



The Aftoneer²⁰¹⁴



Mountains, Rivers, Parks, and Farms

Warren County, named for Battle of Bunker Hill hero Dr. Joseph Warren, came to be in 1824 by splitting from Sussex. One of New Jersey's most rural counties, it ranks ninth in size. Much of its land is forests, parks, and farms. It also has mountains.



It was the mountains that lured the first Europeans to the area that would become Warren County. They were Dutchmen, and they arrived in the 1650s to dig copper out of Kittatiny Mountain.

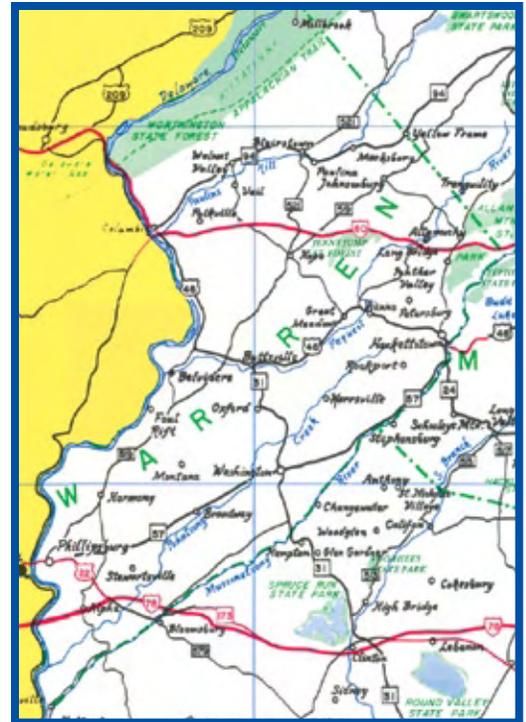
Their goal, of course, was to get it to where it could make them money. Floating it down the nearby Delaware River to Philadelphia wasn't an option because that city didn't yet exist. They meant to take it to the Hudson River port of Esopus (now Kingston). Their challenge was to get it there. A road through the forests was what they needed. So they built one. Their efforts produced what many say was America's first road — the Old Mine Road. You can still ride on a part of it that winds through Worthington State Forest.

Earnest settlement of the area began in 1726 when George Green and John Axford arrived from Long Island. It is said: they climbed a tree and decided the former should settle in the area that is now Mountain

(Continues on page 2.)



Kittatiny is a Native American name. Our Lenape DVDs will enlighten your students about how they lived. Study guides.



New Jersey iMap

This is the Warren County section of the iMap. The complete map has links for Warren County and the entire state. View it on your computer; project it on your interactive whiteboard. [Click here to see a larger interactive sample.](#)

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Afton publishes
The Aftoneer
to enrich learning "New Jersey" in the elementary grades.

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2015 Digital Edition Available This Summer

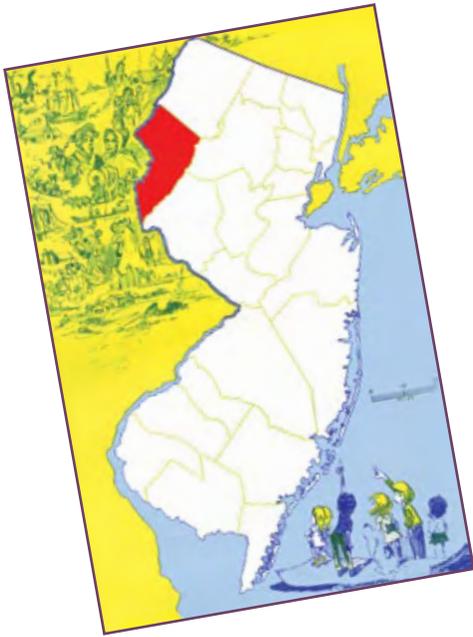


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Lake, the latter Oxford. Abram Van Campen and Lodewick Titman both bought land near the Delaware Water Gap in the 1730s. Harmon Shipman settled on Scotts Mountain in 1740.

Oxford became a little more settled in 1741 compliments of a store by Aaron Depui. A year later, Jonathan Robeson added an iron furnace. Philadelphia did exist then, and that was Robeson's destination for the iron ore he floated down the Delaware. Dr. William Shippen and his brother Joseph took over the furnace in 1754. They built a mansion and turned the town into a social center. Wealthy Philadelphians came to party and hunt foxes. One visitor was their niece, Peggy Shippen, who later married Benedict Arnold.

In 1760, Judge Samuel Hackett schemed to rename Helm's Mills for himself. After most of the town shared the judge's barrel of good spirits at a local tavern, they agreed that Hackett's Town was, indeed, a better name.

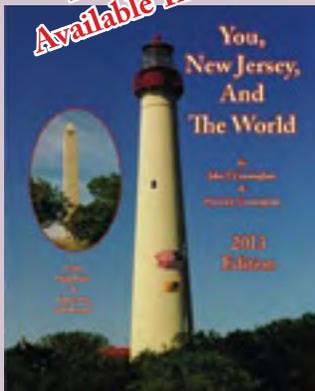
Phillipsburg, founded in about 1735, grew slowly due to competition from Easton on the other side of the Delaware River. It enjoyed a spurt of prosperity in 1790. During the canal years, from 1831 until early in the twentieth century, the town served as western port of the Morris Canal. Even the bustling activity of arriving and departing products did little for the town's economy. Prosperity would have to wait.



Morris Canal lock at Stephen's State Park

(Continues on page 3.)

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York City, New Jersey cities, and industrial centers in other parts of the state. They complain about their daily commute *out* of the county, but they continue to live *in* it. They seem to believe returning to a home in Warren County is worth it.

Not much happened quickly in Warren County, as was true with its agricultural development. Self-contained farmers gradually specialized. Celery and lettuce was grown in Great Meadows. Sod and other vegetables also did well here. Dairies prospered throughout the county. More recently, Christmas tree farms became popular. Landowners planted trees on unused acreage, encouraged by a 1991 farm definition change granting them farmland assessment.



Today there are more than 900 farmers in the county. The average farm size is 80 acres. About a quarter are in Farmland Preservation. Many sell their produce as fresh market or pick-your-own. They produce eggs, milk, beef, sheep, celery, sod, lettuce, wine, ornamentals, corn, spinach, beans, squash, apples, peaches, tomatoes, pumpkins, berries, cherries, sunflowers, and more.

Major change to the land along the Delaware River threatened in the late 1960s when the US Army Corps of Engineering proposed building a dam at Tock's Island. There was to be a reservoir and a recreational area. The public was not pleased. Citizens banded together. They protested loudly, and they did not give up. It worked: the dam was not built. The park, however, was. Visitors to Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area now enjoy boating and tubing down



the river, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, bird-watching, fishing, hunting, mountain-climbing, sightseeing, and just plain relaxing. Route 80 bisects the park and affords motorists breathe-taking views of the Delaware Water Gap.

According to the county directory, of the county's 233,312 acres, more than 110,000 are forested, almost 75,000 in farms, and close to 50,000 in federal, state, county, and town parkland. County state parkland includes, Jenny Jump State Forest in Hope, Allamuchy Mountain and Stephens State Park in the easternmost



point, and Worthington State Forest along the Delaware River. The Appalachian Trail makes its way through Worthington into the Delaware Water Gap and Pennsylvania.

Belvidere, the county's smallest municipality, is also its capital. The largest, Hardwick, has the fewest people. Phillipsburg is the most urban with just under 15,000 residents. Hackettstown is second with close to 10,000. Pahaquarry, where the Dutch first dug copper, became part of Hardwick Township in 1997. Long the least populated in the county, the population had dwindled to 20. The merger reduced the number of municipalities to 22.

Warren is a county of quiet beauty. Mountain Land in the northwest rolls into High Country to the south and east. The Delaware River and Water Gap provide scenic vistas and myriad recreational opportunities, as do many additional acres of parkland. Forests and picturesque farms add to the serenity. A low population keeps life simple and unhurried. Residents appreciate and respect



Falls on Paulinskil River near Blirstown

their environment. Interstates 80 and 78 offer ready access to what's needed from the outside. Warren County, in New Jersey's typical style of variety, is a pleasant blend of High Country, Mountain Land, farmland, and riverfront.



This picture was taken in September 2013. Do you know where in New Jersey it is? The 2015 *Aftoneer* will give you the answer.



The picture in the 2013 *Aftoneer* (above) is how Sandy left the Spring Lake Boardwalk. To the right is the same stretch of boardwalk in March 2014.

