



The 250th Anniversary of Toms River

By: J. Mark Mutter, Township Historian

PowerPoint By: Stacy Proebstle, Public Information Officer

A Semi-Quincentennial

OR



250!

250 Years of What?



The founding of our town –

As a separate community–

In 1767!

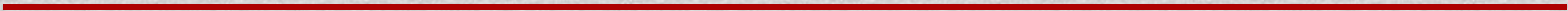
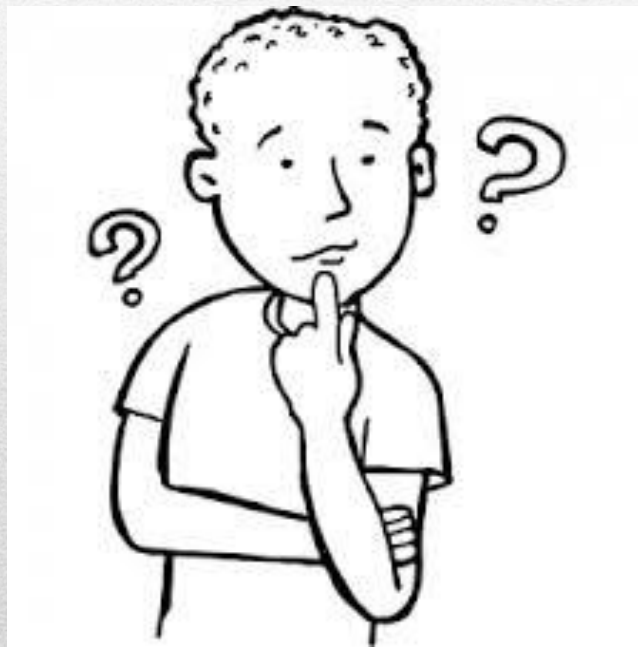


1767

- **NJ was still part of the British Empire**
- **13 colonies in America**
- **13 counties in New Jersey**



**But before the British –
what is our history?**



Our history is one of

DIVERSITY

And the story of New Jersey and diversity...

is the story of

Toms River and diversity....



The Early Years

- **The Lenni Lenape or “Original People” – NJ’s indigenous Native Americans to the area**
- **Here for thousands of years (circa 6,000 B.C.)**
- **They had migrated through the Bering Strait, which once connected two continents**



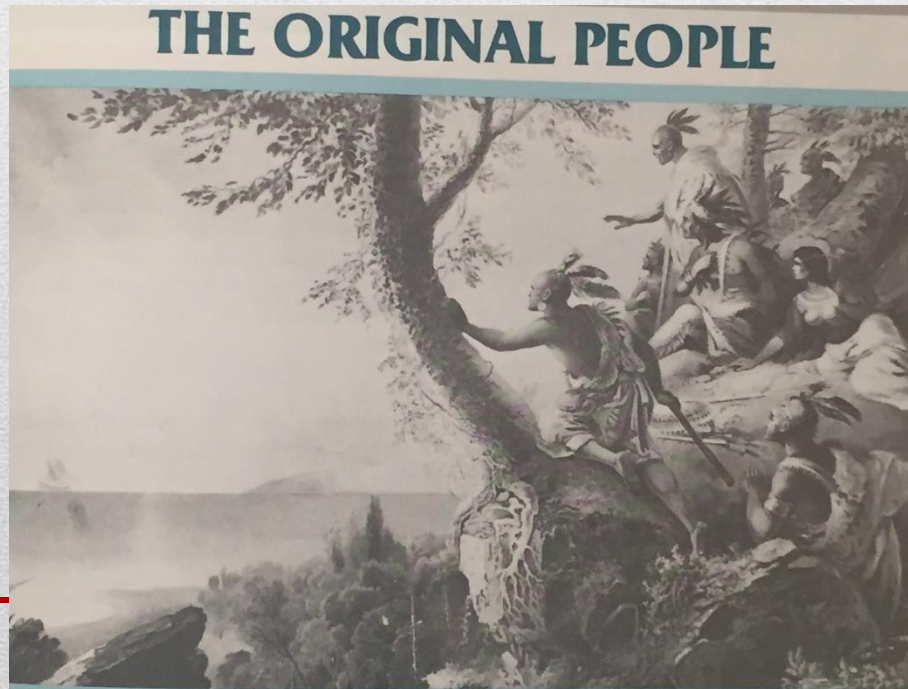
The Lenni Lenape or “original people”

The “Munsee” -- people of the strong country

The “Unami” -- people down the river

Estimated population in 1648 -- 2000 “warriors”

250 years later in the U.S. – Census of 1900– just 63



The Leni Lenape Legacy

1. Trails which became some of the modern roadways of today:

- **The Minisink Trail – Route 22**
- **The Assunpink Trail – Route 27**
- **The Burlington Trail – Part of Bay Avenue in Toms River today**

2. Place Names

- **Hackensack**
- **Metedeconk**
- **Manahawkin**
- **Passaic**



The Age of Exploration

- **1492- Christopher Columbus**



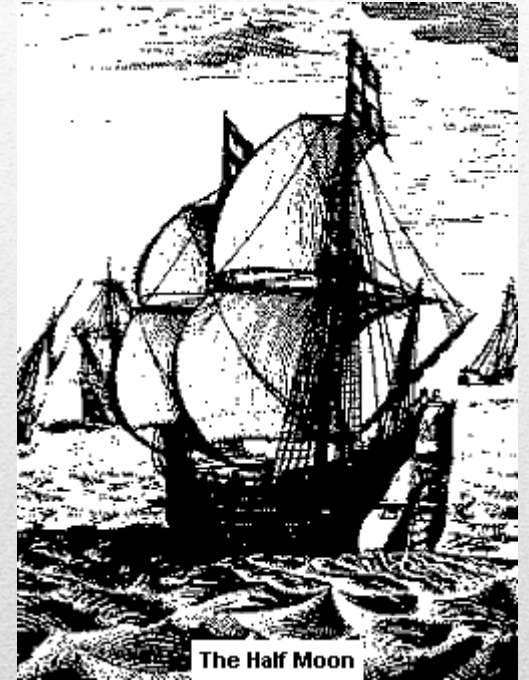
- **The 1500's- The Great European Powers explore westward in search of spices and minerals**
- **The coast of NJ is first recorded seen by a European explorer in 1524 – John Verrazano – But there was no landing, just observation from a ship along the coast**



Henry Hudson

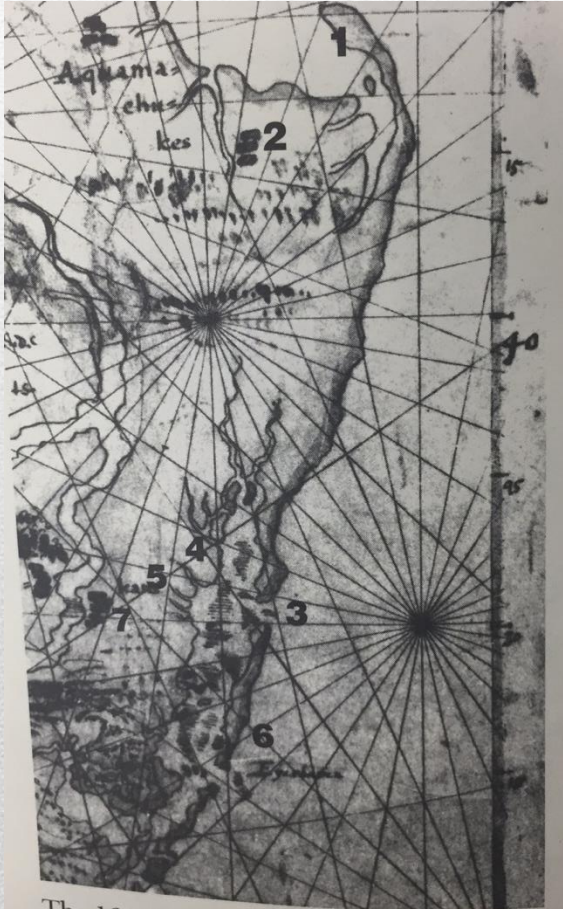


- Exploring for the Dutch East India Company
- Englishman
- 1609
- “The Half Moon”
- A “great lake of water is seen”
- Today, we know it as the Barnegat Bay, a Dutch word “Barendgat” – “where the waters break through”

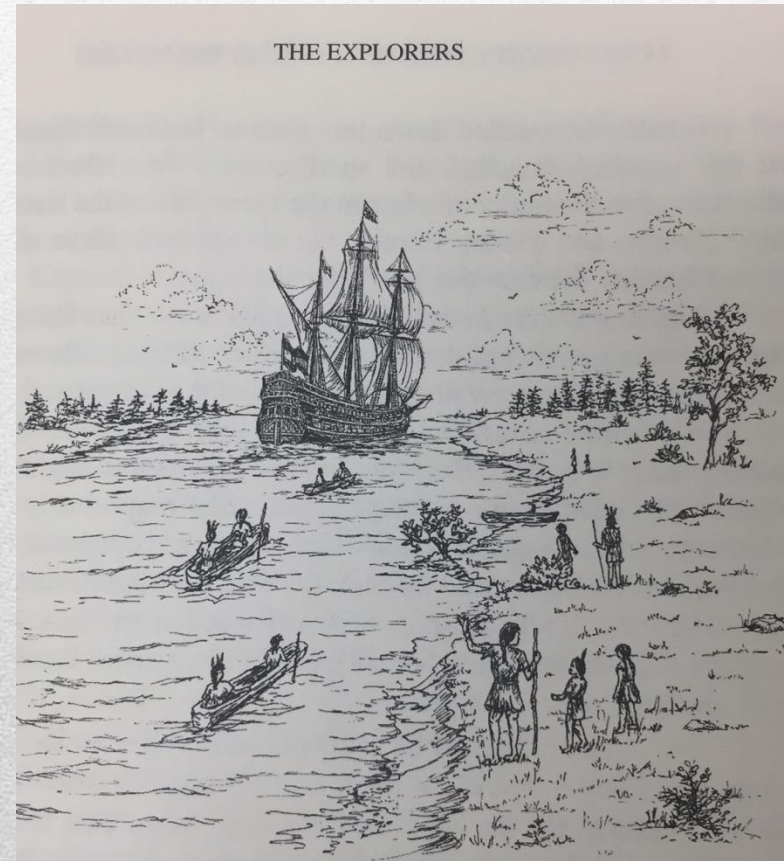


Captain Cornelius Hendrickson

After Henry Hudson in 1609, Captain Cornelius Hendrickson explored the coastal area in 1614, including Catts Island and the river.



The 1614/1616 Hendrickson Map of the New Jersey Northern Coastline



The *Onrust* Sailing Down the Toms River 1614

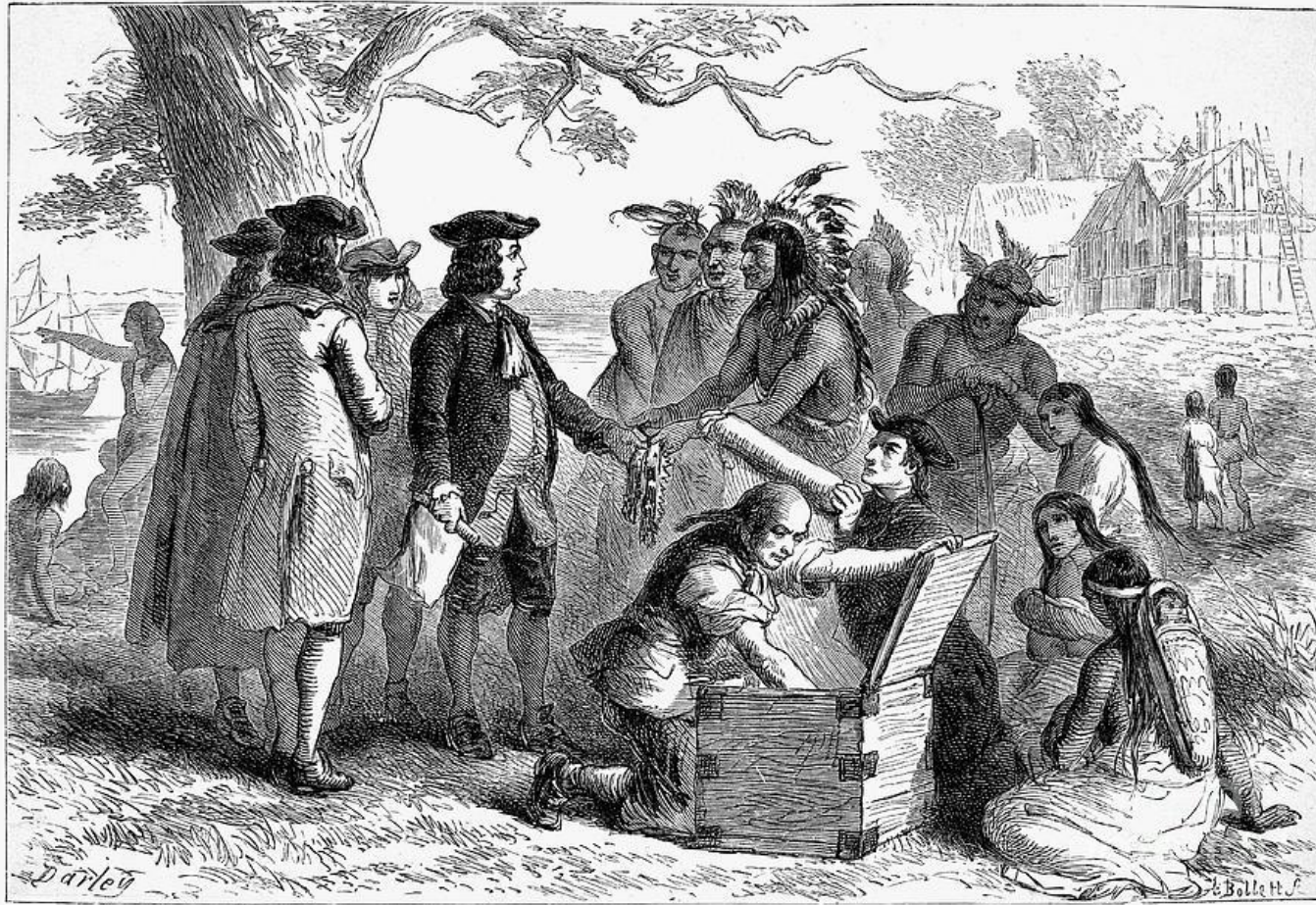
The 1600's

New Netherlands & New Sweden



- The area of modern day NJ was first primarily a Dutch settlement
- Known as “New Netherlands” in modern day Bergen County and Woodbridge
- Swedish and Finnish settlements in South Jersey
- The area here was not yet explored – as best we know
- 1664: The English peacefully take control of NJ from the Dutch – beginning their 100 years of control

Sometime between 1614 and 1685, the first Europeans begin settling here.



1664-1776

- NJ is one of the British Empire's 13 North American colonies
- From 1664-1702 we were divided into “East Jersey” and “West Jersey”
- 1702- we are united into one colony by order of Queen Anne
- During this period, there was great migration to NJ – those coming from England and those from other colonies in North America



Circa 1685

- **Englishman, Thomas Luker, originally from England and later Massachusetts settles here**
- **He marries the local Lenni Lenape Chieftain's daughter, Anne**
- **They settle and establish a life together along a tributary of a river, behind the present day Toms River Post Office**



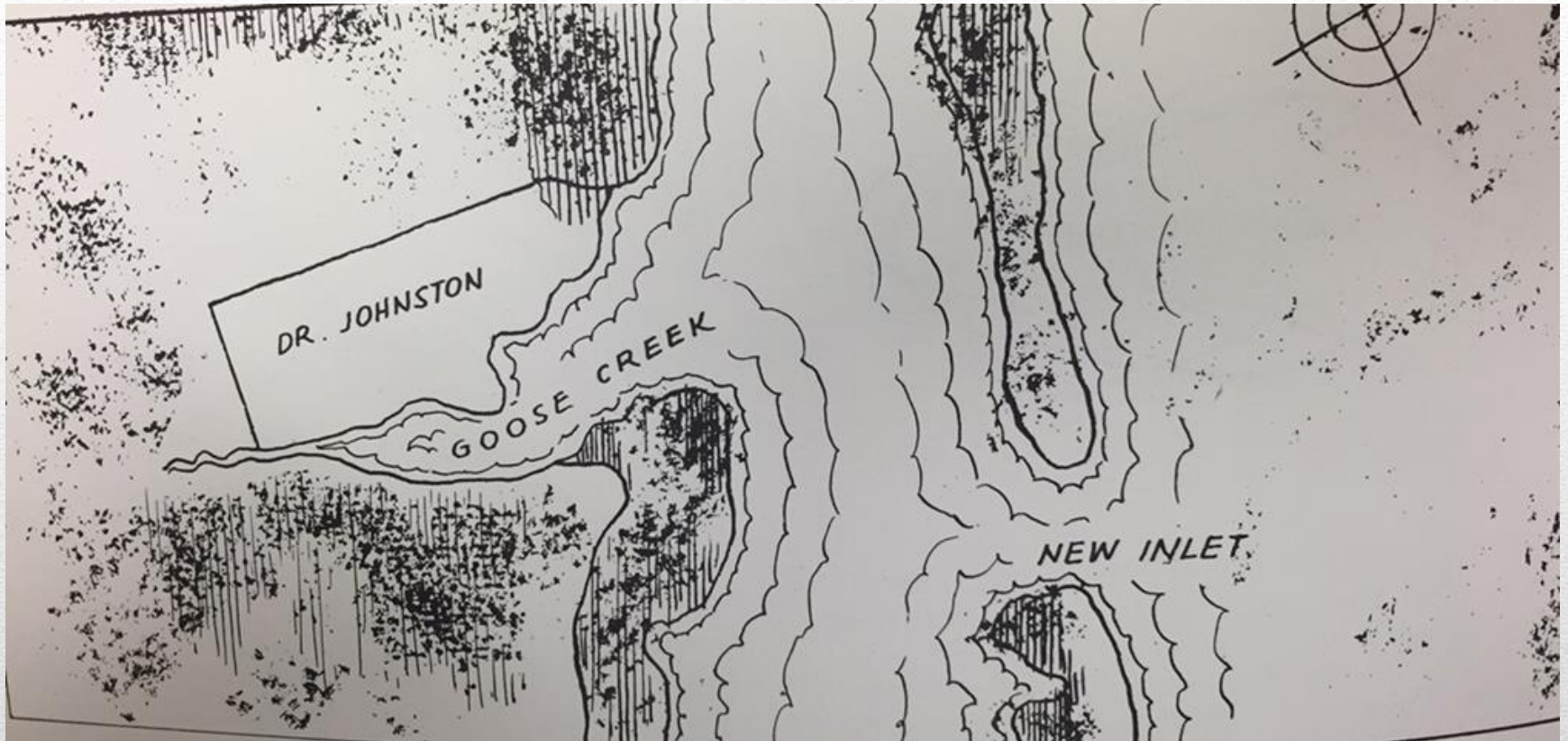
1712

- **The first known record in our history indicates “Tom’s River” on an English colonial map**
 - **The apostrophe is used into the 19th Century, and eventually fades into history**
 - **But the Village of Toms River became important in the 1700’s**
Why?
 - **Geography – as there then existed an inlet connecting us to sea**
-

1712 continued

- “Cranberry Inlet” once existed in present day Ortle Beach
- It allowed easy access from the ocean, into the bay, to the river, to the downtown village
- Toms River became a busy seaport in the 1700’s
- The inlet was closed due to a violent nor’easter in 1812 (efforts by Michael Ortle in the first half of the 1800’s to reopen it were unsuccessful)

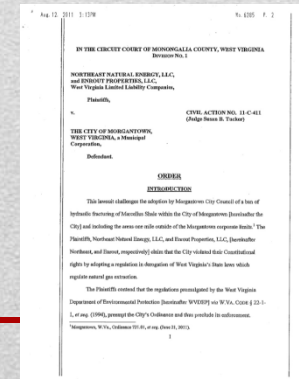
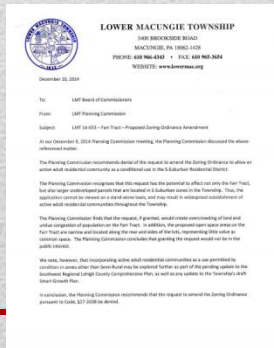




A 1702 survey map of the mouth of Toms River

1767

- As the town began to grow, we were created out of the southern half of Shrewsbury Township in 1767 – there was no Ocean County yet and were still part of Monmouth County
- During this time of British colonial rule, from 1702-1776, there were three ways towns were created:
 1. By letters, patents or royal charters from the King or Queen
 2. By County court order
 3. By the royal Assembly, by legislation by the Royal's representatives



- **Most towns were created by order of the King or Queen**
- **7 towns were created by acts of the Royal Assembly**
- **One of them was created by that Assembly on June 24, 1767**

The “Town of Dover”

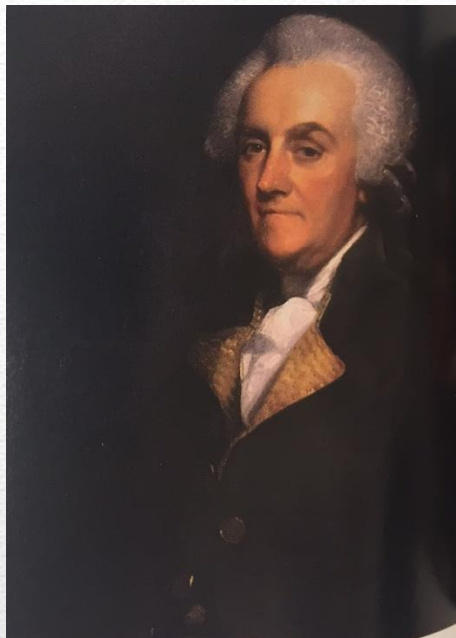
We are 9 years older than the United States!



How we became a separate municipality

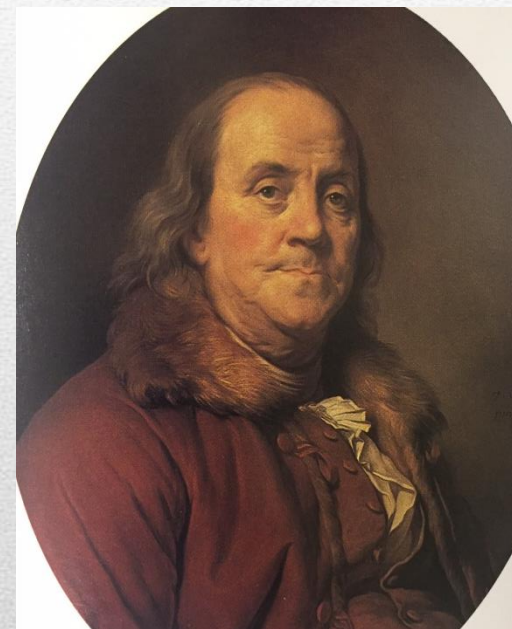
- **The mid 1700's**
- **Still part of Shrewsbury Township**
- **Area citizens presented a petition to the Royal Assembly**
- **January 24, 1767 to create a new town**





**A new town was created, the
“Town of Dover” in 1767**

**The Charter was signed by William Franklin –
the last Royal Governor of New Jersey**



**His father was Benjamin Franklin – and when the Revolutionary War began,
they took opposing sides!**

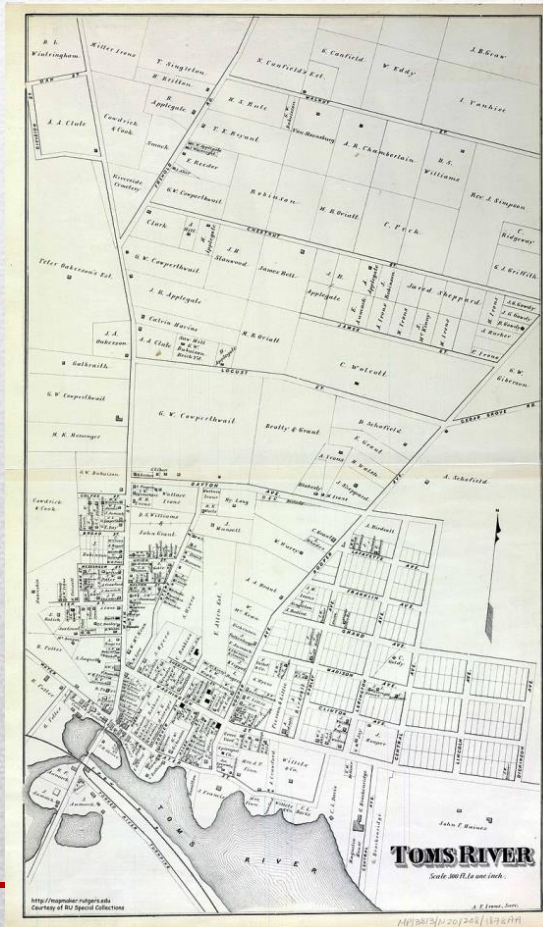
Citizens had great difficulties in securing supervision of roads and providing for the poor due to the large size of Shrewsbury (which then was all of southern Monmouth County and what today is all of Ocean County)

“That all that part of said town of Shrewsbury beginning at Cranberry Inlet, and running thence up the Bay to the mouth of Metedeconk River, thence up said river to the first bridge which is now over River, thence west until it shall intersect a line to be run South 18 degrees East from the place where Burlington Old Path crosseth the North Branch of Toms River, called Pinebrook, thence from the intersection of said line, South 56 degrees West to the old division line, called Keith’s Line, thence along said Keith’s Line to the line of Stafford, thence along the same to the Main Sea or Ocean, and thence bounded by the Sea to the above mentioned beginning, shall be and is hereby divided off from the said Township of Shrewsbury, and made a separate town to be called by the name of Town of Dover”.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN
Governor

1798

We became the “Township of Dover” when the now State of NJ passed a law that all towns then in existence were “townships” – this established uniform rules of internal organization for municipalities throughout the State.



But there are still Questions???

- **Where did Dover Township get its name?
We don't know!**
- **We asked in 1992 for our 225th Anniversary to those in Dover,
England
They could not find the answer**
- **What about the name change in 2006 from Dover Township to Toms
River Township?**



About the Name Change

2006 was not the first effort to change our name.

- **1987 – A referendum failed**
- **1850's- “Huddyville” in honor of Captain Joshua Huddy**

William Dayton? -- a prominent lawyer from Freehold who ran and lost for Vice President in 1856

- **1799 – A resolution was passed by the Township Committee to change the town name in honor of George Washington**



**When at first you don't succeed,
try, try again**

2006

Yes – 15,204 or 61%

No- 9,826 or 39%

A landslide vote to change our name



The change of the town's name became official when the Township Clerk entered the results of the voter referendum into the minutes.

The election was held on November 7, 2006 and the results were entered on November 14, 2006. With a flick of a pen, the Township of Dover became the Township of Toms River!



Kyril Kavetsky, 7, of Toms River, who dressed up as a patriot (despite his red coat), signs the children's attendance book at Tuesday night's name-change ceremony. Acting Township Clerk J. Mark Mutter looks on. (STAFF PHOTO: MARY FRANK)

Record of Result of 2006 Election

Chapter A608

RECORD OF RESULT OF 2006 ELECTION

Record of Result of Election

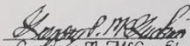
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:43-5, I hereby certify in the official minutes of the Township of Dover that on November 7, 2006, the voters of Dover Township approved the following question:

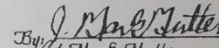
"Shall the name of the Township of Dover, in the County of Ocean and State of New Jersey, be changed to the Township of Toms River?"

Accordingly, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:43-5, the official title of this municipality shall forthwith be known as the

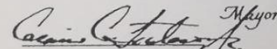
"Township of Toms River"

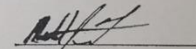
Date: November 14, 2006

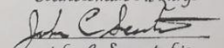

Gregory F. McGuirk
Council President

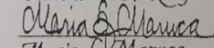

By: J. Mark Mutter
Township Clerk

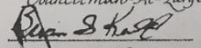

Paul C. Brush
Mayor



Carmine C. Inteso, Jr.
Councilman-At-Large



Michael J. Fiore
Councilman-At-Large


John C. Sevastakis
Councilman-At-Large


Maria L. Maruca
Councilwoman, Ward 1


Brian S. Rubiel
Councilman, Ward 2


Maurice B. Hill
Councilman, Ward 3

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- **The Township is a “municipal corporation”**
 - **By law, corporations are considered natural persons – with the right to contract, the right to sue and be sued**
 - **People change their names all the time – when they marry, when they divorce, when a name change request is approved by a court**
 - **But one’s birthday, never changes – whether it be a natural person or a municipal corporation**
-

June 24, 1767

June 24, 2017- Our Semiquincentennial

A history and civics lesson for all of us!

Toms River:

A story of diversity.

A story of the human spirit.

“Homo Cogitat, Deus Indicat”

Happy Birthday Toms River!

God Bless the Township of Toms River!



JUNE 24, 2017



The poster features a dark blue background with gold and red accents. At the top center is the Toms River Township seal, which includes a horse and the text 'TOWNSHIP OF TOMS RIVER 1767 TOMS RIVER, N.J.'. To the left of the main title are three balloons (red, yellow, blue). To the right is a framed historical document titled 'Town of Dover'. The main title '250th Birthday Bash' is written in large, stylized orange and yellow letters. Below the title is a small '250th ANNIVERSARY 1767-2017' logo. The text 'TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP TURNS 250 YEARS OLD!' is in white. Below that, it says 'Be There To Celebrate This Milestone At Our Community Celebration' and 'SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017'. A paragraph describes the event as a family fun celebration at Huddy Park and Washington Street, free and open to everyone. The event schedule includes a ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at Huddy Park and a food truck festival at 12 noon on Washington Street. The poster also features images of a marching band and a food truck.

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP'S

250th Birthday Bash

TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP TURNS 250 YEARS OLD!

Be There To Celebrate This Milestone At Our Community Celebration

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

The family fun celebration will be held at Huddy Park and Washington Street.
It's a free event, open to everyone and we want to see you there!

11:00 a.m.
CEREMONY AT HUDDY PARK

Come join us as we rededicate our Township's first municipal park.
~ Meet local dignitaries ~
~ Sign our Township Charter ~
~ Music from the Old Barracks Fife & Drum Corp ~
~ Joshua Huddy Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution ~

12 Noon:
FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL ON WASHINGTON STREET

*March up to Washington Street for Food Trucks, a Beer Garden and Children's Activities.
Proceeds benefit Toms River PBA and Toms River Volunteer Fire Companies.
Come meet & support our Township's first responders!*

11 am : Ceremony at Huddy Park

-Rededication of Huddy Park

-Music from Old Barracks Fife & Drum Corp

-Joshua Huddy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

12 Noon: Food Truck Festival on Washington Street

-Food Trucks, music, kids activities

-Proceeds to benefit Toms River PBA & Toms River Volunteer Fire Companies

Sources

County Cultural & Heritage Commission, 2000. Print.

Cunningham, John T. *New Jersey: A Mirror on America*.

Miller, Pauline S. *Early History of Toms River and Dover Township*.

Miller, Pauline S. *Ocean County: Four Centuries in the Making*. Toms River, NJ: Ocean Point Pleasant Historical Society, 1999. Print.

Snyder, John F. *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries 1606-1968*.

“West Jersey Heritage.” Online.

Wikipedia, various, Online.

PowerPoint Presentation

Written By: J. Mark Mutter

Township Historian

Designed By:

Stacy Proebstle,

Public Information Officer

**TOMS RIVER TOWNSHIP
2017 CALENDAR
OF HISTORIC TOMS RIVER
CELEBRATING OUR 250TH
ANNIVERSARY**

**FOR SALE IN THE CLERK'S
OFFICE**

\$5.00

