

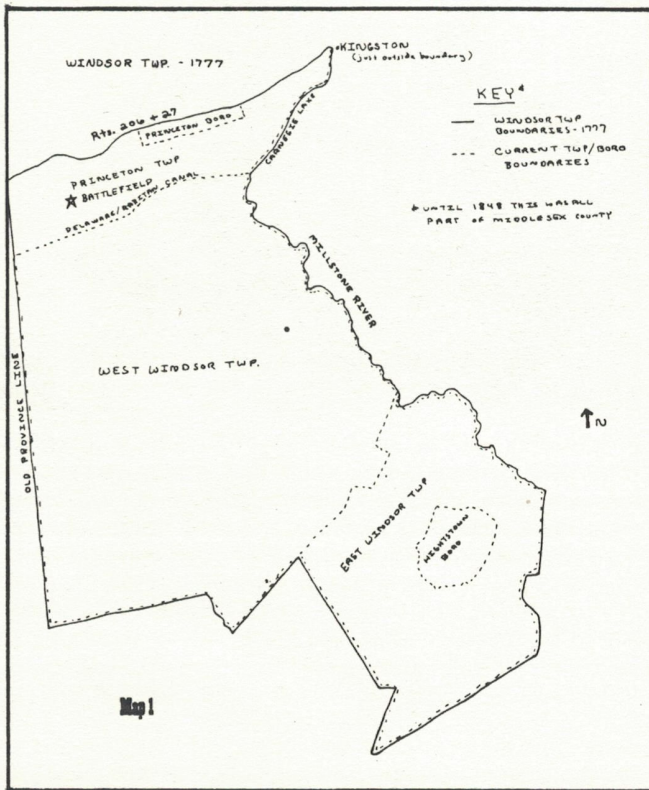
BROADSIDE

January 1984

January 4, 1777

Yesterday on the farmlands of Thomas Clark in Windsor Township, N.J., General Washington's army continued its attack against Lord Cornwallis's troops; an attack that started the day after Christmas with a victory over England's Hessian allies quartered in Trenton.

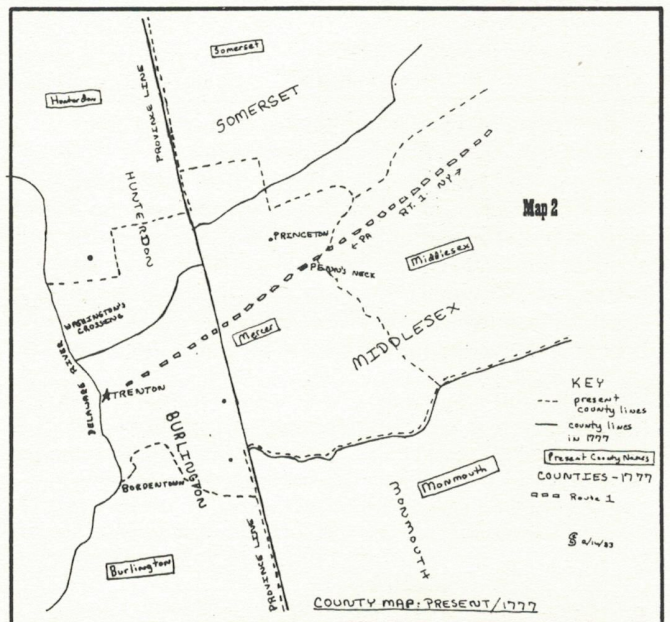
After a second battle in Trenton, this time with Cornwallis's own troops who had marched from Prince Town to reinforce their allies, the Colonials left behind campfires and a detachment to keep them burning as the main army slipped away under the cover of night. Heading northeast, into the area Cornwallis had left virtually ungarrisoned, Washington's plan was to recapture Prince Town, or, failing that, to escape with his troops to the freedom of East Jersey. By sunrise the forward Colonial units had reached the Quaker Meeting House just to the east of the Old Province Line in Windsor Township. There they made contact with the British baggage train heading for Trenton.



Fighting ensued and continued until General Washington himself led his army to Nassau Hall, home of the College of New Jersey, in Prince Town and routed the two divisions left behind by Lord Cornwallis to hold the town. From there the Colonial army marched

northward, keeping well ahead of the pursuing British troops.

The above is a brief but standard account of "The Ten Days that Changed the World" except that this version includes the fact that the Battle of Princeton occurred



on land that was at that time part of Windsor Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Windsor Township, named for an English town, was created by the governing body of Middlesex County in 1750. By looking at Map 1, you can see that this township contained all of what is now East and West Windsor and the southern parts of Princeton Borough and Township. In 1797 Windsor Township split into East Windsor (including Hightstown Borough) and into West Windsor, which included the 1777 battlefield. In 1813 the Borough of Princeton was incorporated. Mercer County, named for General Hugh Mercer who died during the "Battle of Princeton," was formed from parts of Burlington, Hunterdon, Somerset, and Middlesex counties (see Map 2).

In 1848, Princeton Township was created. This new township included the battlefield. Therefore, what had been in Princeton in name only until then was now actually located in Princeton.

Now you know the truth. Remember the Battle of Windsor!

—Carol Silvester

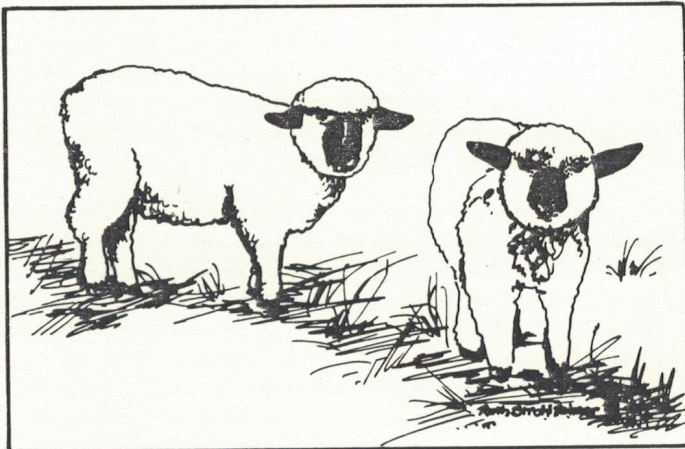
The Old Engelke Farm

This article was written by the late Robert H. Engelke for his family's information. We thank Esther Engelke for sharing his memories with us.

Henry Engelke was born in Germany in 1825. During his early manhood, he came to this country and settled in Princeton. Here he worked for James Carnahan who was then president of Princeton University. He met and married Miss Adeline Blue who was born in 1826. Their first son was James Carnahan Engelke—my father—who was born in December 1858.

In the spring of 1859, when James was only a few months old, Henry Engelke bought what came to be known as the "Old Engelke Farm" (now part of RCA). This faced on the old New Brunswick to Trenton Turnpike, now known as U.S. Route One. On the west and south it joined the Olden farm. The south field was marshy and Henry dug a ditch near the boundary line to drain off the water. He dug another deeper ditch further infield and drained this into the Millstone River.

Past the southern border, farther down on the bank of the Millstone, in Olden land, was the spot known to this day as the "Sheep Wash." Farmers brought their sheep here and ran them down the bank into the stream for washing before shearing.

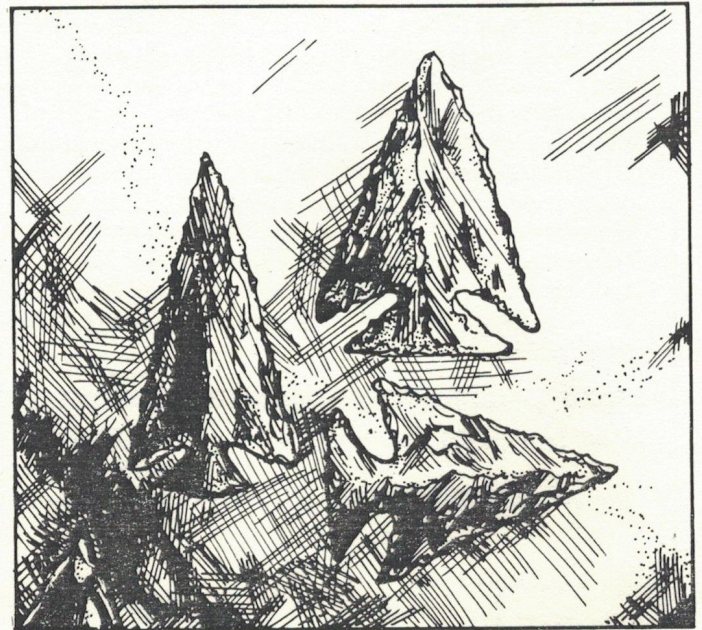


Inside, the house remained as it was when my grandfather bought it, until after its purchase by John Hartpence around 1926, although some repairs and changes were made on the roof. It had a parlor, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, and shed on the first floor. One stairway went up from the sitting room and another from the kitchen. On the second floor were four bedrooms. Evidently this was the original layout.

Back of the house, reaching out from the shed, grape vines were planted. These made a large arbor stretching from the rear of the house to a white picket fence which ran around back, front, and sides, enclosing a small yard

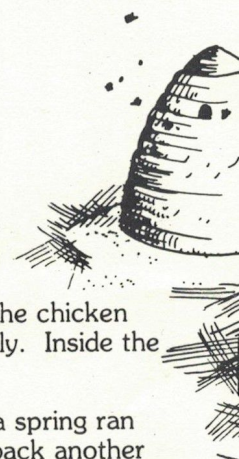
and separating this from the garden and the chicken yard at the back and west side respectively. Inside the garden fence were hives of bees.

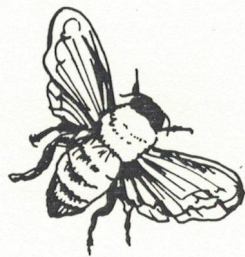
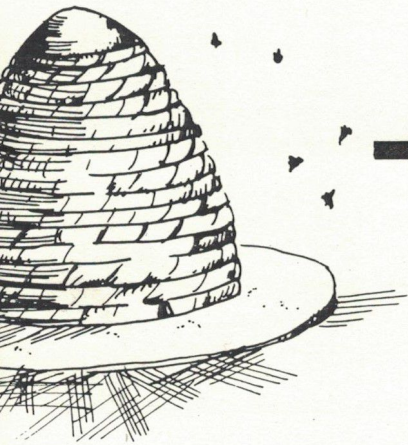
At the southwest corner of the property a spring ran from Olden land. Midway from front to back another spring ran down to the river. In a clearing, in the brush along the river, a pond had formed. In the winter young people skated here. In the summer, people came to fish. Fishermen who came into the pond by boat often went to this spring for drinking water. Household needs were supplied by a third spring near the front side of the house. A little springhouse was built over this with board paths running through it so that milk, cream, and butter could be placed here on wooden shelves to cool.



Indian relics such as arrows, axes, hatchets, and mallets were very plentiful around these spring sites and in the adjacent fields, but especially around the springs. Many were found, too, in the fields around the sheep wash, as if an encampment of some sort had been there.

Just above the spot where the side spring emptied into the Millstone, it was possible, when the water was low, to see parts of an old foundation thought to be the remains of a sawmill. About there, the river made a bend away from the field and circled around, flowing under the old wooden bridge over the Millstone. The intervening space became swampy. Bushes and trees grew up here and further back along the river. When the swamp was frozen in winter, wood was cut and gathered. Then it was carried up to be placed in a huge pile near the house, where it was used for smoking meats in the smokehouse at the driveway end of the fence separating the yard from the garden.





Grandpa Engelke began farming with a cow, a pig or two, a few chickens, his bees, and a team of little mules, the smallest of which he called Jinny. The mules served in the farm work and for transportation as well. Most of the traveling, however, was done on foot. Members of the family often walked to Princeton or to Clarksville to visit friends.

He planted many fruit trees and berry bushes. The apples were fine old strains—Northern Spies, Bell-flowers, Greenings, Smith Ciders, Fall Pippins, and



Rustics. There were crabapples, too, and pears—Seckel, Bartlett, Pound—as well as peach trees, a prune plum, a paw paw, and a rare orange quince. There were White Cherries, Oxhearts, and Pie Cherries. Gooseberries, blackberries, currants, and strawberries were there, too. Near the house he planted shade trees—a linden, an ash, an arbor vitae. In front of the dwelling were two large maples from one of which, every, summer, hung festoons of the reddish-orange flowers of a Virginia Creeper.

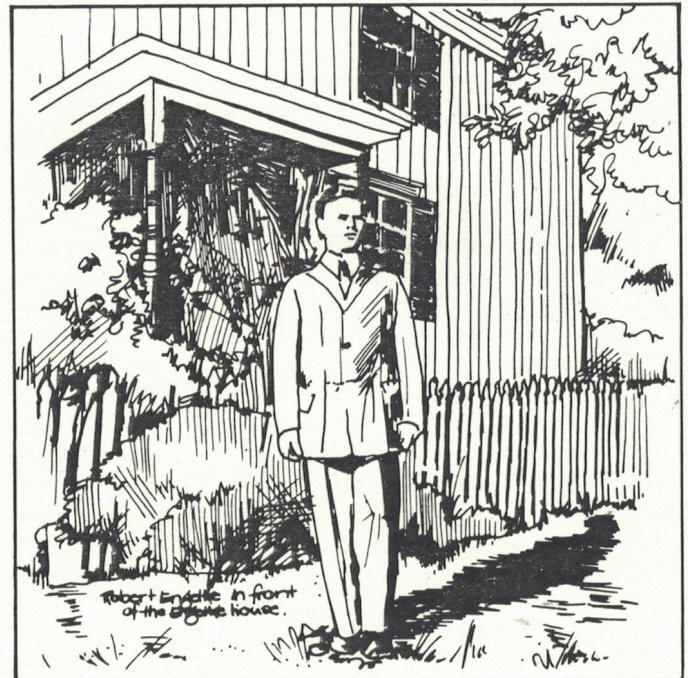
Henry Engelke and his wife had six sons in this order of age: James, Henry Frank, the twins Edward and William, and Charles. He supported them mainly from the proceeds of his strawberries and watercress. The

field in front of the house was given over to strawberries. Neighborhood boys helped with the picking. The water running out from the spring near the house was dammed and made to cover boxlike levels resembling steps going down to the river. In these beds the water cress was planted. During spring and early summer the cress was cut and packed into small baskets shaped something like peach baskets, being the size of a saucer at the bottom and of a small plate at the top. They were woven of flat wicker. Everyday these were filled and taken to the railroad station at Princeton Junction for shipment to Newark.



When Henry Engelke died in 1897, three sons, Henry, William, and Charles, stayed home with their mother until her death in 1905. James and Frank were married and had families of their own. Edward was married but had no children.

When Adeline Engelke died, the second son Henry bought the farm. His brother James, the oldest son,



moved back with his family, and Henry lived with them. James farmed the place until his death in 1925.

—Robert H. Engelke

Calendar

The meetings of the Historical Society of West Windsor will be held at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the new West Windsor Library (next to the Municipal Building). The 1984 dates are as follows: Jan. 11; March 14; May 9; July 11; Sept. 12; and Nov. 14

Newcomer Tour

As mentioned in our April 1983 *Broadside*, we are planning a tour of West Windsor for people new to our area. The tour will cover not only historic places, but schools, churches, restaurants, and shopping areas. Look for the date in local newspapers.

Exhibits

Many of you saw our "School Days" exhibit at the Maurice Hawk School in March and at Senior Citizens Day in May. Our booth and fund-raising exhibit at the WW-P High School Flea Market on September 10 caused a lot of comment among visitors. As you know, we plan many more such exhibits. In the meantime, if you have any photographs or material of historical interest you might be willing to lend for such an exhibit, please phone Susan Lodge at 799-1143. Of course, the material will be treated tenderly and returned promptly to you after the exhibit.

Sponsors Needed!

Postage and printing *Broadside* costs us about \$150 an issue. This money would be better spent on preservation, restoration, and the other projects of the Society. Therefore, we are looking for companies, organizations, and generous people to help us. If you work for a company or belong to an organization that might be a possible sponsor, please tell them about our projects and see if they will sponsor all or part of an issue of

Broadside. Contributions are, of course, tax-deductible. Sponsors will get a prominent mention in the issue and our heartfelt thanks.

Nostalgia Corner

Do you remember the bridge over the railroad tracks on Washington Road before the present bridge was built?

Did you ever have to wait while the canal bridge was open for boats at Washington Road, Alexander Street, or Port Mercer? Do you remember the bridge tender's house at each of these places?

Do you remember Mr. Hey's General Store at Princeton Junction? (It is now Peking Express.)

Did you ever wait for Stuart Reed's cows to cross U.S. 1 going to and from Port Mercer?

Did you know that eight homes along U.S. 1, from Penns Neck to Quaker Bridge, have been destroyed in the past 35 years?

Do you remember the beacon light on the Russell Coleman farm, on Quaker Bridge Road? It was part of the airline guidance system.

Do you know where Potamy Swamp Road is?

These questions and those posed in the April issue of *Broadside* are not just "fillers." Some are meant to jog your memory—others we genuinely need to have answered. For example, we still have no information on how Penn-Lyle Road got its name. Do you know? If you have any reminiscences or photos concerning these questions, or memories in general that you'd like to share, please write or call us!

—Mary Schenck

Broadside is a publication of the Historical Society of West Windsor.
Designed and edited by Ruth Strohl Palmer.

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