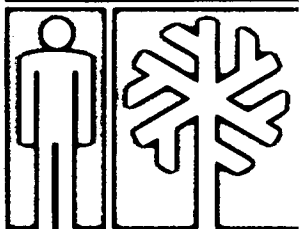


historic resource study

MILLBROOK VILLAGE

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DELAWARE WATER GAP



NATIONAL RECREATION AREA / NEW JERSEY-PENNSYLVANIA

historic resource study
Millbrook Village

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA / NEW JERSEY – PENNSYLVANIA

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DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Introduction

Millbrook was always a small community; at its height perhaps two dozen buildings gathered around a crossroad in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Today it does not appear on most maps. Travelers speeding west out of New York, Newark, or Trenton know it only as the last exit in New Jersey before I-80 crosses over the Delaware into Pennsylvania. Like thousands of similar villages throughout the East, Millbrook simply passed away, the victim of agricultural and technological change.

There is nothing historically significant about Millbrook. No famous man was born or lived there. It was not the site of a famous discovery, a well-known battle, or important political events. Descriptive phrases such as "transportation hub" or "location of an important industry" are not a part of Millbrook's past. Only the sentiments of several people raised in the village and the creation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area saved Millbrook from being totally forgotten.

Today it is difficult to imagine that in the 19th century Millbrook was an active village, the center of a small agricultural population living in Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey. The intention of this report is to describe Millbrook as it existed in the 19th century. It is a difficult task. Because Millbrook was little more than a hamlet, there are few sources pertaining to its history. There are none of the usual records such as transcripts of town committee meetings, tax rolls, or township records. Millbrookers did not write memoirs nor are there any personal papers such as letters or diaries. Fortunately, we do have the day book or ledger of a Millbrook merchant that covers a two year period from 1874 to 1876, but the manuscript stands alone.

If the task is difficult, it is nevertheless challenging. Millbrook was never a well-known community, but the village did represent how millions of Americans lived and worked before the rush to the cities drained the land, changing America from an agricultural to an urban society. Millbrook is a symbol of 19th century rural life not only in western New Jersey but also in the larger mountain region of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. The village is, in a sense, an archetype of the type of community and culture which characterized much of the Upper Delaware River Valley in the 19th century.

The report is divided in two parts, Millbrook to 1860 and Millbrook, 1860-1900. The second part constitutes the heart of the study.

The report is based primarily on sources uncovered by Delaware Water Gap historian Albert Dilahunty with the help of an able assistant, Mrs. Elizabeth D. Walters of East Stroudsburg. Their research uncovered such valuable source material as three 19th century maps of Millbrook, an 1861 pocket diary by an unknown Pahaquarry resident, and an 1865 tax roll. Mrs. Walters researched numerous deeds in the county records at Belvidere and painstakingly assembled a great deal of geneological data pertaining to Millbrookers. The author is grateful for having access to all the research previously conducted on Millbrook. All errors are, of course, his own.

Millbrook to 1860

Settlement

The identity of the first Millbrooker is unknown. He probably built a house sometime between 1800 and 1830 in what would become Millbrook Village. It is certain that he was not the first person to settle in Pahaquarry Township. The Dutch are reported to have worked a copper mine in the township around 1659. Indeed, Pahaquarry's claim to fame in New Jersey history is as the location of this mine and the road which connected it to Esopus, New York (called the Old Mine Road, the Kings Highway, Queen Highway, the Trade Path, Path of the Great Valley, and the Good Esopus Road).¹ The men who worked the mine did not stay long in the area as there is no record of any permanent settlement in the township during the 17th century.

Although some men probably lived along the Delaware in Pahaquarry before 1732, the date can be regarded as the beginning of permanent settlement in the area. In that year the township's most famous resident, Colonel Abram VanCampen, purchased a 1,666 acre tract identified by its Indian name, Pahaqualin, from one John Van Horne of New York City. Pahaqualin was soon pronounced Pahaquarry.

VanCampen was born in 1698 in Ulster County, New York. Both his parents were the children of Dutch immigrants. His paternal grandfather arrived in America as a soldier in Peter Stuyvesant's small army at New Netherlands. Sometime prior to 1732 Abram married one Susanne Depue, the daughter of Moses Depue, a successful Ulster County farmer. Abram, together with his brother Jan and his wife's brother Nicolas, settled in the Upper Delaware River Valley. Jan located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania; Nicolas settled in present-day Shawnee; and Abram moved into today's Pahaquarry Township. Abram became one of the area's leading citizens. He served as a justice of the peace, as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas, and as an elder in the Consistory of the Minisink Dutch Reformed Churches.² He is the only early Pahaquarry resident carried in Cyclopedia of

1. Henry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss, The Old Copper Mines of New Jersey (Trenton, 1963), p. 83.

2. Biographical information on Abram VanCampen is taken from Elizabeth D. Walters, "VanCampen Family in Pahaquarry," Typed MS, Monroe Country Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

New Jersey Biography, a 1916 listing of prominent figures in New Jersey history.³ Between 1732 and his death in 1767 Colonel VanCampen extended his land holdings in the area. At the time of his death he is reported to have owned up to 10,000 acres, or, just about all of the 12,800-acre township.

Although Abram VanCampen did not settle in Millbrook itself, he is associated with the village's history. He is responsible for the name Millbrook. Sometime between 1732 and probably 1750 VanCampen built a mill on the "kill" which flows through Pahaquarry. It was his mill which gave the small stream its name Millbrook. The date of the mill's construction is unknown. In a 1766 deed involving one of VanCampen's many, many land transactions, one finds the following property description:

. . . then along and up said brook (Millbrook) 17 chains to a stone corner standing on the west side of said brook to the John Depue house lot and also a corner of Benjamin Depue house lot then along his line to a stone corner and also a corner of Benjamin Depue . . . 200 acres excluding one half of 12 acres which hath been laid out for a mill where on the mill now stands and also a half of said mill . . . butted and bounded by head of a spring of water that runs into said VanCampen's Mill Brook on the south-easterly side there of 20 chains above the mill.⁴

Unfortunately, it is all but impossible to determine the location of VanCampen's mill from this property description. One of the corners is given as a "tree with a blaze and three notches on four sides."⁵

VanCampen's mill raises an interesting question. In all probability the mill was located near the VanCampen home in the Calno area. It was torn down at some unknown date, probably before 1832 when Abram Garis is reported to have built the mill at Millbrook. The Depue property, which is a part of the above property description, is not found in any of the deeds to Millbrook property. However, it is a very remote possibility that the VanCampen mill was located at the site of the Millbrook mill. If it was, then Millbrook Village

3. Cyclopedia of New Jersey Biography (Newark, 1916), p. 142.

4. Sussex Country Deed Records, Sussex County Court House, Newton, New Jersey, Book R2, p. 517. The deed is dated 1766, but it was not recorded until 1821.

5. Ibid.

would date to the 18th century. It is unknown why Abram Garis selected the Millbrook site for his mill. In all probability the fact that he owned the land played a major role in the decision where to locate the mill, i.e. Garis adapted the mill to his land along the brook. However, it is also possible that in choosing the site for his mill, Garis built where a mill had previously been in operation. That mill could have been VanCampen's mill. This, of course, is pure speculation. At the present time the best assumption is that there was no mill at Millbrook prior to the Garis mill, although VanCampen did operate a mill in Pahaquarry as early as the 1730s.

Abram VanCampen can be considered the father of Pahaquarry, if such a title is appropriate. Beginning around 1800 other men settled in the township. Whereas the first settlers came south along the Delaware out of New York, the men who followed them came from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It is probable that someone settled at Millbrook between 1800 and 1825. In 1834 one Thomas F. Gordon published A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey. In his description of Pahaquarry he wrote, "Thirteen householders whose ratables did not exceed \$30 in value; but no store, and but one grist mill, 4 mill saws, 59 horses and mules, and 121 meat cattle above the age of three years, paid a state and county tax of \$109."⁶ He went on to state that Pahaquarry was the name "given to a small cluster of houses, situated in the northern part of the township."⁷ In addition, he informed the reader, development had come to the township. A road was constructed through the gap on the New Jersey side in 1830. Unfortunately, there is no way of checking on the accuracy of Gordon's observations. In his History of Warren County George W. Cummins estimated that Pahaquarry's population in 1830 was 258.⁸ This would indicate that there were more than 13 householders in the township. In addition the \$30 figure for the average value of the residents' ratables does seem rather low. In relation to Millbrook, Gordon's statement that there was a small cluster of houses situated in the northern part of the township is interesting. He may have been referring to Millbrook, but a map published with the book does not show a Millbrook Village (or any other hamlet in the northern part of the township). The one grist mill was probably the Abram Garis mill at Millbrook. There are, then, reasons to conclude that between 1800 and 1830 a number of men settled at the site of Millbrook Village.

6. Thomas F. Gordon, A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey (Trenton, 1834), p. 203.

7. Ibid.

8. George W. Cummins, History of Warren County, New Jersey (New York, 1911), p. 271.

Millbrook was not yet called that and it was not yet a village. There was no store nor any of the other services the hamlet would later provide. But by 1830 a beginning to a village had been made.

1832 is an important date in Millbrook's history. That was the year Abram Garis built a grist mill at Millbrook.⁹ According to James Snell, the major source for the village's early history, Garis was typical of the people who settled at Millbrook. He was born in 1800 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and grew up there.¹⁰ At the age of 32 he purchased 17 acres in Millbrook from George Staley and P. J. Smith, who was Garis' brother-in-law.¹¹ (Garis married a Smith girl from Flatbrookville.) One of Abram's sons was named Philip J. Smith Garis. Staley was an early land owner in the township. Why Garis decided to move to Millbrook and build a mill is a matter of conjecture. When in 1830 a road was constructed on the New Jersey side of the Delaware, it marked an important step in the development of the area's infrastructure. The road allowed farmers to get their surplus crops to market and in other ways opened Pahaquarry to settlement. As small farms sprung up in the township, they created a need for a grist mill. It is probable that Garis recognized this need and decided to build a mill. Why he choose the site is unknown. As we have already speculated, it might have been because it was a good site for building the all important mill pond. A more likely explanation is that a number of houses had already been built at Millbrook and that there was already the beginnings of a very small hamlet located at the center of a larger agricultural community. Although the date of its construction is unknown, there was also a mill at Flatbrookville across the mountain from Millbrook. Pahaquarry farmers wishing to avail themselves of this mill's service had to drive their wagons across the mountain. By locating his mill at the northern end of the new road just before it crossed the mountain, Garis assured himself of most of the trade of Pahaquarry Township. Kittatinny Mountain funneled traffic up the road to Millbrook.

9. James P. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 701.

10. Elizabeth D. Walters, "Abram Garis Family of Millbrook, New Jersey," Typed MS, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area History Files.

11. Warren County Deed Records, Warren County Courthouse, Belvidere, New Jersey, Book 10, p. 227-31. Like most of the other titles referred to in this report, the title of the mill property was searched by Mrs. Walters. Although the citations used refer to the county records, copies of Mrs. Walters' searches are found in the DEWA history files.

The construction of the mill at Millbrook was the most important single happening in the village's history. It represented the so-called "take off" stage in Millbrook's development. Being a central point where farmers from the surrounding community brought their grains for processing, the mill attracted other entrepreneurs desiring to provide services to the farmers. As we shall see, such services included those of a blacksmith, a merchant, a shoemaker, and a distiller. In addition to economic services the Pahaquarry community also required satisfaction of its religious, cultural, and political needs. A church and school were established. A township government with a town committee was formed and it often met in the home of one of its Millbrook members. Although there were probably a few homes in Millbrook before Abram Garis built the mill, its construction in 1832 can be viewed as marking the real beginning of Millbrook Village.

By 1840, the year of the first halfway reliable Pahaquarry census, the township's population had grown to 370 inhabitants.¹² In comparison with today's Pahaquarry population, the township was rather crowded in 1840. Unfortunately, the 1840 census does not list any individual occupations for the township's residents. The occupations of the population were given as 131 employed in agriculture and six employed in manufacturing and trades. In 1840 Pahaquarry was overwhelmingly an agricultural community. It remained so throughout the 19th century. The name Millbrook does not appear on the 1840 census. Although there is no way of knowing from the census who actually lived in the village, a number of family names associated with Millbrook's subsequent history are given, such names as Garis, Spangenberg, Ribble, Welter, Hill, and Bunnell.

The six men engaged in manufacturing and trade allow room for some speculation. The number includes Abram Garis, the miller. Of the remaining five, one or more lived in Millbrook. The village probably had a store by 1840 as well as a blacksmith shop.

In addition to the construction of the Garis mill, the decade 1830-1840 witnessed another important Millbrook development. In 1839 Coonrod Welter, who arrived in the 1830s, helped establish the first organized religious congregation. According to James P. Snell, two Methodist preachers named Manning Force and George Banghart visited Pahaquarry around the turn of the century.¹³ Other itinerant ministers followed, but it was not until Welter arrived that regular church services began. That it was a Methodist church was no great surprise.

12. "Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey," R.G. 29, Records of the Bureau of Census, Microfilm M-704, Roll 262, National Archives (hereafter cited as Census Records - Pahaquarry).

13. Snell, History of Sussex and Warren Counties, p. 700.

When compared with other denominations of the period, the Methodists were a dynamic organization. Methodism scored its most dramatic successes in gaining new members on New Jersey's western frontier during the first half of the 19th century. Mobility was a key to Methodist success. "The circuit riders of itinerant ministry traveled ceaselessly around the circuit of small churches or classes," an historian of New Jersey religious history writes, "preaching, teaching, and co-ordinating the work of the local leadership."¹⁴ The system was interesting. There were no theological seminaries. A young man was given the appropriate books and placed under the supervision of an experienced circuit rider. As soon as the older minister felt the younger man was qualified to become a minister, he was given a circuit of his own. Vigorous leadership contributed to Methodist congregations springing up wherever a small village or a few families were located. Unlike the Presbyterians and Anglicans, who stressed doctrine and liturgy in their worship, the Methodists "preached for conversion, using every emotional device they knew."¹⁵ In Millbrook Coonrod Welter's home became known as the "Methodist tavern." Under the direction of a Reverend Baker, the first class consisted of Coonrod Welter and his wife Mary, Dingman Decker and spouse, and Uriah and Sarah Hill.¹⁶ Although Welter's home was an adequate meeting place for the young congregation, the members naturally desired a church building. In 1840 a church house was constructed on a hillside near the Millbrook cemetery. It was a stone and frame building with a double function. The stone basement served as a school and the frame second story functioned as the church. The site of this structure is still visible. When the building was completed, the people had a real church in which to meet when the minister sounded his "itinerant's horn" announcing his arrival in Millbrook.

The establishment of a church at Millbrook in 1839 marked another important step in the transformation of a group of houses into a village. By 1840 Millbrook had become the center for the Pahaquarry agricultural community. The mill, probably a store and blacksmith shop, and the church-school provided economic, cultural, and religious services to the surrounding community. Millbrook had become a village.

Unfortunately, Millbrook's history during the 1840s and 1850s is a silent affair. Little is known about the village during these two decades. The census records show that Pahaquarry grew from 370 inhabitants in 1840 to 424 in 1860. The township contained 76 dwellings

14. Wallace N. Jamison, Religion in New Jersey (Princeton, 1964), p. 92.

15. Ibid., p. 94.

16. Snell, p. 700.

occupied by 78 families. There were 36 farms and six "private establishments."¹⁷ The 1850 census began the practice of listing individual occupations and in addition gave the home state of the Pahaquarry citizenry. In relation to the latter it is interesting to note that as of 1850 the township's population was almost entirely native-born. Most residents came from New Jersey while others gave Pennsylvania as their home state. Two had moved in from New York. There was a lone Irish immigrant. The indigenous character of Pahaquarry's population indicates that the area attracted primarily people who were at least second or third generation Americans. The area never was a region for immigrant settlement. The 1860 census reveals that the entire population was born in either New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or New York. The people who moved to Pahaquarry between 1840 and 1860 probably came from no farther than 100 miles away.

In listing occupations for Pahaquarry the 1850 census gives us a good picture of the division of labor in the area at the middle of the 19th century. Although primarily an agricultural community of farmers and farm laborers, there were still a number of non-farm occupations. The census shows that Pahaquarry was the home of a slate manufacturer, a cabinet maker, two wheelwrights, two blacksmiths, a school teacher, a merchant, a miller, a carpenter, and a number of shoemakers. Unfortunately, this census also does not identify the people living in Millbrook. The six "private establishments" refer to small businesses of a non-farm character. Of these six several were probably located in Millbrook. Francis Stires, who gave his occupation as merchant, probably ran a small store in Millbrook. Then there was of course the mill. The census lists one Dennis Fuller as a miller. Abram Garis, whom we know did not sell the mill until 1854, is not carried. The census taker apparently missed the entire Garis family. It is possible that Fuller ran the mill. Mark Ribble, one of the two blacksmiths, had his shop at Millbrook. One of the wheelwrights, at least one of the shoemakers, and probably the carpenter also lived in or near the village. A number of men who gave their occupations as farmers or farm laborers are, as we shall see, associated with Millbrook. James Spangenburg, Jacob or James Ozenbough, and Malachi Sutton were in this group.

As of 1860 Millbrook continued as the center of Pahaquarry Township. The community was self-sufficient in a number of essential areas. At his store Stires sold consumer goods and provided an outlet for the farmer's surplus crops. The church and school functioned. A blacksmith kept the farm animals shod and made

17. "Census Records - Pahaquarry," 1850 Census: M-432, Roll 465; 1860 Census: M-653, Roll 711.

basic iron products such as nails and hinges. The wheelwright repaired the farmer's wagon and the shoemaker, carpenter, and cabinet maker provided their services. At the beginning of the Civil War Pahaquarry was an established rural community. Millbrook Village was its service center.

Millbrook, 1860-1900

1860-1880

The population of Pahaquarry remained relatively stable between 1860 and 1880. During these two decades Millbrook reached its point of highest growth. As of 1860 the village consisted of some 17 structures and probably had a population of around 60 to 75 residents.¹⁸ The 1860 Walling map (see illustrations) shows the following people living in the village: Elias L. Garis, Silvester W. Hill, Isaac Bunnell, Malachi M. Sutton, William Bartholf, George A. Trauger, J. I. Blair, James Butler, James Spangenburg, Wildrick and Hill, James Schoonover, and James or Jacob Ozenbaugh. This was not Millbrook's total population. A number of the above men had one or more boarders. In addition Coonrod Welter, who lived just past the school, can be considered a Millbrooker. J. I. Blair, a large area landowner, apparently never did live in Millbrook. In 1865 he sold 123 acres including the house shown on the map to Charles F. Kinney, a farmer.¹⁹ The identity of James Butler is unknown. He does not appear on either the 1850 or 1860 Pahaquarry census returns.

Fourteen years later in 1874 Millbrook was depicted as containing 19 structures (see illustrations).²⁰ The map shows the Millbrookers as: Elias L. Garis, Abram Atwood Garis, Coonrod Welter, E. Kimball, J. Cole, Elias Schoonover, George A. Trauger, Mrs. Sarah Spangenburg, Mrs. Angeline VanCampen, Bartley D. Fuller, Isaac Bunnell, and Philip J. S. Garis. Again, this was not Millbrook's total population. Several families took in boarders and a few people probably lived at the hotel. Charles Labar, for example, according to the 1860 census a farm laborer, lived in the hotel in 1856 when his son was born.²¹ The map showed a school, a hotel, a wagon and blacksmith shop, a structure identified simply as Warren Co., the Methodist-Episcopal Church, a store and post office, and the grist mill. The Warren Co. building might have been some type of road maintenance shop.

18. F. W. Walling, "Map of Warren County, New Jersey, 1860," (New York, 1860),

19. Elizabeth D. Walters, "Brief Chain of Title to John I. Blair House, Millbrook," Typed MS, DEWA History Files.

20. F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Warren New Jersey (New York, 1874).

21. Elizabeth D. Walters, "Labar Family," Typed MS, DEWA History Files.

The 1860 and 1874 maps identify the principal 19th century Millbrook families. Thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth D. Walters we have geneological and biographical information on a number of early Millbrookers.

The Millbrookers

Coonrod Welter was the son of a second generation German family. He was born in 1799 in Morris County, New Jersey. In 1839 he moved his growing family to Pahaquarry and settled down to the life of a farmer. He had thirteen children by his first wife Mary. She died in 1847 and is buried in Millbrook cemetery. At the time of his wife's death Coonrod still had seven little Welters under the age of sixteen at home. He of course remarried and, obviously enjoying a large family, proceeded to add four more children to the Welter clan.

Coonrod was among the more prosperous farmers in Pahaquarry Township. At the time of the 1870 census his property and personal possessions were valued at \$16,500, a figure exceeded by only two other area farmers.²² In 1865 his property for tax purposes was assessed at \$5,920.²³ Being one of the area's more prosperous farmers, Coonrod was a leader in the Millbrook community. As we have already seen, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Methodist church. When the first church was constructed in 1840, Welter was chosen a trustee together with Uriah Hill, Dingman Decker, and Benjamin Shoemaker.²⁴ The combination church-school functioned from 1840 to 1860. In 1860 the congregation decided to construct a new Methodist-Episcopal Church. Coonrod was a leader in the construction of the new church, which stood in the village until 1971, when it was destroyed by fire. He is reported to have donated the land and contributed a good portion of the \$1,500 construction fund. In addition to being a church leader, Welter also served the community in other ways. He functioned as tax collector in 1855 and 1871. He served on the town committee in 1840, '43, '46, and '47.²⁵ His home is one of the best preserved structures in Millbrook.

22. "Census Records - Pahaquarry," 1870 Census: M-593, Roll 892.

23. "Assessment of the Township of Pahaquarry taken in the month of August One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Five by M. VanCampen, Assessor," DEWA History Files (hereafter cited as 1865 Tax Assessment). As far as is known, this is the only 19th century tax assessment for some of the Millbrook residents. It is a valuable document dug up by Historian Albert Dilahunty.

24. Snell, p. 700.

25. "Welter Family Notes," Typed MS, DEWA History Files.

Moving up the road from Coonrod Welter's place, one comes to the home of Elias L. Garis. (The name Garis is spelled in different ways: Garris, Gariss, and Garis. Garis is the accepted spelling.) One could immediately suspect that Elias L. Garis was a member of the Abram Garis family. Elias L. was indeed related to Abram Garis, but it was by marriage. Elias was a Flatbrookville Garis, not a Millbrook Garis. He was born in 1824. He moved to Millbrook sometime before 1860, the first year his name appears on the Pahaquarry census. (Given the unreliability of the census rolls, it is possible that Elias came to Millbrook at an earlier date.) In 1853 Elias purchased land from Coonrod Welter.²⁶ This could be the date of his arrival in the village. He married Hannah M. Garis, the daughter of Abram Garis and sister of Philip J. S. Garis. (This action promptly added to the already confusing Garis geneology.) On the 1860 census Elias gave his occupation as farmer. The value of his property and personal possessions was estimated to be \$1,100. In 1865 the tax assessment showed that he owned 28 acres. The value of his property for tax purposes was given as \$1,650. In 1870 Elias estimated that his holdings were worth \$1,900. He was not among the richest men in the township, but he also was not poor.

Before moving to Millbrook E. L. Garis worked as a teacher and mail carrier. Once established in Millbrook, farming became his principal occupation. However, there are indications that he also served the community in other ways. A small pocket diary kept by an unknown Pahaquarry resident and dated 1861 implies that E. L. Garis was a town judge or justice of the peace. In an entry dated April 20, 1861, the diary keeper noted, ". . . conducted a suit for Robert Cooper. Judgment \$112.58, E. L. Garis Justice."²⁷ On another page the writer stated that he paid one Glover's debt to "Elias Garis, Esq." Although he did not have a law degree, E. L. Garis was a local lawyer and judge involved in settling minor disputes. He was a trusted member of the community and often served on the town committee. He died in 1909 and is buried in Millbrook cemetery.

Continuing up the road on the 1860 map the visitor to Millbrook came to the residence of Silvester W. Hill. Little is known about Silvester. He might have been a son of Uriah Hill. His name appears on the census roll for the first time in 1860, when he gave his occupation as carpenter. His possessions were valued at \$600. The same 1860 map also shows a structure identified simply as Wildrick and Hill. In the deed records this structure is identified both as the tavern lot and the store. As of 1860 it apparently was a

26. Warren County Deed Records, Book 38, p. 135

27. "Daily Pocket Diary for the Year 1861," Author unknown, DEWA History Files (hereafter cited as "Pocket Diary"). Like the tax assessment roll, this is also a valuable Pahaquarry document.

combination tavern-store run by Silvester Hill. In 1861 he purchased the property from Isaac Wildrick and Abram Wildrick of Blairstown.²⁸ Unfortunately, Silvester Hill's name does not appear on the 1870 census. Perhaps he moved away from Millbrook in 1863, the year he sold the tavern lot to James Spangenberg.²⁹

Continuing up the road the next structure on the left hand side was the hotel. As of 1860 the hotel was owned by Malachi M. Sutton. On the 1860 census Sutton gave his profession as hotel keeper and estimated the value of his property at \$5,500. It is unknown with certainty when the hotel was first opened but it might have been prior to 1860, when Sutton purchased the tract from Isaac Bunnell. The description reads, "Isaac Bunnell to Malachi Sutton for \$1,000 land adjoining Silvester Hill, near where James Spangenberg used to live and adjoining George A. Trauger--containing one acre with houses and buildings."³⁰ There was a structure or structures on the property prior to 1860, but there is no indication they functioned as a hotel. The 1850 census does not show a hotel keeper in Pahaquarry. It is here assumed that Sutton opened the hotel at Millbrook about 1860, the year he purchased the property. (In subsequent sales the hotel lot was divided and sold as ½-acre lots.)

Malachi M. Sutton was born in 1813 and died in 1891. He is buried in Galno cemetery. He first purchased land in Pahaquarry in 1844. The 1850 census lists his occupation as farmer. In 1860 he owned the hotel. Sutton did not stay long in the hotel business. The 1870 census lists his occupation as farm laborer. He does not appear on the 1880 census. He moved to Hardwick Township sometime during the 1870s. Like most Millbrookers, Sutton served the community in various capacities. He was appointed the first Millbrook postmaster in 1848, a position he held for a year. He served again as postmaster from 1860 to 1863. He was tax collector in 1849, served as town clerk in 1853 and from 1863 to 1865, and belonged to the town committee in 1856.³¹

Turning the corner and proceeding up the road to Flatbrookville, the next Millbrook home encountered was the George A. Trauger residence. It is unknown when George Trauger settled in Millbrook. The first appearance of his name on the census roll is 1860. He was a farmer and

28. Warren County Deed Records, Book 56, p. 365.

29. Ibid., Book 57, p. 503.

30. Ibid., Book 51, p. 233.

31. Elizabeth D. Walters, "Malachi M. Sutton," Typed MS, DEWA History Files. The information on officeholders in Millbrook comes from Snell, p. 621.

his property was reported to be worth \$3,800. The 1865 tax assessment stated that he owned 89 acres. During the 1860s Trauger apparently prospered. The 1870 census placed his worth at \$7,500. His name does not appear on the 1880 census. He moved to Walpack. Both George and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the old Walpack cemetery near Flatbrookville.

On the hill up behind the Trauger place in 1860 was the J. I. Blair property. This tract covered some 123 acres. As we have already noted, Blair did not apparently actually occupy the property. It might have been a summer residence. In 1865 he sold it to Charles F. Kinney, one of Pahaquarry's large farmers. In 1869 Kinney sold the property to Jacob O. Steckles. The 1874 maps show Steckles as the owner. In 1883 Steckles sold it back to Kinney, who in 1887 sold it to his son Joseph. Two years later Joseph sold to Charles Labar.³² The J. I. Blair property gives us a good indication of what happened to land prices in Pahaquarry between the end of the Civil War and the 1880s. Fortunately, unlike most other Millbrook property, the Blair land was not subdivided in the 2nd half of the 19th century. The same 123 acres changed hands at each transfer. The price Charles F. Kinney paid to J. I. Blair is unknown, but it was probably a little less than the \$4,000 Jacob O. Steckles paid Kinney in 1869. In 1883, when Steckles sold it back to Kinney, he received \$3,600. Four years later, when Charles sold the property to his son Joseph, the price was \$1,600. Charles might have sold the land to his son at a price under the market value. Nevertheless, two years later in 1889 Joseph was only able to get \$1,124 from Charles Labar for the 123 acres. Between 1865 and 1889 the value of 123 acres near Millbrook had dropped by almost 75%. We will return to the decline of Millbrook, but falling land prices, as shown by what happened to the property J. I. Blair owned in 1860, is a good illustration of the economic decline of the area after about 1880.

Crossing the road on the 1860 map and heading back down towards the village crossroad, the visitor came to the James Butler home. The name James Butler is a mystery. He does not appear on any of the Pahaquarry census returns between 1840 and 1880. Perhaps this was the same structure identified as "Warren Co." on the 1874 map and Butler was a county employee who happened to be living there at the time the surveyor drew the 1860 map.

Continuing down the road in 1860 one came to two more structures. One of them is presumed to be the residence of William Bartholf (also spelled Bertholf). According to the 1860 census, William Bartholf was a wheelwright whose property was valued at \$650. The craftsmen in Millbrook were not as wealthy as the farmers. It is unknown when

32. "Chain to title of John I. Blair House, Millbrook," Typed MS, DEWA History Files.

he moved to Millbrook, but, since his name does not appear on the 1850 census, it must have been sometime between 1850 and 1860. Bartholf apparently died sometime between 1860 and 1865. The 1865 tax assessment lists his wife Jane as owning a lot. The name Bartholf does not appear on the 1870 census and the 1874 Millbrook maps do not show any Bartholfs as residing in the area.

The structure at the crossroads across from the hotel on the 1860 map is something of a mystery. It is not identified and it does not appear on the 1874 maps. One can speculate that it was a residence or some type of outbuilding.

Moving up the road the next structure is identified simply as a "shop." This was the blacksmith shop. In 1860 it was run by either Mark Ribble or George Decker, both of whom appear as blacksmiths on the 1860 census. It is here assumed that Ribble was the Millbrook blacksmith. If the structure was only a shop, Ribble either had his residence elsewhere, lived at the hotel, or boarded with a Millbrook family. Since the same census shows that three of his children were attending school, it is safe to conclude he had a home somewhere near Millbrook (or at his shop). Mark Ribble does not appear on the 1870 census. He apparently retired or left Millbrook.

A short distance farther up the road one came to the James Spangenburg home. In 1860 James Spangenburg listed his occupation as farmer. He died in 1866. The 1870 census lists his wife Sarah and the 1874 maps show the property under the name of Mrs. Sarah Spangenburg. James Spangenburg was one of Millbrook's earliest residents. His name appears on the 1840 census. On the 1860 census his property and personal possessions were valued at \$3,800. He was the typical Pahaquarry farmer. After James' death Sarah married Henry L. Masker, whom she also outlived. Sarah died in 1892 and both she and James are buried in Millbrook cemetery.

Like the other 19th century Millbrook families, James and Sarah had a large family. Seven children blessed the marriage, two of whom, Abigail and Andrew, remained in Millbrook. Abigail married Henry P. Kithcart, whose residence appears on the 1874 map. Andrew married a Garis. The 1874 map shows Andrew occupying the Spangenburg home. In later years Andrew and his wife lived in the white house in the rear of the "hotel" (the present ranger station). He had four sons, James, Jason, George, and Lester. George owned a store and the hotel in Millbrook around 1910 after purchasing the same from the heirs of Philip J. S. Garis. He later moved to East Stroudsburg and then to Texas. Lester died in Millbrook in 1957. James and Jason also lived for many years in Millbrook. Like Garis the name Spangenburg covered the entire history of Millbrook Village.³³

33. "Spangenburg, Masker, Kithcart," Typed MS, DEWA History Files.

Turning around in 1860 at the James Spangenburg home and coming back down the road to the crossroad, the visitor came to the Wildrick and Hill store and tavern. Rounding the corner and crossing the stone bridge, a substantial frame structure came into view. It was the mill. As we have already seen, Abram Garis built the mill in 1832. In 1854 he sold the 17-acre mill property to Elijah Schoonover for \$2,000. Elijah Schoonover apparently moved to Millbrook at the time he purchased the mill for his name does not appear on the 1850 census. In 1858 Elijah conveyed the mill to James Schoonover, his son. The 1860 map shows James living in the miller's house. Elijah remained in the Millbrook area. The 1870 census does not show him as the head of a household, however the 1874 map indicates that he owned or operated the hotel at that time. He apparently did not stay in the hotel business. The 1880 census lists him as a laborer. In 1861 James Schoonover sold the mill to one Robert Hunt of Blairstown who, six days later, conveyed it to Bartley D. Fuller. On the same day Fuller sold the property to a Maria Smith of Newton for \$2,375. Maria Smith owned the mill until 1867, when she sold it to a William Fox for \$3,000. In 1868 Bartley D. Fuller bought it back for \$2,400. The property remained in the Fuller family until 1905, when Bartley's widow and son sold it for \$500. The property had greatly depreciated between the 1860s and 1905, another indication of the gradual decline of Millbrook after 1880.³⁴

Continuing up the road the visitor came to the James or Jacob Ozenbaugh home. Like other Millbrookers, James was a jack-of-many-trades. On the 1869 and 1870 census returns his occupation is given as farm laborer. By 1874 he had moved out of Millbrook to another residence a few miles away. Although his name does not appear on the 1880 census, he was still living in the area. In addition to being a laborer and mechanic, James Ozenbaugh was also a cooper. The mystery building on the 1860 map opposite the hotel might have been his shop. Seeing no more residences ahead, the visitor turned around, returned to the crossroad, and walked toward the church. On the left was a small structure. It is not identified on the 1860 map, but it was probably a store. Strangely, the 1860 census does not list any Pahaquarry resident as being a merchant. Francis C. Stires, the merchant as of 1850, listed shoemaker as his occupation in 1860. The map identifies the next structure as belonging to Philip P. S. Garis. In 1860 Philip Garis gave his occupation as shoemaker, but it is possible that he had already entered the merchant trade and had opened a store in this building.

Philip J. S. Garis was the complete Millbrooker. He was born October 23, 1825, the third child of the miller Abram Garis. He

34. The source for the title history of the mill is Elizabeth D. Walters, "Grist Mill Property in the Village of Millbrook," DEWA History Files.

lived in Millbrook his entire life, dying there in 1908 at the age of 83. Abram and Philip Garis spanned the history of Millbrook from its beginnings in the 1830s to its demise as a village after the turn of the century. Philip learned the shoemaker trade. He apparently practiced his trade in Millbrook until about 1860, when he went into business as a merchant. In 1865 his property was valued at \$1,650. By 1870 it had increased to \$3,500. The 1874 map shows both the Garis home and store. The post office was located at the store. Like others he served on the town committee, as town clerk, and as tax assessor. From 1863 to 1897 he was the Millbrook postmaster. In addition to being remembered as one of the village's leading citizens, Philip also enjoyed the reputation of being Millbrook's most married man. He had four wives. Among his children were Cemantha Alice and Abram Atwood. The 1874 map shows an A. Garis residence just above the E. L. Garis home. The structure belonged to Abram Atwood, who was a shoemaker and who also worked in his father's store. Among Abram Atwood's children was a son named Norman. In 1892 Norman left Millbrook and moved to Newton to better his prospects by learning the newspaper trade. In Newton he worked for the Sussex Register and in 1894 joined the New Jersey Herald, Summit, New Jersey. It was Norman S. Garis who in 1935 started Millbrook Days, a once a year gathering of old Millbrookers and their children. Fortunately, one of Norman's children, Mrs. Harold D. Flood of Philadelphia, preserved a ledger which belonged to her grandfather Philip. The day book, which will be discussed later, is one of the very few sources on Millbrook economic life.

Continuing down the road in 1860 toward his starting point, the visitor next passed the Methodist-Episcopal Church. At the time it was a spanking new building having been erected the same year. According to Snell, a Rev. Cornelius Clark laid the cornerstone and preached upon the occasion. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1860 by Reverend C. S. VanCheve assisted by Reverend A. S. Compton.³⁵ The completion of the new church was undoubtedly a happy event in the lives of many Millbrookers.

Walking along, one next came to the home of Isaac Bunnell. Bunnell came from Walpack Township to Millbrook sometime between 1850 and 1860. In 1860 he gave his occupation as farmer and listed his property and possessions as being worth \$5,000. On the 1870 census return his occupation is listed as butcher and in 1880 he referred to himself as a laborer. There are indications that Bunnell, like most Millbrookers, worked a number of jobs. From Philip Garis' ledger we know that he often hauled goods for Garis, i.e. Bunnell was in the transport business.³⁶ Bunnell might also have been the local distiller. The author

35. Snell, p. 700.

36. "Philip J. S. Garis his Day Book, 1874-1876," p. 25, Xerox Copy DEWA History Files (hereafter cited as "Garis Ledger").

of the "1861 Pocket Diary" noted on July 24, 1861, that he purchased some rum from Bunnell.³⁷ On September 3, 1874, Bunnell purchased no less than 1350 pounds of rye from Philip Garis.³⁸ He could have done many things with the rye, but one suspects he might have made some good rye whiskey. As the 1874 census shows, Bunnell moved sometime between 1860 and 1874. As of 1874 he was living either in the 1860 James Ozenbaugh house, or, he had built a house in the same general location. Bunnell also served the community as a member of the town committee and as postmaster in 1859. He died in the area in 1900 and together with his wife is buried in the Calno cemetery.

Turning now to the 1874 maps as our guide to Millbrook, we note several changes in the Millbrook scene. The house where Silvester Hill lived in 1860 was as of 1874 owned by either Coonrod Welter or E. Kimball. E. Kimball is a mystery name. He appeared on neither the 1870 nor the 1880 census returns. Elish Schoonover had purchased the hotel from Malachi M. Sutton. J. Cole is shown as proprietor. Abram Atwood Garis, who had learned the shoemaker trade from his father Philip, had left home and built a house of his own. The Wildrick and Hill store and tavern had closed down and the structure had become the residence of Mrs. A. VanCampen. Another new house had gone up next to the church. It was owned by Coonrod Welter. It is possible that one of Coonrod's sons lived there. As of 1874 Bartley D. Fuller owned the mill and related buildings. But he was an absentee landlord. In 1875 Daniel Dingman ran the mill. The larger 1874 map shows a cider mill and the residences of M. Van Gordon and C. Kimble just up the road from Millbrook. Calvin Kimble was the village blacksmith, having taken over Mark Ribble's shop. The cider mill, an industry, can also be attributed to Millbrook. Other people lived in Millbrook, but they did not own homes and thus do not appear on the map. We know that a school functioned during these years. The school teacher was either a member of a Millbrook family or boarded with someone in the village. Cemantha Garis, the daughter of Philip Garis, taught at the school in 1870 and lived at home. A few craftsmen probably also lived in the village, e.g. a shoemaker and a carpenter. A number of Millbrook farmers probably had laborers working for them. These men lived with the family. We do not have an exact or accurate population figure for Millbrook between 1860 and 1880, but the population probably ranged from 60 to 75 people during these years.

Millbrook, 1880-1900

Records for Millbrook Village between 1800 and 1900 are sparse. After 1880 Pahaquarry Township entered a period of slow decline. By the turn of the century both the township and the village had lost

37. "Pocket Diary, July 24, 1861."

38. "Garis Ledger," p. 121.

at least one half to three fourths of their 1880 population. Philip Garis continued to operate his store until the turn of the century. It was sold to George R. Spangenburg in 1910, two years after Philip passed on. Calvin Kimble continued as the village blacksmith, but his son Isaac opened another blacksmith shop in direct competition with his father. The mill continued to function. George Garis was the miller in 1895. The Millbrook school continued to welcome the children in its district and services were held at the church. Many of the sons and daughters of the original Millbrookers married and moved away. A few, such as Abram Atwood Garis, a number of the Spangenburgs, and several of Coonrod Welter's sons, remained. Others died or simply left, such as George A. Trauger, Isaac Bunnell, and James Ozenbaugh. By 1900 Millbrook was still a village. Tourists coming to the scenic Delaware Water Gap area now visited. But Millbrook's days were clearly numbered.

Millbrook Life

We know little about life in Millbrook during the 19th century. Records and documents are few and far between. What data we have comes from the period 1860 to 1880. From this data it is possible to draw a few general conclusions about life in Millbrook.

According to the definitions of rural sociology, a village was a rural social unit with a population of at least 250 people.³⁹ Millbrook's population never reached 250 and it is doubtful that more than 75 people ever lived there. Millbrook was in terms of population a hamlet. But Millbrook did provide most of the functions of what the same rural sociologists call the single service village or the service station village. This type village was located in a rural environment and interacted with a larger community of farmers and villagers. Millbrook's community consisted of all those people who availed themselves of the majority of the economic, social, cultural, and religious services provided by the village.⁴⁰ In that Millbrook did provide each of these services to the people in its community, the hamlet can be considered a village. What, then, was the economic, social, and cultural life of Millbrook in the 19th century?

Economic Life

As the census returns from 1840 to 1880 reveal, Pahaquarry was almost entirely a rural community. There was no industry outside of a slate quarry, a couple of sawmills, and one or two gristmills.

39. David R. Jenkins, Growth and Decline of Agricultural Villages (New York, 1940).

40. Edmund D. Brunner, Village Communities (New York, 1927), p. 28.

The farms scattered throughout the township were not large. The biggest contained no more than 100 acres of cultivated land. Some farms consisted of no more than a dozen to two dozen acres. Most of these farms were of the subsistence type, i.e. the farmer produced enough food to support his family with a small surplus left over to sell.

Millbrook was the service center for the farms in most of Pahaquarry Township. As we have already seen, the establishment of the mill in 1832 marked the beginning of the village as a service station. Since farmers brought their grains to the mill for processing, it became a location where other services congregated. Just as today a large supermarket or a department store will attract around it numerous smaller and more specialized stores to form a "shopping center," so the mill became the catalyst for the village. A store opened; a blacksmith set up his shop; a carpenter, shoemakers, a cooper, and wheelwrights moved in; and a school and church were established. All were located near the mill, a central point where farmers from the community could come to avail themselves of the various services offered by the village.

Unfortunately, we do not know what prices the miller charged for his services. We do know that the mill did not function twelve months a year. The 1870 census industrial schedule for Pahaquarry at the time Daniel Dingham was miller contains a description of the mill. It represented a capital investment of \$6,500. Water was its energy source. The mill contained three "machines" which produced ten horsepower. Its labor cost was \$30 a year for the services of one laborer. The mill processed 10,000 bushels or baskets of grain a year which had a market value of \$9,000. The mill was inactive 10 months a year.⁴¹

The farmers had most of their grain milled for their own use. Where the mill marketed flour is unknown, but it was probably hauled to Newton or Stroudsburg. Philip Garis purchased buckwheat from the farmers, but there is only a single entry in his ledger for a flour purchase. Some farmers did not use the Millbrook mill and instead hauled wheat directly to market. The author of the "Pocket Diary" noted on February 3, 1874, "John Kinney to Stroudsburg with load of wheat."⁴²

41. "Industrial Schedule, 1850-1880, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey," R.G. 29, Records of the Bureau of Census, Box Numbers 9707 and 9708, Microfilm, National Archives. The schedule says that the mill was inactive 10 months out of 12.

42. "Pocket Diary, February 3, 1861."

The mill was Millbrook's only industry. It was not at the same time the most important economic institution in the village. That position was held by the store. As Philip Garis' day book documents, the store played a central role in the community's economy. When the consumer looks today at a block of stores, he knows that in one of them he can purchase groceries, dry goods, chinaware, or any of the other vast range of consumer goods he requires. Millbrook did not have a block of shops. There was only the one store. As a result Philip Garis carried in his inventory a very large variety of products. It would be impractical to list all the items Millbrookers could purchase at the Garis store, but a few are worth noting. Dry goods included: bed tick, belts, muslin, boots, braid, gloves, buttons, flannel, calico, coat lining, collars, corset stays, cotton yarn, shoes, thread, needles of all types, lace, elastic, linen, mittens, drawers, pens, ribbons, vest lining, velveteen, wadding, woolen yarn and white hose. According to Mrs. Elizabeth D. Walter's index to the ledger, the grocery inventory contained no less than 85 individual items. They ranged from apples and beeswax through fish and oils to soap, soda, spices, and tobacco. Then there was the hardware department. Here the customer could purchase such things as a lamp chimney, lamp wick, lantern, spoons, nails, oil, plates, pots, pans, mouse trap, putty, empty jars, sand paper, plow share, scythe, shovel, shot, powder, files, spittoon, stove polish, tin bath pail, turpentine, wash tub, brushes, and window glass. Garis also carried patent medicines which "cured" common complaints. Atwood's Bitters, Camphor, castor oil, epsom salts, peppermint, laudanum, magnesium, soothing syrup, pills, and Tobias linament were a few of the many medicines the suffering Millbrooker could pick up at the general store. Finally there was a wide variety of "sundries"; such things as violin strings, pencils, paper, and tooth brushes were in this category. The combined index for items sold at the store shows around 500 different items.

The Millbrook store was truly a general store. The discerning buyer could purchase there just about anything he needed. Although Garis probably only sold one or two examples of a certain item every year, he had to have it on inventory. If the customer did not find what he wanted, he might go elsewhere, even as far as Stroudsburg or Newton. In the larger towns prices were lower. The Garis store satisfied the consumer needs of the Millbrook community.

The store also had another very important function that totally distinguished it from its modern counterparts. Garis not only sold goods to members of the local community, he also bought from them. In so doing he provided an economic service vital to the economic life of the community. Typical examples of how the system worked are provided by three Millbrook farmers, E. L. Garis, George Trauger, and Isaac Bunnell.

E. L. Garis, Philip's brother-in-law, maintained a regular account at the store. When he required something, he walked down to

the store, purchased his goods, and Philip debited his account. When Elias had something from his small farm to sell, he also went to the store. Philip purchased from Elias such produce as eggs, butter, and raspberries. As payment he credited the latter's account. The same applied to George Trauger. Trauger's wife decided to make a new dress or sew some new curtains. She went to the store and purchased calico, muslin, indigo, and thread. Garis debited the Trauger account. During the next month George drove his wagon to the store with eggs, butter, and buckwheat. Garis purchased the farm produce and credited the Trauger account. Philip had a similar arrangement with Isaac Bunnell. Bunnell bought a wide variety of goods from Garis, from a paper or a half pound of tobacco to tea, nails, and glass. Bunnell in turn sold buckwheat, eggs, butter, and corn to Garis. All transactions were accounted for in the Garis day book. The store had similar arrangements with most of the farmers in the area. On February 6, 1874, for example, Garis purchased nine eggs for 16¢, fifteen pounds of Beef for \$1.50, and 187 pounds of oats for \$2.92 from James M. Kinney. Kinney in turn purchased hardware, groceries, and dry goods at the store. The range of items Garis purchased was large. It covered most farm products from butter, eggs, oats, buckwheat and corn to rye, beef hides, and small quantities of meat. He bought old iron, wood, and wool yarn. From Lydia Kimble, blacksmith Calvin Kimble's wife, Garis purchased woven carpets.

Garis also purchased services from his fellow Millbrookers. E. L. Garis, Isaac Bunnell, and George Trauger hauled goods for Garis. When he had accumulated quantities of eggs, buckwheat, or butter, Garis hired one of these men to haul the produce to market. Newton was Garis' preferred market. The Sussex County seat was also Garis' wholesale center. On the return trip Elias or Isaac brought goods for the store. Payment took place in the Garis ledger. The cost of hauling was given a dollar and cent value which was then credited to the given account. This of course increased the individual's balance, allowing him to purchase goods from the store.

In addition to contributing to the village's economic well-being by buying and selling goods and services, the Garis store also had another important function. It was in a sense the local bank. As we have seen each customer had an account. When the customer bought or sold something the account was debited or credited. The same account also served other purposes. The Millbrooker could pay a debt through his account at the Garis store. It worked this way. On October 23, 1874, E. L. Garis sold 656 pounds of buckwheat to Philip Garis for \$10.49. Philip credited the amount to Elias' account. On the same day Philip credited \$5.50 to the account of Jacob Rifenberg per order of E. L. Garis. Elias owed Rifenberg \$5.50, either for a pair of shoes or more probably for work Rifenberg performed in harvesting the buckwheat. Instead of paying Rifenberg cash, Elias gave him an order on the former's account at Philip's store. Philip then debited the E. L. Garis account the \$5.50 he had credited to Rifenberg. The use of an

account at the Garis store to pay and collect debts was a common practice in the Millbrook community. Garis' day book is full of such transactions. The store was the local bank with a self order serving a function similar to the modern check.

In advancing credit, purchasing goods and services, and by allowing his customers to settle their accounts with each other through their accounts at the store, Philip Garis played an important role in the economic life of Millbrook Village. There are a number of other interesting aspects to the store. Garis apparently did not make money from many of the services he provided. Many of the goods he purchased from his customers he turned around and sold for the same price. For example on January 22, 1874, he bought 53 pounds of beef hide from Moses M. Deque for \$3.18. On the same day he sold the 53 pounds of beef hide to Isaac Bunnell for \$3.18. Garis acted as the middle man or broker, but he did not mark up the hides before selling them to Bunnell. He did the same thing time and again. On June 17, 1874, he sold 800 pounds of old iron to one James Cox for \$8.00, or, one cent a pound. One cent a pound was the price he paid a variety of customers for old iron. Again there was no mark up. Garis did not make a profit by acting as broker. He also did not charge his customers a so called "service charge" or other fee for allowing them to use their accounts at the store to pay their debts to third parties. Garis did not provide these services just to prove he was a nice man. He had sound economic reasons. In order to be able to buy at his store, Garis' customers had to have an income. He advanced them credit by allowing them to charge at the store. By buying from them he provided them with an income. He was not so much interested in making a profit from their goods as he was in making sure they had a market. He made his profit on the goods he sold them. He probably made some money on the farm produce taken to Newton, but it could not have been much more than the cost of getting it there. By acting as a banker he kept the economic cycle of the village in motion. When Garis credited the John Lamb account and debited the Jacob Ozenbaugh account for work the former had done for the latter, Garis made sure Lamb could buy at the store.

It is also interesting to note how little cash circulated in the system which centered on the store. There are several explanations. First, there was little cash in circulation in 1874 America (constricted money supply). Second, none of the Millbrookers ever earned enough to build up a cash reserve. Their wealth consisted of their homes, lands, and personal possessions. They consumed themselves most of the products from their farms and what was left over to sell went for necessities. They just did not sell in sufficient quantities to save cash. There was no luxury in Millbrook, much less an affluent society.

We do not know the per capita or household income of Millbrook Village in the 19th century. It was not high. An indication of the

villager's standard of living is found in the goods they purchased at the store. One of the largest single purchases made at the store in 1874 took place on September 15. For \$8.49 Mrs. Henry Berk, the wife of a local farmer, purchased: 3 yards pants stuff, 9 yards calico, 3 yards gingham, 2 yards muslin, 1 paper pin, 1 spool thread, 7 pounds white sugar, 7 pounds brown sugar, 2 pounds rice, 4 boxes matches, 2 ounces logwood, 1 box bluing, 2 ounces cloves, 1 ounce cinnamon, 2 pounds coffee, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound tea, 1 quart oil, 1 gallon molasses, 1 wash basin, 1 broom, 1 tin basin, 6 pounds mackerel, 3 one quart fruit cans, and 6 dress buttons. The types of goods Mrs. Berk purchased were typical of sales made by the Garis store. Millbrookers made their own clothes. Except for collars and an occasional shirt, they did not buy manufactured or "store bought" clothes. Sugar, matches, coffee, tea, spices, a tin basin, and the other items were as much necessities as luxuries. Every item on Mrs. Berk's list was associated with either clothing, food, or the home. On October 20, 1874, Mrs. Charles Labar went shopping at the store. She purchased such items as coffee, plates, indigo, calico, a lamp wick, a lamp chimney, muslin, and a string of beads. (At the same time she sold three quarters of a pound of wool yarn and 17 pounds of raspberries.) The list reflects a subsistence standard of living; cloth for clothing, something for the kitchen, a lamp for light. With the exception of the beads, there was not a luxury item on the list. It would be a mistake to depict Millbrookers as being very poor. By the standards of the time they were probably typical of the people who lived in the rural areas of the Upper Delaware River Valley. Dependent primarily on what they could produce themselves, they got along rather well. But there was no affluence in the Millbrook economy. Productivity was low and primitive. Their children and grandchildren would leave Millbrook to seek a better life in the towns and cities.

In addition to the services provided by the mill and store, Millbrook also offered others. Among them was the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith of course took care of the animals. But this was only one of his functions. In addition to shoeing the horses and oxen, he fabricated nearly every metal object then in common use. He made hinges, and irons, runners for sleds, pots and pans, new steps for a buggy, wedges, wagon springs, door latches, shoe scrapers, and harness. He not only made these objects, he also repaired them. The forge was the heart and the anvil the soul of his shop. He had a large variety of tools among which the hammer, swage, fuller, and punch were the most important. He worked almost exclusively in wrought iron.⁴³ Every village youngster thrilled to the ringing of his hammer or stared intently when he drew a glowing piece of iron from the forge. In taking care of the work animals and supplying iron objects the blacksmith provided another crucial service which helped make Millbrook a service center.

43. Aldren A. Watson, The Village Blacksmith (New York, 1934), p. 3.

Other services which were important in Millbrook's economic life were those provided by the carpenter, cooper, wheelwright, and shoemaker. Each possessed a skill for which there was a ready market in the Millbrook community. There are indications that each of these men also worked at other jobs, such as farm laborer, but their skills were their major source of income. Economically Millbrook was almost a self-sufficient community. A relatively isolated location made it necessary for the people of Pahaquarry to provide their own goods and services. Living on subsistence farms which produced only small surpluses, the farmers could afford only a minimum of consumer goods and only the most basic services. Millbrook's role and function in the system was to provide a market for the farmer and a place where he could obtain services. So long as trade was conducted in a store ledger, technology remained based on skilled craftsmen, and small farms were economically viable, Millbrook thrived. When the economic and technological conditions upon which the village depended changed, Millbrook lost its role and function as a service station in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Social Life

We know little about Millbrook society. Politically the village participated in the township committee. Members served on a yearly basis and many Millbrookers were members. The condition of the road was probably one of the major community concerns, with the district school another. Millbrook had no law enforcement problem. There was no village jail. This is not to say there was no crime in Pahaquarry. In 1861 George A. Brotzman, who lived in Brotzmanville, was arrested for the murder of his wife Rebecca.⁴⁴ There was petty thievery, but crime was not a community problem.

Minor disputes over property and debts were settled by the Millbrookers themselves. Elias L. Garis served as a justice of the peace. The author of the "Pocket Diary," who was a farmer, recorded that he acted as a lawyer in a number of disputes heard before Garis. Millbrookers drank hard cider and harder stuff, but alcoholism was also not a community concern.

Millbrookers undoubtedly had many common social events, such as celebrating the fourth of July, but we have little record of them. The school children put on plays, skits, and spelling bees and had box socials, and there was the usual Christmas program. These performances were undoubtedly well attended. The church was as much a social institution as it was a religious gathering place.

No doctor lived in Millbrook. Millbrookers apparently cured themselves of minor illnesses. There were one or two well-known

44. "Pocket Diary, December 25, 1861."

midwives in the area who came running when the blessed event took place. At a time of serious illness the doctor was either summoned from Blairstown, Stroudsburg, or Bushkill, Pennsylvania. The author of the "Pocket Diary" noted on January 23 that a doctor had visited a sick neighbor. The event was worth recording. On December 31, 1861, he wrote that a Dr. Crain had repaired his teeth. The dentist had his office in a town where the author was visiting. Millbrookers apparently visited the doctor and dentist when they went to town on business.

Gossip was undoubtedly a major social activity in Millbrook. Each villager knew his neighbor's business as well as his own, and vice versa. Moral standards were rigid. Social approval was withdrawn when a villager went astray. Under the pressure of public opinion the transgressor could find himself isolated within the community.

If membership on the town committee or appointment as postmaster are any indication of status, it went to the landowner and merchant. There were differences in wealth, from the large farmer on the one end to the farm laborer on the other, but because most Millbrookers owned some property, and everyone lived close to everyone else, there were probably only minor class distinctions in the community. There was no industrial proletariat made up of recent immigrants nor were there any racial antagonisms. Millbrook society was homogeneous and uncomplicated. The psychological and social pressures of industrial society were unknown. Although it would be a romantic mistake to think of Millbrook as some ideal utopia in a beautiful rural setting, the village was nevertheless a simple, pleasant, and quiet place.

Cultural Life

Millbrook had little of what we would call a cultural life. The arts were almost unknown. There were, of course, no theater, no museum, no concert hall. The nearest library was miles away. Although Millbrookers were not "cultured" (whatever that may mean), it would be a mistake to think they were illiterate. Millbrookers came from New Jersey or Pennsylvania where school systems had long functioned. Most, if not all, village residents could read and write. That they took an interest in national developments is indicated by an entry in the "Pocket Diary." On November 1, 1861, the diary's keeper noted that Dan Shoemaker was home on leave from the war. On the same day the author stated that he had purchased a "book of maps" of the Virginia battlefields. To follow the events of the war required a source of information and it is probable that he received it from a local newspaper, say the Belvidere Apollo or the Warren Journal. The war was an extraordinary event. Normally Millbrookers were more interested in happenings that directly affected them. Marriages, deaths, the break-up on the river, a visit

from a neighbor, planting, and slaughtering were of greater interest than events in far-off New York, Philadelphia, or Washington, D. C.

Insofar as Millbrook had a cultural life it centered on the school. It was not until 1876 that New Jersey provided free education for all the state's children. Millbrook had a school since 1839. Until 1876 the state, the township, and the parents shared the cost of education.⁴⁵ Although not a large amount, the tuition Millbrookers paid still represented a sacrifice for the betterment of their children.

At the school reading, writing, and spelling were the chief items of instruction. Reading aloud and dictation from memory were favored pedagogical techniques. In order to foster competition the teacher led the pupils in a game. A youngster was called upon to read. He or she read until another member of the class thought he heard a mistake. He would then call out "challenge." If he was correct, he took over reading until he in turn made a mistake. In later years arithmetic, geography, and American history were added to the curriculum. Among Millbrook school teachers were: Edwin Gregg (pre-1860), Cemantha Garis (1870), Charles M. Kinney (1860), John Van Etten, H. Losey, John Welter (1880), Ambrose VanCampen, Miss Carrie Raub (1894-1896), Miss Bertha Dunfield (1897-1898), Mamie Garis (1898-1900), Miss Myrtle Parks, Jason Losey, and Vera Chrisman.

Education was another service Millbrook provided to the community. Plays and readings were also put on at the school. The Christmas program featured the usual carols and probably more than one Millbrooker could remember the days when he or she was a little angel for an evening.

Millbrook did not have a stimulating cultural environment. Some villagers probably played an instrument, but that was the extent of any formal art appreciation. But the village was also not a cultural void lacking any satisfaction for the community's intellectual needs. The school was the center of the community's cultural life, and it satisfied Millbrook's limited cultural needs.

45. See Roscoe L. West, Elementary Education in New Jersey: A History (Princeton, 1964).

Conclusion

Millbrook died. The final passing did not take place until well into the 20th century, but the causes of its demise were already evident in the nineteenth. Like hundreds and indeed thousands of similar service station villages in rural America of the 19th century, Millbrook was the victim of agricultural and technological change.

Millbrook was dependent on the surrounding community for its economic well-being. The village's services were geared to meet the needs of an agricultural population. Changes which adversely affected the Pahaquarry farmer also had a negative impact on Millbrook.

The city with its high paying jobs attracted many people. Why stay down on the farm eking out a subsistence standard of living when one could move to a larger town and receive an hourly wage? Factory pay was not much, but it was better than what many farmers and their sons had previously earned.

In addition it was becoming ever more difficult to make a living from the meager surpluses raised on the farm. More efficient farmers with larger acreages were starting to dominate the market in everything from butter to wheat. The farmer who sold eggs by the dozen at the village store had little chance against the farmer who marketed them by the crate. Specialization had come to agriculture. The small farmers like those in Pahaquarry were squeezed out. The small size of their units did not allow them to produce on a scale necessary to survive in an agricultural system growing ever more efficient and productive. The mill property which included 17 acres is an example of what happened to land values in Pahaquarry between 1867 and 1905. The value of the tract went from \$3,000 to \$500. Part of the drop can be attributed to depreciation in the mill's value. However, most of the loss represented a decline in the value of the property as farm land. The land was the farmer's only possession. When its value sunk, he was left with little and was forced to leave. As subsistence farmers left Pahaquarry, Millbrook lost its customers and its function as a service station village.

And then there were the technological changes which affected Millbrook. Foremost among them was the railroad. The railroad bypassed Millbrook. The railroad towns, where farm produce could be gathered to be shipped to the city markets, became the service stations for the surrounding community. Since goods were cheaper in these

towns due to lower transportation costs, the farmers naturally went there to buy their goods. Other services, often cheaper than in the village, were also located in the towns along the railroad. Again Millbrook Village suffered.

With the advent of large mills the village mill became superfluous. It was a picturesque relic of another time. The old village mill made a nice snapshot or a country home for an affluent lawyer or doctor from the city, but it was no longer economically viable as a functioning mill. The Millbrook mill shut down around 1900. (The building burned in 1922.) With the passing of the mill there was no longer a reason for the farmer to go to Millbrook.

The same process affected Millbrook's other services. With fewer customers, there was no reason for the blacksmith to stay. The merchant, shoemaker, carpenter, wheelwright, and cooper also lost customers needing their services and were forced to relocate. George R. Spangenberg, a grandson of James and Sarah (Masker) Spangenberg, operated the store and hotel in Millbrook in 1910. When he was forced to close up shop he moved to Stroudsburg, where he had a dairy farm, and then on to Texas. His moving was symbolic of what happened to Millbrook. Some Millbrookers held on, but their number dwindled. Millbrook ceased to be a service station village and became again what it was at its beginning, a group of houses gathered around a country crossroad.

Bibliography

Research for this resource study took place in published and documentary sources of known or presumed relevance to the history of Millbrook Village in the 19th century. Research in the Library of Congress established that there is little published information on the village. There are no books about Millbrook nor are there any periodical essays. The best secondary information on the village is contained in James P. Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey (Philadelphia, 1881). Snell is the only secondary source on the village. Later county histories, in particular George W. Cummins, History Warren County, New Jersey (New York, 1911), repeat Snell. Other secondary sources contain bits and pieces of Millbrook history, e.g. F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Warren, New Jersey (New York, 1874) and Thomas F. Gordon, A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey (Trenton, 1834). The published sources contained in the bibliographies of previous NPS historic resource studies, e.g. John Cary, History Study of the Proposed Tocks Island Recreation Area and Lenard E. Brown, "Delaware Water Gap, Historical Base Map of the New Jersey Section," 1972, were reviewed. They contain literally no information on Millbrook Village.

A number of documentary sources were used. The first task was to discover who lived in Millbrook during the 19th century. This was accomplished by studying the National Archives census returns for the years 1840 to 1880. The population schedules, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County, New Jersey, are found in Record Group (RG) 29, Records of the Bureau of Census; 1840: M-704, Roll 262; 1850: M-432, Roll 465; 1860: M-653, Roll 711; 1870: M-593, Roll 892; 1880: T-9, Roll 799. The industrial schedules in RG 29 for Pahaquarry were also examined; 1850-1880: Box Numbers 9707, 8 (also microfilm). The mortality and agricultural schedules were also reviewed, but they contained little information on Millbrook. The census data reveal such statistics as occupation, wealth, where born, and how many children, but they contain no biographical data. Fortunately, researchers at Delaware Water Gap (DEWA) have filled in this void. The area maintains a Millbrook collection in its history files. These files contain biographical information on a number of Millbrookers. Other documents dug up by DEWA historians were helpful. They were the Philip J. S. Garis "Day-book," the "Pocket Diary," author unknown, and an 1865 tax assessment. The file also contains a number of maps of Millbrook as well as title searches for several Millbrook properties. All this information was used. In addition the author researched the title records of Warren and Sussex counties for further information. Other local sources which would have been helpful are not available. There are no tax rolls for the period. Very unfortunately, there are no collections

of local newspapers such as The Belvidere Apollo, the Warren Journal, or The Blairstown Press. Editions of the first two have not survived. The Blairstown paper is on microfilm, but a copy is not available. An index to the Blairstown paper indicates that with the exception of noting a few fires, Millbrook is not covered in the paper. There is no record of a local insurance company.

Study in the published and documentary sources of known or presumed relevance to Millbrook yielded little information about the village. It was then decided to try another approach. Perhaps it would be possible to learn something about other Upper Delaware River Valley villages of the same period from which comparisons to Millbrook could be drawn. The New Jersey state and local history section ("F") in the Library of Congress was examined with no return. There is apparently no study of New Jersey village life in the 19th century in either book or periodical form. The Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society were especially disappointing. The Papers of Bucks County Historical Society also failed to contain any information concerning the economic, social, or cultural environments of a typical area village.

Having found no information on New Jersey villages in the 19th century, the next tact was to see if sociologists had studied rural villages. Here some good information was found. David R. Jenkins, Growth and Decline of Agricultural Villages (New York, 1940) and Edmund D. Brummer, Village Communities (New York, 1927) were especially helpful. The former examines the history of American rural service station villages and outlines the causes of their growth and decline. The latter deals with the basic concepts of rural sociology (at least in the 1920s and 1930s).

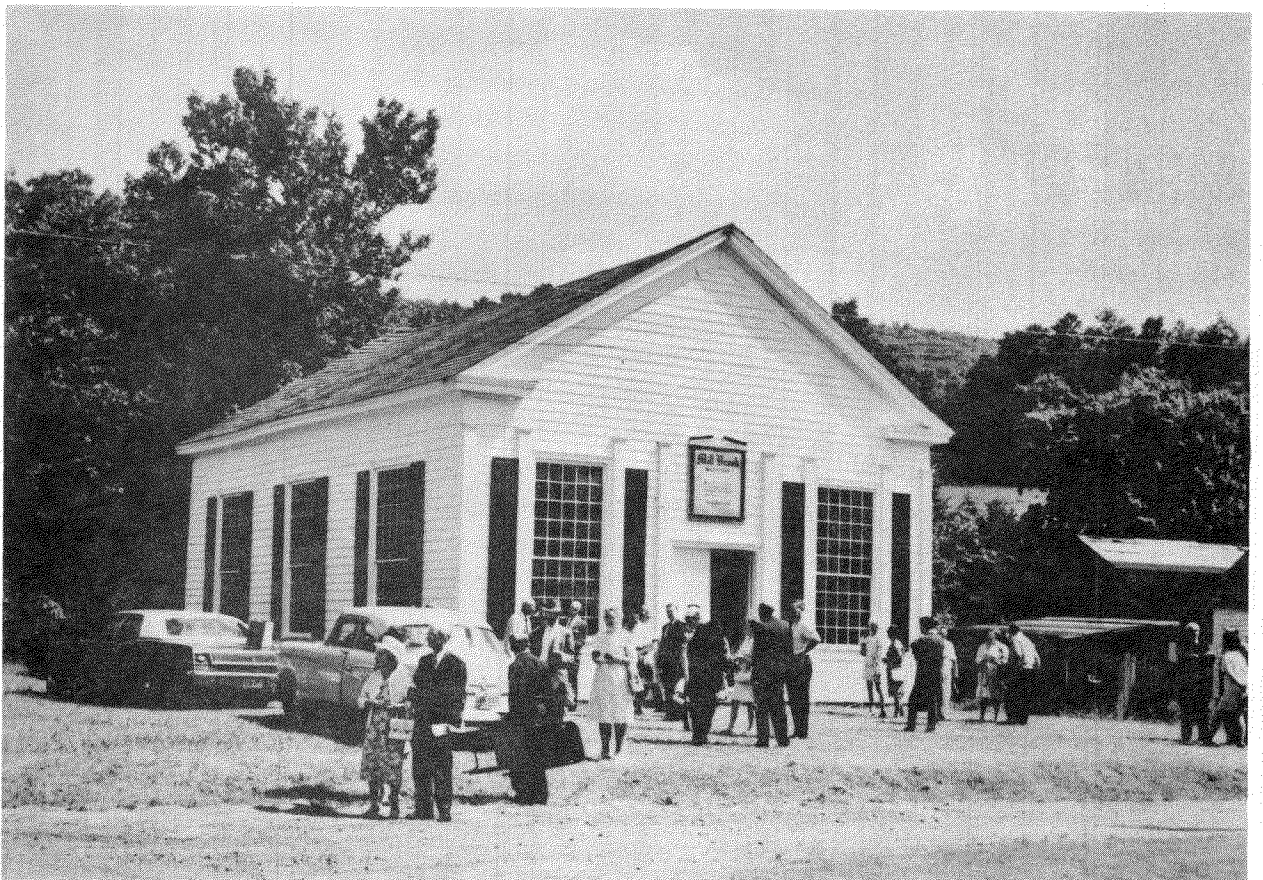
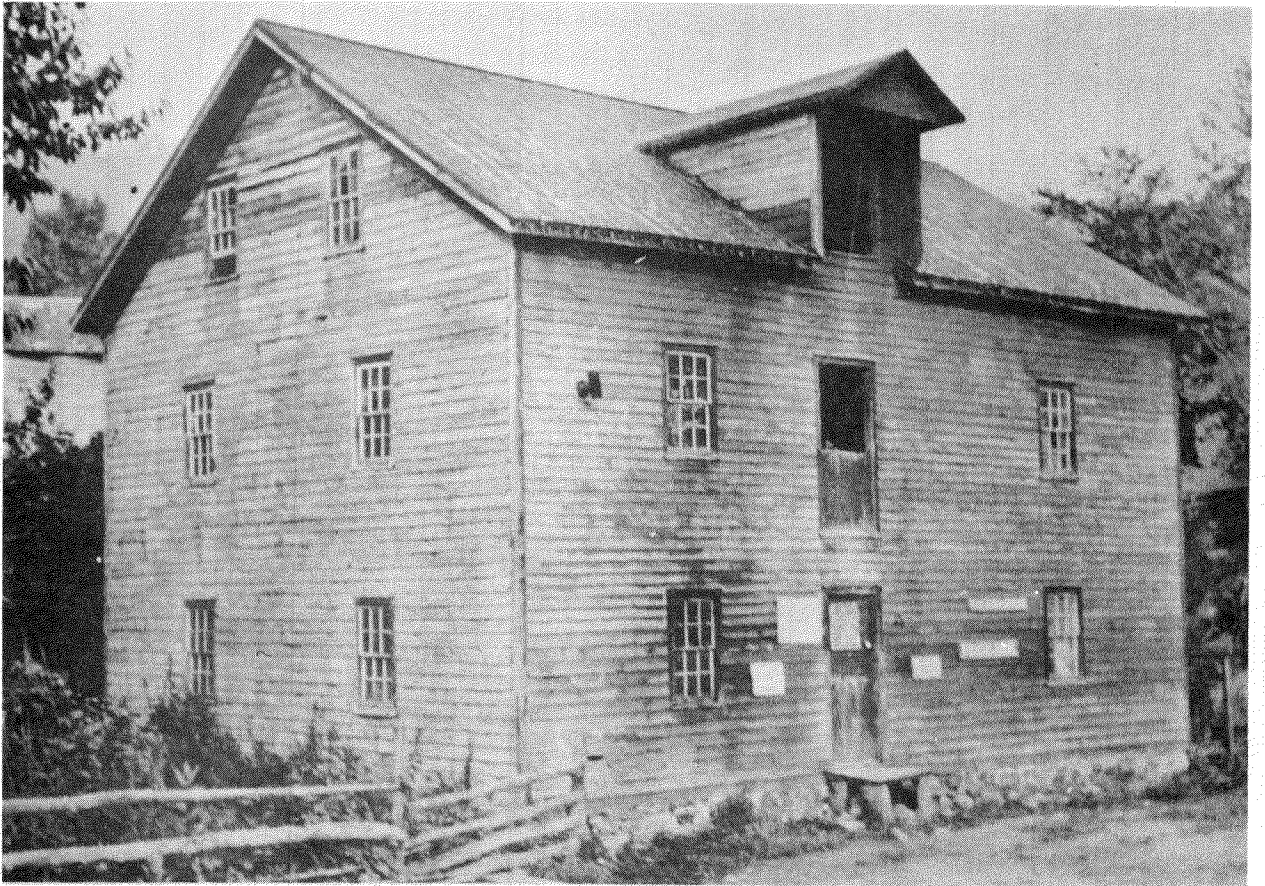
Because this approach had produced some information at least indirectly related to Millbrook, it was decided to look for specialized information on Millbrook's various services. Selected topics were researched. Millbrook had a grist mill. Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss, Forgotten Mills of New Jersey (Trenton, 1960) threw some light on the grist mill. For the blacksmith Aldren A. Watson's The Village Blacksmith (New York, 1964) proved informative. Roscoe L. West, Elementary Education in New Jersey: A History (Princeton, 1964) and Wallace N. Jamison, Religion in New Jersey (Princeton, New Jersey) contained background information relevant to the village school and church.

When the time allocated for researching this resource study came to an end, the author still knew very little about Millbrook. He had hoped to discover new information about Millbrook beyond what had already been dug up by many historians who had previously worked on DEWA history. Very little new information was uncovered. (Indeed information already known to DEWA historians had probably been left out of the report.) The author's conclusion is that given the scarcity of Millbrook source material there is little to be learned about the village. Millbrook was indeed a small and relatively isolated community.

Illustrations and Maps

Millbrook Mill. Built by Abram Garis, 1832; burned, 1922.

Methodist Church at Millbrook, 1860. Lost by arson, 1972.

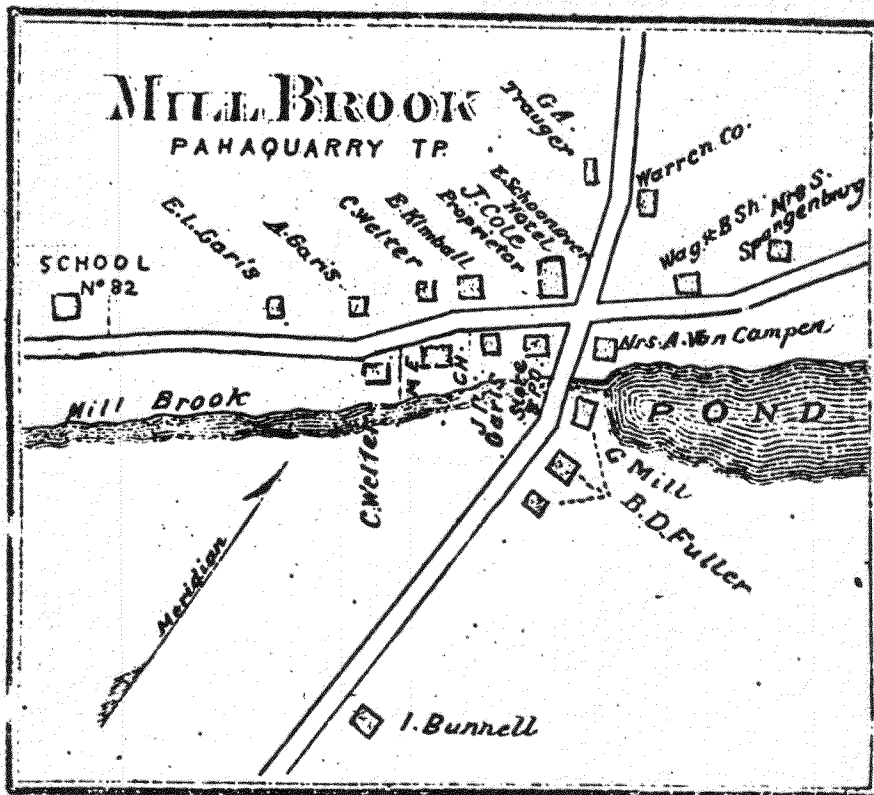


Map of Millbrook, 1860. F.W. Walling, "Map of Warren County, New Jersey, 1860," (New York, 1860).

Map of Millbrook, 1874. F.W. Beers, County Atlas of Warren New Jersey (New York, 1874).

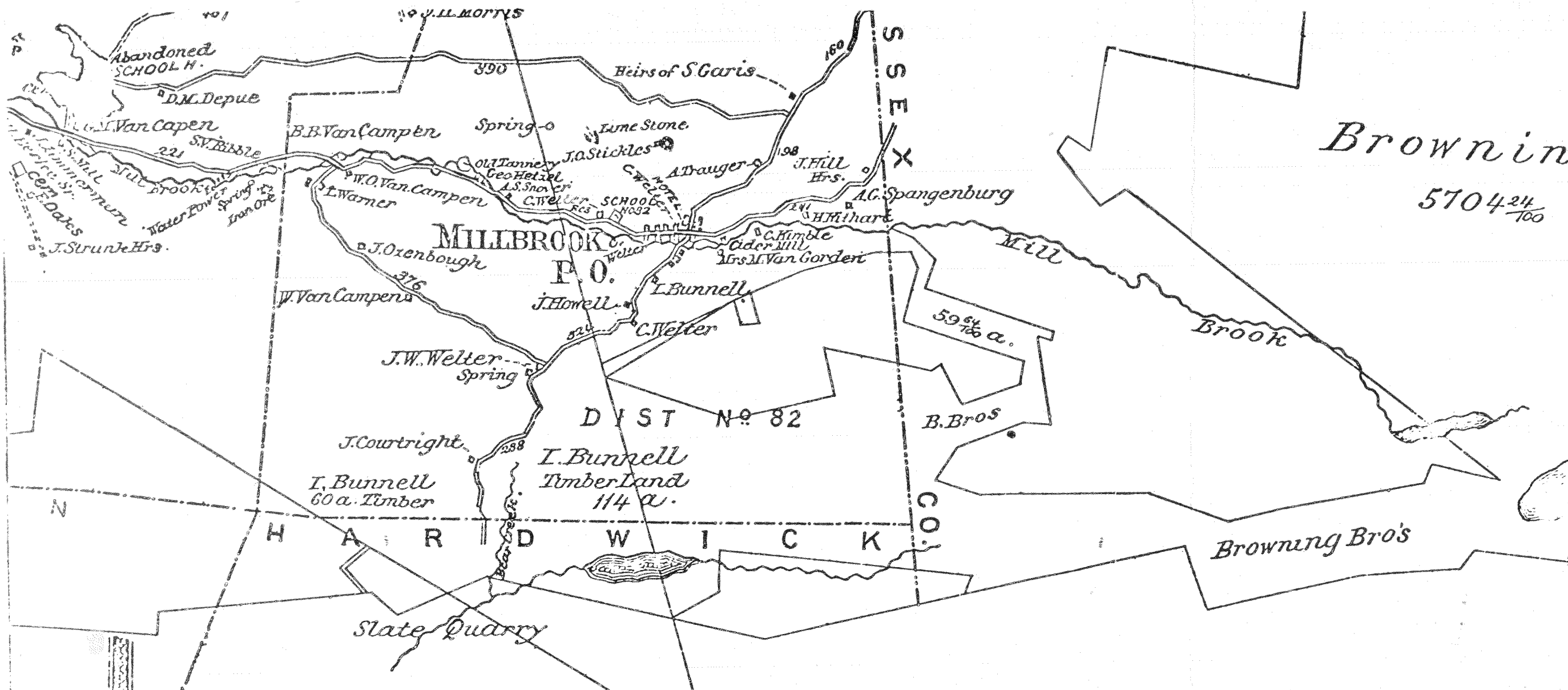


1860



1874

Map of Pahaquarry Twp., 1874. F.W. Beers, County Atlas
of Warren New Jersey, (New York, 1874).



1874 Map of Pahaquarry Twp Warren Co. N. J.
 from Beers Atlas.