

FROM "THE HISTORY OF APPLEJACK"

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PUBLISHED BY

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

TRENTON, N. J. 1954

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The Captain David Augustus Walling Distillery,  
at Tinton Falls

Captain David Augustus Walling was born in Keyport on August 29, 1832. He followed the sea for a number of years, then bought the Arthur Wilson cider-mill and distillery at Tinton Falls in 1883. Mrs. Edith Cooper, of Tinton Falls, one of Captain Walling's daughters, said that when her mother's health deteriorated, she broke up her home in Newark and moved to Tinton Falls, and her husband commuted to Tinton Falls on weekends. Mrs. Cooper became very much interested in her father's distillery and helped him in various ways. By the time Captain Walling's health had failed, the husbands of both Mrs. Cooper and her sister, Mrs. Hankinson, had died, so Mrs. Hankinson moved back to the family home. After Captain Walling died at his home in Tinton Falls on April 7, 1914, the sisters took over the business and operated it for several years. Mrs. Cooper, to whom I am indebted for this information, said that they hated to give it up, but help was not obtainable. Mrs. Cooper missed the fine people who came to their place for apple brandy. Even ministers from Ocean City

were customers of her father. Captain Walling would not sell to any one who "drank too much." The sisters did not sell, but closed the distillery and simply sold the equipment. Captain Walling made only apple brandy, which was distilled in a "doubler." During their busy season three men were hired at the cidermill, two for the presses and one for the engine. Two distillers were on duty, one during the day and one at night. Jimmy Dean was the Captain's distiller for years, and his son helped him most of the time. The stills were wood fired at first, but later coal was used.

(Editor's Note: There is evidence that this distillery was in operation many years before it was acquired by David Walling. An 1853 deed from John B. Tunis to David Taylor refers to the "Tunis Distillery Lot". Since John B. Tunis had taken title only a year previously, after the death of his father Abraham Tunis, it might be assumed that the "Tunis Distillery" had been operated by Abraham Tunis, who purchased the property from Jacob Corlies, Jr. in 1827. David Taylor's widow sold the property in 1863 to Arthur and Scudder Wilson and two years later Arthur Wilson purchased Scudder Wilson's share. Arthur Wilson quite definitely operated the distillery as evidenced by an agreement made in 1865 between Wilson and Frederick W. Downer and recorded in the Monmouth County Miscellaneous Records of 1874. This agreement permitted Wilson to use "all roads and drives" across Downer's property "in carrying on and conducting such distillery business".)