

Werk

Titel: Geography made easy

Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

Verlag: Hall

Ort: Boston

Jahr: 1791

Kollektion: Itineraria; Nordamericana

Digitalisiert: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

Werk Id: PPN247653810

PURL: <http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PPN247653810>

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=247653810>

LOG Id: LOG_0022

LOG Titel: New-Jersey

LOG Typ: chapter

Terms and Conditions

The Goettingen State and University Library provides access to digitized documents strictly for noncommercial educational, research and private purposes and makes no warranty with regard to their use for other purposes. Some of our collections are protected by copyright. Publication and/or broadcast in any form (including electronic) requires prior written permission from the Goettingen State- and University Library.

Each copy of any part of this document must contain there Terms and Conditions. With the usage of the library's online system to access or download a digitized document you accept the Terms and Conditions.

Reproductions of material on the web site may not be made for or donated to other repositories, nor may be further reproduced without written permission from the Goettingen State- and University Library.

For reproduction requests and permissions, please contact us. If citing materials, please give proper attribution of the source.

Contact

Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen
Germany
Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de

The rivers in this state, though not large, are numerous. A traveller, in passing the common road from New-York to Philadelphia, crosses three considerable rivers, viz. the *Hakkenfak* and *Pojak*, between Bergen and Newark, over which they are about to erect bridges, and the *Raritan* by Brunswick.

The cataract in *Pojak* river, is one of the greatest natural curiosities in the state. The river is about forty yards wide, and moves in a slow, gentle current, until coming within a short distance of a deep cleft in a rock, which crosses the channel, it descends and falls above seventy feet perpendicularly, in one entire sheet. One end of the cleft, which was evidently made by some violent convulsion in nature, is closed; at the other, the water rushes out with incredible swiftness, forming an acute angle with its former direction, and is received into a large basin, whence it takes a winding course through the rocks, and spreads into a broad, smooth stream. The cleft is from four to twelve feet broad. The falling of the water occasions a cloud of vapour to arise, which, by floating amidst the sun beams, presents to the view rainbows, that add beauty to the tremendous scene. The western bank of this river, between Newark and the falls, affords one of the pleasanter roads for a party of pleasure in New-Jersey. The bank being high, gives the traveller an elevated and extensive view of the opposite shore, which is low and fertile, forming a landscape picturesque and beautiful. Many handsome country seats adorn the sides of this river; and there are elegant situations for more. Gentlemen of fortune might here display their taste to advantage. The fish of various kinds with which this river abounds, while they would furnish the table with an agreeable repast, would afford the sportsman an innocent and manly amusement.

Civil Divisions, Population, &c.] New-Jersey is divided into 13 counties, which are subdivided into 94 townships or precincts, as in the following TABLE.

	COUNTIES.	Principal towns.	Acres of improved land.	Do. unimproved	No. Townships.
These seven counties lie from S. to N. on Delaware river. Cape May and Gloucester extend across to the sea.	Cape May,	None.	36,160	23,022	3
	Cumberland,	Bridgetown.	84,582	74,543	7
	Salem,	Salem.	119,297	36,502	9
	Gloucester,	Woodbury and Gloucester.	156,979	134,049	9
	Burlington,	Burlington and Bordentown.	194,600	55,425	11
	Hunterdon,	Trenton.	267,192	16,116	10
	Suffex,	Newtown.	240,955	29,628	12
These four counties lie from N. to S. on the eastern side of the state.	Bergen,	Hackensack.	130,848	14,398	6
	Essex,	Newark and Elizabethtown.	109,612	9,418	3
	Middlesex,	Amboy and Brunswick.	166,149	10,792	7
	Monmouth,	Shrewsbury and Freehold.	197,065	42,868	6
Inland.	Somerset,	Boundbrook.	173,224	2,763	6
	Morris,	Morristown.	156,109	30,429	5
Total 2,032,587				184,954	104

In 1790, a census of the inhabitants was made by order of Congress, when they amounted to 184,129.

In 1738, the number of inhabitants in New-Jersey was 47,369; of which 3981 were slaves. In 1745, there were 61,403 inhabitants in the colony, of which 4606 were slaves. In 1784, there were 140,435, of which 1939 only were slaves.

Face of the Country, Soil and Productions.] The counties of Suffex, Morris, and the northern part of Bergen, are mountainous. As much as five-eighths of most of the southern counties, or one fourth of the whole

whole state, is a sandy barren, unfit for cultivation. The land on the sea coast in this, like that in the more southern states, has every appearance of *made ground*. The soil is generally a light sand; and by digging, on an average, about fifty feet below the surface, (which can be done, even at the distance of twenty or thirty miles from the sea, without any impediment from rocks or stones) you come to salt marsh. This state has all the varieties of soil from the worst to the best kind. It has a greater proportion of *barrens* than any of the states. The *barrens* produce little else but shrub oaks and white and yellow pines. In the hilly and mountainous parts of the state, which are not too rocky for cultivation, the soil is of a stronger kind, and covered in its natural state with stately oaks, hickories, chesnuts, &c. &c. and when cultivated, produces wheat, rye, Indian corn, buck wheat, oats, barley, flax, and fruits of all kinds common to the climate. The land in this hilly country is good for grazing, and the farmers feed great numbers of cattle for New-York and Philadelphia markets; and many of them keep large dairies.

The orchards in many parts of the state equal any in the United States, and their cider is said, and not without reason, to be the best in the world.

The markets of New-York and Philadelphia receive a very considerable proportion of their supplies from the contiguous parts of New-Jersey. And it is worthy of remark, that these contiguous parts are exceedingly well-calculated, as to the nature and fertility of their soils, to afford these supplies; and the intervention of a great number of navigable rivers and creeks renders it very convenient to market their produce. These supplies consist of vegetables of many kinds, apples, pears, peaches, plums, strawberries, cherries, and other fruits; cyder in large quantities and of the best quality, butter, cheese, beef, pork, mutton, and the lesser meats.

Trade.] The trade of this state is carried on almost solely with and from those two great commercial cities, New-York on one side, and Philadelphia on the other; though it wants not good ports of its own.

The articles exported, besides those already mentioned, are wheat, flour, horses, live cattle, hams, which are celebrated as being the best in the world, lumber, flax-seed, leather, iron, in great quantities, in pigs and bars, and formerly copper ore was reckoned among their most valuable exports; but the mines have not been worked since the commencement of the late war.

Manufactures.] Most of the families in the country, and many in the populous towns, are clothed in strong, decent homespun; and it is a happy circumstance for our country, that this plain AMERICAN dress is every day growing more fashionable, not only in this, but in all the eastern and middle states.

The iron manufacture is the greatest source of wealth to the state. Iron works are erected in Gloucester, Burlington, Morris, and other counties. The mountains in the county of Morris, give rise to a number of streams necessary and convenient for these works, and at the same time furnish a copious supply of wood and ore of a superior quality. In this county alone are no less than seven rich iron mines, from which might be taken ore sufficient to supply the United States; and to work it into iron are two furnaces, two rolling and splitting mills, and about thirty forges, containing from two to four fires each. These works produce annually about 540 tons of bar iron, 800 tons of pigs, besides large quantities of hollow ware, sheet iron, and nail rods. In the whole state, it is supposed there is yearly made about 1200 tons of bar iron, 1200 do. of pigs, 80 do. of nail rods, exclusive of hollow ware, and various other castings, of which vast quantities are made.

Although the bulk of the inhabitants in this state are farmers, yet agriculture has not been improved (a few instances excepted) to that degree, which from long experience, we might rationally expect, and which the fertility of the soil in many places, seems to encourage. A great part of the inhabitants are Dutch, who, although they are in general neat and industrious farmers, have very little enterprize, and seldom adopt any new improvements in husbandry, because, through habits and want

want of education to expand and liberalize their minds, they think their old modes of tilling the best. Indeed this is the case with the great body of the common people, and proves almost an insurmountable obstacle to agricultural improvements.

Mines.] This state embosoms vast quantities of iron and copper ore.

Caves.] In the township of Shrewsbury, in Monmouth county, on the side of a branch of Navesink river, is a remarkable cave, in which there are three rooms. The cave is about thirty feet long, and fifteen feet broad. Each of the rooms is arched. The centre of the arch is above five feet from the bottom of the cave; the sides not more than two and an half. The mouth of the cave is small; the bottom is a loose sand; and the arch is formed in a soft rock, through the pores of which the moisture slowly issues, and falls in drops on the sand below.

Character, Manners and Customs.] Many circumstances concur to render these various in different parts of the state. The inhabitants are a collection of Low Dutch, Germans, English, Scotch, Irish, and New-Englanders, or their descendants. National attachment and mutual convenience have generally induced these several kinds of people to settle together in a body; and in this way their peculiar national manners, customs, and character, are still preserved, especially among the lower class of people, who have little intercourse with any but those of their own nation. Religion, although its tendency is to unite people in those things that are essential to happiness, occasions wide differences as to manners, customs, and even character. The Presbyterian, the Quaker, the Episcopalian, the Baptist, the German and Low Dutch Calvinist, the Methodist, and the Moravian, have each their distinguishing characteristics, either in their worship, their discipline, or their dress. There is still another very perceptible characteristic difference, distinct from either of the others, which arises from the intercourse of the inhabitants with different states. The people in West-

Jersey

Jersey trade to Philadelphia, and of course imitate their fashions, and imbibe their manners. The inhabitants of East-Jersey trade to New-York, and regulate their fashions and manners according to those of New-York. So that the difference in regard to fashions and manners between East and West-Jersey, is nearly as great as between New-York and Philadelphia. The people of New-Jersey are generally industrious, frugal and hospitable. There are, comparatively, but few men of learning in the state, nor can it be said that the people in general have a taste for the sciences. The lower class, in which may be included three-fifths of the inhabitants of the whole state, are ignorant, and are criminally neglectful in the education of their children. There are, however, a number of gentlemen of the first rank in abilities and learning in the civil offices of the state, and in the several learned professions.

It is not the business of a geographer to compliment the ladies ; nor would we be thought to do it when we say, that there is at least as great a number of industrious, discreet, amiable, genteel, and handsome women in New-Jersey, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, as in any of the thirteen states. Whether an adequate degree of solid mental improvement, answering to the personal and other useful qualities we have mentioned, is to be found among the fair of this state, is a more weighty concern. Perhaps it may be said with justice, that in general, though there is not the same universal taste for knowledge, discernible among the ladies here, as in some other of the states, owing in a great measure to the state of society, and the means of improvement ; there are, however, many signal instances of improved talents among them, not surpassed by those of their sisters in any of the other states.

Religion.] There are, in this state, about 50 Presbyterian congregations, subject to the care of three Presbyteries, viz. that of New-York, of New-Brunswick, and Philadelphia ; 40 congregations of the Friends ; 30 of the Baptists ; 25 of Episcopalians ; 28 of the Dutch, besides a few Moravians and Methodists.

Colleges,

Colleges, Academies and Schools.] There are two colleges in New-Jersey; one at Princeton, called *Nassau Hall*; the other at Brunswick, called *Queen's College*. The college at Princeton was first founded about the year 1738, and enlarged by Governor Belcher in 1747. It has an annual income of about £.900 currency; of which £.200 arises from funded publick securities and lands, and the rest from the fees of the students. The president of the college is also professor of eloquence, criticism, and chronology. The vice-president is also professor of divinity and moral philosophy. There is also a professor of mathematicks and natural philosophy, and two masters of languages. The four classes in college contain between 70 and 100 students. There is a grammar school of about thirty scholars, connected with the college, under the superintendence of the president, and taught by two masters.

Before the war this college was furnished with a philosophical apparatus, worth £.500, which (except the elegant Orrery constructed by Mr. Rittenhouse) was almost entirely destroyed by the British army in the late war, as was also the library, which now consists of between 2 and 3000 volumes.

The college edifice is handsomely built with stone, and is 180 feet in length, 54 in breadth, and 4 stories high; and is divided into forty-two convenient chambers for the accommodation of the students, besides a dining hall, chapel room, and a room for the library. Its situation is exceedingly pleasant and healthful. The view from the college balcony is extensive and charming.

This college has been under the care of a succession of presidents eminent for piety and learning; and has furnished a number of civilians, divines, and physicians of the first rank in America. It is remarkable, that all the presidents of this college, except Dr. Witherspoon, who is now President, were removed by death very soon after their election into office.*

The

* *Accessus.*

Presidents.

Exitus.

1746,	Rev. Jonathan Dickinson,
1748,	Rev. Aaron Burr,
1753,	Rev. Jonathan Edwards,
1758,	Rev. Samuel Davies,
1761,	Rev. Samuel Finley, D. D.
1767,	Rev. John Witherspoon, D. D.

1747,
1757,
1758,
1760,
1760.

The charter for Queen's college, at Brunswick, was granted just before the war, in consequence of an application from a body of the Dutch church. Its funds, raised wholly by free donations, amounted, soon after its establishment, to four thousand pounds; but they were considerably diminished by the war. This college at present has only a nominal existence, and its future revival is very doubtful.

There are a number of flourishing academies in this state. One at Trenton, another in Hackensack, others at Orangedale, Freehold, Elizabethtown, Burlington, Newark, Springfield, Morristown, Bordentown, and Amboy. There are no regular establishments for common schools in the state. The usual mode of education is for the inhabitants of a village or neighbourhood to join in affording a temporary support for a schoolmaster, upon such terms as are mutually agreeable. But the encouragement which these occasional teachers meet with, is generally such, as that no person of abilities adequate to the business, will undertake it; and of course, little advantage is derived from these schools. The improvement in these common schools is generally in proportion to the wages of the teacher.

Chief Towns.] There are a number of towns in this state, nearly of equal size and importance, and none that has more than two hundred houses, compactly built. TRENTON is the largest town in New-Jersey. This town, with Lambertton, which joins it on the south, contains two hundred houses, and about fifteen hundred inhabitants. Here the legislature meets, the supreme court sits, and the publick offices are all kept, except the secretary's, which is at Burlington. On these accounts it is considered as the capital of the state.

BURLINGTON (*city*) stands on the east side of the Delaware, twenty miles above Philadelphia by water, and seventeen by land. The island, which is the most populous part of the city, is a mile and a quarter in length, and three quarters of a mile in breadth. On the island are 160 houses, 900 white and 100 black inhabitants. There are two houses for publick worship

in the town, one for the Friends or Quakers, who are the most numerous, and one for Episcopalians. The other publick buildings are two market-houses, a court-house, and the best gaol in the state. Besides these, there is an academy, a free school, a nail manufactory, and an excellent distillery, if that can be called excellent, which produces a poison both of health and morals.

PERTH-AMBOY (*city*) stands on a neck of land included between Raritan river and Arthur Kill sound. It lies open to Sandy-Hook, and has one of the best harbours on the continent. Vessels from sea may enter it in one tide, in almost any weather.

BRUNSWICK (*city*) was incorporated in 1784, and is situated on the south-west side of Raritan river, twelve miles above Amboy. It contains about two hundred houses, and sixteen hundred inhabitants, one half of which are Dutch. Its situation is low and unpleasant, being on the bank of the river, and under a high hill which rises back of the town.

PRINCETON is a pleasant, healthy village, of about eighty houses, fifty-two miles from New-York, and forty-three from Philadelphia.

ELIZABETHTOWN and NEWARK are pleasant towns; the former is fifteen, and the latter nine miles from New-York. Newark is famed for its good cider.

Constitution.] The government of this state is vested in a Governor, legislative council, and general assembly. The Governor is chosen annually by the council and assembly jointly. The legislative council is composed of one member from each county, chosen annually by the people. The general assembly is composed of three members from each county, chosen by the freemen.

The council chuse one of their members to be Vice-President, who, when the Governor is absent from the state, possesses the supreme executive power. The council may originate any bills, excepting preparing and altering any money bill, which is the sole prerogative of the assembly.

History.] The first settlers of New-Jersey were a number of Dutch emigrants from New-York, who came over

over between the years 1614 and 1620, and settled in the county of Bergen. Next after these, in 1627, came over a colony of Swedes and Finns, and settled on the river Delaware. The Dutch and Swedes, though not in harmony with each other, kept possession of the country many years.

In March, 1634, Charles II. granted all the territory called by the Dutch New-Netherlands, to his brother the Duke of York. And in June, 1664, the Duke granted that part now called New-Jersey, to Lord Berkley of Stratton, and Sir George Carteret, jointly; who, in 1665, agreed upon certain concessions with the people for the government of the province, and appointed Philip Carteret, Esq. their Governor.

The Dutch reduced the country in 1672; but it was restored by the peace of Westminster, February 9th, 1674.

This state was the seat of war for several years, during the bloody contest between Great-Britain and America. Her losses, both of men and property, in proportion to the population and wealth of the state, were greater than of any other of the thirteen states. When General Washington was retreating through the Jerseys, almost forsaken by all others, her militia were at all times obedient to his orders; and for a considerable length of time, composed the strength of his army. There is hardly a town in the state that lay in the progress of the British army, that was not rendered signal by some enterprize or exploit. At Trenton the enemy received a check, which may be said with justice to have turned the tide of the war. At Princeton, the seat of the muses, they received another, which, united, obliged them to retire with precipitation, and to take refuge in disgraceful winter quarters. But whatever honour this state might derive from the relation, it is not our business to give a particular description of battles or sieges; we leave this to the pen of the historian, and only observe in general, that the many military achievements performed by the Jersey soldiers, give this state one of the first ranks among her sisters in a military view, and entitle her to a share of praise that bears no proportion to her size, in the accomplishment of the late glorious revolution.

PENNSYLVANIA.