
CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF HACKETTSTOWN

- 1712 Proprietors of West Jersey purchased lands in West Jersey North of the Raritan.
- 1713 John Reading, Junior, traveled the length of the Musconetcong River.
Hunterdon County Incorporated. It included the area that now comprises the Counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Sussex and Warren.
- 1714 Proprietors of West Jersey sold to Thomas Lambert 1200 acres of that which included within their bounds most of what is now the center of Hackettstown.
- 1739 Present Counties of Morris, Sussex, and Warren set off from Hunterdon County as Morris County.
- 1749 Town of Hardwick incorporated. It included in its limits the present towns of Hackettstown, Allamuchy, Frelinghuysen, and Blairstown in Warren County, and Green and Stillwater in Sussex County.
- 1753 Sussex and Warren Counties set apart from Morris and incorporated as Sussex County.
- 1754 Obadiah Ayers purchased the Lambert Tract and moved to Hackettstown.
- 1754-1766 John Hackett during this period was buying land from Obadiah Ayers and other persons in what are now Hackettstown and neighboring townships.
- 1755 John Hackett married Elizabeth Reading, daughter of John Reading, Junior, the first native-born governor of the Province of New Jersey and a founder of Princeton.
- 1757 Samuel Reading Hackett born.
- 1760 John Hackett became judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Sussex County.
- 1763 The first church in Hackettstown was erected by the Presbyterians.
- 1767 John Hackett died.
The name of "Hacketts-Town" appeared on a deed.
- 1771 The Reverend Uzal Ogden of Christ Church, Episcopal, Newark preached in Hackettstown.
- 1773 Rev. Francis Peppard became the first resident pastor of the Presbyterian Church.
- 1775-1781 American Revolution. Many Hackettstown men fought in the armed services. William Helms achieved the rank of captain in the Continental Army.
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- 1776 First Methodist service in Hackettstown conducted by Rev. John Cooper.
- 1777-1781 George Washington made a number of visits to the Hackettstown residence of Robert Wilson and his wife Martha Stewart Wilson.
- 1782 Independence Township was set apart from Hardwick. It comprised the present towns of Allamuchy, Independence, and Hackettstown.
- 1791 Samuel Reading Hackett died. A portion of his lands, located along the Pequest River, were sold at an auction at the inn of Silas Leonard in order to satisfy a judgment against the estate.
- 1795 The first school building was erected in Hackettstown. The first post-office was established on what is now Mill Street.
- 1801-1811 William Helms of Hackettstown served five terms in the Congress of the United States.
- 1812 First Sunday School in the State of New Jersey was founded in Hackettstown under the direction of the Rev. Joseph Campbell of the Presbyterian Church. Among the first teachers were Jacob Day and Peter Vroom who later became Governor of New Jersey.
- 1814 The Hackettstown Academy was built. The structure is today at the rear of the electric appliance store next to the Presbyterian Sunday School.
- 1819 The Presbyterian Church was erected. It is now the Presbyterian Sunday School. The original church, built in 1763 was moved to Beattystown and became a barn.
- 1823 Surveys for the Morris Canal began. John Roof, an assistant to one of the engineers, died here and is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery.
- 1824 Warren County incorporated. It was named after Dr. Joseph Warren who died at the Battle of Bunker Hill while serving in the armed forces.
- 1831 The first complete trip by barge was made on the Morris Canal.
- 1833 Trinity Methodist Church was dedicated in Hackettstown. This building is now located on Maple Avenue where it is a dwelling house.
- 1844 Abraham Ayers found a number of mastodon skeletons on his farm on the Asbury Road. One complete specimen from this group and fragments of the others are now on exhibit in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.
- 1853 TOWN OF HACKETTSTOWN INCORPORATED ON MARCH 9. Hackettstown Aqueduct Company Incorporated.
- 1854 Hackettstown became the western terminus of the Morris and Essex Railroad, now the Boonton Branch of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western.
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- Father Joseph McMahon of Newton established a Roman Catholic Mission in Hackettstown.
- 1855 Hackettstown Bank, now the Hackettstown National Bank, incorporated by the New Jersey Legislature.
- 1856 First issue of "The Hackettstown Gazette" appeared.
- 1857 The Union Cemetery Association organized.
T. G. Plate opened a jewelry store and R. G. Bowers purchased the foundry of J. S. Little and began the manufacture of farm implements. These two firms exist today and are the oldest in the town.
- 1859 Dedication of the new Methodist Church.
Dedication of St. James Episcopal Church.
- 1860 The first United States Census made of the Town of Hackettstown showed that it had 1,352 persons.
- 1861 The present Presbyterian Church dedicated.
- 1861-1865 Civil War. Many Hackettstown men served in the armed forces.
- 1864 The Church of St. Mary of the Assumption erected.
- 1869 First Memorial Day exercises held in Hackettstown.
- 1874 Centenary Collegiate Institute dedicated.
- 1875 Hackettstown Public School erected.
Warren Foundry began operations. This event marked the peak of the iron industry in Hackettstown at a time when ore was being used from local mines.
- 1877 Cataract Hose Company organized.
- 1882 First commencement exercises held at the Hackettstown High School.
- 1883 First telephone installed in Hackettstown.
- 1888 The present Trinity Methodist Church was dedicated.
Blizzard of '88 caused a train wreck at Larry's Cut which resulted in five locomotives being damaged. One man was killed.
Hackettstown Electric Light Company began its service. There were street lights. The first lights in a building were installed in the new Methodist Church.
- 1890 The Hackettstown Board of Trade was organized.
- 1893 The Hackettstown Driving Association opened its new track.
- 1895 The Mine Hill reservoir was constructed.
- 1893-1896 George T. Werts, native of Hackettstown and a resident of Morristown, elected Governor of New Jersey.
- 1898 First football game played by Hackettstown High School on the C. C. I. Field.
- 1899 Fire destroyed Centenary Collegiate Institute. Classes for the remainder of the year were held in the Methodist and Presbyterian churches and students lived in Hackettstown homes.
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- 1901 New buildings dedicated at Centenary Collegiate Institute.
Vigilant Hook and Ladder Company organized.
 - 1902 Hackettstown had a epidemic of small-pox.
 - 1903 Lackawanna Leather Company and the American Sawmill Machinery Company located at Hackettstown.
 - 1906 People's National Bank chartered.
 - 1907 Hackettstown Telephone and Telegraph Company formed.
 - 1909 Motion pictures shown at the Opera House and the Star Theater
The Opera House later closed and the Star became the Strand.
 - 1911 D., L. and W. completed the cut-off. Hackettstown no longer on the main line.
 - 1912 First letter carriers in Hackettstown.
New Jersey State Fish Hatchery located at Hackettstown.
 - 1913 Hackettstown Public Library established by the Town Improvement Society which later became the Woman's Club.
 - 1917-1918 World War I. There were 136 Hackettstown men who served in the armed forces.
 - 1922 Consecration of the present edifice of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary of the Assumption.
Hackettstown Electric Company purchased by New Jersey Power and Light Company.
 - 1925 Fire destroyed buildings at the Williams and Hibler Lumber Company. The same night occurred the train wreck at Rockport in which 54 persons lost their lives.
 - 1927 "The Great White Way" installed on Main Street.
 - 1929 Centenary Collegiate Institute inaugurated a junior college program.
Hackettstown Telephone and Telegraph Company became a part of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company.
First American Legion Ambulance acquired.
 - 1934 Storage reservoir on Mine Hill completed.
 - 1937 Hackettstown Public Library dedicated.
 - 1941 Sales began at the Livestock Auction.
 - 1941-1945 World War II. There were 431 Hackettstown men and women in the armed forces. Ten men lost their lives.
 - 1942 Fire destroyed business blocks at the corner of Grand Avenue and Main Street.
 - 1946 The Hackettstown Community Center dedicated.
 - 1949 Centenary Junior College celebrated its 75th Anniversary.
 - 1950 U. S. Census showed 3,894 persons in Hackettstown.
 - 1951 Hackettstown First Aid and Rescue Squad organized.
Parochial school of the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption enrolled its first classes.
 - 1953 New lights on Main Street.
New Jersey Bell Telephone Company began construction of a new building to house dial phone equipment.
Centenary broke ground for two new buildings.
- HACKETTSTOWN CELEBRATED THE CENTENNIAL OF ITS INCORPORATION.**
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