

The Evolution of Burlington County Municipalities

Originally, there were eight (8) "mother" municipalities as follows:

A – Northampton Township
B – Eversham Township
C – Chester Township
D – Wellingborrow Township

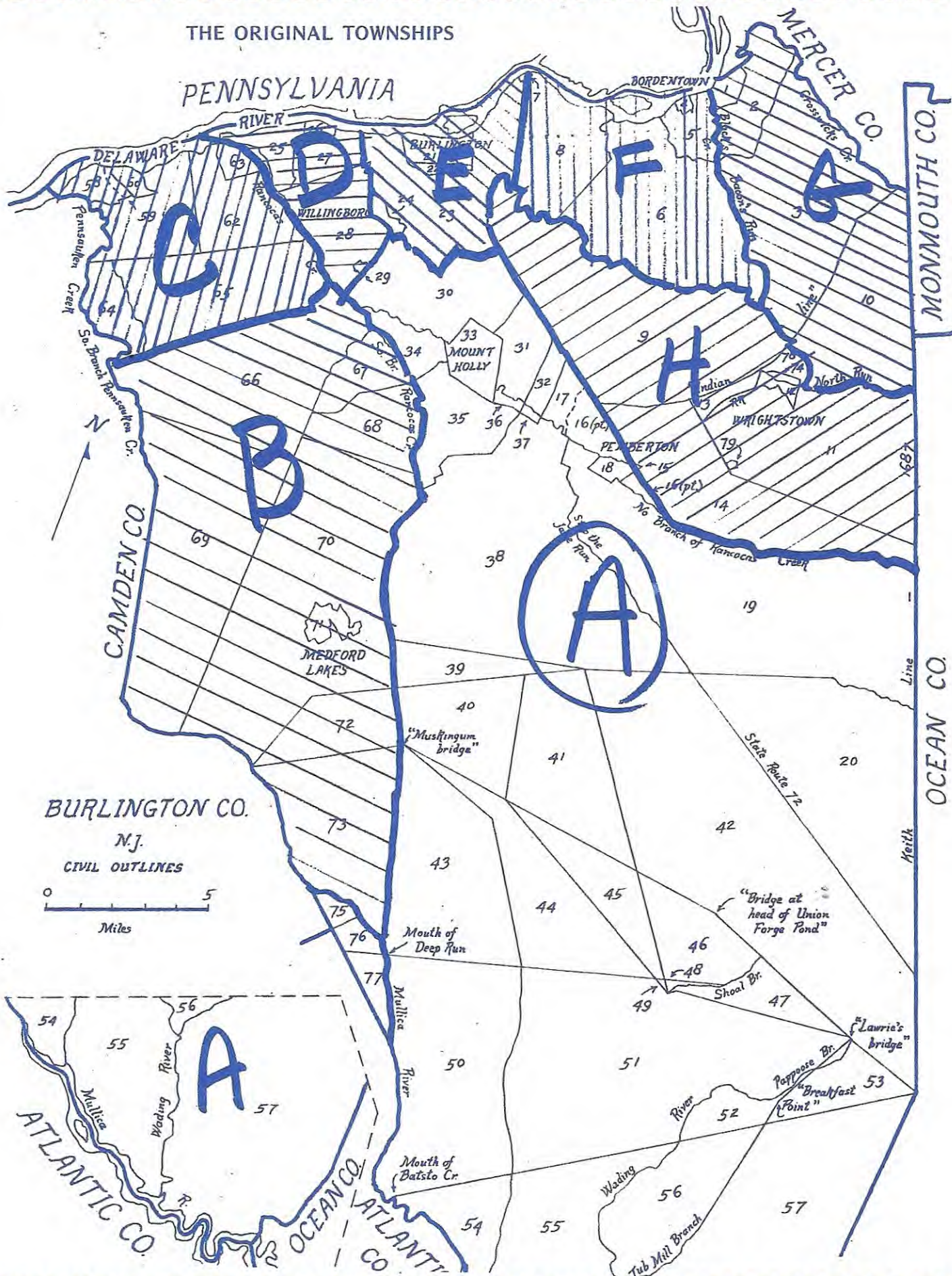
E – Burlington Township
F – Mansfield Township
G – Chesterfield Township
H – Springfield Township

The cities, boroughs and townships were carved out as follows:

- 1 – Bordentown City (G)
- 2 and 5 – Bordentown Township (G & F)
- 3 – Chesterfield (G)
- 4 – Fieldsboro (F)
- 6 – Mansfield (F)
- 7 and 8 – Florence (F & E)
- 9 – Springfield (H)
- 10 – North Hanover (G)
- 11, 12, 17 & 18 – New Hanover (H)
- 13 – Wrightstown (H)
- 14-17, 19 – Pemberton Township (H & A)
- 18 – Pemberton Borough (A)
- 20, 42, 46-48 – Woodland Township (A)
- 21, 22 – Burlington City (E)
- 23 – Burlington Township (E)
- 24, 28 – Willingboro Township (E & D)
- 25 – Delanco Township (D)
- 26 – Beverly City (D)
- 27 – Edgewater Park (D)
- 29, 30 – Westampton Township (D & A)
- 31, 32 – Eastampton Township (A)
- 33 – Mt. Holly Township (A)
- 34 & 67 – Hainesport Township (A & B)
- 35, 36 & 68 – Lumberton Township (A & B)
- 37 & 38 – Southampton Township (A)
- 39, 40, 41, 44 & 45 – Tabernacle Township (A)
- 42, 46-48 & 20 – Woodland Township (A)
- 43 & 73 – Shamong Township (B)
- 49-51, 54, 55 – Washington Township (A)
- 52, 53, 56 & 57 – Bass River Township (A)
- 58, 59 – Palmyra Borough (C)
- 60 – Riverton Borough (C)
- 61 – Cinnaminson (C)
- 62 – Delran Township (C)
- 63 – Riverside Township (C)
- 64 – Maple Shade (C)
- 65 – Moorestown Township (C)
- 66 – Mt. Laurel Township (B)
- 69 – Evesham Township (B)
- 70 – Medford Township (B)
- 71 – Medford Lakes Borough (B)
- 75 & 76 – Added to Shamong Township from Camden County
- 77 – Added to Washington Township from Atlantic County

THE ORIGINAL TOWNSHIPS

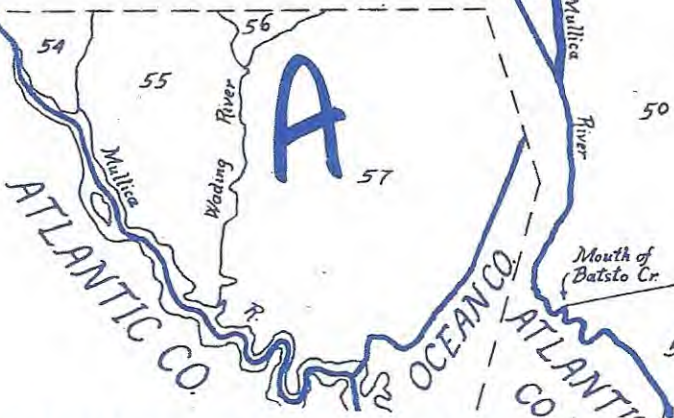
PENNSYLVANIA



BURLINGTON CO.

N.J.

CIVIL OUTLINES



Burlington County and Its Towns

For years, it was assumed that Burlington County was founded in 1681 and the county seal carries that date to add credence to the origins; however, when Freeholder Henry Metzger started to make plans for a Tri-Centennial celebration, discussions with Dr. Henry Bisbee, County Historian, set the record straight.

The Burlington Court records, still intact, clearly show that the County was not incorporated until May 17, 1694; that the Burlington-Gloucester County line was established by an Act dated November 12, 1692; that what was established in 1681 was the Burlington Court, which had jurisdiction not only over Burlington's First and Second Tenths, but also over Gloucester's third and fourth Tenths, the latter until 1686.

Burlington County was formed from the First and Second Tenths, divisions described in the March 3, 1677 "Concessions and Agreements" whereby West Jersey was to be divided in One Hundred parts in units or divisions of Tenths, each Tenth to contain 100 square miles.

There is some evidence that there was a loose organization of municipalities as early as 1681, the year the Court was established, since Burlington was founded March 3, 1677, Mt. Holly one year later and Bordentown in 1682. Several other communities were in existence for on November 6, 1688, the following Constablies, later known as Townships, were established: Nottingham, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Springfield, Wellingborough, Northampton, Chester and Eversham. Except for Nottingham, which was set off to another county, the remaining Constablies and Burlington "mothered" the 40 municipalities as they are now constituted in Burlington County.

The Province of New Jersey had two divisions East and West Jersey. After much wrangling, the division line between East and West Jersey was established in 1676 by the Quintipartite Line wherein William Penn was one of the activists. Although approved by the Legislature in 1683, the line was not surveyed until 1687 by Lawrence and further surveyed by Keith in 1743 and extended by Cox and Barclay the same year. The Keith Line is the Province Line Road still in existence in some parts of the State and is the present dividing line between Burlington and Ocean Counties.

East Jersey commenced in 1683 with four counties including Bergen, Essex, Middlesex and Monmouth, while West Jersey had Cape May, Salem, Gloucester and Burlington. Trenton and what is now Mercer County, all of Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties were a part of Burlington County until Hunterdon was set off at the Crosswicks Creek, above Bordentown, on March 11, 1814.

The Burlington Court records described the set off of "Chesterfield to lye on the South side of Crosswicks Creek from the Indian Lyne to Thomas Farnsworths and soe by William Blacks Creek to Daniel Bacons and soe up his creek to Thomas Scholyees and from thence to Widow Sykes plantation to the Indian Lyne including in this Constablie all of the said plantations."

The area was reformed by Royal Charter on January 10, 1713 and added was the major portion of what is now known as North Hanover Township. Formed from this partition were Bordentown City, part of Bordentown Township and the residue of Chesterfield Township.

"The Constablie of Springfield (is) to lye on the South side of Birch Creek to the Indian Lyne and to the Lyne formerly made betwixt the two Tenths and soe to the Towne Bounds." On January 13, 1713, the area was reformed by Royal Charter to add lands to the South and East bounded by the Rancocas Creek to the Ocean County line.

Evolving from these original formations are the Boroughs of Pemberton and Wrightstown, New Hanover Township, parts of North Hanover and Pemberton Townships and the residue of Springfield.

"The Constablie of Mansfield (is) to lye on the South side of William Black's Creek downe Dellaware River to the Towne bounds of Burlington and soe up Birch Creek to John Pancosts to Michael Newbolds and soe to the North of the great Meadowe to Eliakim Higgin Plantation."

The boundaries were conferred by Royal Charter dated May 9, 1770 and the Township was incorporated February 21, 1798. Partitioned from the original tract were parts of Florence and Bordentown Township, Fieldsboro Borough and the residue of Mansfield.

No boundaries were stated in the original concession of Burlington Towne; however, the West Jersey Assembly in October, 1693 showed the boundaries

"by Delaware River Northerly, Assisconk Creek Easterly, and the Run or Channel wherein the creek ebbs and flows Westerly and Southerly."

Set off from the original were the City of Burlington, parts of the Townships of Burlington, Florence and Wellingboro.

"The Constablie of Wellingborough (runs) from Daniell Wills plantation down Northampton River (Rancocas Creek) to Dellaware River, and soe up to the Towne bounds to George Elkingtons Plantation and soe to Daniell Wills Plantation and George Elkingtons Plantation."

The area was incorporated as Wellingborough Township by Act dated February 21, 1798. Resulting from above were Beverly City, Delanco Township, Edgewater Park Township, part of Westampton and the residue of Wellingboro.

Willingboro was changed to Levittown Township on November 3, 1959 and then back again to Wellingboro, November 12, 1963.

"The Constablie of Chester (runs) from Thomas Kendalls Plantation on the South side of Northampton River (Rancocas Creek) to Dellaware River, soe to the most Southerly branch of the Punsawking Creek from thence along the road to the Northampton River."

The Burlington Court records show the name changed from Chester to Cropwell on June 5, 1690 continuously through February 22, 1699. Incorporation February 21, 1798 confirms area and resumption of the name of Chester.

Evolving are the Boroughs of Palmyra and Riverton, the Townships of Cinnaminson, Moorestown and Maple Shade, the latter representing the residue of Chester before name change November 6, 1945.

"Constablie of Eversham (extends) from Kings Highway that leads to Salem to the Indian Lyne to the Easterly branch of the Northampton River (Rancocas Creek)."

Incorporated on February 21, 1798, the area was confirmed and the name changed to Evesham Township. Resulting from above are parts of Washington, Medford, Mount Laurel, Hainesport, Westampton, Shamong, all of Medford Lakes Borough and the residue known as Evesham.

The largest area "Northampton Constablie (ran) from Daniell Wills Plantation, up the Northampton River
(Continued on next page)

Northampton Township

Inc. Feb. 21, 1798

Burlington County Cont.

(Rancocas Creek), to the Indian Lyne and soe to the lyne formerly drawne betwixt the two Tenths to the Towne bounds including Daniell Wills Plantation and George Elkington's Plantation."

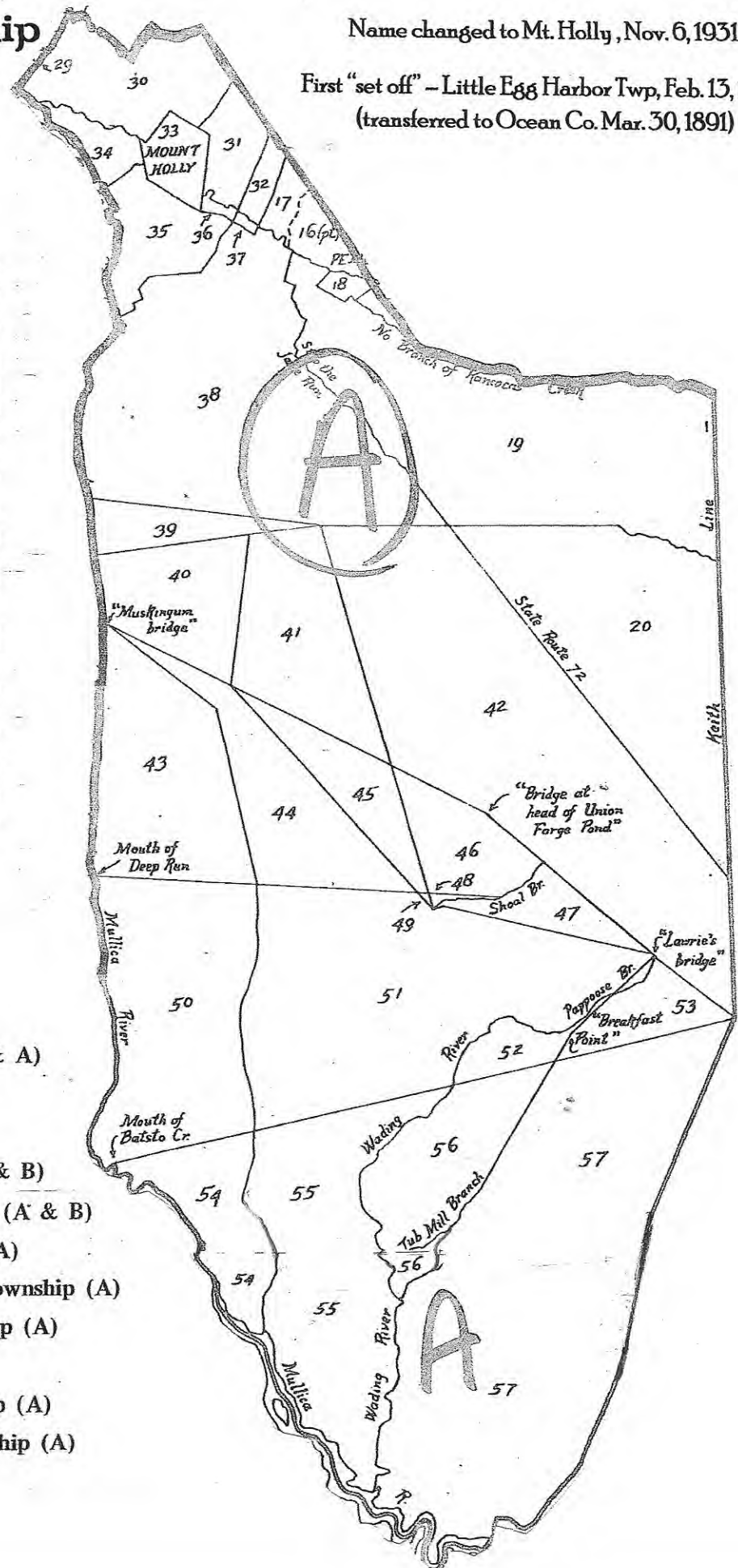
Northampton was incorporated February 21, 1798 and the name changed to Mt. Holly November 6, 1931. The first set off formed Little Egg Harbor Township February 13, 1740 was transferred to Ocean County March 30, 1891.

More separate units were formed out of Northampton than any other including parts of Westampton, Hainesport, Pemberton, Lumberton, Shamong and Washington Townships, part of Pemberton Borough, all of Southampton, Tabernacle, Eastampton, Woodland and Bass River Townships and the residue known as Mt. Holly. Southampton was changed from Coaxen on April 1, 1945.

Parts of Atlantic and Camden Counties were taken to straighten out Shamong's line in 1902 and part of Atlantic County was used to continue the Shamong-Washington Township line in the same year, the Mullica River being the boundary line before that time.

Name changed to Mt. Holly, Nov. 6, 1931

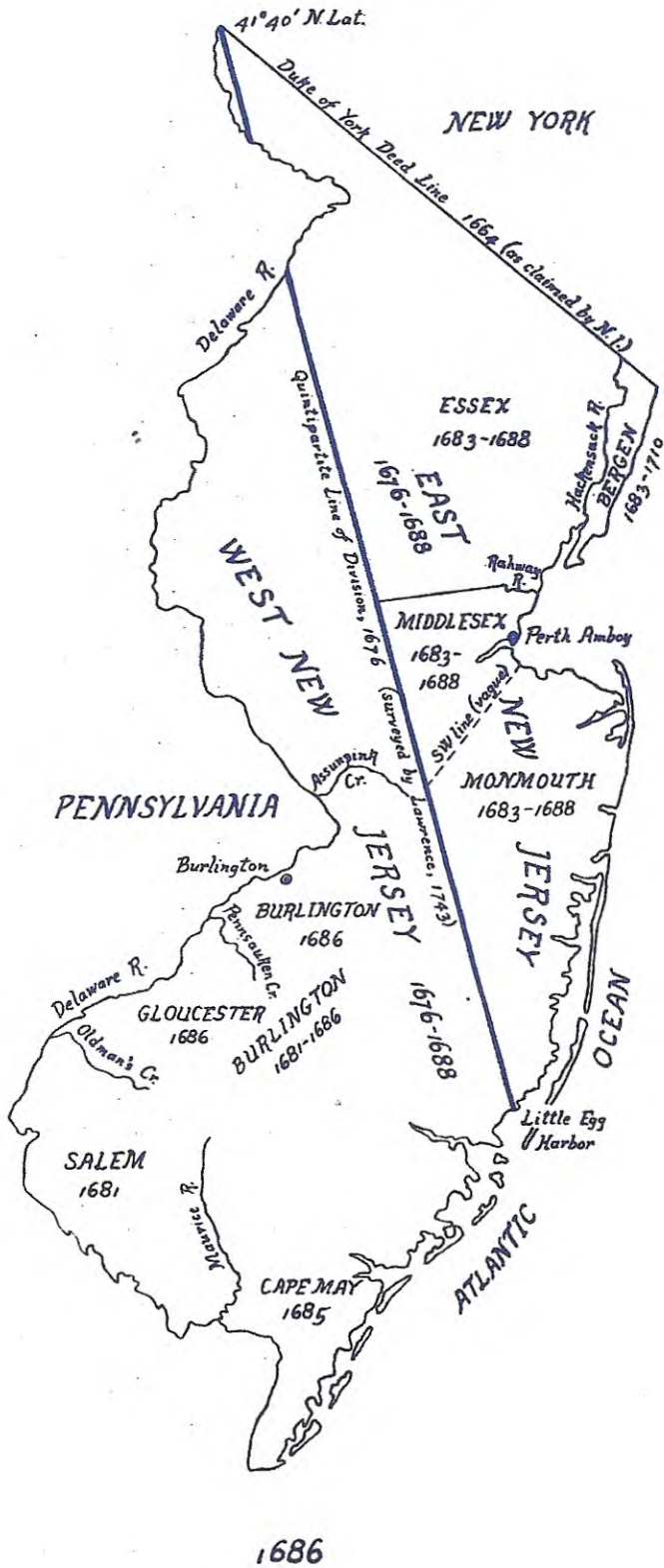
First "set off" - Little Egg Harbor Twp, Feb. 13, 1740
(transferred to Ocean Co. Mar. 30, 1891)



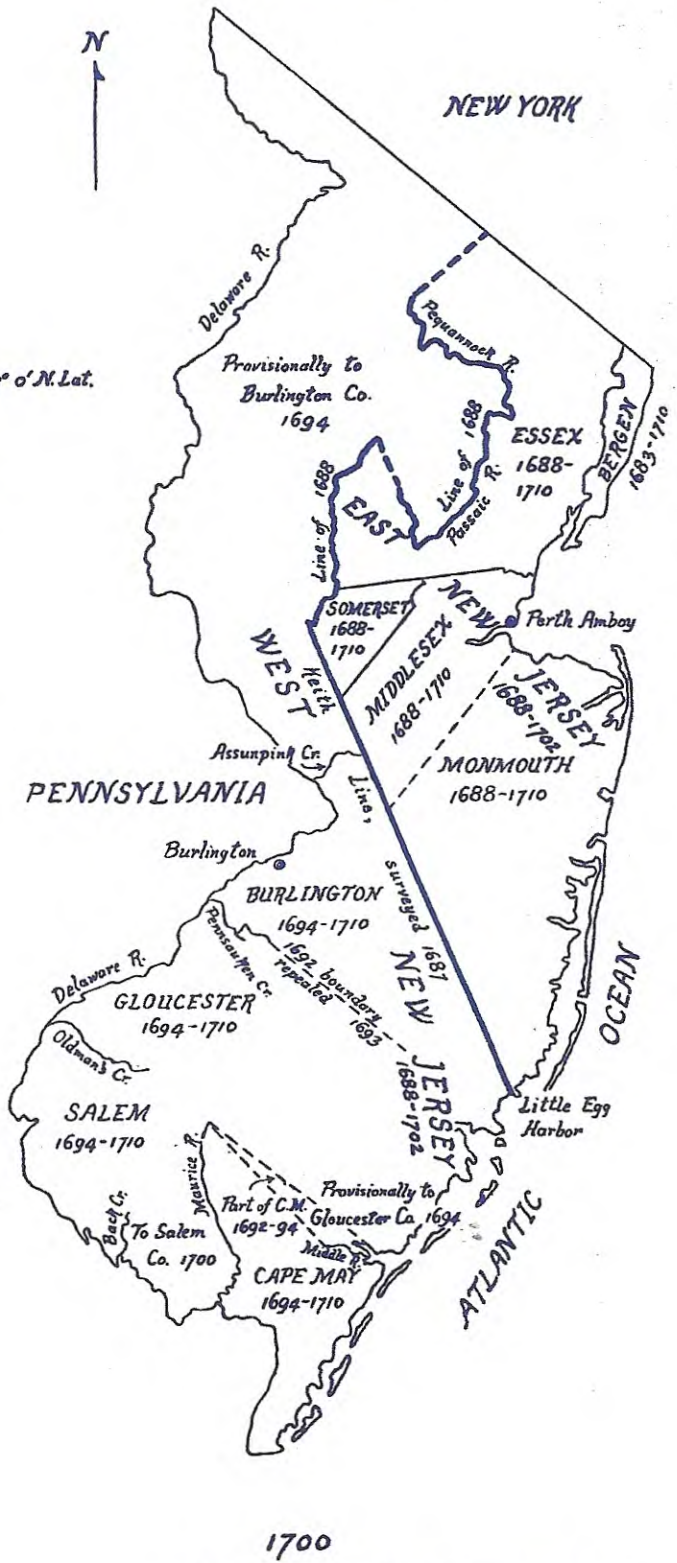
- 29, 30 - Westampton Township (D & A)
- 31, 32 - Eastampton Township (A)
- 33 - Mt. Holly Township (A)
- 34 & 67 - Hainesport Township (A & B)
- 35, 36 & 68 - Lumberton Township (A & B)
- 37 & 38 - Southampton Township (A)
- 39, 40, 41, 44 & 45 - Tabernacle Township (A)
- 42, 46-48 & 20 - Woodland Township (A)
- 43 & 73 - Shamong Township (B)
- 49-51, 54, 55 - Washington Township (A)
- 52, 53, 56 & 57 - Bass River Township (A)

Original Division Line

Revised Keith Line



1686



1700

Note: In 1702 E & W Jersey were re-united. Boundaries remained same until 1710.

EAST & WEST NEW JERSEY