge," New Hope Gazette, Patrick Jardel, August 1, 1985, p. 3. History compiled by Glenn R. Daniel, executive director of the Solebury Township Historical Society
Cottageville

Cottageville is a small community located just down the road from Carversville. Like Carversville, the homes here have been restored and are in excellent condition. Commercial uses in Cottageville include a farm equipment company and an antique shop. The village is situated in a picturesque setting, surrounded by woods and farmland.

The name of Cottageville was changed to Michener in 1903 when a new post office was established. This name was chosen in honor of Dr. Isaiah Michener. The village reverted back to the use of Cottageville when the post office was discontinued.

Lumberville

Lumberville, which is located at the mouth of Paunacussing Creek along River Road, was founded by Colonel George Wall. Colonel Wall, who was a Revolutionary War patriot, bought a large tract of land just before the war and built a house and two saw mills where Lumberville now stands. At this time, the settlement was known as Walls Saw Mill and Walls Landing. By 1832, the village had grown to twelve houses, two stores, a tavern, and a grist mill. A post office was established around 1835. Sometime before 1832, the name was changed to Lumberville by Heed & Hartley who followed Colonel Wall in the lumber business. William Tinsman, Sr. purchased this lumber company in 1869 and, today, it is still run by the Tinsman family.

A quarry, located between Lumberville and Lumberton on the southwestern side of River Road, supplied the brownstone building blocks for many late nineteenth century Philadelphia homes. The quarry was operated by the Lumberville Granite Company which employed approximately 200 laborers and stonemasons during its heyday. The quarry closed in 1903, although it operated off and on at a smaller scale in succeeding years.

Lumberville is located in a beautiful setting along the Delaware Canal. The road through the village is lined with trees and the traffic through town does not seem as rushed as it does on other parts of River Road. Nearly all of the buildings are restored and very well kept. The residents of Lumberville obviously take much pride in their village and have worked hard to restore and maintain its character.

A footbridge, which starts in Lumberville, crosses the Delaware River to Bulls Island and the Delaware and Raritan Canal in New Jersey. Other interesting sites in the village include the 1740 House, the Black Bass Hotel, and the Lumberville Methodist Church built in 1833.
Phillips Mill

The name of this village is derived from the grist mill which was erected near the mouth of Phillips Creek in 1756. The mill was built by Aaron Phillips and operated by the Phillips family for four generations. After the decline of the grist mill's business, near the turn of the nineteenth century, a group of artists settled in and around the Phillips Mill area. Among the artists was the well known landscape painter, William Lathrop. The new residents formed the Phillips Mill Community Association and were largely responsible for preventing the old mill from falling into ruin.

Phillips Mill is a quiet, shady village located on a winding section of River Road. A charming inn built of stone is situated across the road from the old mill. The inn is located very close to the edge of the road, leaving almost no shoulder on which to walk. The speed limit through the village is only ten miles an hour, but this slow speed is necessary because of the poor visibility around corners and the close proximity of many buildings to the road. In addition to the houses along River Road, there are several houses located on side roads near the Delaware River and Canal. At least six of the houses are built between the river and canal. Many of the houses are built of stone and appear to be quite old. Although a few of the buildings are in a state of disrepair, the majority are in excellent condition. Phillips Mill is included on the National Register of Historic Districts.
Solebury

Solebury was first known as Center Hill due to its location near the geographical center of the township. Most of the village is located on what was once known as the Dawson Tract. In 1681, William Penn deeded 500 acres to Nathaniel Harding, a London basketmaker. In 1719, the heirs of Harding sold the property to John Dawson. Dawson appears to have been the first person to actually live on the tract. The Dawson land was eventually divided into smaller tracts which evolved into the village of Solebury. A post office was established in 1831, but was moved to Centre Bridge in 1845. The post office was reopened in the community in 1882 under the name of Solebury and this name has remained ever since.

Solebury is spread out over a fairly wide area; however, the village center is in the vicinity of the intersection of Upper York and Sugan roads. The one-room schoolhouse at the intersection was built about 1756 and is thought to be one of the oldest schoolhouses still in continuous use in the United States. A Gothic style stone church is another village landmark. Several well restored stone and frame houses and numerous large street trees are additional assets of Solebury village.
Springfield Township

1. Amity
2. Bursonville
3. Gallows Hill
4. Passer
5. Pleasant Valley
6. Springtown
7. Zion Hill
Springfield Township

Springfield Township was established in 1743. The name Springfield was chosen because of the many natural springs found throughout the township. Springfield is covered by hills and valleys, giving the area a rugged appearance. The highest elevation in the county is located on the northern township boundary (also the county boundary), about one mile northwest of Passer. The elevation is 980 feet at this point.

In 1735, before Springfield Township was organized, John and Thomas Penn planned to hold a lottery to liquidate the holdings of absentee English landowners who owned large portions of the township. Nearly eight thousand tickets were issued to be sold at 40 shillings each. The actual drawing was never held; however, those people who had purchased tickets (principally German families) were allowed to take title to the land.

Amity

Amity is a small hamlet consisting of about five structures. Among the buildings are a stone house, a large stone barn, and what appears to be an old one-room schoolhouse, now converted to residential use. The surrounding area is quiet, rural, and quite scenic. Due to its location on a hill, the village residents enjoy a picturesque view of the countryside.

Bursonville

This small hamlet was named for Isaac Burson, an English Quaker from Abington who built a hotel early in the village's history. A post office, using the name Bursontown, was established in 1804, making it one of the earliest post offices in northern Bucks County. The Richland Monthly Meeting established a meeting in Bursonville in 1743 to accommodate the local Friends. Today, no evidence of the early commercial uses or the post office is apparent in Bursonville. The hamlet now consists of a few houses and barns situated in a quiet, shady, and picturesque setting.
Gallows Hill

One of the most interesting aspects of Gallows Hill is the historical origin of its name. Although several explanations have been offered, none of them is well documented. One story claims that during the Indian Walking Purchase of 1737, Edward Marshall broke his "gallowses" (suspenders) while jumping a stream near Gallows Hill. Supposedly, he left the gallowses hanging in a tree near the stream. However, this explanation has been refuted because Marshall referred to the place as Gallows Hill in a survey shortly after the Walking Purchase, indicating that he knew the name of the place at the time of the walk. Another story claims that the name came from Joseph Galloway who was interested in purchasing land tracts in northern Bucks County in 1773. This explanation must also be wrong since the area was known as Gallows Hill long before 1773. A third explanation is that a dead man, who had apparently committed suicide, was found hanging from a chestnut tree next to the road on Gallows Hill. Although this is a rather morbid explanation, it has not been proven wrong.

Presently, Gallows Hill is a small village located in a scenic area surrounded by hills and woods. The village principally consists of older residential dwellings. A small store is located at the intersection of Harrow Road and Gallows Hill Road. At first glance, the store appears to be boarded up and closed; however, the store is in operation and seems to do a brisk business. A stone marker, which commemorates the passage of the Walking Purchase participants through the area, stands in front of the store.

Passer

This small hamlet was first known as Fairmount. The village name was probably changed to Passer in 1888 when a post office was established (the post office was discontinued in 1915). A hotel also once operated in Passer, but the building was converted to residential use many years ago. Near Passer is an area where the Lenape Indians once made arrowheads. Their workplace was found at "three never-failing springs of water" and many points, chips, and complete arrowheads have been found there.

Today, all that remains of the original village of Passer is a few older homes at a crossroads. However, a lot of new houses are being built in the vicinity. Most of the area around Passer consists of wooded hills and open fields, making this a very pretty part of Bucks County.
Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley is a village with a rich historical background. The first settlers in the area were German and the original name of the settlement was Schuckenhausen after a place in southern Germany. The present name was chosen in 1828 by Lewis Ott, the village's first postmaster.

A small log church, built in Pleasant Valley over 200 years ago, was attended by people from all over the area, many travelling great distances to hear the services. Tradition has it that the minister and his congregation would stop at a small inn just south of the village to rest and drink schnapps before continuing on to the church. In 1872, the log church was replaced by a stone building, and this building was eventually converted to residential use in 1924.

Another part of village tradition is that, in 1777, General Lafayette stayed at the Pleasant Valley Inn on his way to rejoin Washington's Army at White Marsh. This visit occurred following Lafayette's recovery from the injuries he received at the Battle of Brandywine.

Pleasant Valley is one of the larger villages in Springfield Township, with many residential and commercial uses stretched out along Old Bethlehem Road. The road through the village is fairly busy and there seems to be quite a bit of truck traffic using the road. Most of the houses in Pleasant Valley are older frame dwellings.

Overall, Pleasant Valley is an attractive village containing many interesting features. Numerous shade trees and the stone bridge that crosses Cooks Creek are additional assets of the village. With some improvements to a few of the buildings, there is great potential to enhance the traditional village setting of Pleasant Valley.
Springtown

Springtown is one of the oldest settlements in Springfield Township. In 1738, a 500 acre tract was sold to Stephen Twining who, in 1763, sold 300 acres of this property to Abraham Funk, the founder of Springtown. Funk built a mill in 1782 on Spring Creek. This creek was fed by a spring located west of the village; the spring is probably the source of Springtown's name. The mill was operated for several generations by the Funk family. From 1886 to 1918 the Funks also published a weekly paper called the Springtown Times. Several residents of Springtown petitioned for a borough charter in 1895. The petition was approved by the jury but, for some reason, Springtown never became incorporated. The post office was established in 1806 and is one of the oldest operating post offices in Upper Bucks County.

Springtown is quite large for a village and is probably closer to a small town in size and character. The main street through Springtown is lined with several charming older homes and small businesses. Many interesting and attractive homes are also located to the north of the village. One particularly interesting structure on the main street is a very large and long stone building which appears to be partially vacant. Whatever the building was once used for, it is a good potential candidate for restoration. In addition to the commercial and residential uses, Springtown also contains a fire company, a post office, a social club, and three churches. Many new homes are presently being built around Springtown.

Zion Hill

This lovely village takes its name from the Zion Union Church (now the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church) originally built around 1840. The first church building was replaced by a brick structure in 1890. The post office was established in Zion Hill in 1871, and is still in operation. The present village is quite large with several dozen houses located along the Old Bethlehem Pike. Most of the houses are older frame structures, although there are also a few stone houses. Many large shade trees enhance the pleasant atmosphere of Zion Hill.
Tinicum Township

1. Clay Ridge
2. Erwinna
3. Ottsville
4. Smithtown
5. Sundale
6. Tinicum
7. Uhlerstown
Tinicum Township

Tinicum Township is bordered on the southwest by the Tohickon Creek and on the northeast by the Delaware River. Only the northern boundary, adjoining Nockamixon and Bridgeton townships, is not formed by water. Tinicum covers essentially the same territory as it did when the township was organized in 1738. An attempt was made in 1860 to annex a portion of the township to Plumstead, however, the idea was eventually rejected. The name is a corruption of the Indian word "tennicunk" which may have meant "island" or "along the edge of the island."

Based on a letter dated 1699, it appears that William Penn planned to preserve Tinicum as one of his manors. However, Penn's plans never materialized due to the failure of his surveyor to lay out the manor.

Early settlers of the township were English and Irish. Among them was Edward Marshall, famed as the only participant to finish the Indian Walking Purchase of 1737 (see "Wrightstown" for more information on the Walking Purchase). Following an Indian attack at his home near Easton, in which his wife and unborn child were killed, Marshall moved to a Delaware River island, off the shore of Tinicum Township (now called Marshall Island). Because of his participation in the notorious Walking Purchase, the Indians continued to harass Marshall. During one of these attacks, his oldest son, Peter, was also killed. After serving in the Revolutionary War, Marshall returned to his island where he lived as a recluse with his second wife. Marshall eventually fathered 21 children and died in 1789 at the age of 79. The Delaware Canal Towpath, across from Marshall Island, is said to be haunted by the ghost of his wife, Elizabeth.¹

Clay Ridge

Clay Ridge received its name due to its location on a ridge where clay soil is prevalent. This small hamlet is found in a scenic wooded area of Tinicum Township. While a few older homes are still in the area, most appear to be of newer construction. The Rock Ridge Chapel, a small one-room church established in 1847, is still maintained in its original condition.

¹ Bucks County Chronicles, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit No. 22, Doylestown, PA, 1977, p. 39.
Erwinna

This village was originally known as London Ferry, the name of the ferry which operated there between 1699 and 1761. Erwinna was also known as a boat building center when the Delaware Canal was in operation.

The village became known as Erwinna sometime prior to 1825 in honor of the village's most distinguished citizen, Colonel Arthur Erwin. The community is located on part of the 528 acre tract Colonel Erwin bought in 1769. Erwin served as the Colonel of the Second Battalion of Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War and was a colorful figure of his day. While on a trip to land he owned in Steuben County, New York, the Colonel was murdered by an angry squatter during a visit to the home of a friendly tenant. The killer was never apprehended and Erwin's body was returned to Bucks County to be buried.

Today, Erwinna is a lovely village containing numerous shade trees, flower gardens, and attractive homes. The village has antique shops and art galleries and is bordered on one side by Tinicum Park. There are several interesting houses in Erwinna including a church-like building which was the former Erwinna Schoolhouse. A good example of a lattice construction covered bridge crosses Lodi Creek near Erwinna. This bridge was built in 1832 and, at 56 feet long, is the shortest covered bridge in the county.
Ottsville

Ottsville is one of the oldest villages in northern Bucks County. The first settlers in the area were the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, who founded a church in Ottsville around 1738. The village was known as both "Red Hill" and "Ottsville" for over one hundred years. The name Red Hill was taken from the red rock and soil on which the village is located. When a post office was established in 1814, the name had to be changed to Ottsville because another post office using the name Red Hill was already in Montgomery County. Ottsville was chosen in honor of an influential family in Tincum Township. However, the main part of the village, to the south of the post office, continued to be known as Red Hill. The use of Red Hill finally faded out after the post office was moved to the lower part of the village.

A now vanished hotel once stood on top of the hill in Ottsville. During the 1700's, the inn served as a stopover point for the stage coaches travelling along the Durham Road. On September 19, 1737, Edward Marshall and the other participants of the Indian Walking Purchase stopped at the inn for a short rest. One of the three walkers, Solomon Jennings, dropped out from exhaustion at this point. The hotel stood vacant and in ruins for many years and, eventually, even the ruins disappeared.

Today, the main road through Ottsville is quiet and infrequently travelled. The village was bypassed by Easton Road (Route 611), so that most traffic speeds by Ottsville without ever seeing the village. However, there are numerous commercial enterprises in Ottsville, and a sign near the southern intersection of Route 611 and Durham Road directs motorists towards these businesses. Ottsville is a relatively large commercial village with about thirty houses located along Durham Road. The center of the village principally consists of older stores and houses, while the edges are a mixture of old and new construction. Many street trees, a large lily pond, and the absence of heavy traffic all contribute to a pleasant village setting.
Smithtown

Smithtown was named for two Quakers, Joseph and Robert Smith, who owned the land in that location before 1783. The Smith family began manufacturing farm implements in 1800 and were responsible for several design improvements. The most notable and important improvement was the invention of the cast-iron moldboard (the curved metal plate on plows that turns over the earth). Previously, plows were made of wood sheathed in iron. The Smith's new moldboard was never substantially improved upon. One of their most famous customers, Thomas Jefferson, sent the Smiths an order for "one of your best plows." The Smiths' pride in their craftsmanship was reflected in their reply to Jefferson which stated that "our plows are all best."

The Smith family appears to have been quite progressive in their time and were the first people in Bucks County to heat their homes with anthracite coal.

There is no sign today of the once thriving farm implement business in Smithtown. Several houses and cottages are scattered up and down River Road in the vicinity of Smithtown; however, no clear village center is evident. Most of the houses are situated extremely close to the road's edge. The village is located in a beautiful area, bordered on the west by steep, wooded hills and on the east by the Delaware Division Canal and the Delaware River.
Sundale

This village was previously known as Headquarters because it served for many years as a meeting place for township officials. The name was changed to Sundale about 1900; however, the village is still located on Headquarters Road. Sundale and the surrounding area were home to a number of boatmen in the heyday of the Delaware Division Canal. A post office was located in the village between 1890 and 1910.

Sundale is found on a hilltop overlooking a picturesque wooded stream valley. There are several stately older homes in the village as well as numerous shade trees. Opposite to the steep valley, behind Sundale, are open farm fields and a small airport. The peaceful atmosphere of this lovely settlement is enhanced by the absence of the heavy traffic that is often a problem in other Bucks County villages.

Tinicum

Tinicum was originally known as Wormansville, and three Worman families lived there in 1850. A post office and a store (owned by one of the Wormans) were once located in the village. Tinicum now consists of about a dozen houses, a small apartment building, and Christ's Lutheran Church. The church, located on Smithstown Road, is a handsome stone building which was built in 1908. A parsonage for the church was built in 1917. Tinicum is located in a quiet, scenic area and is surrounded by hills and open farmland. Ralph Stover State Park is less than a mile south of Tinicum.

Uhlerstown

Uhlerstown is a small, but charming village which grew up along the Delaware Canal. The village was once called "Mexico," possibly named by an imaginative canal builder in 1832. Michael Uhler founded the village and the settlement was known for a time as Uhlersville until it was officially named Uhlerstown in 1871. Uhler owned and personally supervised a large boat building yard, a string of fine canal boats, several limekilns, a store, and coal yards. Naturally, the village's commercial enterprises experienced a considerable loss of business when the canal closed down in 1931.

Today, Uhlerstown is a quiet hamlet, located away from heavy traffic and development. Uhlerstown has the distinction of containing the only Bucks County covered bridge that crosses the Delaware Canal. This bridge is also interesting because it is the only county covered bridge with windows on both sides. There are only a few homes in the village, all of which are well maintained. Some of Michael Uhler's limekilns are still present in the hill on the eastern side of the canal.
Upper Makefield Township

1. Brownsburg
2. Buckmanville
3. Dolington
4. Jericho
5. Taylorsville
6. Woodhill
Upper Makefield Township

When Makefield Township was established in 1692, the township consisted of both Upper and Lower Makefield. In 1737, twenty residents of the northern area of the township petitioned for a separation of Makefield into two townships. Upper Makefield was settled more slowly than Lower Makefield. This slow settlement was partially due to the presence of the 7500 acre Penn's Manor of Highland, primarily located in the upper portion of the township. Settlement of Penn's Manor was discouraged for several years, preventing the development of a large section of the township. Because of the slower development of Upper Makefield, Indians remained in this area longer than in most of the surrounding townships.

Several homesteads in Upper Makefield served as officer's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. General Washington made his famous crossing of the Delaware from McConkey's Ferry in Upper Makefield. This historic site is now the location of Washington Crossing State Park.

Brownsburg

Brownsburg was originally known as Pebbletown because of the large pebbles collected from the river shore and used by nearby cities and towns for street paving. A ferry also operated near the village in its early days. The present name of Brownsburg comes from Stacy Brown, a postmaster appointed in 1827. By 1857, Brownsburg was a thriving settlement with a store, hotel, lumber mill, several shops, and approximately twenty houses. According to George MacReynolds, Brownsburg was the site of a famous shad fishery "before the river became a sewer for municipalities and industrial plants."¹ The old shad fishermen claimed that, by the time the shad reached Brownsburg on their spring migration up the Delaware, the fish had "purged themselves of their last salt-water taint and had acquired that delicious Delaware shad flavor that delighted epicures."² Happily, the shad have revived since the time when they were nearly eradicated by pollution. The biologists who worked so hard to improve the conditions for the shad hope the Delaware River will eventually sustain a run of 500,000 fish annually.³

¹Place Names of Bucks County, p. 410.
Buckmanville

Buckmanville was once a thriving settlement and the site of several successful businesses. Commercial enterprises included a general store, blacksmith shop, plow factory, and wheelwright shop. The village is named after George Buckman, who was the owner and operator of the blacksmith shop. In 1847, Buckman agreed to manufacture a new plow which had been perfected by Benjamin Wiggins. Although the plow was said to be designed according to scientific principles and superior to existing plows, Wiggins never patented his plow design. Soon after 1847, in search of a better location, Buckman moved the plow factory to Durham Road, near the Anchor Tavern. The post office and the general store housing it burned down in 1903. Finally, all that remained of Buckmanville were a few residences.

Today, Buckmanville is still a small, rural village consisting of about eight houses surrounded by open countryside. Most of the homes are older, although a few modern buildings are present. The Jericho Valley Community Center is located just south of the village in what appears to be an old one room school house. This building is probably the former Buckmanville School, which was established by the Upper Makefield School Board in 1850.

Dolington

The village of Dolington is one of Bucks County's locally recognized historic districts. The settlement grew slowly and, prior to 1800, Dolington contained only three houses. Two of these houses were built by Peter Dulin, for whom the village was named. The third building served as a store for 28 years and was also used as a hotel for about twenty years during the 1800's. Unfortunately for the hotel, many residents of Dolington and the surrounding countryside were Quakers and supporters of the temperance movement. The Dolington Hotel has the distinction of being the first saloon to be closed by the efforts of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The saloon was closed about 1887 when the property was sold and the new owner was apparently persuaded to stop selling liquor.4

As Dolington grew, it became an important service center for the local farmers. Among the businesses established there were two stores, a tailoring business, a coach and wagon factory, a blacksmith shop, and a wheelwright shop. In addition, Dolington was the site of a library (est. 1816) and a school (est. 1830). The Old Dolington Library is still in existence and was recently moved to a new location at the Makefield Friends Meeting house.

Today, Dolington is a residential village containing about twenty to twenty-five single-family homes. Dolington is located in a rural setting, although the main road through the village is well travelled. The houses in Dolington are a mixture of old and new architecture and are in a variety of conditions, ranging from good to poor.

Taylorsville

Taylorsville is located at the point where General Washington and his army crossed the Delaware River on Christmas Eve, 1776. The village is now usually referred to as Washington Crossing. The earliest name of the settlement was Bakers Ferry and, during the Revolution, the village was known as McConkeys Ferry. Samuel McConkey sold a large tract of land, above and adjacent to the ferry, to Benjamin Taylor in 1777. Today, this land covers all of the upper portion of Washington Crossing State Park. The village’s name was changed to Taylorsville in 1829, when John Taylor was appointed as the first postmaster. The ferry continued in operation until 1835 when the Taylorsville Delaware Bridge Company finished building a covered bridge across the river. The bridge was destroyed twice by flood—once in 1841 and again in 1903. After the 1903 flood, a steel bridge replaced the wooden bridge.

Taylorsville is primarily commercial in the center and residential on the outskirts. Two old inns, along with a variety of stores, shops, banks, and offices, are located there. New suburban development surrounds Taylorsville and traffic through the village is quite heavy. A major asset of the village is its proximity to Washington Crossing State Park.

Jericho

This hamlet is situated on the southeastern slope of Jericho Mountain along a scenic, wooded road. Although distinct boundaries of Jericho are difficult to identify, there are several old stone houses (and a few newer ones) which extend along Eagle Road.

The village was known as Raymans in the mid-1800’s, although the mountain on which it is located was named Jericho long before the Revolutionary War. The origin of the name is not positively known, however, there was a seventeenth century slang term “go to Jericho” which meant to go as far away as possible. This term may have been applied to Jericho Mountain because it was the most distant northern boundary of the proprietary’s territory. Another possible source of the name is the biblical Jericho of Palestine.

Woodhill

Before Woodhill was a village, the area was known as the Spread Eagle Hotel or Eagle Tavern. In 1881, a post office, using the name Makefield, was established despite the fact that no village existed at the time. Apparently, this site was chosen because of its central location for surrounding residents. The village name became Woodhill about 1896, and the post office has long since been discontinued.

Today, Woodhill consists of a few buildings, including a few large stone houses and what appears to be a small white church converted to residential use. Some newer development is also taking place in the vicinity of Woodhill. The village’s hilltop location provides the residents with a scenic view of the surrounding countryside.
Warwick Township

1. Hartsville
2. Jamison
Warwick Township

Warwick was established as a township in 1773 and, before that year, was known as Middleberry. Why the township was named after an English town is somewhat of a mystery since the township was almost exclusively settled by the Scotch and Irish. Some of Warwick's early settlers eventually migrated to the Forks of the Delaware (Northampton County) and helped to establish a frontier settlement in that area. During the summer of 1777, General Washington located his headquarters at the Moland House on Old York Road while his troops were encamped in the hills of Warwick Township. When Doylestown Township was organized in 1819 and several boundary changes were made, Warwick Township lost over one-half of its original territory.

Hartsville

Hartsville was named in honor of Colonel William Hart who served during the Revolutionary War. Colonel Hart was the landlord of the hotel at Plumsteadville before relocating to Hartsville in the late 1700's. Upon moving to the village, Colonel Hart opened a new inn which he called "The Sign of the Hart." Prior to the name Hartsville, the village was also known as Cross Roads and Harts Cross Roads. When General Washington was camped in Warwick Township in 1777, he and his officers generally dated their letters from Hartsville. Another fact of historical interest is that John Fitch, inventor of the steamboat, built the first model of his boat in a wheelwright shop near Hartsville and launched it in a stream near Davisville.

Fortunately, the expansion of Old York Road by-passed Hartsville. If the expansion had followed the course of the existing road, it would have effectively divided the village in half and destroyed most of its charm. Thanks to the by-pass, Hartsville remains a quiet, picturesque community with several large and beautiful old houses. The Hartsville Inn is a handsomely restored building. The village has some additional commercial activities, such as a pharmacy, gas station and ceramic shop.

Jamison

This village takes its name from the Jamison family. The first member of the family to settle in Warwick was Henry Jamison, who arrived from County Ulster, Ireland in 1720. Jamison came to own 1000 acres of land in both Northampton and Warwick townships. In 1813, Henry Jamison won a lottery prize of $50,000 which he collected through the Bank of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Mr. Jamison is reported to have been very generous with his winnings and helped many of his neighbors further their own lives by granting them loans. Before 1830, Jamison was known as Decourseys Corner and Jamison Cross Roads. During that time the village had six houses, a tavern, and a store. It later became known as Jamison Corner, but "Corner" was dropped when the post office was established in 1868.

Today, Jamison principally consists of commercial development along Old York Road and Almshouse Road. The commercial establishments are diverse and include a gift shop, real estate office, typewriter shops, lawn mower shop, roller rink, tavern, gun shop, printing shop, and florist shop. Although there are a few houses in the vicinity of the village, Jamison is in a growing residential area.
West Rockhill Township

1. Almont
2. Derstine
3. Naceville
4. Ridge Valley
West Rockhill Township

Because East and West Rockhill were one township until 1890, the early history of the two townships is essentially the same. Therefore, refer to the chapter on East Rockhill for information on the history of West Rockhill Township.

Almont

Almont and the surrounding area were settled early in the township's history, principally by Pennsylvania Germans. The land on which the Almont Inn now stands was conveyed to Jeremiah Langhorne in 1713. The original inn was constructed of logs and is now located in the center of the existing inn. A cemetery was started in Almont around 1750. Supposedly, the unmarked tombstones in the cemetery are placed over Indian graves.

The settlement's early name was Schlicter for a prominent local family. The ground for the village's first church building was donated by Enos Schlicter in 1826. A stone church was built on the land through the combined efforts of three denominations—Lutheran, Reformed, and Mennonite. Jacob Schlicter became postmaster of the first post office in 1868, and the village was named Schlicter at that time. The post office name was later changed to Almont, but the source of this name and the reasons for the change is not definitely known.

Almont was once an important political center and was included as a public meeting site in all the early presidential election campaigns. A German language speaker was often present at the meetings to attract the Pennsylvania German voters.

In 1868, Almont consisted of a hotel, store, church, several shops, and about eight to ten dwellings. The village appears to have changed little since 1868, the main difference being the increase in the number of dwellings to about 25. The Almont Inn is still maintained in excellent condition, as is the church (now the Jeremiah Union Church). Several large, older homes are found in Almont, along with newer residential development. A vacant building, which once housed a country store and the post office, is now being converted to a flower shop.
Ridge Valley

This small hamlet is situated in a picturesque valley, surrounded by wooded, rocky hills. Two very large churches, situated directly across from each other on Ridge Valley Road, tend to dominate the village. The one and two story houses look quite small next to these tall structures. Ridge Valley is a compact settlement with most of the houses grouped together close to the road. Ridge Valley Creek flows through the village, where it is crossed by an interesting stone bridge. Ridge Valley is located at a moderately busy intersection, but the traffic does little to detract from the atmosphere of this charming village.

Derstine

This village takes its name from the Derstein family who were early settlers in West Rockhill Township. The name appears to have several different spellings. The family bought 200 acres of land in 1730 and built a primitive mill on what eventually became known as Derstein Mill Creek. The Dersteins replaced this mill in 1742 by a new mill which had the best machinery available at the time. The second mill was subsequently torn down in 1873, and replaced by yet another structure. The Dersteins also built a mansion in the area in 1748. The North Pennsylvania Railroad once maintained the Derstine Station, but the station was discontinued in 1940.

Today, Derstine is a very small settlement consisting of about seven to eight houses. The village is located in a valley overlooked by a large retirement community. Derstine has no distinct edges or center, making it difficult to determine the exact location and extent of the village.

Naceville

This village is named for the Nace family, many of whom resided in the area. Presently, the village is fairly large with about twenty houses near the intersection of County Line Road and Ridge Road. Naceville appears to blend into Tylersport, a village in Montgomery County. The community consists of a mix of old and new houses and some commercial uses including a store and delicatessen, a sign maker, and a kennel and pet supply store. Traffic on the main street through Naceville is moderately heavy, but flashing yellow lights at two intersections help to slow the traffic.
Wrightstown Township

1. Chain Bridge
2. Penns Park
3. Rushland
4. Wrightstown
Wrightstown Township

Although the exact date is unknown, Wrightstown was organized as a township by 1703. The origin of the name was apparently in commemoration of a man named Wright or Right who was closely associated with early land deals in the township. However, Wright was not necessarily a popular or well-respected man with all residents. Allegedly, a certain Phineas Pemberton wanted the place known as Centretown rather than Wrightstown because of the "cheating tricks [Wright] played here."  

Reputedly, the area was also called "Twin Borough" early in its history because twins were born to the first settlers in the territory.

William Penn had originally located a 650 acre park near the center of Wrightstown. The park was said to be a beautiful, heavily wooded piece of land and was to be exempt from development. Penn's intention was to create a park or town square similar to those found in England. However, after 35 years, the surrounding residents decided that they disliked having a large, unoccupied piece of ground in the middle of the township. In 1719, the proprietary government granted the landholders permission to divide the land up for their own use.

Chain Bridge

Chain Bridge was named after the only chain bridge ever built in the county. The bridge was built over the Neshaminy Creek in 1809. Chain bridges, the forerunners of suspension bridges, were suspended from chains which passed over a frame tower and stone pier built in the center of the stream. The ends of the chains were anchored into the creek banks. The links in the chain varied from three to twelve feet in length. The chain bridge over the Neshaminy was destroyed by a flood in 1832.

The Chain Bridge Octagonal Schoolhouse was one of nine octagonal schools built in Bucks County between 1800 and 1840. The eight-sided building provided abundant wall space, while maximizing efficient heating and allowing the teacher to easily control his students. The schoolhouse in Chain Bridge is still standing and is presently used as a residence. Except for the schoolhouse and two other structures, the original settlement of Chain Bridge has disappeared.

Place Names in Bucks County, p. 404.
Penns Park

Penns Park is the location of the land William Penn had originally set aside for a park or town square. In 1719, the park was divided among the surrounding landowners following their complaints to the proprietary government. The village's first name was Logtown because all of the buildings there were constructed from logs. The village was known as Pennsville in 1825, but was changed to Penns Park in 1862 when a post office was established.

Penns Park is a sizable village consisting of both residential and commercial uses. There are many older homes of both Colonial and Victorian architectural styles in the village. While most of the homes are well maintained, a few appear to have been neglected for a long time. One large stone house, which apparently had been used as an antique store, is presently vacant. In addition to the homes, there is also a post office, church, gift shop, tavern, and a large home furnishings store in Penns Park.

Rushland

From 1750 to 1800 this village was known as Sacketts Ford. The name originated from the ford over the creek which was used to reach Joseph Sackett's store and the Rush Valley Mill. The name was changed to Rush Valley for a short time when the post office was established in 1883. However, when the Northeast Pennsylvania Railroad came through Rushland, the railroad company named the station Kirkland in honor of the Kirk family who had donated a right-of-way through their property. The village finally became known as Rushland in 1891 because the name Kirkland was too easily confused with the Kirklyn station on the Chester branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.

Presently, the New Hope-Ivyland Rail line passes through the village of Rushland; however, the railroad station appears to no longer be in use. For its size, Rushland contains a considerable number of businesses, including a feed mill, quarry, formica manufacturer, lithographer, and a post office. The businesses seem to generate a considerable amount of traffic, particularly the quarry which has numerous heavy trucks coming to and from the site.

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Wrightstown

The village of Wrightstown takes its name from the township. Wrightstown was the starting point of the infamous Walking Purchase of 1737. The walk was the result of a treaty between William Penn's sons and the Lenape Indians. The Penns claimed that, according to the treaty, white settlers were to be allowed to purchase land north of the Tohickon Creek. The amount of land was to be determined by the distance a man could walk in a day and a half, starting from Wrightstown. The Indians maintained that the treaty was a forgery, but were finally persuaded to agree to the walking purchase arrangements. Meanwhile, the Penns had secretly cleared a path for the walkers and even held a trial run. When the actual walk began, the pace was so fast that the Indians could barely keep up. The Indian observers eventually left in disgust at the trickery of the white men. The walk ended the next day, 67 miles later, at a point two miles east of the present day town of Jim Thorpe. The Walking Purchase acquired 750,000 acres of land for the white men and destroyed any remaining friendship between the Indians and the settlers. A stone marker in Wrightstown commemorates the site of this controversial walk.²

The modern day village of Wrightstown is located along a busy stretch of Durham Road (Route 413). The village has no distinct edges and is more commercial than residential in character. Wrightstown contains several old stone buildings. A particularly interesting structure is a large stone building near the center of Wrightstown which now houses an antique store, gift shop, and hair stylist. There are several other commercial uses in and around the village, including a farmer's market, nursery, gift shop, store, realty office, post office, and furniture upholstery shop. The Wrightstown Friends Meeting House, an attractive stone building surrounded by large shade trees, is also located in the village.

²Walking Purchase history from Bucks County Chronicles, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit No. 22, Doylestown, PA., 1977, pp. 35-38.
Extinct Villages of Bucks County

Although many Bucks County villages have been lost to the encroachment of new development, some villages have disappeared for different reasons. That is, once active communities have returned to woods or fields leaving little indication that a village ever existed. Houses and other structures in these extinct villages were neglected, abandoned and, eventually, either torn down or deteriorated beyond recognition. There are several examples of this phenomenon in Bucks County. The following is a short history and description of three particularly interesting extinct villages.

Gruversville, Springfield Township

Today, it is hard to imagine that four mills and a distillery once operated in this quiet wooded stream valley. Gruversville was settled very early by the Gruver family, who owned all of the surrounding land in the area. This Pennsylvania German family built the first mills along Cooks Creek in the early 1700's.

Upon his death in 1850, John Gruver bequeathed a grist mill to his son John, a sawmill to his son Peter, and a farm to his only daughter. The farm was located in the middle of the estate, with the sawmill to the north, and the grist mill to the south. A fierce family feud between the two sons ensued soon after their father's death. Although the details of the disagreement are unknown, the argument resulted in Peter building a grist mill next to his saw mill and John building a saw mill and a distillery next to his grist mill. What John Sr.'s daughter must have thought, living in the middle of this crazy competition, would be interesting to know. The feud apparently ended with Peter's death. Peter's son, Josiah, inherited the mills and subsequently sold them in 1856. The surviving son also quit the mill business and sold his property.

Gruversville was home to a small church founded by dissenters from the nearby Pleasant Valley Evangelical Congregation. The brick church building was constructed in 1861 on a lot donated by John Gruver, Jr. Eventually, the congregation lost all of its members and the church was abandoned. For many years the old church building stood slowly crumbling into ruins, an open bible still in place on the altar. The mills are also long gone and even the stream which once powered the water wheels is only a fraction of its former size. Over the years, the village of Gruversville has virtually disappeared, leaving almost no evidence of the small, but thriving community.
Smiths Corner, Plumstead Township

Smiths Corner is another example of how a once active community can almost completely vanish. In the mid 1800's, Smiths Corner contained a school, a blacksmith shop, a large store, and several farms. However, the most notable enterprise at Smiths Corner was the large peach orchards, first planted by Amos Smith over 100 years ago. After the success of Amos' initial orchard, he and his neighbors planted several more, turning the village into a regional peach growing center. At harvest time, peaches were hauled by the wagonload to Byram Station, a division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. From there, the produce was shipped to New York and other markets. In addition to selling fruit, the orchardists propagated and sold many young peach trees. The peach tree business died out after about twenty years.

Today, Smiths Corner consists of two homes and an old building, now converted to apartments. The apartments are located in a large structure which was probably the village store in bygone days. The fourth corner of the intersection is occupied by an old, deteriorating barn on a lot overgrown by weeds. The vestiges of Smiths Corner are located in a beautiful wooded area, just south of Ralph Stover State Park. This quiet peaceful setting belies the busy agricultural community which once thrived here.
In rapidly growing Northampton Township, it is surprising to learn that a village has disappeared not because of the encroachment of new development, but because the existing village was virtually abandoned. However, such is the case for the village of Grenoble. This small settlement took its name from Grenoble, France, the capital of the province of Dauphine. Probably the earliest enterprise in the area was the Mearns Mills, known as the Upper and Lower Mills. The mills were built sometime in the 1700's and may have supplied meal and flour to General Washington's troops when they were encamped along the Neshaminy Creek in 1777. The Lower Mill, located in Grenoble at the intersection of Walton and Grenoble roads, continued in operation until World War I. The handsome stone building was the victim of arson in 1952 and, eventually, the structure was completely torn down.¹

![Grenoble Station](image)

The Arnold Brother's View of the Lower Mill

Grenoble station was built in 1891 on the Northeast Pennsylvania Railroad. Grenoble was among the most ornate of the small stations on this line, having two waiting rooms, an open fireplace, a chandelier, and stained glass windows. Reputedly, the station was built "to accommodate the elegant Kindred family" who owned the land on which the station stood.² Grenoble was one of two stone stations on the line, the other being the Bycot Station. Cummins Quarry, which provided the building stone, accounted for much of the rail line's freight business. Local farmers, who used the railroad to ship their milk, provided another steady source of business.

Unfortunately, the charming Grenoble Station is no longer standing. Maintenance of the building apparently declined after 1930. Twenty-three years later the Reading Company had the building torn down. However, scenes of the Grenoble Station have been preserved by its first station agent, Newton Arnold. Arnold began working for the railroad in 1890 at the age of seventeen and, one year later, he became both the stationmaster and postmaster at Grenoble. He was interested in photography and, together with his brother Charles, operated a printing business. In the early 1900's, the brothers began

¹Bertha S. Davis, Olive S. Steel, and Charlotte R. Cutshall, Post Cards of Bucks County, Pa., as printed by the Arnold Brothers, Washington Crossing Card Collectors Club, P.O. Box 39, Washington Crossing, PA 18977, P. 74.

printing postcards of Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. The first post card, of the more than 400 cards printed, was a scene of Newton Arnold's workplace—the Grenoble train station. Also preserved for posterity on card #158 is a scene of the now demolished Lower Mill (Old Ross Mill) in Grenoble.

Grenoble is approached by a narrow dirt road that gradually makes its way down to the Little Neshaminy Creek. In the past, the village could be reached from Almshouse Road via Walton Road, but the bridge crossing the Little Neshaminy is currently closed. Although a few scattered houses are in the vicinity of the former village, the area has a wild, overgrown appearance making it hard to imagine that a bustling little community—complete with its own mill, train station, and post office—once existed at this location.

![Grenoble as it is today.](image-url)

A few other examples of Bucks County's extinct villages include Wismer (Plumstead Township), Peters Corner (Solebury Township), Bycot (Buckingham Township), and Hilltop (Springfield Township). Although these communities have nearly (or, in some cases, completely) disappeared, it is still interesting to visit the old sites and search for clues to the villages' past existence. Imagining how these old settlements looked and wondering why they disappeared is part of the fun of exploring Bucks County.

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3Ibid, pp. 3, 37.
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