

streams, were of much greater importance, previous to the construction of the railroad, than now. They consisted principally of a suitable place for landing and loading boats, and for these purposes granaries were erected. The principal one on the Murderkill Creek was Fork Landing, where, in 1816, Levi Lister owned a wharf and granary, and another wharf and granary was jointly owned by Thomas Sipple and William Tomlinson. In 1852 there were here three granaries, two stores and several dwellings. Two vessels plied weekly between this landing and Philadelphia, carrying grain to the latter place. It is now occasionally visited by boats of light tonnage.

SCHOOLS.—The several subscription schools in operation previous to 1829 gave way to the common school system adopted in that year. The hundred was divided into school districts, and school-houses erected in suitable locations. Among the pioneer district-school teachers within the bounds of Milford Hundred, were John Quillen, John Sharp, William Hurley, Martin Harrington and — Harvey. As the buildings became dilapidated, new and more commodious ones were erected, and when the scholars became too numerous, new school districts were created. The schools of to-day in this hundred are in an excellent condition, being supplied with many conveniences, and taught for nine months each year by skillful and competent teachers.

MILFORD TOWN.

The town of Milford is located on both sides of the Mispillion Creek,—North Milford, or the old town, being taken from Milford Hundred, Kent County, and South Milford being taken from Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County. The town is located on a tract called "Saw-Mill Range," containing seventeen hundred and fifty acres of land, which was warranted to Henry Bowman, March 20, 1680, on condition that he should build a saw-mill thereon. It is probable that he complied with the conditions of the contract and built a saw-mill, but just where it was located it is now impossible to tell. Saw-Mill Range passed from Henry Bowman to his son John, who, May 5, 1730, sold five hundred and ten acres of it to Joseph Booth, who gave part of it to his son John, who sold it to William Manlove, Jr.

May 17th, 1771, Joseph Oliver purchased one hundred and fifteen acres of Saw-Mill Range of Jacob Warrington, who then owned it, and April 17, 1773, he bought, adjoining, a tract of Levin Crapper, also part of Saw-Mill Range, also part of an adjoining tract called "Improvement," of the Pennsylvania Land Company.

February 23, 1774, Nathan Adams (merchant) bought one-quarter of an acre of land lying on the creek near the place called Millstone Landing, now known as New Wharf Landing, of Joseph Oliver. In 1787 Joseph Oliver had James Johnson survey the land lying on the north side of Mispillion Creek into town lots. Some of these lots were conveyed by deed,

but most of them were demised by perpetual lease, with a reservation of ground-rent, which is still paid annually. The first lot of which there is any record at Dover was taken by William Johnson, on the corner of Water and Walnut Streets, and is now occupied by C. W. Davidson, jeweler. The boundaries of the lot are here given, as a specimen of a curiously minute description:—

"Beginning at the intersection of said street, it being that point which lieth north eleven degrees west, forty-four feet seven inches from the diametrical centre of the body of a maple tree taken at the height of eighteen inches above the surface of the ground, standing in the edge of the cripple of said creek, below Milford bridge; thence running with Walnut Street north eight degrees and fifty minutes west, thirty-three feet three inches; thence leaving said street north seventy-nine degrees, seven minutes and twenty-two seconds east, eighty-nine feet ten inches and seven hundred and seventy and five thousandths of an inch. Then south eight degrees and fifty minutes east, thirty-one feet and one million forty-nine thousand four hundred and seventy-five ten millionths of an inch to Water Street; thence with Water Street south seventy-seven degrees and forty-four minutes west, ninety feet home to the place of beginning. Containing two thousand eight hundred and eighty and eight superficial square feet and seventy-nine square inches and seventy million one hundred and eighty-three thousand and twenty and seven hundred millionths of an inch."

Joseph Oliver, Sr., leased or sold after this town lots to the following persons, as found among the minutes of James Johnson's surveys: Joseph Aydelott, two lots on Front Street in 1794, Thomas Allen, William Briuckle, James Bowen, Nancy Bradley, Nancy Bateman, Jesse Bradley, William Crumpton, John Cary, James Carman, Joseph Carman, John Collins, Thomas Collins, John Crumpton, Elza Collins, Zabdial Dawson, James Dawson, Peter Davis, Jonathan Dyer, Abner Dill, John Davis, Molly Davis, Andrew Davis, Sarah Davis, Monk Davis, Charles Draper, John Flemming from Peter Caverly, Joram Griffith, Belitha Glass, Isaiiah James in 1787, Elijah Jester, John Houston, Isaac Loffland, John Laws (bricklayer), Thomas Marriner, Jonathan Manlove, James Millechop, John Newcom, Gauladett Oliver, John Pleasonton, Andrew Patton, Curtis Palmore, Samuel Pasley, Richard Pettigrew, William Sorden, Thomas Strowd, Joshua Spencer, Noah Spencer, Elias Shockley, John Ralston, Nathan Russom, Nehemiah Riley, John Thomas, Stephen Townsend, Pompey Turner, James Tichner, Andrew Withs, Levi Wilents, Jasper Waller, William Margin, Bethuel Watson, William Ward, David Walton.

According to James Johnson's notes he began May 28, 1817, to survey and lay out the town of Milford, under the direction and superintendence of John Pettigrew, Dr. Joseph Sudler, John Wallace, Martin Dewaley and William Davis, commissioners, duly elected to lay out the town of Milford, in pursuance of a special act of the Delaware Legislature. After being sworn by James Millechop, Esq., they proceeded to attend to the duties of their appointment.

The following are the boundaries given on a map in 1838: "Beginning at Mispillion Creek, at Paul Knabb's Landing; thence with a line of land formerly of Samuel Oliver, Sen. and John Draper, North 53° West up the lane leading to Paul Knabb's; thence on a division line of lots now of Geo. S. Atkins and James T. Burleigh, Gauladett Oliver, John Wallace, Peter F.

Causey and Mary K. Shockley, 148 perches out to the road leading from Milford to Frederica and in a line of land formerly of Wm. Bradley, dec'd, for the said Oliver and Draper land; thence with said line South 22° West across the lot of Mary R. Shockley's lot, including two and a half acres thereof in the limits of said town; . . . across the lot of Edward Collins, Sen., dec'd, including one-third thereof, with the dwelling-house in the limits of said town, across the county road six and three-tenths perches, north of a stone buried on the Northwest side of said road opposite North Street; thence across Henderson Collins' lot on the east side of the Quaker meeting-house road, including three and one-half acres thereof in the limits of said town to and across the meeting-house road and a piece of woods of Benjamin Potter's and Benjamin Henderson's line, making the whole line one hundred and ninety-two perches; thence with said Potter and Henderson's line, formerly Oliver's, west thirty-two perches to an old white oak stump near Cullin's branch; thence into and down the water-course of said Cullin's branch to Mispillion Creek; thence down said creek to the place of beginning." In 1886 the lines were changed in some places. The first line extends from the Frederica road to a branch thereof, where it corners, forming nearly a right angle, thence to Cullin's Branch, thence following the streams as before to the place of beginning.

South Milford has been laid out since by James Johnson and resurveyed by Thomas J. Davis. It lies on the south side of Mispillion Creek, and has Front and Second Streets parallel with the creek and Georgetown Road, Washington, Montgomery, Franklin and McColley Streets running from the creek. Carlisle Lane runs diagonally from the corner of Franklin and Front to Second Street; Causey Street extends from the Georgetown Road to the depot. The town contains some three thousand inhabitants. According to the *Gleaner* in 1856, the population of the town was two thousand inhabitants, with twenty-five stores, two hotels, twelve schooners and sloops running to Philadelphia. The export trade at this time was said to be 250,000 bushels of corn, 30,000 bushels of wheat, 10,000 bushels of oats, 5000 bushels of rye, 2500 cords of wood, 400 cords of bark and 400 cords of quercitron, worth \$351,500, and the imports were placed at \$225,000. The exports and imports by shipping are not as much as formerly; but if what is transported by vessels is added to that carried by the cars, the amount would probably amount to more than in 1856.

CORPORATION HISTORY.—The town of Milford was first incorporated in 1807; the first Board of Commissioners were Dr. Joseph Sudler, John Wallace, Martin Dewaile, William Davis.

The act of incorporation passed in 1867 is the only one we have records of. Under the town charter they elected five commissioners, an alderman, an assessor and a treasurer, all for one year.

1867.—C. S. Watson, H. B. Fiddeman, P. W. Hall, John H. Denning,

commissioners; P. S. Smoot, alderman; Dr. N. Pratt, assessor; R. S. Hemmons, collector; John H. Denning, clerk.

1868.—A. T. A. Torbert, T. F. Hammersly, Jas. F. Anderson, John Cahall, W. Thomas Prettyman, commissioners; Jas. B. Davis, alderman; Jas. H. Bell, assessor; R. S. Hemmons, collector; J. F. Anderson, clerk.

1869.—A. T. A. Torbert, Dr. N. Pratt, Joseph Truitt, Wm. Thomas Prettyman, P. W. Hall, commissioners; James Short, alderman; Jas. H. Bell, assessor; Joseph Gorby, collector; Dr. N. Pratt, clerk.

1870.—James Postles, N. H. Johnson, J. Y. Foulk, T. F. Hammersly, Wm. C. Welsh, commissioners; James Short, alderman; Joseph Gorby, collector; Jas. H. Bell, assessor; J. Y. Foulk, clerk.

1871.—Chas. T. Flemming, Wm. C. Welch, T. F. Hammersly, J. Y. Foulk, John R. Cahall, commissioners; James Short, alderman; Jas. H. Bell, assessor; Geo. A. Moore, collector; J. Y. Foulk, clerk.

1872.—C. J. Hall, N. J. Pierson, S. C. Evans, Chas. T. Flemming, John W. Causey, Geo. Russell, commissioners; Wm. Shockley, alderman; Jas. B. Davis, assessor; Geo. A. Moore, collector; C. J. Hall, clerk.

1873.—J. Lowery, Jas. R. Mitchel, John R. Cahall, Geo. Russell, D. O. K. Strong, Samuel Simpler, commissioners; Wm. Shockley, alderman; Jas. B. Mahan, assessor; Geo. A. Moore, collector; S. M. Simpler, clerk.

1874.—Chas. T. Fleming, John Cahall, Wm. A. Lister, Samuel Simpler, A. K. Hall, T. J. Davis, commissioners; Wm. Shockley, alderman; R. A. Steward, assessor; Geo. A. Moore, collector; Chas. T. Fleming, clerk.

1875.—C. J. Hall, John W. Hallett, John Cahall, M. H. Davis, Jas. Reedy, Wm. H. Davis, commissioners; Wm. Shockley, alderman; R. A. Steward, assessor; Geo. A. Moore, collector; M. H. Davis, clerk.

1876.—C. J. Hall, James Reedy, John B. Cannon, John Hallett, Wm. H. Davis, M. H. Davis, commissioners; R. J. Beswick, alderman; R. A. Steward, assessor; Wm. B. Truitt, collector; C. J. Hall, clerk.

1877.—P. W. Hall, Wm. Hill, John B. Cannon, H. W. McColley, Wm. A. Scribner, A. K. Hall, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; Samuel M. Simpler, assessor; R. S. Hemmons, collector; H. W. McColley, clerk.

1878.—Elnathan Smith, John R. Cahall, R. J. Beswick, H. W. McColley, Wm. F. Revill, I. I. Smith, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; Samuel M. Simpler, assessor; R. S. Hemmons, collector; R. J. Beswick, clerk.

1879.—R. Y. Watson, Charles T. Fleming, G. W. Joseph, William F. Revill, Charles A. Blair, D. O. K. Strong, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; R. J. Beswick, assessor; George F. Pierce, collector; D. O. K. Strong, clerk.

1880.—Frank Rickards, Theo. Townsend, James Reedy, H. W. McColley, S. M. Simpler, Charles A. Blair, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; George P. Minor, assessor; William H. Twigg, collector; Theo. Townsend, clerk.

1881.—James Reedy, J. O. Brown, Theo. Townsend, James Russell, Charles A. Blair, M. H. Davis, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; R. J. Beswick, assessor; S. M. Simpler, collector; Theo. Townsend, clerk.

1882.—Dr. G. W. Marshall, Theo. Townsend, J. O. Brown, S. W. Gray, M. H. Davis, John B. Smith, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; R. J. Beswick, assessor; S. M. Simpler, collector; Theo. Townsend, clerk.

1883.—Frank Reedy, John H. Apel, James Welch, James Abbott, John W. Ratcliff, R. H. Gilman, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; John W. Hallett, assessor; S. M. Simpler, collector; R. H. Gilman, clerk.

1884.—John H. Apel, Robt. M. Carpenter, Isaac S. Truitt, R. H. Davis, S. N. Gray, J. T. Bells, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; H. W. McColley, assessor; J. D. Hill, collector; Isaac S. Truitt, clerk.

1885.—James M. Hall, John H. Apel, Wm. N. Dorsey, Wm. F. Causey, Geo. C. Abbott, Geo. H. Hall, commissioners; Azel Stevens, alderman; R. H. Davis, assessor; J. D. Hill, collector; Geo. H. Hall, clerk.

1886.—James M. Hall, Frank Richards, Wm. T. Watson, Wm. F. Causey, H. W. McColley, Wm. A. Humes, commissioners; R. J. Beswick, alderman; Theo. Townsend, assessor; J. D. Hill, collector; H. W. McColley, clerk.

An act of reincorporation was passed at Dover on February 28, 1887, by which the town began to work under a new charter. The government of the town now consists of a *Town Council*, composed of a president and six members. The president and three of said members shall be freeholders within the town limits, the assessor also to be a freeholder. Two of said councilmen shall be elected for two years, the president and four members for one year. There have been several amendments to the old charter, but none of much interest.

Those elected under the new town charter, March

7, 1887, were: President, H. W. McColley; William T. Watson, James Russell, Joseph M. Davis, R. C. Hall, Frank Rickards, Charles H. Tuthill; Alderman, R. J. Beswick; Assessor, William G. Herring; Collector, Thomas A. Watson; Clerk, Charles H. Tuthill.

Among those who have held the office of justice of the peace in Milford are J. Millechop, Samuel Ratcliffe, Henry Hudson, John H. Denney, William M. W. Dorsey, Manlove Hayes, Richard H. Phillips, Robert J. Beswick, Lowder Layton, Beniah Watson, William Porter, John J. Hazzard, William F. Revill, William Shockley, Azel Stevens. Among the post-masters were Thomas Winsmore, appointed in 1803; Charles Mason, Perry Stevenson, Joseph George, William M. W. Dorsey, Alexander Hall, A. W. Bell, Rhodes S. Hemmons, William G. Hering, R. A. Steward, Dr. R. Y. Watson.

INDUSTRIES.—Milford has always been an industrious town. The condition upon which Henry Bowman took Saw-Mill Range was that he should build a saw-mill, and from the name of the tract it is evident that saw-mills were in operation here at an early day. In connection with the saw-mills it is fitting to observe that ship-building was an early and important industry. The oak in this vicinity is good, and the reputation of Delaware-built schooners and sloops was far extended. A small vessel was built up near the dam many years ago, and a man by the name of Du Pre built one vessel at the New Wharf. In 1793 action was taken in the Legislature in relation to a wharf. Robert Russell was one of the first ship-builders where Carlisle's yard now is. David West next carried on the business, building only about one small vessel per year. M. R. Carlisle and William F. Revill carried on ship-building from about 1830 to 1850, when Revill retired and Theodore Carlisle entered into partnership with his brother. This partnership continued for about thirty years, during which time they built many three-masted schooners of one thousand tons burden. Since Manlove Carlisle died Thomas Carlisle has not built many vessels. Among other builders were Sylvester A. Deputy and his son, James H. Deputy, who built a number of ships and worked at the business for many years. William A. Scribner also had a yard where David Lank, a son of John Lank, another old ship-builder, now is. There are three ship-yards in operation now,—Abbott's, Carlisle's and Lank's. A tug-boat, the first built at Milford, was launched from David Lank's yard in 1887. There have been about six or seven vessels built per year at these yards for many years. They have been mostly sloops or two and three-masted-schooners, built for coast-wise trade, of from one hundred and fifty to one thousand tons burden.

Grist-Mills.—In 1787 an act was passed by the Delaware Legislature enabling Rev. Sydenham Thorne to erect a mill-dam across Mispillion Creek, and for the condemnation of a small piece of flat-

land on the Sussex side of the said creek, for the use of a grist-mill. This petition represents that Rev. Sydenham Thorne, of Kent County, is the owner of a certain tract of land, which affords a very convenient situation for a grist-mill, being at the head of Mispillion Creek in the county of Kent. It appears that Rev. S. Thorne erected a grist-mill where the Red Mill now stands, possibly the same structure that is there now, about 1787. The mill is shingled in place of siding and has been the same as now as far back as any one now living can remember.

There was a ford here formerly, which gave the name Mill Ford or Milford. The head of navigation is said to have been farther up the stream prior to the erection of the mill dam; be that as it may, the head of navigation is now below the mill dam.

Joseph Oliver immediately began to lay out a town and lease lots, as before noticed, and the town from this time forth began to grow in population and importance. This section has been celebrated for corn, and more recently good wheat has been grown, which has rendered the milling business both necessary and profitable. Among the subsequent owners of this mill have been Mr. Dutton, John M. Darby, Peter F. Causey and his son of the same name, who is the present owner. Gov. Causey was also owner of what is known as the Haven Mills. The Red Mill has four run of stones, and recently one-half roller process has been added. A husk factory was built for Orcutt Brothers about 1850, and is now operated by R. H. Williams; it manufactures about two hundred thousand tons of husks for mattresses. Peter F. Causey built a woolen-mill in 1868, which burned down July 27, 1872, and was rebuilt and operated by Hoffecker & Brother, who employed thirty hands and manufactured about five thousand yards of cloth per week. These mills were one hundred by fifty feet main building, with a picker-room twenty-two by fifty feet. They were destroyed by fire in 1882. R. H. Williams operated a mill for grinding black oak bark to a fine powder, called quercitron, for coloring purposes. This branch of industry has been abandoned since other processes have been discovered to produce like colors at less expense. George S. Grier, an Englishman, has operated a foundry and repair-shop here for a number of years. Allen Tolbert owned the Haven Mills; subsequently Edward Stapleford, Joseph Dutton, and John M. Clayton finally purchased them for John M. Darby. These mills at that time consisted of a grist-mill, a saw-mill and carding-machine. The tanning business was formerly quite extensively carried on by James Clayton and others.

James H. Denning started a pottery on Pear Street about 1840, and carried on business for about thirty-five years, making all kinds of earthenware, supplying all the country around. The American Basket Company was organized at Milford in 1876.

Alden first fully demonstrated the practicability of his fruit-drying process here in 1871, his establishment then employing ninety hands day and night

during the fruit season, which lasts about six weeks, and consuming from three hundred to five hundred baskets of peaches in twenty-four hours. There are now some thirty drying factories in Milford and vicinity, which, together with Reis' Cannery, which was started in 1881, and employs about eighty or ninety hands, having a capacity of from fifteen thousand to twenty thousand cans per day, is capable of disposing of the peach and tomato crop without loss to the farmer, even if there is no pressing demand.

Nathan Davis had a small plow foundry back of Lowery's hotel, near John Dunning's pottery. In 1849, George S. Grier purchased the Haven Mills water-power of Peter F. Causey, and started a foundry. He has employed sixteen hands and made agricultural implements of all kinds. Matthews, Hall & Co. have a foundry near the depot, started about 1865, where general repairing is done. Isaac Simpson has the largest phosphate factory. Clift & Ryder, King & Spearman, Peter Truit, Taylor & Sharp have been prominent carriage-makers. John Scribner, blacksmith, years ago made the bolts, screws and nails that were used in vessel-building at Milford.

Merchants.—Nathan Adams took up land at Millstone Landing, now known as the New Wharf, in 1774, and is mentioned as a merchant. Adams' heirs sold this property to Benjamin Parker. Among the early and well-remembered merchants were Molton Rickards, Squire Samuel Ratcliffe and Walter Sipple (who were in partnership), Wm. Sorden (who owned the property now owned by Geo. S. Adkin's heirs), Jacob Biddle, John Wallace, Martin Dewaile, Daniel Godwin, John M. Darby, Lowder Layton, Walker Sipple, Benjamin Potter (was a merchant and tanner), Peter T. Causey and son, Gov. Peter F. Causey, Abner Dill, Benjamin Waddams, Rev. Truster P. McColley (hatter and merchant), Peter Griffiths, Isaac Lofland, Curtis Watson, Bethuel Watson, Mitchell & Warren, George Buchanan, Andrew J. McColley, Joseph Bennett. About 1840 there were twenty merchants doing business in Milford, every one of whom were solvent and worthy of credit.

Drug Stores.—Joseph S. Bennett, the first druggist in Milford, commenced in 1846 where Benjamin Anderson has a grocery-store. He was succeeded by Thomas Wallace, and Thomas R. Hammersley conducted the business for him. Sherwood & Foulk succeeded him; after Sherwood died Foulk sold his interest to Thomas Sherwood, a son of his former partner, and started again where Dr. Marshall now resides, in 1856, and in 1870 he removed to his present quarters in Watson's block. Thomas Sherwood sold to Thomas F. Hammersley, who now has a drug-store on Walnut Street. Dr. Marshall, Dr. Pratt and H. L. Page now sell drugs.

The house now owned by Wm. F. Causey, Esq., was built in 1750 by an Englishman by the name of Levin Crapper. Gov. Rogers resided here in the early part of the century, and is buried on this farm. Lowder Layton

was an early merchant in a little store which stood where Peter F. Causey, Jr., now lives. The farm contained six hundred acres when Rogers owned it. In 1849, Governor Causey purchased and refitted it, and it is now one of the most desirable residences in town. Of Lowder Layton's sons, Caleb S. was associate judge of Sussex County, and Garret S. was a physician in Milford, and Joshua was a merchant at Georgetown.

Henry Hudson owned the land where South Milford now stands, and had James Johnson lay it off into town lots in 1819. He built the brick house now occupied by Widow Lemuel Draper. The building of this house ruined him, financially, and Walker Sipple purchased the property, from whom it passed to his daughter and John A. Hazard, who sold it to Lemuel Draper. After his failure, Henry Hudson kept the hotel where Lowery now is.

Thomas Davis resided in Cedar Creek Hundred, and was a member of the Legislature at one time. Two of his sons resided in Milford. Robert M. was Treasurer of the State of Delaware, and Thomas J. Davis is a surveyor and conveyancer, and has settled a large number of estates.

Daniel Curry started the first peach orchard in the neighborhood of Milford, and was laughed at by his neighbors for so doing. He was also a grain dealer and shipping merchant at Milford. Mary E., his only daughter, was the wife of Gen. Torbert. She came into possession of her father's real estate, and now resides at Milford.

Major-General Alfred T. A. Torbert, son of Jonathan R. Torbert, was born at Georgetown, July 1, 1833. He was educated at the home school and West Point, graduating in 1855. He was with General A. S. Johnston in his campaign against the Mormons in Utah. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he helped to organize the New Jersey troops, and was commissioned colonel of the First Regiment of New Jersey Volunteers, September 16, 1861, by Gov. Olden, and served with the regiment during the Peninsular Campaign. In April, 1864, he was appointed brigadier-general in command of the First New Jersey Brigade. May 4, 1864, he was assigned to the first division of cavalry under General Sheridan. He did gallant service at Winchester, and in many other hard fought battles; subsequently he was promoted to brevet major-general. He married in January, 1866, and resigned his command in the army, and came to Milford to live, in the home of his bride. In 1869 he was appointed minister to San Salvador, where he remained nearly two years until 1871, when he was appointed consul-general to Havana, and in 1873 consul-general to Paris. After his return home he devoted himself to his private affairs, and was on his way to Mexico on private business when he was shipwrecked, his body being washed ashore on the coast of Florida. He is buried in the Methodist cemetery.

Nelson Rickards moved from Georgetown to Milford about 1837, and started the chair-making business,

which he followed for many years. Perry P. and James S. started carriage-making, which the former still continues.

Bethuel Watson, son of Isaac Watson, who patented land in Sussex County in 1785, lived in Cedar Creek Hundred. Jesse Watson, son of Bethuel, married Rachel Collins, and their son Beniah came to Milford, and engaged in the mercantile business. He took his son Curtis into partnership with him, and after his death, in 1844, Curtis and his brother Bethuel engaged in merchandising until the latter died. Curtis S. Watson not only engaged extensively in merchandising at home, but also in the export trade. As many as twenty ships traded from this port then, and large quantities of quercitron bark, which brought as high as ninety dollars per ton in Europe, were exported.

His life is worthy of more than passing notice. He was born December 9, 1809, in Cedar Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, three miles south of Milford. His grandfather Jesse Watson was a native of the same hundred, where he lived and died, at the advanced age of ninety years, and his grandmother at eighty-seven years. Jesse Watson had three sons, Jeremiah, David and Beniah, and one daughter, who married and moved west. Beniah, the youngest son and the father of Curtis S. Watson, early in life learned the carpenter's trade but after his marriage with Elizabeth Shockley, engaged for a time in farming in Cedar Creek Hundred, and owned a saw-mill, which he operated. The children of Beniah and Elizabeth Watson were Curtis S., Catharine, Ann, Bethuel and Beniah.

Curtis S. Watson was the eldest child. He obtained his education in the schools near his home, and at the Milford Academy, remaining on his father's farm until he was nineteen years old. He then entered a store at Milford as a clerk. When he attained the age of twenty-one years, his father and he, in 1831, engaged in the mercantile business in Milford, as the firm of B. Watson & Son. This co-partnership continued for ten years, when his father on account of increasing age, retired. Mr. Watson then took into the business, as partner, his brother Bethuel, and the firm name was changed to C. S. Watson & Co. They carried on a general business which gradually grew and developed and became very profitable. These operations included not only the buying and selling of store goods, but dealing in real estate, grain, lime, lumber, fertilizers, and other articles, by which they supplied numerous customers, residing in town and over a large extent of the surrounding country.

A number of tracts of land were purchased containing valuable timber which was cut down and much of the white oak lumber used in the construction of vessels. Within fifteen years, C. S. Watson & Co. had built at Milford, fifteen vessels ranging from sixty to two hundred tons burthen. These vessels they used in shipping the grain, bark, staves and lumber to Philadelphia and New York. All the

merchandise sold in the store was billed as a return cargo. They also brought lime from the Hudson or North River on the return trip and sold it here to the farmers of the vicinity.

In 1856, C. S. Watson & Co. retired from the general merchandising business. Bethuel, the junior member of the firm died the next year. Curtis S. Watson then engaged in buying and selling grain, guano and phosphates which he continued with great success for a quarter of a century at Milford. He retired from business in 1882 to attend to his large landed interest in Kent and Sussex Counties aggregating in all two thousand five hundred acres. The farms which he now owns, he purchased at various times with means he accumulated through his rare ability as a business man. In addition he owns three store buildings and the post-office building on Walnut Street and his large residence on Front Street in Milford.

In 1876 Curtis S. Watson was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Milford and has since been a member of the board of directors of that institution. He served as a member of the board of town commissioners for ten years; and was president of the board several terms.

He was fifteen years a director in the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, from Harrington to Lewes. In politics he has always been a staunch democrat. His first presidential vote was cast for Andrew Jackson, in 1832, and he has since voted at every presidential election for the candidate of his party. He was elected a representative to the Legislature in 1859, and re-elected in 1861, serving in all, four years. From 1871 to 1875, he represented Kent County in the State Senate. For fifty years he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Milford and a trustee and steward for a long period. He is a liberal supporter of the church and devoted to its interests and to the cause of religion. He was made a Mason half a century ago, in Temple Lodge, No. 9, of Milford, and became a Royal Arch Mason, thirty years later.

In 1840 Mr. Watson, made his first visit to Saratoga, New York, then a small village. Every year since that time he has spent about sixty-five days of the hot summer months at that now famous pleasure resort, making in all forty-seven visits in forty-seven years.

Mr. Watson was married, January 5, 1833, to Sarah, daughter of Thomas Davis, of Cedar Creek Hundred, by whom he had seven children, all sons.

His wife died November 5, 1851. Their surviving children are Beniah Watson, attorney at law, practicing at Dover, Delaware, and Dr. R. Y. Watson, the present postmaster at Milford.

Curtis S. Watson was married, July 27, 1853, to Lydia A. White, daughter of George White, of Milford.

Peter F. Causey and Dr. Lofand had mills for grinding quercitron or oak bark. D. H. Holland



G. S. Warren

started general merchandizing where Hume has his hardware store in 1837, thence he removed to a store which stands nearly opposite where he is now, and in 1880 he came to his present location. He took his son, Joseph E., into partnership with him, and has since done a leading business, and is now the merchant of the longest standing in the place. John Jump commenced about the same time that Holland did, and discontinued recently. Randall Williams and Henderson Collins, William C. Williams and Benjamin Potter, who left a will giving his property to the poor of Kent County, outside of the poor-house, were all merchants in Milford. Noah Lofland was one of the first hatters here, and his son, William, whom Anderson succeeded, and T. P. McColley worked at the business.

Benjamin Anderson commenced the hatter business in 1836, and was one of the last hatters in the state, when he discontinued in 1860. After he stopped making hats, he associated his son with him in the dry-goods business.

In 1878 Benjamin Anderson started the present grocery business. Alexander Pullen started the nursery business in Milford, in 1870. He has since associated James F. Anderson in the business with him, and they sell from two to three hundred thousand peach trees yearly, beside ten thousand apple and five thousand pear trees, vines and berries. Hall & Son are also doing a large business.

The railroad takes considerable business from the shippers by water. The largest importation by vessel is material for fertilizers, and coal. The out-going vessels carry pine and oak wood and piling, also oak timber for ship building. George Hall and D. H. Holland are principally engaged in shipping wood.

John Pettigrew came to Milford from Scotland, and was a soldier of the Revolution. He owned the property where James M. Hall now resides. He married Ann McNeill, and had three daughters—Ann, wife of Dr. Greer, Margaret, wife of Dr. Joseph Sudler, and Leah, wife of J. Millechop. Of Millechop's daughters, Sally was the wife of Ezekiel Cowgill; Margaret married Elias Naudain; Ann married Purnell Hall, a farmer and cabinet-maker; Mary G. married John Greer; Lavinia R. married Dr. Karsner, and Clara M. married James C. Wilson,

Governor William Tharp was born November 27, 1803, and died January 1, 1865. His great-grandfather was John Tharp, of Sussex County, England, who settled in Kent County, Delaware. His son, William married Ruth Clark, and their son James married Eunice Fleming. Their son, William (the Governor), had a family of daughters that married and settled in Milford and vicinity. Ruth is the mother of William Watson, and Williamina is the wife of C. J. Hall, lately Clerk of the Peace for Kent County,

Miss Harriet McNatt, who was born with the century, and is the last of her family, has a very clear recollection of events that took place in the early his-

tory of the town. Her grandfather, Richard Delaner, was one of the early settlers and owned a large tract of land on the road to Harrington, at Delaner's Cross Roads, about three and three-fourths miles from Milford. He was a large planter, and carried on store keeping and a tavern. He was an Irishman by birth, and fought for the Americans all through the Revolutionary War. He died in 1810, aged eighty-one. He had two sons—Levin H. and John, and a daughter, Mary, the wife of Major McNatt, and Harriet R., now aged eighty-seven, is the only surviving member of the family. Her mother remembered when there were only three houses in Milford—Joseph Oliver's house, which stood where Colonel Watson and Mrs. Ruth Carlisle's residence now stands, then called Oliver's Landing; William Sordons, a merchant, and Isaiah James, a tanner. Afterwards, William Brinckle lived where James Truitt lives, and carried on tanning. He was very aged when he died. His children were William, John and Mary, wife of Dr. John Adams. Thomas Collins had a large family, all of whom are dead or have moved away.

The first school Miss McNatt attended was in 1808, near her grandfather Delaner's. It was kept in a log school-house with an earthen floor, with planks around the outside for desks. The Quakers had a meeting-house where Rosa lives. Gauladett Oliver and John Thomas were Friends. The former had three sons—Joseph, Thomas and Paul, and several daughters. Ann, wife of William Godwin, Governor Rogers, Governor Tharp, Governor Burton and Governor Causey all resided here. David Walton and Colonel Hall were cabinet-makers. Samuel Ratcliffe lived in South Milford years ago, in a little red house.

HOTELS.—Daniel Godwin built the brick part of the Lowery House, it being the first three-story building in the place. He kept the hotel a number of years and was superintendent of the stage route from Wilmington to Seaford. He also engaged in the mercantile business, and built the house now owned by A. B. Cooper. He was also a local Methodist preacher. His son, William, became commission merchant in Philadelphia, and Frank was president of the Corn Exchange, in the same city. Daniel C. was in partnership with his father many years. Samuel P. founded the Franklin Reformatory Home, in Philadelphia, and is its president. Peter F. Causay purchased this property and sold it to Justus Lowerey, the present proprietor. Joseph Walton first leased the Stine lot on September 18, 1786, and in 1792 he made a lease for a ground rent for \$8.13. Walton and family built and occupied this lot several years. Martin Dewaile, a Frenchman, came into possession of the property, and his widow kept a hotel there. The successive owners since have been William A. Mygatt, Levi Harris, John W. Jump and Richard F. Stine, who has erected a fine brick hotel. J. C. Shockley kept this hotel for twenty years.

PHYSICIANS.—Dr. Joseph Sudler was one of the first physicians in the place; he married a daughter

of John Pettigrew. Dr. James P. Lofland, Gov. Burton, M.D. and Dr. James R. Mitchell, were the three leading physicians for many years. Dr. Owen, was also an early physician. Dr. John S. Prettyman came to the village when a young man and in connection with his son is still practicing here. Dr. Nathan Pratt, Dr. Mark G. Lofland, Dr. J. O. Pierce, are among later physicians. Dr. J. D. Strong, was the first Homœopathic physician in the place; he built the residence now occupied by J. B. Smith.

There are eight physicians practicing medicine in Milford, Dr. Wm. Marshall and son, Dr. G. W. Marshall, Dr. J. W. Purnell, Dr. Nathan Pratt, Dr. J. O. Pierce, John S. Prettyman and son, John Prettyman, Dr. J. G. Dawson, who has one of the finest collection of Indian relics to be found outside of the Smithsonian Institute.

Dr. James R. Mitchell was born in Caroline County, Maryland, in 1806, and moved to Milford with his parents when he was one year old. He was educated here and read medicine with Dr. Burton, of Milford, and attended the University of Maryland. He located in Milford, and had a successful practice for forty years.

Purnell Lofland, lived and died in Milford. He had two children by his first wife, Mary Robinson, Dr. James R. Lofland and Elizabeth, wife of Spencer Williams, who was cashier of the Commercial Bank of Milford. His second wife was Arcadia Burton.

Of his children by his second marriage, Purnell was a merchant, and a lieutenant in the Mexican War, Mary was the wife of Samuel Harrington, and Ann married — Austin.

Dr. John Owens, a native of Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, was born in 1787, at St. Johnstown. He studied medicine with Dr. Jos. Sudler, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, in 1819. He practiced medicine in Milford and Frederica for many years in the present century. His wife was Mary, a daughter of Isaiah James, one of the first settlers, and was considered a great belle in her day. Dr. Owens was a charter member and first secretary of Temple Lodge. One of his sons, Frederick J., became a physician.

Charles T. Fleming, son of Beniah Fleming, was born in Mispillion Hundred, about seven miles from Milford, in 1805, is descended from William Fleming, who came to Mispillion Hundred, from Scotland, in 1740, and took up four hundred acres of land. Charles T. came to Milford in 1827, and in 1835 commenced surveying; having collected the old surveys of James, William and Manlove Johnson, he became the most competent surveyor in this part of the state, and he has done considerable conveyancing. He was notary public, and commissioner of deeds for New York, for many years; for forty years he was agent for the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1837, he was a Whig member of the legislature. Originally a Presbyterian, he joined the Methodist church during the time there was no Presbyterian

church in the place. In 1883, Mr. Fleming laid out in building lots, eight or nine acres belonging to Frank Rickards, situated in the northeastern part of the town, which are now (1887) largely occupied by dwellings.

Colonel Thomas Peterkin was a bachelor, a very demonstrative man, with decided convictions, true to the cause he espoused, and proverbially honest. John W. Redden was a carriage-maker here. He married Catherine, a daughter of Gulaudette Oliver. They removed to Natchez, Mississippi, in 1820. William Brinckle, Jr., son of William Brinckle, Sr., was born in Milford. John P. Brinckle was a lawyer at Georgetown, where he died quite young.

MILFORD BRIDGE.—In June, 1785, an act was passed to enable Joseph Oliver, of Kent County, to erect a bridge over Mispillion Creek. In 1791 this act was repealed and the following was enacted: "Whereas, the draw-bridge over Mispillion Creek on the public road leading from the village of Milford into the county of Sussex hath become of great utility to the inhabitants of Kent and Sussex Counties, hence it was provided that each county should pay half of the expenses of keeping and repairing the bridge and Isaac Davis and John Ralston, of Kent, Daniel Rogers and Nathaniel Hayes, of Sussex, were appointed commissioners to carry out the provisions of the act. The act further provided that the bridge between abutments should be thirty-five feet, nineteen feet of which should be a draw or platform eighteen feet wide with good and sufficient chains for raising and lowering the same, a provision that was necessary when vessels ascended the Mispillion to a point above the bridge."

STREET LIGHTING AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.—An act to regulate and light the streets of Milford was passed February 5, 1807. This act was subsequently repealed. Now the streets are being lighted by electric light. Milford Hook and Ladder Company was organized in February, 1869, with Mark G. Lofland, president; Reuben A. Steward, vice-president; P. C. Fossett, secretary; Justis Lowery, treasurer; William B. Lowery, fire marshal. The company contained about twenty members.

BANKS.—Elias Shockley owned a controlling interest in the old Commercial Bank. He was largely engaged in merchandising and gave his name as security too freely causing his failure, and the bank went down with him. After this failure the Smyrna Bank established a branch office at Milford and did banking business here until the establishment of the present bank. The First National Bank of Milford was chartered July 27, 1876. The first board of directors were H. B. Fiddeman, C. S. Watson, M. R. Carlisle, James R. Lofland, George Russell, Robert H. Davis, James H. Deputy, C. J. Harrington, James M. Hall. The first officers were H. B. Fiddeman, president; J. B. Smith, cashier, and Isaac S. Truitt, teller. W. R. Aldred is the present teller. T. J. Davis, George S. Grier and J. B. Smith are among the directors now. According

to report in 1887, the cash capital of the bank is sixty thousand eight hundred dollars; surplus, thirty-five thousand dollars; undivided profits, \$11,659.58.

SCHOOLS.—William Johnson bought the lot now owned by C. W. Davidson in 1787, and lived and died there. He was a surveyor and one of the first, if not the first, school teachers in the place. Like all the schools here, up to 1832 it was a private school. In Johnson's note-book the following notices appear: Thursday, March 25, 1788: "Notice is taken that James Train called William Russell a liar. Witness, William Pope." "Notice is taken that Peter Robinson was absent from the school till the evening." "Notice is taken that James Train came to an engagement in school this evening." A system of private schools has been continued with varying success until the present time. A private school or academy was held in the Masons' building for many years. In 1832 the first public-school in the northern part of the town was held in the house now owned by J. B. Smith, and William Dickinson was the first teacher; this building was sold to Captain James Thompson and the Masonic building was purchased for public school purposes in 1846 and was used until 1887 when it was remodeled and enlarged. There is also a public school in South Milford.

Daniel S. Ells, superintendent of North Milford public schools, January 15, 1887, reported as follows: The value of the school property is two thousand dollars with four teachers and one hundred and twenty-three pupils. Charles W. Allen, principal of the South Milford School, reported that the school property is worth forty-five hundred dollars; amount of money raised by tax, eighteen hundred dollars; amount of money received from the State, eight hundred dollars; amount paid for teachers' salaries, eighteen hundred and ninety dollars. The school is in operation nine months in the year with an average attendance of one hundred and forty-two pupils out of two hundred and twenty-one, the whole number on the roll.

The Milford Female Institute was conducted by Rev. Mr. Kennedy for six or seven years. Mr. Kennedy was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at the time, and desiring to educate his own family he started a school for females where the common branches, languages and music were taught, and many of the young ladies of Milford were here educated.

SOCIETIES.—*Kirkwood Encampment, No. 6*, was organized September 4, 1850, with the following charter members: Thomas Wallace, Joseph H. Bennett, John H. Denning, Joseph C. Gorby, Robert H. Clark, John S. Moody, William C. Welsh, Joseph L. Linderman.

Milford Grange, No. 6.—The first grange in the State was organized in West Brandywine, in 1874, by Mr. Hamilton, then residing in California. Milford Grange was organized the same year, with John G. Rosa as the first master. There are from thirty to forty members in the Milford Grange at present. Mr. Rosa resides where the old Friends' meeting-house

formerly stood, and is one of the most enterprising farmers in the vicinity.

Temple Lodge, No. 9, A. F. and A. M., was organized in Milford, Jan. 16, 1815. This lodge was organized by General Jesse Green, who was the first Master. The other officers were John Mitchell, Sr. W.; James Millechop, Jr. W.; Colonel Thomas Peterkin, Treasurer; Dr. John Owens, Secretary; John W. Redden, S. D.; William Brinckle, Jr., J. D. The Masters since the organization up to 1846 have been Jesse Green, James Millechop, Jr. (five times), John Mitchell, John W. Redden, Dr. James B. Lofland (thirty-eight times), Spencer Williams, Joseph G. O. Oliver, Edward Collins, Beniah Watson, William M. Godwin, Liston A. Houston, Dr. William Burton, William F. Revill, Daniel C. Godwin. They met in a building, part of which is the present public school building, until about 1846. A private school was conducted in this building for many years, and it is said that a number of poor children, some of whom have since become prominent, were educated at the expense of the Masons. This lodge was the parent lodge of a number of other lodges in the vicinity.

Crystal Fount Lodge, No. 10, I. O. of O. F., was organized February 10, 1847. The charter members were Joseph S. Bennett, Joseph C. Gorby, Samuel P. Godwin, John H. Denning, Joseph L. Linderman, all of whom are still living but Linderman. During its existence till 1887 the lodge has paid \$7079 benefits to sick members; for burying the dead \$6502; relief of widows and children about \$700; outside charities \$693. Present assets \$5816.23. One member, J. G. Foulk, has been Grand Master of the State. Three members—J. G. Foulk, Alexander Hall and Samuel M. Simpler, have been representatives to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. The present membership is forty-nine. In 1879 ground was purchased and the beautiful Odd Fellows' cemetery was surveyed into burial lots. Since the organization of the lodge nearly every public celebration in the town has been managed by the order.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.—*Christ Church, 1704-1887.*—The Rev. Thomas Crawford, a missionary of the English "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," stationed at Dover, is believed to have held the first service of the Church of England in the lower part of Kent County, in the year 1704. The congregation then worshipped at a place three miles west of the present town of Milford, though it is not known in what year the first church building was erected, or precisely where it stood. As early as 1745 a small wooden chapel, supposed to have been the second edifice of the kind, thirty-six feet long by thirty feet wide, was built at the point known as Church Hill. This building is mentioned in the missionary reports under the name of *Christ Church Mispillion*, though it was popularly called "The Savannah Church," on account of a swamp near by, or, perhaps, to distinguish it from "the *Three Runs* meeting-house" of the Presbyterians, situated two miles

further down the creek. At this date, the English minister stationed at Dover, and officiating also at Mispillion and Duck Creek, was the Rev. Arthur Usher. He was succeeded by the Rev. Hugh Neil, who, in turn, was followed, in 1757, by the Rev. Chas. Inglis. At the end of a successful administration of six years, Mr. Inglis was called from this field to the rectorship of Trinity Church, New York. The next name on the list of ministers is that of the Rev. Samuel Magaw. With his removal terminated the fostering care of the Venerable Propagation Society over the English Churches of Kent County. From this time the Mispillion Church appears to have had a separate existence and history.

In 1773-75 the Rev. Sydenham Thorne arrived and took up his residence near Church Hill. Mr. Thorne, like his predecessor in the rectorship, was probably of English birth and education, though he came to this County from Virginia. Besides having considerable ability as a scholar and preacher, he was also distinguished for the refinement and elegance of his manner. Wealthy, benevolent and public-spirited, he was said, by one who well remembered him, to have been the most influential man of the county; and this, notwithstanding his political and religious principles of unconcealed loyalty to the King and Church of England.

In the year 1777 Mr. Thorne came into possession of the farm on the west side of Mullet Run, a little stream which empties into the creek two miles east of Church Hill. This property was subsequently owned by his nephew, Peter Caverly, then by James Clayton, and afterwards by the late Benjamin Potter, who, at his death, devised it to his grand-nephew and namesake. On this land the parson, in 1779, erected the large and imposing brick house, known as the Thorne Mansion, —almost the only relic of the last century which has been allowed to remain without alteration to the present day. Among the parishioners of the Savannah Church was Joseph Oliver, who owned the farm extending from Mullet Run, a quarter of a mile eastward, towards another land mark on the bank of the Mispillion, called the High Hill. At the instance of the parson, or mainly under his direction, it is said, Oliver about this time divided his land, or a large part of it, into town lots and streets. Of these lots two were given for the use of the parish church and graveyard; and here, in 1791, was laid the foundation of the present Christ Church, Milford. Much opposition was made in certain quarters to the removal of the house of worship to another site, and, in consequence, some of the members refused or withheld their assistance in the new enterprise. But notwithstanding this drawback, the building went on until the walls were raised and roofed in, the parson himself paying the cost of the brick, which were made of clay dug from Oliver's land, and burned in a kiln three hundred yards north of the church. The sills, rafters, beams and girders were constructed out of trees grown on Mr. Thorne's farm, cut down and

hewn at his expense, and, when necessary, sawed into shape at his own mill. The death of this zealous man, February 13, 1793, interrupted the building of the church, and the work remained at a standstill for more than a quarter of a century.

As originally designed, the edifice was of two stories, having galleries on the north, west and south sides, and the Communion Table on the east. The pews were made with high and straight backs, and the pulpit was a quaint-looking affair, shaped like a chalice, and surmounted by a lofty canopy or *sounding-board*. It was placed in the east wall, over the holy table, so that the preacher might look into the galleries as well as upon the audience in the pews beneath. The inside of the building, designed to be finished in a semi-circle, seems never to have been carried any further than the putting in of the arched pieces intended to hold up the ceiling. It was not until the year 1835 that the original church thus begun in 1791 by parson Thorne, was entirely completed.

The next minister of the parish was the Rev. William Pryce, who officiated until 1800. He then removed to Wilmington and became the rector of Trinity Church (Old Swedes), in that town. Seventeen years later the church was again under the charge of the Dover minister, the Rev. Henry R. Judah, until 1819, when the Rev. Joseph Spencer was made master of the academy in Milford, and, in connection with this position, rector of the parish. Mr. Spencer, afterwards doctor of divinity, resigned these offices in 1822-23, and was appointed principal of the University Grammar School, Philadelphia. Services were now maintained till 1830 by the Rev. Daniel Higbee; and three years later than this date, began the rectorship of the man who was destined to complete the building of the temple whose foundation had been laid by the lamented Thorne, nearly a half century before. The Rev. Corry Chambers was an Irishman, and graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, who had been but a few years in this country, and was previously settled in Lewistown, Pennsylvania. An energetic man and a popular preacher, he soon succeeded in bringing together and adding to the flock, scattered and discouraged since the departure of Parson Higbee, until the church was filled again, on Sundays and at other religious festivals, with an interested and devout assembly.

During Mr. Chambers' ministry, a new roof was put on, the galleries and pews received their first coat of paint, and the pulpit was adorned with hangings and upholstery of crimson silk, in the most approved style of the day. It is related that, just after these extensive improvements were completed, and before ever a service had been held, the new roof in some unaccountable manner suddenly took fire. The accident, by good fortune, happened at midday, and an alarm brought swiftly to the spot a score of interested citizens, by whose willing help the flames were extinguished in a few moments, and before any considerable damage had been done.

A pertinent illustration of the old adage, "to strike while the iron is hot," was afforded, on this occasion, by Mr. Chambers, who, thinking the opportunity too good to be lost, immediately after the fire, opened on the spot a subscription paper for repairs, and with tears in his eyes, went about among the bystanders, soliciting money; until presently, he had received contributions and pledges amounting to twice as much as was required to make good the damage. The church, now entirely finished and furnished, was, in 1836, consecrated to pious uses by the Rt. Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, provisional bishop of the diocese of Delaware.

Soon after this date, Mr. Chambers was succeeded by the Rev. John Reynolds, who remained in charge till 1843, meanwhile supplementing his slender salary by giving instruction to the young people of the town and others, at the Midford Academy.

In the following year the church fell to the pastoral care of the Rev. John Linn McKim. This gentleman, a native of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was graduated at Dickinson College, in the class of 1830, and had been a pupil there of Doctor Joseph Spencer, sometime rector of Milford, and afterwards professor of Ancient languages in this institution. Mr. McKim was himself a thorough classical and mathematical scholar. Like his predecessor at Milford, he was master of the academy as well as rector of the church. His learning was said to be accurate, varied and extensive, and he was especially remarkable for the rare power he possessed of adapting his sermons to the character and needs of those who heard them. A man of singularly pure life, of gentle manners and cultivated taste, he deserves to be ranked with Inglis, Magaw, Thorne and other worthies whose names are destined to be held in grateful remembrance as long as the parish shall have a history to record.

By the choice of the vestry and congregation, the rectorship now descended from father to son; and, in 1863, the Rev. John Layton McKim began his ministry in the venerable church. A native of Delaware, and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, it is a point interesting in this connection, that he received his academic degree precisely a century after his predecessor, Mr. Magaw, who had graduated at the same college in 1757. The coincidence goes further; for he also came to the parish just a hundred years later than his illustrious fellow-alumnus. Like him, too, he seems to have had a faculty for teaching, and devoted a large part of his time to this profession. The most successful teachers often prove to be also the most useful clergymen, and the two offices have been united in the case of more than one minister of this parish, who, but for the increased compensation which followed, might have been compelled to "shake the dust off their feet and depart," even though the people had been ever so willing to listen to their instruction and submit to their administration.

During the incumbency of Mr. McKim, the church was enlarged by the addition of chancel, sacristry

and tower; the new work being carried on chiefly under his own direction and supervision. But while the ancient edifice was remodelled as to its roof and general outside appearance, the walls, ground-sill and floor, were allowed to remain as originally placed by Mr. Thorne.

Mr. McKim resigned in 1880, and at this date the parish is administered by the Rev. James C. Kerr. Under his judicious direction, the church has lately been decorated in the best style of ecclesiological art, and otherwise improved until it is perhaps not surpassed in beauty and convenience by any house of worship in the state.

Milford Presbyterian Church.—The Three Runs Presbyterian Church is supposed to have been organized in the latter part of the seventeenth or the first part of the eighteenth century. It was located on the ground now occupied by an old abandoned graveyard and took its name from the Three Runs of the Mispillion Creek. It was a frame structure with a brick floor and was abandoned as a place of worship in the early part of the present century. Miss McNatt remembers that her grandfather Delaner and family worshipped here. Governor Tharp's family also were Presbyterians. The records are lost, but the following election of trustees in 1819 has been preserved. "At a meeting of the Presbyterian Congregation of Three Runs held at Milford, January 11, 1819, Joseph Hazlett, Robert P. Campbell, John Shafer, Robert King and William Satterfield were elected trustees." The Ralstons worshipped here also. When Rev. G. W. Kennedy came to Milford in 1849, there were only two members of this church remaining, Robert King and his sister. Mr. King was a firm Calvinist and devoted his life largely to the study of the Scriptures and theological works, and was liberal in giving for religious purposes.

In 1849, the Presbytery of Wilmington instructed Rev. G. W. Kennedy, an Evangelist, for the Presbytery to visit Milford, and, if the way be open to organize a Presbyterian Church there. He visited Milford and found only two Presbyterians. One was the wife of Governor William Tharp and the other was Miss Johnson afterwards Mrs. Primrose. In a short time other Presbyterians moved to Milford and a church was organized with seven members, viz.: Mr. and Mrs. William V. Coulter, Mrs. Governor Tharp, Mrs. Edward P. Morris, Mrs. Purnell Lofland and Mrs. S. M. Kennedy, the pastor's wife.

A move was made at once to build a church, and Governor Tharp, Colonel, afterwards Governor Causey, Dr. James P. Lofland and John Hazzard were appointed a building committee, with Rev. George W. Kennedy as chairman and financial agent, through whose untiring exertions a neat and substantial brick church and parsonage were erected in 1850. At the organization of the church, William V. Coulter was elected and ordained a ruling elder, subsequently Rufus K. Baynum and Robert C. Hall, were elected and ordained elders. After a number of additions

had been made to the church in March, 1856, Rev. Mr. Kennedy resigned his position as stated supply. The church remained vacant until November, 1857, when Rev. John W. Mears, of Philadelphia was elected pastor. During the first year of his pastorate, thirteen members were added to the church. He resigned February 15, 1860, and November 14, 1860, Rev. J. Garland Harned succeeded to the pastorate and was installed. He resigned September 20, 1863. Then the Rev. L. P. Bowen, a licentiate, was received as stated supply, and entered upon his duties January 24, 1864. At this time there were thirty-four members. He resigned January 28, 1866, and was succeeded by Rev. John F. Severance. At the same time Colonel Henry B. Fiddeman, Henry J. Hall and Jacob Y. Foulk, were elected ruling elders. Mr. Severance was succeeded by Rev. Richard A. Mallery, July 12, 1868, who died June 9, 1875, and after an interval of a year, Rev. A. A. Dinsmore was elected pastor. Messrs. James B. Gilchrist and Edwin Hopkins were elected to the eldership. Mr. Dinsmore closed his labors as pastor in November, 1875, and was succeeded by Charles F. Boynton, who began his pastorate February 1, 1876. He resigned in January, 1879, and the pulpit was supplied by Rev. S. K. Schofield until February 1880, when Rev. H. L. Bunstein became pastor and continues as such to date, September, 1887. During his pastorate, William Marshall, M.D., John B. Smith and William A. Humes were elected ruling elders. There are at present on the roll of membership two hundred and ten names.

Mr. Bunstein was born in Easton, Pennsylvania, August 18, 1844, graduated at Lafayette College in 1864 and at Union Theological Seminary in 1872. He was pastor of Clinton Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, from 1872 to 1876, of Beech Creek Presbyterian Church 1877-1880, and was called to Milford in November 1879.

Methodist Episcopal Church at Milford.—October 18, 1787, Francis Asbury, in his journal, says: "I had divine aid in preaching at Milford, the house was open and the day was cold." December 3, 1787, Joseph Oliver deeded to Nathaniel Smithers, Jr., Joseph Aydelott, William Ward, Elias Shockley, Thomas Ross, Reynear Williams, William Beauchamp, John Taylor and David Beauchamp, a lot containing fourteen thousand four hundred square feet "for the use and express purpose of building a preaching house or church thereon for the only proper use and benefit of the religious society of people called Methodists." Tuesday, October 22, 1789, Asbury says: "Rode to Milford; we had a great move and noble shouting." Rev. Mr. Whatcoat was presiding elder here then. Milford Circuit first appears in the minutes of the Methodist Church in 1789, Thomas Jackson and William Ratcliffe, preachers, Richard Whatcoat, Presiding Elder. The circuit must have embraced a large amount of territory, as the membership reported is eight hundred and seventy-nine whites and two hundred and thirty-six colored. The early records of

Milford Church are not to be found, but from the recollection of the oldest inhabitants it appears that Samuel Draper, Julia Adkins, George S. Adkins, Henry Hudson and wife, Walker Sipple and wife, Lowder Layton and wife, John R. Draper and wife, Jabez Crocker and wife, Wesley Collins and wife, Benjamin Henderson and wife, were prominent members. Revs. James Bateman, Levi Starks, George Taylor, John D. Onins and Charles Carsner, are remembered. The latter had a great revival in 1837 which was kept up night and day, and one hundred and thirty-seven members were added to the church. Daniel Godwin, Molton Rickards, George Adkins, Wesley Collins and Samuel Draper are remembered as class leaders. In 1855, during Rev. William Annear's ministration, there was a great revival, and many joined the church. There was another great revival in 1874, during Rev. D. C. Ridgway's pastorate, and some three hundred joined the church, ninety of whom were from the Sunday-school. The first Methodist church, which stood nearly opposite where the present church stands, was sold at public sale for \$49.50. In 1840 the second church was built on the site of the present church. Among the most prominent subscribers to the erection of this church were Rev. Truston P. McColley, John M. Darby, Peter F. Causey, John Rickards, William N. W. Dorsey, Samuel Draper, G. S. & W. Adkins, John Wallace and family, Daniel C. Godwin, James R. Mitchell, Charles T. Fleming, Henderson Collins, Purnell Hall, Henry May, Elias Smithers, George Primrose, Clement Clark, Jesse Sherwood, Beniah Watson, James H. Deputy. This second church and lot cost \$4428.35. The present church was erected in 1871, at a cost of \$19,000. William T. Vauls, Joseph S. Truitt, James H. Deputy, William Welsh and Peter F. Causey, were committee. A party of nine gentlemen bought the old church and converted it into a public hall. The parsonage was rebuilt at a cost of \$4000, in 1883. A chapel has recently been built in South Milford through the instrumentality of Peter F. Causey, John C. Hall and Joshua Spencer, at a cost of \$2000, for Sunday-school purposes. The Baptists have recently organized a church in the town.

Reverend Jonathan Spencer Willis, son of William Barnaby Willis and Mary Spencer, was born in Talbot County, Maryland. His father served as sheriff of Talbot County, was a member of the Maryland Legislature four terms and was a very successful agriculturalist. Oxford John Willis, his grandfather, was custom-house officer at Oxford, Maryland, for a period of forty years, when that place was a leading port of entry and before Baltimore developed into a commercial town. Oxford John Willis was the grandson of John Willis, the grandson of Sir Richard Willis, who came to Virginia early in her colonial history, with the Fairfaxes and others who took up large estates in Virginia. The subject of this sketch is of the eighth generation in direct line of descent from Sir Richard Willis. Mary Spencer, his



Yours Truly
J. S. Millis

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membership is mentioned in the conference minutes in 1789. This church was re-organized and made distinctively colored at the time Bishop Scott re-organized the colored Methodist Churches throughout the United States.

BIOGRAPHICAL.—Rev. Truston P. McColley was born March 9, 1793, and educated at the country schools. He became an apprentice to the hatter's trade; was a merchant for some time and a local preacher many years. In 1832 he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and made president of that body. He was a useful man in the community and the church, and died at the age of eighty-one. One of his daughters, Angeline, became the wife of Dr. William Marshall who was born in 1827. Dr. Marshall was educated at Milton and studied medicine at Jefferson Medical College. He was surgeon on the ship "Clarissa Perkins" that conveyed the first of the '49 men to California. He worked in the gold mines for a time and returned in 1851. He was surgeon in the army and wounded in a skirmish. He was captain in the Sixth Delaware Regiment. He removed to Milford in 1866, was secretary to the State Board of Health and delegate to the Ninth International Congress of Physicians. He owns a large flouring-mill and is otherwise interested in business. His son, Dr. G. W. Marshall, was born in 1854 and educated in Delaware College and Jefferson College, from which he was graduated in 1876. He came home and married Mary L. Donnell and has been practicing medicine in Milford since that time. The house where Dr. Marshall resides was built by John Law in 1787. From John Law it passed to John Pleasonton, a merchant who had a store therein. Elias Shockley also had a store and a tavern. Polly Peterkin was murdered here by a man who married her for her money. It was the old Commercial Bank building, and after its failure the Smyrna branch bank was here also.

CHAPTER LXV.

SUSSEX COUNTY.

SUSSEX COUNTY is the southernmost county of Delaware, and has an area of about nine hundred and fifty square miles. It is bounded on the north by Kent County and Delaware Bay, on the south by Maryland, on the east by Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean, on the west by Maryland and Kent County. It is drained by the Mispillion Creek, Cedar Creek, Prime Hook Creek, Beaver Dam Creek, Cool Spring Creek, Love Creek, Middle Creek, Miry Creek, Farry's Creek, Indian River, Irons' Creek, Pepper Creek, Turkey Creek, Herring Creek, Assawaman Bay, Pocomoke River, Sheals' Creek, Gray's Creek, Broad Creek, Coal Creek, Tussocky Creek, Little Creek, Nanticoke River, Deep Creek, Gum Creek, Gravelly Creek,

Clear Creek, St. John's Creek, Marshy Hope Creek and the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The surface is nearly level, and a large part of it is covered with forests. The soil is mostly fertile, the staple products being corn, wheat, cattle, pork, lumber and potatoes. The county is intersected by the Delaware Railroad and the Junction and Breakwater Railroad, and contains thirteen hundreds as follows: Lewis and Rehoboth, Georgetown, Cedar Creek, Broadkilm, Indian River, Northwest Fork, Broad Creek, Nanticoke, Seaford, Little Creek, Dagsborough, Baltimore and Gumborough. The town of Georgetown, in Georgetown Hundred, is the county-seat.

The territory occupied by the present county of Sussex was known in the seventeenth century as Hoorenkill, Horekill and Whorekill, and extended from Bompties (Bombay) Hook to Cape Henlopen (Fenwick Island). The first settlement was on the site of the present town of Lewes.

In 1658 Lieutenant Alexander De Hinijossa was given command of the Horekill, and was succeeded by Peter Alrichs,¹ nephew of Vice-Director Jacob Alrichs, as commandant, in 1660. The territory was controlled by the Dutch authorities at New Amstel (New Castle), and Peter Alrichs, by reason of his official position, obtained a monopoly of the trade from Bompties Hook to Cape Henlopen, causing considerable dissatisfaction among the inhabitants, who complained to the Vice-Director William Beekman, of Fort Altena, and he wrote to Director Stuyvesant. Two years later, 1664, the territory passed into the possession of the English.

On April 22, 1665, Captain Martin Creiger, was granted permission to trade in Delaware Bay, and on November 11, 1665, Peter Alrichs was allowed to traffic at Horekill for "skins, peltry or what other commodities those parts would afford, he to make entry with the officers at Delaware (New Castle) of the quantity and quality of goods."

On March 20, 1666, all duties on household goods were discontinued on the Delaware River, and on October 22, 1670, on petition of the inhabitants, all customs were abolished.²

On January 12, 1670, a grant was made to James Mills for a "neck of land" lying "to the southward of the town called Whorekill." He was also given

¹ Peter Alrichs took up a tract of land at the Horekill, while he was in command under the Dutch, but a patent was not obtained, and, upon the capture of the territory by the English, in 1664, all the land in his possession, both in New Castle County and at the Whorekill, was confiscated and later granted by Governor Richard Nichols, in 1665, to William Tom, clerk of the courts "on Delaware." A tract at the Whorekill was granted to Tom, and his name appears in a list of persons whose quit-rents are still due, as follows: "Will Tom, at grt Whorekill, 2 bushells." This tract was on the Whorekill and on the side of Pagan's Creek. It contained one hundred and thirty-two acres and was resurveyed to him July 7, 1675.

² Samuel Jennings, later Governor of New Jersey, in a letter October 17, 1680, to Penn Lawrie and Lucas, assignees of Edward Byllinge, says, "In good time we came to anchor in Delaware where one, Peter Alrichs, came aboard and brought a handsome present to our Commander and sent for me into the round-house, where they both were, and Peter told me he had nothing to say relating to customs, he had no commission for it, nor did he know anybody that had."