

## THE LINEAGE OF TINTON FALLS

by Avery Lippincott Giles

From Raritan Bay south to Little Egg Harbor, including parts of what are now Middlesex and Ocean Counties! Such were the far-flung bounds of Shrewsbury Township in the year 1667, when it and Middletown Township were known as the Two Towns of the Navesink, whose combined territories, covered by three Indian deeds, formed one of the four counties comprising the Royal Province of East Jersey.

The Two Towns of the Navesink were the outgrowth of concessions made in the famous Monmouth Patent of April 8, 1665, granted at New York City by Governor Richard Nicholls to William Goulding, Samuel Spicer, Richard Gibbons, James Grover, John Bowne, Richard Stout, John Tilton, Nathaniel Sylvester, William Reape, Walter Clarke, Nicholas Davis and Obadiah Holmes, acting as agents for a group of nearly one hundred patentees.

As a matter of fact, the name Monmouth County itself may be traced directly to territory included in Shrewsbury Township. For it was Colonel Lewis Morris who, in 1676, obtained title from the East Jersey proprietors to 3,540 acres on the Shrewsbury River for ironmining purposes, who named his estate Tintern Manor, after his family home, located in Monmouthshire, England. From Tintern Manor, where Colonel Morris worked his iron foundry near a waterfall which is still flowing behind the Old Mill, came our present-day Tinton Falls and Tinton Avenue; and the original Tintern Manor's Monmouthshire location prompted the choice of the name, Monmouth, for the county containing the New World Tintern Manor.

On October 31, 1693, the three original Monmouth County townships, Shrewsbury, Middletown and Freehold, were established by an act passed by the Provincial Assembly and approved by Governor Hamilton, in which Shrewsbury Township's area was defined as follows:

The Township of Shrewsbury includes all the land from the mouth of the Navesink River, and runs up said river and Swimming River and Saw Mill Brook to Burlington Path. Thence, the nearest way to the Pines, and along the edge of the Pines

to Burlington Path. Thence, the nearest way, over to Manasquan River or Brook, where Piscaneticunck Brook comes into the same. Thence, the nearest way, to the Pines, and along the edge of the Pines to the line of the Province; and thence along the shore to where it began.

In other words, the old Township of Shrewsbury embraced all the eastern part of Monmouth County, from the Navesink River southward to Little Egg Harbor, including the greater portion of what is now Ocean County.

These remained within its boundaries for more than half a century, until 1749, when the southwest part of Shrewsbury Township was cut off and made into Stafford Township, which is now in Ocean County. This move was made under patent from King George II, signed by Governor Jonathan Belcher and dated at Burlington, on March 3, 1749.

After this first reduction in its territory Shrewsbury Township still embraced all the land from the Navesink River southward to the south side of Barnegat Inlet, which it continued to hold for nearly twenty more years.

Then, in 1767, a petition was presented to the Provincial Assembly in session at Burlington, asking, as a relief from inconvenience, that the Town of Shrewsbury be divided and that parts thereof be annexed to the Towns of Freehold and Upper Freehold. Said petition being granted, Shrewsbury Township lost more ground.

However, the Mother of Counties held her own, all through the American Revolution and for years thereafter until 1801, when Howell Township was carved from some of her southern territory. Tracing this 1801 secession down to the present day, we find Wall Township leaving Howell Township in 1851. Wall Township, in turn, became the mother of Belmar in 1885; Manasquan, 1887; Spring Lake, 1892; Sea Girt, 1917; Brielle, 1919; South Belmar, 1924 and Spring Lake Heights, 1927. The remainder of Howell Township has a child, Farmingdale, born in 1903.

Returning to Shrewsbury Township, we find her losing more territory in 1847 to Atlantic Township, whose creation also included lands from Middletown and Freehold Townships.

Then, in 1849, Ocean Township seceded from Shrewsbury Township. Ocean Township's oldest child is Neptune Township born 1879, whose children are Neptune City, 1881; Bradley Beach, 1893; Asbury Park, 1897; and Avon, 1900. Ocean Township's other offsprings include Sea Bright, 1889; Allenhurst, 1897; Deal, 1893; Long Branch, 1904; Monmouth Beach, 1906; and Interlaken, 1922.

Eatontown Township was separated from shrinking Shrewsbury Township in 1873; and West Long Branch left Eatontown Township to become an independent borough in 1908. Then, in 1920, Eatontown Township split into the two boroughs of Eatontown and Oceanport.

For 34 years Shrewsbury Township clung to her boundaries, until the formation of Rumson Borough in 1907. One year later, in 1908, the old township suffered a major loss of population and power when the town of Red Bank severed Shrewsbury connections to become an independent borough.

Four years after the departure of Red Bank, Fair Haven left Shrewsbury Township to become a separate borough in 1912. Eleven years later, Little Silver Borough was established in 1923.

Then, the community whose name the township bore, became Shrewsbury Borough in 1926. The final split, which occurred on July 18, 1950, when the two districts of Tinton Falls and Wayside left the ancient township to form themselves into the Borough of New Shrewsbury, relegated the territory which can claim the grand old name of Shrewsbury Township to some 65 acres, comprising at the time a Federal Housing Unit.

In the General Election of 1975, the voters of New Shrewsbury approved renaming our town "The Borough of Tinton Falls."

Such is the lineage of Tinton Falls, last child to leave the arms of Shrewsbury Township, who held her name dear through four centuries and whose family tree fed the taproots of Monmouth County.