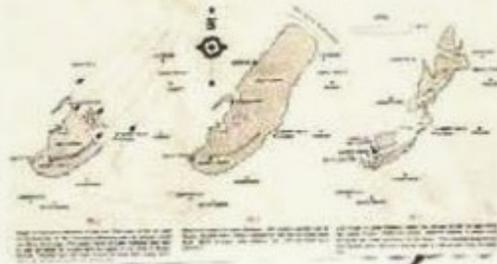


# *Bernards Township Timeline*

From 185,000BC to 2020

By June Kennedy and Brooks Betz  
Bernards Township Historians

# LAKE PASSAIC



Red shale formed from molten lava covered the area.  
185,000 Years Ago

Lakes Hackensack and Passaic were formed from melting glacier.  
15,000 Years Ago

Indian encampments here through 1760s.  
1650

John Harrison appointed King's agent for East Jersey lands.  
1701

1st settlers (Scots-Irish) arrive here  
3,000 acres for \$50.00 from Chief Nowenoik, Lenni Lenapes.  
1717

The Johnston (Annin) family arrives from Scotland.  
1722

1st reference to Basking Ridge in Presbyterian Church records.  
1733

50,000 Years Ago

Wisconsin glacier covers northern part of continent.



1417

An acorn falls to earth and takes root in Basking Ridge.



1664

1st NJ Proprietors: Lord John Berkeley and Sir Geo. Carteret.



1688

Somerset County created.



1720

Log Church built for Presbyterian worship.



1726

Somerset County Population 2,271 (386 slaves).

1737

Earliest burial (Henry Hains) in Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery.





Rev. Geo. Whitefield, English evangelist, preached to 3,000 people under White Oak tree.

1740

French - Indian Wars. Brothers William & John Annin bear arms

1757

King George II creates by charter Township of Bernardston to honor Royal Governor.

1760

Dr. Samuel Kennedy starts the Basking Ridge Classical School at his King George Road Plantation.

1764

1726  
RUTGERS

Queens College (Rutgers) chartered.

1766

Declaration of Independence approved by 13 colonies. Now, United States of America! July 4

1776

Washington's troops spend winter at Jockey Hollow

1777

Mary Lewis marries Revolutionary War veteran Joseph Kinnan.

1779

1749

Basking Ridge Presbyterian log church replaced with wooden church.

1758

New Royal Governor Francis Bernard arrives in New Jersey.



1761

Lord Stirling arrives from England and begins building Stirling Manor.



1766

William Annin builds his stone house in Liberty Corner.



1776

Major General Charles Lee arrested by British at Widow White's Tavern.



1778

June 28 - Battle of Monmouth. Gen'l Charles Lee insults George Washington and is court-martialed.



1779

Lady Catherine Alexander, daughter of Lord Stirling, weds William Duer at Stirling Manor.





2nd encampment of Washington's troops at Morristown. Worst winter during the Revolutionary War.

1780



Lord Stirling dies, Albany, NY.

1783



George Washington sworn in as first US President, April 30.

1789

Rev. Robert Finley becomes 5th pastor of Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.

1795

N.J. Population 211,149 (12,422 slaves).

1800



James Linn of Bernards Twp. casts deciding vote in election of Thomas Jefferson vs Aaron Burr.

1800



William Dayton, born in Basking Ridge; U.S. Senator, V.P. Candidate & Ambassador to France.

1807

1781

Rochambeau's army camped overnight in Liberty Corner enroute to Richmond, VA.

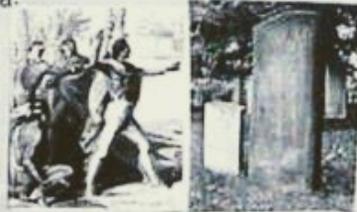
1787

Samuel Southard noted American statesman, born in Basking Ridge.



1791

Mary Lewis Kinnan captured by Shawnee Indians in western Virginia.



1794

Mary Lewis Kinnan, rescued by brother, Jacob Lewis; returns to Basking Ridge.

1797

Andrew Kirkpatrick of Bernards Twp. appointed Chief Justice of NJ Supreme Court.

1802

Basking Ridge gets its first post office.

1806

Warren Twp. organized; leaves Bernards Twp.



Dr. Robert Finley leaves for Athens, GA. to head University of GA.

1817

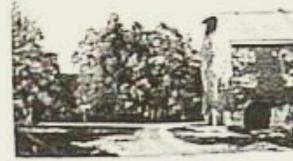


Bernards Twp. population 2,062 includes Far Hills and Bernardsville.

1830

Rev. James English becomes 1st pastor of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church.

1838



Vealtown name is changed to Bernardsville.

1840

Van Dorn Mill built by Ferdinand VanDorn, replacing 1768 wood structure.

1843

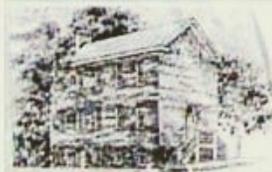


Millington Baptist Church organized.

1851

1809

Brick Academy built by the efforts of Rev. Robert Finley.



1820

Missouri Compromise Bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Henry Southard & Sen. Samuel Southard.



Rep. Henry Southard

1831

Sen. Samuel Southard serves as NJ Governor for one year.



Sen. Samuel Southard

1839

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church erected (3rd on this site).



1844

Theodore Frelinghuysen is VP running mate of Henry Clay.



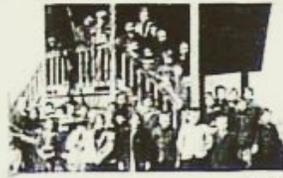
1850

St. Mark's Episcopal Church organized; chapel built 1852.



1853

Bishop Janes Methodist Church organized.



Local School Districts established. Public education arrives in Bernards Twp.

1853

Worship begins in St. James Roman Catholic Church.

1859

Civil War begins. Uniforms and mess wagon axles made in Town.

1861

New Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church built by James P. Goltra.

1869

Dr. Horatio Gates Whitnall, ret. Civil War surgeon, builds his mansion (125 So. Finley Avenue).

1871

The Railroad is completed! Station depots are established at Lyons and Basking Ridge.

1872

1856

William L. Dayton runs as VP candidate with John C. Fremont.



1860

Somerset County population reaches 23,000.

1867

Basking Ridge-Millington Detective Society organized.



1870

1st newspaper printed in Bernards Township.

1871

Washington House Hotel erected. Today's The Store Restaurant.



1876

First mention of Betsy Ross burial under Oak Tree in July 4 Centennial speech.





Flamboyant Bernardsville Mountain life reaches peak: estates, servants, social events.

1890s



Col. John Jacob Astor IV donates stones for new Bishop Janes Church.

1898

May 21, 1898 Basking Ridge Free Public Circulating Library organized.

1898



Maple Avenue School built.

1903



Basking Ridge Fire Company organized.

1904

Bernardsville News reports local debate against women's suffrage.

1908

1889

Lecture to Ladies only "The Perils and Possibilities of American Womanhood"



1895

Morris County Crushed Stone Co. (Millington Quarry) is incorporated.



1898

The Spanish-American War.

1898

Wooden Sidewalks installed in Liberty Corner.



1901

Nathan Woodward "Uncle Nate", last Bernards Twp. slave, dies at age 110.



1903

Brick Academy, no longer a School, becomes a Union Hall.



1905

Liberty Corner School built.





Liberty Corner Fire Company incorporated.

1910



Main Street renamed Finley Avenue; Church Street renamed Oak Street.

1912



The luxury liner Titanic hits an iceberg on its maiden voyage and sinks. 1500 lives are lost.

1912



President Wilson makes a speech on the Basking Ridge Village Green.

1913



April 6- Formal entry of US into WWI.

1917

June 5 - Registration Day - 496 men in the Somerset Hills enlist.

The remains of Lord Stirling's manor house are destroyed by fire.

1919

1908

Henry Ford's Model T car is introduced.



1910

Movies shown in Koechlein's Store upstairs, Liberty Corner.



1911

Basking Ridge railroad station burns. Is rebuilt in 1915.



1912

Samuel Owen builds his summer home "Cedar Hill"-Today's Municipal Building.



1912

June 6- Woodrow Wilson stays overnight at the Stone Hotel in Bernardsville while campaigning.



1915

The liner, Lusitania, sunk by a German U-boat.



1918

World War 1 ends.



Bonnie Brae School locates on Valley Road.

1920



August 26 - 19th Amendment - gives Women the right to vote.

1920



Basking Ridge Garden Club is organized.

1923

Brick Academy becomes Town Hall.

1924

Borough of Bernardsville organized. Leaves Bernards Township.

1924



October 10 - Charles Lindbergh makes first non stop solo flight across the Atlantic.

1927



South Maple Avenue becomes one of first paved roads in New Jersey.

1928

1920

VNA starts annual fund raising rummage sales.

1920

Prohibition-18th Amendment to the Constitution is passed.

1921

The Borough of Far Hills organized; leaves BernardsTwp.

1924

Annual Christmas Eve Carol Sing organized.

1924

The KKK arrives in town on Easter morning.

1925

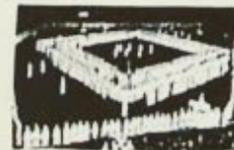
Congress passes legislation creating VA Hospital at Lyons.

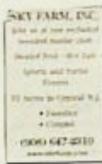
1928

Basking Ridge Historical Society organized.

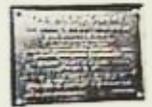


Klansmen Take Active Part At Open Air Easter Service



					
October 29 - Stock Market crashes.	New Lyons railroad depot built.	Sky Farm Nudist Camp established here.	Prohibition repealed.	Oak Street School built.	George L. Lee, Red Devil Paint Co. head, 2nd owner, Cedar Hill Farm. Do- nates land for Ridge High and Cedar Hill School.
1929	1931	1932	1933	1939	1940

1930	1931	1932	1933	1939	1941
US Veterans Hospital opens.	January 8 - 1st electric train ar- rives. Children are dismissed from school to celebrate the occasion.	Somerset Hills Airport built - begins operations.	Large Liberty Corner tract purchased for Fellowship Dea- conry mission- ary and nursing work.	Last Spanish- American War veteran dies at VA Hospital.	December 7 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbor; America enters World War II.
					
					

								
Building Lane is renamed Lord Stirling Road.	Eugene Bissell, Commodities Broker, 3rd owner of Cedar Hill Farm.	Kiwanis Fair opens.	Korean War begins.	Somerset Hill YMCA established.	Brick Academy listed on NJ State and National Registers of Historic Places.	Somerset Hills Lutheran Church organized.	Bernards Twp. celebrates its 200th anniversary.	
1940	1946	1949	1950	1951	1956	1958	1960	

1945	1947	1950	1955	1957	1959	1961
World War II ends in Europe May 9; War ends in Pacific August 15.	Kiwanis Club is founded.	John Jacob Astor VI is last private owner of Cedar Hill Farm.	Salk vaccine approved for prevention of polio.	Cedar Hill School built.	St. James Church built.	Berlin Wall erected.
 						

Ridge High School built.  
1961



President John F. Kennedy assassinated Nov. 22 in Dallas, TX.  
1963



NJ is officially 300 Years old!  
1964



Somerset Hills Fellowship of Christian Churches is organized.  
1964



Robert F. Kennedy killed June 5 in CA while campaigning  
John Jacob Astor VI sells mansion and 28 acres to Bernards Twp for \$140,000, to be new Municipal Building  
1968



New St. Mark's Church built.  
1969



Wm. Annin Middle School built.  
1969



Grand Union becomes 1st store to open at Lyons Mall  
1970

1962  
Direct Telephone dialing begins without an operator.

1964  
Lord Stirling School opens.



1964  
The Beatles make their 1st trip to America-British invasion of Rock'n Roll begins.



1967  
Somerset Hills Baptist Church formed.



1968  
Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, assassinated April 4 in Memphis, TN.



1968  
Completion of Routes 287 and 78.

1969  
Neil Armstrong becomes first man to walk on the moon.



1970  
Kienast Quints born in Liberty Corner.





Vietnam War ends.

1973

Franklin Corners becomes Historic District.

1975



All municipal offices are relocated to Collyer Lane.

1975

Basking Ridge Post office moves into new Brownlee Place building.

1976

Somerset Hills Airport land sold for town houses- Lord Stirling Village.

1980



Pingry School opens.

1983

World Wide Web developed to enable scientists to share documents.

1990

US enters Persian Gulf conflict with Iraq.

1991

1972

US Golf Assn. locates in Liberty Corner.



1974

Present Millington Baptist Church built.

1974

New Bernards Twp. Library built on Maple Ave. School site.



1975

AT&T opens its corporate HDQ in BernardsTwp.

1976

USA celebrates its Bicentennial on July 4.



1979

Ridge Oak completed and Seniors move in.

Mid 1970s  
1980s

Court decisions favor Allen-Deane Corp. sales to The Hills developers.

1988

Somerset County celebrates its 300th anniversary.





Liberty Corner becomes Historic District.

1991

The Kiwanis Club of Somerset Hills



Kiwanis Fair discontinued.

1994



Fellowship Village opens.

1996



Bernards Town Hall has ramp installed for disabled.

1999



Mount Prospect School opens.

1999



Bethel Ridge group home opens.

2000



Grand Union at Lyons Mall closes; reopens as Stop and Shop.

2001

1990

Congregation B'Nai Israel organized.



HISTORY

1996

Olympic Torch carried from Basking Ridge to Bedminster en route to Atlanta, GA summer games.



1998

Bernards Twp Community Center opens on South Maple Avenue.



1999

Larger St. James Church built

2000

Congregation B'Nai Israel House of Worship dedicated.



2000

Canterbury Estates to be built on Wm. Annin Home site.



2001

Harry Dunham Park dedicated.



World Trade Center hit Sept. 11; 17 residents perish

2001



AT&T Complex sold for \$200M to Pharmacia Staff of 3,700 move out.

2002



River Walk Shopping Center Opens

2002



Brick Academy Main Floor Restoration Completed

2003



Gulf War II begins March 20; Hostilities cease six weeks later

2003



2002

Dewy Meadow Shopping Center Opens



2002

Veterans Monument Dedicated at War Memorial Field



2003

Record snow storms cripple Somerset Hills



2003

Rev. Kennedy Farmstead nominated for N.J. State Register



Software causes Northeast US power blackout Aug.14-16



2003

First iPhone released June 29



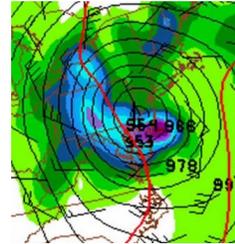
2007

Tobin Heath Ridge High School '06 wins women's soccer gold medal at Beijing Olympics.



2008

Superstorm Sandy ravages the area that was without power for weeks Nov. 7,2012.



2012

April 24-26, 2017 Basking Ridge Oak taken down after 600 years.

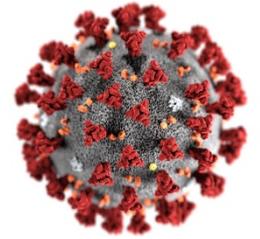


2017

An acorn from The white oak Is transplanted in churchyard



COVID-19 Pandemic



2020

2005



Verizon announced move to former AT&T facility.

2007



2007 - Irwin Richardt maple syrup farm purchased creating Sons of Liberty Farm

2008



Township purchases English Farm Development rights to preserve open space in Liberty Corner.

2010



Liberty Corner Fire Department celebrates 100 years of service to the community

2017

300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church



2018

The Grain House Celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



2019

Bernards Police celebrate 100 years of serving the local community on April 10, 2019

