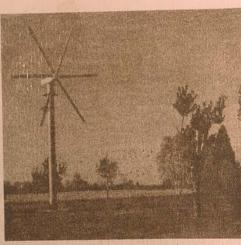


1881 1981





GROWTH OF A TOWNSHIP

Graphic Vrew

Compiled by the Centennial Committee; commissioned by the Township Committee, John F. Haegele, Mayor.

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CONTENTS MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES FOREWORD APPRECIATION OLD GLOUCESTER COUNTY EAST GREENWICH TOWNSHIP EARLY MINUTES THREE IN ONE **CLARKSBORO** 18 MICKLETON 38 MOUNT ROYAL 51 TAVERNS 74 **ORGANIZATIONS** PLACES OF WORSHIP 52 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY 61 68 BOARD OF EDUCATION 71 HIDDEN ACRES 72 SHADY LANE HOME 78 RAILROADS 83 FAMILIES — RESIDENTS 114 BIBLIOGRAPHY, CREDITS

"ONE HUNDRED CHEERS, FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS"
Barbara Flowers

membership includes a number of descendants of our 18th century Friends along with many newcomers.

Robert L. Scott is the present clerk of Mickleton Monthly Meeting. Trustees are: Charlotte S. Carter, John R. Glass, Jeremiah E. Haines, Jr., John O. Heritage, Dorothy Schreiber Hughes, Amos J. Peaslee, Jr., Henry W. Ridgway, and Raymond C. Thompson. Visitors are always welcome to joins us at our meeting for worship any Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M.

Elizabeth T. Scott October 31, 1980

MOUNT ROYAL

Lorena Headley

The exact date Mount Royal was settled, and the names of these early settlers, is not known, but certain records indicate that this town has been settled for approximately 330 years. Since 1650, or perhaps even earlier.

Boats were the main means of transportation in very early times, and because of its strategic location near Mantua Creek this area was a thriving settlement, long before the other two towns were more than unnamed crossroads. Transportation was by boat, on horseback, or on foot. It was not until 1720, that carts were introduced and replaced the "Sleds" used to pull small loads.

Sandtown is mentioned by both British and Americans as a place where skirmishes took place during the Revolutionary War. Henry Rees, in his book, "Revolutionary Services" states: "November 1777, General Cornwallis at Billingsport sent his First Light Infantry over Berkley Road to Sandtown to repair the bridge over Mantua Creek, which the Americans had destroyed. On November 21st, 1777, the main army crossed the repaired bridge and proceeded north, but the Seventh and Sixty-Third Regiments were left behind to occupy the town; guard the bridge, keep up communications with Billingsport; and to collect cattle.

In Cushing and Sheppard's "History of Salem, Gloucester and Cumberland Counties" it mentions an article about the village at Berkley in 1884. It states: "There is at this place, an old Baptist Meeting House, a school house, a store owned by David Owens, Jr., the hotel of William Keen, the harness shop of Charles Test, the blacksmith shop operated by Robert Eldridge, the wheelwright shop of Charles G. Higgins, and a coal and lumber yard operated by George Parker."

"In 1850, Silas Richards had a shoe repair shop at the corner; Amos Peaslee had a tannery shop on Kings Highway, and the town pump was located in front of Mrs. Livezy's house near the wheelwright shop, also on Kings Highway."

A newspaper article in the Village Herald dated 1825, said "George W. Gill, proprietor of a store in Clarksborough, has opened a store at Sandtown".

Another clipping dated 1869, says: "Joseph Livezy sold a small house and lot to David B. Cloverdale for \$225.00. Amos Peaslee has sold his double house adjoining the Baptist Church to Emmeline Platt for \$1150.00. James Munyan sold a ½ acre lot on Mantua Creek to George Steelman for \$100.00,

and George Sigan purchased a ½ acre lot from John Sigan for \$80.00 and has nearly completed a neat and comfortable property. John Siven sold a farm of 44 acres owned by the late Elizabeth Lippincott to William Locke for \$85.00 per acre, and Joseph Locke purchased nine acres from Jacob Hughes for \$1,000.00. There are still many fine building lots to be had in this quiet pleasant village, and anyone looking for a homesite would do well to visit and see the many advantages to be offered. Lots atop the bluffs near Mantua Creek, are much sought after because of its fine location".

An article in the Gloucester County Times titled "Notes of Yesterday" said "Berkeley was a thriving community and a place of some importance in earlier days. Small lots atop the bluffs near Mantua Creek commanded high prices, and it was an important shipping point. Farmers started sending their crops to Philadelphia, and it wasn't long before those living along the creek built small sailing vessels and started hauling these loaded sloops to Philadelphia on a regular basis".

In early 1880, James Gould, Sr. sailing from Philadelphia to Berkeley with a load of lumber and coal, saw the business opportunity and started hauling produce from both Hoffman's and Green's wharfs to the Dock Street wharf, Philadelphia.

About 1890, the boat captains of Mantua Creek secured the additional services of a tugboat owned by Capt. Benjamin Bramell to help tow their schooners to Philadelphia as well as to the Campbell Soup Co. wharf in Camden. These schooners were later replaced by barges, or 'Lighters' and this means of transportation continued until after the Second World War. Many men still living in the township, recall driving their wagons to the boat landing and helping to load these baskets of tomatoes onto these barges.

Mantua Creek and Berkeley Road, sometimes referred to as the Paulsboro Road, was once part of the Barnsboro Turnpike. This turnpike extended from Barnsboro through Berkeley and Clonmell to Thompson's Point and Gibbstown.

County House Road, once known as the Lawrenceville Turnpike and Jefferson Road, was once part of the Old Cohocking Road, a former Indian trail. "Notes of Yesterday" tells an amusing tale about this road. "The proprietors of the 'Death of the Fox' and the 'Heart in Hand' taverns were business rivals. The owner of the 'Heart in Hand' purchased land and had



Mt. Royal Inn - the former Heart n' Hand Tavern.

a dirt road built from the tavern in Sandtown to a point where it intersected the Cumberland Turnpike (Cohawkin Rd.) to try and lure customers away from his competitor. In later years, Isaac Hendrickson bought this land, measured it into building lots, and sold it to adjoining land owners."

When Gloucester County purchased property along this road for an Almshouse, the road was often referred to as the County Road. It is now officially named County House Road.

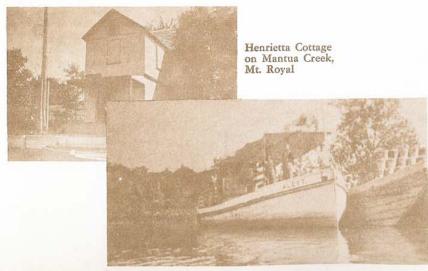
The Cumberland Turnpike which extended from Bridgeton through Clarksboro to Gibbstown, is now officially named Cohawkin Rd.

Kings Hwy. is the oldest road in the county. It originally extended from Burlington to Salem. but was later expanded as far as Perth Amboy. Andrew Robeson, Surveyor General of New Stockholme, was appointed surveyor for the Fourth Tenth, when the General Assembly passed an act in 1681, to survey and construct this Kings Highway.

In 1869, an article in the Village newspaper states: "George Sigan sold a house and lot formerly owned by a Edward Duffield, to Jacob Hughes who intends to build a convenience wharf on Mantua Creek, and have a dirt street opened direct to the turnpike, for more convenient access". This street is now known as North Street.

Bell Ave. is named after the Bell Family, and Lodge Ave. is named for the Lodge Family. This area was once the Lodge Farm. Higginsville Lane is for the Higgins Family. This was once the Hill Family Farm.

Should one be traveling up Kings Hwy. through Mt. Royal. when Mantua Creek is at low tide, stumps of wooden pilings may be observed on the east side of the highway in the middle of the creek. This is all that remains of what was once a very popular summer resort, frequented mostly by persons from Philadelphia. It was known as "The Cove" and enjoyed its popularity for about 50 years, until it was destroyed by a severe storm about 1933.



Tomato boats. Mantua Creek, Mt. Royal

Bob Gould, Sr. said there was a horseshoe shaped island in the middle of this creek, on which summer cottages had been built. Access to the island was by a small bridge near Kings Hwy. Fred Winkler said the railroads ran special trains on weekends to Mt. Royal bringing city people down on Friday and returning them to the city on Sunday evenings. Iris Crawford said most of the residents learned to swim here, and ice skated on the creek in winter. A sandy beach along the banks was a popular place for young and old alike. Charles Hill said these cottages were built by wealthy persons from Philadelphia, mainly, and they were expensively furnished, even to Persian Rugs. A tall flag pole stood at the entrance just over the bridge, and each cottage had flowers out front. Jack Weatherby said it was a very festive place especially on the 4th of July, when the cottages were decorated with flags and bunting, and they had a big fireworks display at night.

There were also cottages on the other side of the creek. The large red house near the end of North St. was the old Eureka Triangle Club house. City folks rented land along this side of the creek, from the State, for \$10.00 per year and built summer homes. Helen McClay said the house in which she lives, was once a summer cottage built by her father. Other residents said there was once good shad fishing in the creek before the Delaware became polluted.



"The Cove" -- Cottages on Mantua Creek, Mt. Royal.



A severe storm of hurricane proportions caused the dam to break, and the cottages, furnishings, as well as the island itself were washed away by the swollen waters. No lives were lost, thankfully, but only stumps remain of what was once a very nice resort.

Mr. Magill owned a general store which once stood where the Getty Station is now located. This store was destroyed by fire in the 1920s. The Magill family lived on the corner now occupied by Ray's Market. Mr. Magill frequently rented rooms in this house to drummers (salesmen). There was a pool room in the store front of the building, and after it was closed down, Anna D'Amico told me she ran a restaurant here for several years. Not only drummers and travellers, but men who worked nearby enjoyed her home



Magill General Store, Getty Station here now.

cooked meals, and one of her specialties was oyster pot pie. The Barbara Ann Gift Shop next to Ray's Market, was the former site of the Mt. Royal post office.

Berkeley was a stagecoach stop where weary travellers found food and lodging at the Berkeley Hotel. There was a toll gate along Kings Hwy. just north of the intersection, according to numerous older residents.

The entire block along Kings Hwy. from Mantua Road to Lodge Ave. was once the Lodge Estate, and the house on the corner was once the Lodge residence. This house has since been converted into apartments, and a store front added. Previous owners were Dave Hickman, Harry Cook and Ed Bell. Bill and Rita Lerch are the present owners, and the store is known at "Lerch Deli". Prior to the Lerchs', Barney and Thilda (Bell) Nathan operated this store for more than twenty years. Whenever there was a fire, it was Barney or Thilda, who ran across the street in all kinds of weather, day or night, to push the siren button and rally the volunteer firemen. This alarm system has since been automated, and hooked into the Mantua Dispatch System.

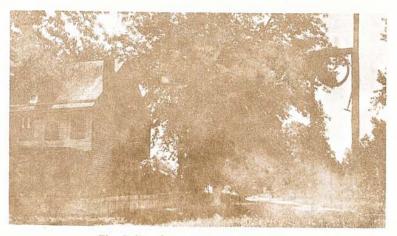


Berkeley Hotel now the Mt. Royal Inn.

The old Firehouse, a two storied building, once stood at the point of Mantua and County House Roads, where the parking lot is now located. Oyster and Ham Suppers were served here as fund raisers. The night prior to the dinner, the firemen and their Ladies' Auxiliary were busily preparing the food. Everything was homemade, and for the price of a ticket, one could have "All You Can Eat", and it was the best bargain in town. After the present firehouse was built, the old one was rented out for several years. It was finally demolished in the late 1960s.

There was once a barber shop in the small house next to the King residence near the intersection. Ernest King later conducted a barber shop in the front of his home here, for several years.

Gladys (Miller) Bryson said the other half of her twin home, which was built in 1834, was once an oyster house. It was run by her Grandfather, and later by her uncle. Laura Getsinger remembers a button factory along Kings Hwy. near Lodge Ave. and Iris Crawford recalls a store on the other side of the highway operated by the Millers. It started out in this small building as a roadside stand, but later branched out and became a grocery store.



Fire Bell and Station Road, Mt. Royal. (County House Road behind Ray's Market)

Irene Obinger said her father, Mr. Schober, raised willow reeds on his property on County House Rd. which he gathered and took to his basket weaving factory in Philadelphia.

The Mt. Royal railroad station was located along Mantua Rd. next to the former Hill Family residence. Mrs. Anna Grosko's house on County House Rd. once stood on Kings Hwy. near the old cemetery, and it was once a Wells Fargo Office. Isaac Davidson was the owner, and after the house was moved to its present site, Mr. Davidson built the green stucco house now on the old site.

The Gloucester County Historical Society has in its library, a number of scenic postcards of Mt. Royal. One of these is a picture of a large white oak tree, said to have been the largest oak tree within a 200 hundred mile radius of Philadelphia. Mrs. Singiser told me this tree which once stood

along the banks of the creek, was destroyed by fire about 1970. She remembered her father telling her about a traveller who once sat under this tree and wrote poetry. This man was the well known poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It was probably under this tree than Mr. Longfellow composed the story described in his book "Tales of a Wayside Inn" in which he tells the love story about Elizabeth Haddon and John Estaugh.

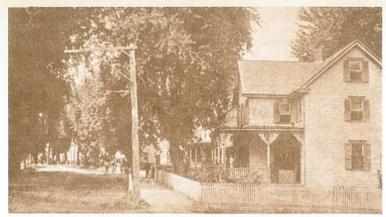


Giant Oak Tree, Mt. Royal—largest within 200 mile radius of Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Haddon and a visitor from England, John Estaugh, were travelling on horseback with a group of Friends on their way to Salem Meeting. Just after the group crossed Mantua Creek, Elizabeth pretended her horse's saddle had loosened, and John stayed behind to help her, while the rest of the group continued on their journey. It was then that Elizabeth proposed to John saying "The Lord has charged me to love thee". After his visit, John returned to England. Several years later he returned, married Elizabeth, and they settled the town now known at Haddonfield.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church was founded at Berkeley in 1771, and services were conducted here until 1845, when the present church was built in Clarksboro. The old church was torn down, but the surrounding cemetery was walled in, and this is still property of the Episcopal Church. The Ginipro house now stands on the site of this first church. When it was decided to move the church to Clarksboro, this house was moved to Berkeley and situated on the church property. The present church now stands where the Ginipro house originally stood. The first rector of this old church was Robert Blackwell D.D., who served this church at Berkeley, for six years, and said to have been a man of great energy and diligence.

The Palermo Farm on Mantua Rd. was in earlier times known as the James B. Albertson farm, and the old brick mansion which stands some distance from the road was built in 1744, by John Haines. Helen (Palermo) Marino who once lived on this farm, said this brick house has been vandalized through the years, and only the outer shell remains. August Cooke owned this farm prior to the Palermos. His daughter, Esther Cooke Hammond, the township tax collector, grew up on this farm. There is a large landing along the creek behind the farm, which was once an Indian settlement. Numerous arrowheads, pieces of Indian pottery, and human bones have been found here, and the authorities from Glassboro State College stated it was once an Indian Village.



Main Street (Kings Highway), Mt. Royal.



Driving along Main Street, Mt. Royal.



Up Main Street, Mt. Royal, N. J.

John Haines' farm extended from Edwards Creek to Mantua Creek. There was a molasses mill on his farm, and a remarkable spring of cold water which emptied into the creek. The area where my house is located on County House Rd. was once known as Haines' "other" farm. Farther up Mantua Rd. there was a farm with a conical hill behind the house. It was said that a person standing atop this hill, could on a clear day, see the Girard College, Philadelphia.

Edwards Creek originally emptied into Mantua Creek near the railroad tracks, but the course of this stream was diverted by Restore Lippincott, and presently joins Mantua Creek some distance from here. This creek was named in honor of Edward Byllings, an early owner of this area. Restore Lippincott desired to have a mill pond on his property (Shady Lane) and with the help of William Haines, he spent fifteen years straightening out the bends of Edwards Creek and diverting its course. The mill pond proved to be unsatisfactory, and the project was later abandoned.



Town Pump and Wheelwright Shop along Kings Highway, Mt. Royal.

The earliest grist mill was at Sandtown in 1690, and was known as "Room's Mill". According to descriptions, it was situated along the original run of Edwards Creek, near the site of the new township well along County House Rd. It was probably on lands now owned by Mrs. Marie Schober or Mrs. Irene Obinger. Remains of the old spillways and sluice beds can still be found behind the Obinger property, but some of it was covered with fill dirt in 1980.

Gerrard's Dam in the creek was probably named after Robert Gerrard, former owner of the Restore Lippincott property, now known as Shady Lane.

The oldest houses in Mt. Royal, and perhaps in the whole township, are located along Kings Hwy. south of Ray's Market. The Bryson house was built in 1834, and we know the Ginipro house was built before 1854. The John Thomas residence is partially a log home, built similar to the Nothnagle Log Cabin, even to the corner fireplaces. (The Nothnagle cabin said to be the oldest house still standing in America, and to have been built by Swedes about 1634, is located in Gibbstown.) After a fire a few years ago, the Thomas' had these log walls covered, but the old fireplaces are still visible, and the old iron hooks used for cooking are still intact. Since we know Swedes had settled here, it is likely that Swedes also built the

original part of the Thomas' house. The Emmons' house on the other side of the highway is also very, very old. Whether this was the house once occupied by Mr. Peaslee, tanner, is not certain, but early census records indicate that a Mr. Livezy, tanner, once lived at this location. A former resident said Mr. Peaslee's double house was destroyed, some years ago, by fire. Cyrus Brown's house was destroyed by fire; maybe this was the site of the old Tannery, but no one knows for certain.

In 1887, Henry G. Green purchased the Lumber & Coal business located along Mantua Creek, from George Parker. The same day, Cyrus Brown opened his Pork Sausage and Scrapple Company. Mrs. Marion Singiser is the daughter of Henry Green, and the niece of Cyrus Brown. She said her father started business with one man, one horse, and \$500.00 cash. The business is still in operation, still owned by a member of the Green Family, but the horse has given way to modern trucks, and many more persons are employed.

Cyrus Brown's Pork Co. is still in existence, but under new management. It is now the Botto Sausage Co. and their pork products may be found in local supermarkets.

Magill's General Store which once stood at the point of North St. and Berkley Rd. was destroyed by fire during the 1920s. Dan Nolte operated a Mobil Station here for many years. It is now a Getty Station known as the C & P Auto Repair Center, and operated by Bill & Joe Costroff.

Another scenic postcard at the Historical Society, is a picture of the Mt. Royal one room school house. Older residents tell me this school stood on the site of the present school. An addition was added to the rear of this building, and as late as the 1960s, the front entrance was through this original structure. The present building was completed during the 1970s.



Mount Royal, one room school house.

On May 23, 1836, the trustees of the Berkeley School District requested a Public Meeting. A copy of this notice states: "A Public Meeting of the taxable inhabitants of the Berkeley School District, will be held at the School House in Berkeley, on the 9th day of next month at 8 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of raising money by tax for the purchasing of a lot, and the erection of a school house thereon, for the use of said District. Signed: Joseph W. Platt, John Haines, Joseph

B. Livezy, Trustees". This proves there was an earlier school in Berkeley, at some other location, prior to 1836.

The Mt. Royal Post Office was established in 1892. Some of these early postmasters were: Wm. K. Duffield 1892. Joseph W. Gill, Jr. 1896, Wm. H. Bunning 1899, William Green 1902 and Cyrus Brown 1904. Most residents go to the post office for their mail, but rural delivery is available for those out of town.



Mount Royal School in 1980.

The B & B Chemical Co. located on Berkeley Rd. near Cohowkin Rd., Mt. Royal, manufactures industrial cleaning compounds and solvents. Land was purchased in 1969, with the help of Ed Bell, then Mayor. A Research & Development Laboratory was erected. In 1971, the Company built a manufacturing plant here. Vernon Dawson was manager in 1972, Mike Haluska in 1973, Lorena Headley in 1974, and Bob Monte in 1977. The main plant is located in Miami, Florida. Mt. Royal is one of three Satellite Plants. Customers in the northeast part of the country are serviced by this Mt. Royal Plant.

Next to B & B Chemical Co. is the Auto Diagnostic and Repair Center, operated by the Wurst Family. This Company has steadily built a reputation for competent services and car repairs.

Across Berkeley Rd. is the Lippincott Back Hoe and Cesspool Service. Mr. Lippincott and Mr. Lynch were in partnership for this service until 1961, when Mr. Lippincott became the sole owner.

Sweeten's Florist Shop and Greenhouse is located along Kings Hwy. near the railroad crossing. The business was first established forty-eight years ago, and is owned and operated by Earl and Leonard Sweeten. The Sports Center next door is operated by Bob Sweeten. S. Earl Sweeten was township mayor for 12 years and an active member of the fire company for many years.

The 76 Travelers Plaza located on #295 near Berkeley Road, Mt. Royal, was first opened in 1970, and is owned and operated by the Borrelli Family. Although this complex is geared mostly to the long haul truckers, it also has a restaurant, gasoline, and a store for the travelling public.

Mr. Jaber opened his Truck Wash in 1971, and the Runnemeade Refrigeration Co. began in 1972. This company services the refrigerator units on some of these trucks. The West Co. repairs truck engines, and Bross Trucking and Riss Motor Transport, lease space at this terminal.



Mt. Royal Crossroads in 1980 site of first post office.





Mt. Royal Post Office.

A separate building consisting of fourteen offices, is the location of the Independent Truck Brokers. They issue orders and consignments to the Independent truck owners.

A small group of stores consisting of a delicatessen, a radio shop, a Game Arcade and a Pizza Shop are located along one side of this complex. 76 Traveler Plazas are located along major highways in the eastern part of the country, and the Mt. Royal complex is one of the largest of these truck stops.

Both Kings Hwy. and Mantua-Berkley Rd. are heavily traveled arteries especially during "rush hours". This intersection has been a dangerous crossing, especially for pedestrians. for many years. In 1979, the County widened the roads at this intersection, and installed a traffic light. It is probably the most important addition to the town, in recent years.

Gates of Heaven Cemetery and the Martin Luther King Memorial Park are located along Mantua Rd. near the boundary line into Mantua township. The original cemetery consisted of 93 acres, and is described as a beautiful green turfed area, gently sloping down to a placid river with leafy willows overhanging its banks.

This cemetery was created in response to a persistent and growing desire for a beautiful resting place exclusively for members of the Colored Race. They were not pleased to place their loved ones in a bleak, inaccessible burying ground, and it was a source of keen regret that they had no beautiful resting place which they could call their own.

In response to this need a group of Colored businessmen, purchased 93 acres of land and established this cemetery. It was divided into ninety-three areas, with each area consisting of 182 grave sites. Mr. F. Nelson Saunders, one of the founders of the Angel Visit Baptist Church, was the first caretaker and superintendent. The Cemetery continued under this group's supervision for many years, but is now owned and administered by Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro. As of Oct. 1, 1980, there have been 260 burials in this cemetery.

Dr. Martin Luther King, an ordained minister, during the 1960s, led peaceful marches in many of our Southern States and elsewere, seeking equality for members of the Black Race, and encouraging them to exercise their right to vote. After Dr. King's assassination, 40 additional acres were obtained and dedicated as the "Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Park" in memory of this great and beloved leader of the Black Race.

Mt. Royal is still a small town and there are still farms here, but the blacksmith and wheelwright shops are long gone. The dirt roads have all been leveled and paved, and the town pump is buried under the concrete on Kings Hwy. The bus now stops to discharge passengers at the old Stage Coach Stop, but the hotel which once served as the Headquarters for the Army of New Jersey in 1869, and from which place Brigadier General William T. Cozens issued general orders, is now a taproom, the Mt. Royal Inn. The residents go about their daily lives, unmindful of the many historical and important happenings which once occurred here.

The writer hopes this article will inspire others to seek additional information about this "Village at the Crossroads".

TAVERNS

Lorena Headley

There were two taverns in early times in the village of Sandtown or Berkley. In Charles S. Boyer's book "Old Taverns and Inns of West Jersey", mention is made of a tavern at the crossroad known as "Heart in Hand" and an older tavern located near Mantua Creek, named "Rising Sun Tavern". A third tavern was located along Kings Highway near the boundary line into Clarksboro. This third tavern was the oldest, and was known as the "Death of the Fox". All three taverns were located in what is now known as Mount Royal.

Death of the Fox Tavern was a famous inn in early times, and was erected in 1727. A fox hunting club met here and it was said to be older than the Main Line Hunt Club in Philadelphia. The first owner was Christopher Taylor. In 1734 it was sold to a Benjamin Peters, and in 1758, Isaac Comron, son-in-law of Robert Gerrard became the proprietor. From 1763-1768, this inn was designated as a place where the courts directed creditors to meet and pay or settle claims.

William Eldridge purchased the tavern in 1774, and for the next nine years the place enjoyed its most profitable career. In 1811 William Sailer became the owner, until 1813 when he closed up this tavern and bought the hotel "Up in the village" and petitioned the courts to transfer the ale license. In 1817 William Sailer sold his hotel in the village and returned to his home, the Death of the Fox. This old tavern is still standing, but the small white painted house has been a private residence for many years.

The Heart in Hand Tavern located at the crossroads in the village, was also known as the Berkley Hotel. Mark Reeves was the proprietor in 1813, when he purchased it from William Sailer. This tavern is still in existence today, but additions and improvements have changed its original appearance. The present owners are Joseph and Edward Baltadonis, and the name is now Mount Royal Inn.

The Rising Sun Tavern was located near Mantua Creek and Kings Highway. Just when this tavern was first established, is not known, but John Ramb, also referred to as John Rambo, was the proprietor in 1784. Micajah Clement kept it in 1806. John Paul was the owner in 1809, and Joseph Heppard was the proprietor from 1811 to 1817.

Little information could be found about this early tavern, but the John Ramb (Rambo) property, was once part of a large tract located along the banks of Mantua Creek. In 1689 John Parker, yeoman, purchased this tract from Andrew Robeson, a Swedish settler. Robeson had been the Surveyor General of New Stockholm (Swedesboro area).

John Parker gave parcels of his land to his three sons: James, Reuben, and John Jr. The balance of his property he left to his wife Hester Parker. When Hester died, their son Reuben inherited this property.

John Parker Jr. sold his lands to James Currie. Reuben Parker's holdings were inherited by his three grandsons: John Toms, Reuben Toms, and William Bright. Possibly James Parker kept all or part of his land, because the census map of 1850 shows a J. Parker owning land in this area, and in 1887 Mr. George Parker sold his lumber and coal business located along the creek to Mr. Henry G. Green, where it is located today.