

Metuchen Recorder 1927

Articles about old houses in Oak Tree

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Many Old Dwelling Houses in Oak Tree Section Date Back to Revolution

In spite of the great changes in late years there still remain in and about Oak Tree a few buildings that witnessed our advances from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War to our present degree of progress.

The building situated on New Dover road and occupied at present by Fred Ellis, is a very old building which was built as far as can be found out, previous to the Revolution. A barn, house, and about thirty acres of land were bought in at auction by Elizabeth Blackford for \$1,630. Upon her death it went into her estate and several years later was sold to William Kelly. During his occupancy of the place he remodeled the old barn, and house and gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Harry Campbell, who occupied it but for a short while. It then was sold to C. Abbott who in turn sold it to A.T. Stewart, from whom Mr. Ellis, the present owner obtained it.

The building which is now owned by Frank Thompkins is about the oldest one in the vicinity. This place also dates back to the great war which gave us our freedom. The house and about nine acres came down to John Noe, Sr., from his father, Christ John Noe. Upon his death it went to his four children. Louis, William, John Jr., and Elizabeth Noe. Miss Noe then came into possession of the entire property because of the death of her three brothers. The township later placed the house and ground up for sale for taxes and it was bought in by Harry Campbell, from whom Henry DeLisle brought it. While the place was in his possession of the old house was remodeled. He and his family lived here for a number of years. Then it passed through a number of hands. Namely Mr. Gasper M. Earney, Mr. Frank Smalley, to the present owner, Mr. Frank Tompkins.

The last old dwelling which will be featured this week is the one situated on Oak Tree road and now owned by Mr. James Kirkpatrick, Sr. Alexander Noe inherited the house and between seventy-five and eighty acres from his father, Clarkson Noe, who lived there the better part of his life. Later he then sold it to James Kirkpatrick. The turn sold it to James Kirkpatrick. The house now stands on that spot is the same one except for a few alterations.

(To be continued next week.)

Many Old Homes in Oak Tree Date to Revolution

(Concluded from last week)

There still remain a few more places of interest in and about Oak Tree. One is situated on New Dover road and is now in the development as the Oak Tree Heights. This property was formerly owned by Austin Martin who built the house which still stands, in 1849. After his death, his wife Jane Martin came into possession. They had but one child. Edward Martin who lived in Metuchen for but a few years. He inherited it after his mother's death. When he died his widow, Phoebe Martin, a well known resident of Metuchen, who passed away about a year ago, sold it to John Walsh, who in turn sold it to a realty company which is now developing it into building lots.

In the same year that the Martin house was built, Reuben Drake built the homestead now situated on Edward Avenue. Several years later sold it to Mr. Hike. The place passed through a number of hands, among whom were the Green and Randolph families. After Mr. Drake's death, his two daughters, Caroline Gillman and Cornelia Laing came into possession of the mortgage on the place. A few years later, Mrs. C. Laing obtained the place after paying off her sister's interest in it. Mr. William Cumiskey the present owner, bought part of the farm from her, the remainder being sold to other members of the family.