



Seabrook Educational & Cultural Center Bulletin

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UPPER DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION APRIL 23, 2022

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The 1922 New Jersey Legislature passed CHAPTER 19—"An Act to Incorporate the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland," which act was approved February 23, 1922, and another act amendatory thereof approved March 15, 1922.

CHAPTER 19.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1-The inhabitants of that portion of the Township of Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, contained within the limits hereinafter set forth are hereby constituted and declared to be a body politic and corporate in fact and in law by the name of the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the county of Cumberland, and shall be governed by the general laws of this State relating to townships.

2-The territorial limits of said township shall be all that portion of Deerfield Township bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point north of Husted Station at the intersection of the east line of the right of way of the West Jersey and Seashore Railroad and the boundary line of the counties of Cumberland and Salem; thence along the east line of said right of way southwestwardly a distance of five and three-quarter miles, more or less, until said line intersects the northerly boundary line of the City of Bridgeton; thence westwardly, along the boundary line of the City of Bridgeton, to the center of Cohansey Creek; thence northerly, up the center thereof, to the boundary line of the County of Salem; thence along said boundary line northeastwardly and south eastwardly to the place of beginning.

The provisions of the act required a referendum vote to be accepted by a majoring vote of the qualified voters residing in the described territory at a special election to be held within sixty days from the passage of this act between the hours of 6 am and 7 pm.

On April 3, 1922, the referendum vote was held, and the result of the election was 24 votes in favor of adopting the act, 65 votes in opposition and 7 votes were rejected.

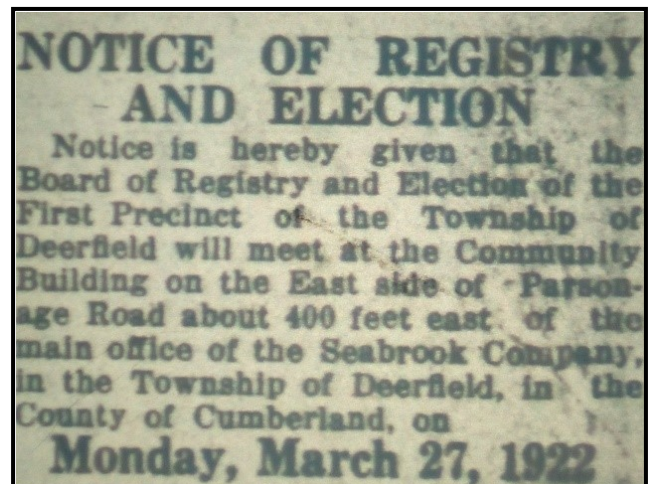
A special primary election for nomination for several offices was held on Wednesday May 31, 1922 from 7 am to 9 pm. The following individuals were nominated for various official positions.

Freeholder, Elbert C. Ott
Township Committee: Warren W. Oley, Albert T. Hannan,
George P. Harris
Clerk, George L. Tomlinson
Collector, James McNab
Assessor Elijah R. Parvin

According to Alan Palmer's, *This Place Called Home*, the individuals were elected to office at an election held on June 14, 1922. At the first Township Committee Meeting held on June 19, 1922, the Committee selected Warren Oley to serve as Chairman of the committee and Albert R. McAllister to serve as Solicitor and George L. Tomlinson to serve as Treasurer.

At a joint meeting of the Township Committee of Deerfield and Upper Deerfield on July 3, 1922, the committees began the process to review the division of property and indebtedness of the respective Townships. The total ratables for the entire Township for the year 1922 was \$2,054,000. The Accountant for the Joint Committees at a meeting on July 6, submitted a statement of the assets and liabilities, and schedule of ratables that determined that Deerfield Township would be entitled to approximately 34% of the net assets and Upper Deerfield Township would be entitled to approximately 65% of the assets.

At a special meeting of the Township Committee on November 21, 1925, a group of residents from the western section of Deerfield Township were desirous of transferring a portion of their Township to Upper Deerfield Township. The group presented a formal petitions with more than 60% of the voters from this portion of Deerfield Township requesting Upper Deerfield Township accept this area. On February 15, 1926, the transfer of territory to Upper Deerfield Township was completed and the geographic boundaries of the Township as known today were completed.



Bridgeton Evening News, March 22, 1922, page 7
SECC Collection from Bridgeton Library microfilm

100th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

30 Public Sites, Schools, Churches & Homes

Created by SECC for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Upper Deerfield Township. The live bus tours during the April 23, 2022 event, is this self-guided virtual tour of 30 destinations; 13 schools within what became UDT from Deerfield Township on April 3, 1022, as well as nine places of worship and eight other sites (both public structures and private homes). This interactive tour focuses primarily on the public places within the township, the schools, churches and structures having to do with how people traveled and some of the historic homes.

Tour link: seabrookeducation.org

PUBLIC SITES (Green Squares)

TOLL HOUSE SITE (unmarked)

Date: C1853-2001 **89 Old Deerfield Pike**

GIS: 39.45286470933363, -75.22856145786777

Two story, built c1853, taken down in 2001 after it was hit by a vehicle and after it had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Built to house the gate-keeper who collected the tolls on the Bridgeton-Deerfield Pike, with the exception of Sunday and funeral travel. The structure was two bays wide. Most windows were boarded up in 1980. The building had two levels on each floor, the west end being approximately two-feet lower than the front half, gable shed roof with one interior brick chimney on the south side. There was a full basement. The entry to the house was from the south side. (Palmer p 75)

TUMBLING DAM PARK AT SUNSET LAKE SITE

Date: 1890's - 1950's **East side Sunset Lake**

GIS: 39.44992067159468, -75.2357929180655

Tumbling Dam Park was established in 1890's and was operating into the 1950's when trolley service and the automobile had a big impact on how and where people sought recreation.

HUSTED STATION DEPOT SITE (Original Site)

Date: 1860 **281 Deerfield-Husted Station Road, Route 540**

GIS: 39.525693101015285, -75.18896541125717

Husted Train Station Depot was moved to it's present location, a private residence, east of the railroad crossing from the north side of Deerfield-Husted Station Road. Built in 1860 it was an important site for the economy of the area, mail, travel and freight. The present location of the building is further east on 540. (Palmer p 92)

JOSIAH SEELEY HOUSE

Date: Built 1779-1785 **Finley Station Rd & Seeley Deerfield Rd**

GIS: 39.48792268485124, -75.25556874701006

Named for the local miller, Josiah Seeley, son of Ephraim Seeley who may have erected part of the structure. After 1931, owner Alden Smith make changes/additions followed by occupant Donald McAllister of Seabrook Farms. Conversions were made by present owners. Also the residence of John M. "Jack" Seabrook, Sr. of Seabrook Farms and listed by Historic American Buildings Survey made in 1934-36. (Palmer p 84 -85)

KOSTER HOUSE

Date: Built 1830 **95 Polk Lane**

GIS: 39.51644713647193, -75.22723456039255

This house became the residence of Peter Koster after he moved his nursery from Holland to become a partner with the Seabrook enterprise in a venture known as Koster & Co. Following the agreement termination, the nursery was operated by a series of managers, more recently known as Brock's, recently sold. C.F. Seabrook's daughter, Thelma also lived here with her children. (Palmer, p 107)

GELSTON FARM HOUSE -Private residence

Date: Built 1810-1820 (Brick), Frame wing built later

24 Old Burlington Road

GIS: 39.490869866020525, -75.20822332715606

The house is significant as brick was little used in the township. The house and farm were owned by C.F. Seabrook Company and is an example of one of over 60 farm houses remodeled by the company for tenant occupation. (Palmer, p 80)

DAN NICHOLS HOUSE -Private residence

Date: c1790 **302 Centerton Road, west side**

GIS: 39.490022300761744, -75.19039843351563

North of Big Oak Road, this farmhouse was built in two stages like most farm houses in Cumberland and Salem Counties.

The house is one of the few remaining homes in UDT that employs mortise, tenon and trunnel as well as dovetail notching and Roman numerals on attic rafters and some floor boards. (Palmer p 79)

ANSINK FARM HOUSE SITE

Date: Built 1845. Destroyed by fire.

GIS: 39.54737645982291, -75.24480391406856

This elegant brick farm dwelling sat at the northern part of the township, located near the Coombs and Johnson Farm Companies, not far from Route 77. (Palmer p 89 - 90)

SCHOOL SITES (Yellow Squares)

JACKSON SCHOOL SITE

Date: On 1876 atlas. Dismantled after a fire c2019

Route 77 west side, 1654

GIS: 39.53952915563432, -75.23813229121615

Jackson School/District 5 site was located at what is now 1654 Route 77, north of Johnson Farms and south of Grier's Lane. A cinderblock building marks the rear of the school. Within the past few years the former school, later a residence, was removed following a fire. The school that has been taken down replaced, in 1876, an earlier one built in 1847. A one room school, this last structure had had 120' of blackboard surface. (Palmer, p 163-164)

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL SITE

Date: On 1876 atlas. Gone after 1923

Route 640, Friesburg Road

GIS: 39.52695957601428, -75.25673820467108

Center School/District 1, site on a triangle, Friesburg Road, Route 640. A 22' x 26 frame building only painted on the exterior had been erected 1823 and was probably the oldest school building still in use by the township when the pupils were transferred to Union School in Deerfield in 1903 and Center School was closed. (Palmer, p 156)

DEERFIELD UNION SCHOOL SITE

Date: On 1876 atlas. Demolished 2014

Route 630, Deerfield, north of the Presbyterian Church

GIS: 39.514807434866945, -75.23609615564769

Deerfield Union/District 2 site is located on east side of Deerfield Pike and just north of the Presbyterian Church was attended by grades 1-6 until 1945 when an addition was opened at Seabrook School. It was closed and later used as a residence and craft shop by Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Joyce. This building was at least the third building to occupy the site. Students came to this three-room school from areas previously served by Center Road School, Northville School, Jackson School and old Deerfield School. Demolished May 12, 2014 (Palmer pp 156-160)

SEABROOK FARM CENTER SCHOOL

Private residence and sites

Date: Operating in the 1920's **84 Foster Road**

GIS: 39.49627267783429, -75.22602508007782

Farm Center Schools, used after the establishment of Seabrook Farms, and before the creation of Upper Deerfield Township from Deerfield Township, included this double house for grades 1-4. Close by this structure and the water tower, in a house on Parsonage Road were grades 5-6, and in a building near the electrical transformer were grades 7-8. Beginners were taught in what became the Seabrook Post Office and First Aid Station in "Farm Central." (See SECC Museum model of Farm Central) All four of these were initially Seabrook Housing. After the creation of the township kindergarten buildings were located behind the current Elizabeth Moore School.

COHANSEY/SILVER LAKE/BUTTON MILL

Posted Private—Do Not Trespass

Date: On 1876 atlas. Closed 1925

Route 606, 238 -240 Old Deerfield Pike

GIS: 39.47065846078838, -75.23083565805953

SW corner of Love Lane and Old Deerfield Pike. The Button Mill School is north of Turner Farm property #236 Route 606/Old Deerfield Pike. The old school located in the "Silver Lake area" on the south west corner of Love Lane and Old Deerfield Pike, on the Turner farm property. It is sometimes called Button Mill School as it is also on a corner of Button Mill Road. Palmer called it Cohansey School/District 6 and the building occupies the same spot shown on the 1876 atlas. In 1872 Cumberland County stated that Cohansey School measured 20 x 26' and had been built in 1861. A teacher, Jennie Carmen recalled teaching at the school near Silver Lake as late as 1908. Palmer states that the Cohansey School was closed in 1925. The building that exists today may be a reconstruction and was used as a residence. There was a Silver Lake School operating when C. F. Seabrook was advocating for a new consolidated school (which is the current Elizabeth Moore School) in the Pioneer Newspaper and his company publications. (Palmer p 164-165)

NORTHVILLE SCHOOL Private residence

Date: On 1876 atlas. Closed 1921.

Route 729, 39 Weber Road

GIS: 39.511592, -75.204025

Northville School/District 8 was closed in 1921 when students transferred to Friendship School. The school was vacant for a few years then moved south from Northville Road to it's current location on Weber Road, Route 729, and is used as a private residence. Many reunions were organized by former students and held at the Northville Church. (Palmer p165-166)

FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL SITE

Date: On 1876 atlas. A church existed 1809. Closed 1931.

Route 553, 247 Centerton Road

GIS: 39.4841189069323, -75.1936694603936

Friendship School/District 3 was north of the Friendship Church, partly where the parking lot is today. Prior to the erection of the church, a Methodist class met at Friendship School in 1809. This last brick school closed 1931. (Palmer p 161-162)

WOODRUFF SCHOOL Private residence

Date: Closed 1935. Built 1886 to replace older school. An older school existed 1807 used by Methodist class.

Route 56, 251 Landis Avenue

GIS: 39.46808293390987, -75.18827011314502

Woodruff School/District 4 was moved to it's current location from near Woodruff Church and is a private residence. It had closed in 1935. It was built in 1886 to replace older school. An older school existed 1807 used by Methodist class. (Palmer p162-163)

LODER SCHOOL SITE—Private residence

Date: Closed 1937. **Route 654, Lebanon Road**

GIS: 39.443008, -75.179080

Loder School was on the north side of Lebanon Road, west of Indian Fields Branch, closed 1937. It was moved to 99 Lebanon Road and Route 553/Woodruff Road and is a private residence. It appears at it's original location on an undated Seabrook Farms map post 1960, published in Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center Bulletin 2015) (Palmer p 166-167)

ELIZABETH F. MOORE SCHOOL

formerly SEABROOK SCHOOL - Operating

Date: Construction completed 1923 **Route 77, 1361 East side**

GIS: 39.50251421200486, -75.21800503536011

Elizabeth F. Moore School, then called Seabrook School, was the consolidated school that Charles F. Seabrook pushed for. Construction was completed 1923. (Palmer p 169-170)

CHARLES F. SEABROOK SCHOOL- Operating

Date: Opened 1956 **Route 77, 1373 East side**

GIS: 39.50306094596004, -75.21865031225164

(Palmer p 170)

WOODRUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date: Opened 1976 **Route 77, 1373 East side**

GIS: 39.50378244022831, -75.21930961487608

(Palmer p 170)

CUMBERLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - Operating

Date: Opened 1974. UDT attended 1977.

Physically located in UDT is not a township school

90 Silver Lake Road

GIS: 39.475294277867285, -75.21954948240058

(Palmer p 171-172)

PLACES OF WORSHIP SITES (Purple Squares)

DEERFIELD METHODIST - Active

Date: Started 1867 Completed 1868 **Route 77, 1557**

GIS: 39.52668349057504, -75.23579125397569

Deerfield Methodist Church building was started 1867 and finished 1868. They previously met in homes, and 1807 in Woodruff School, then conducted services in Cobbs Hall which was removed from the north west intersection of Route 77 and 540 in 2019. An active church the cemetery is adjacent and south of church. (Palmer pp 141-143)

DEERFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Active

Date: See below **Deerfield Village, 530 North Parsonage Road**

GIS: 39.511821692457374, -75.23691108738056

Deerfield Presbyterian Church, located in the heart of Upper Deerfield Township is Deerfield itself, where religion began and continues with the Presbyterian Church. (A published history, The Presbyterian Parish of Deerfield Street 1737-1971 by F. Alan Palmer.) Once Methodism reached the area in 1803, there was in Deerfield a real harmony between Presbyterian and Methodist worshippers. Today, the historic homes north of the church can be studied on the 1876 atlas. In Palmer's 1985 publication, *This Place Called Home*, an illustrated history of Upper Deerfield Township published by the UDT Township Committee covers the history of this congregation and structure. In short, by 1732 meetings were held in a log school. In 1737 a log structure was erected. In 1771 was construction of this current Jersey sandstone church which was enlarged in 1858 and later renovated several times. (Palmer 1-4, 136-138)

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NEW HOPEFUL BAPTIST CHURCH SITE

Date: Mid 20th Century

Silver Lake Road in Orchard Center Migrant Housing for Seabrook Farms

GIS: 39.4769759238428, -75.21855399700713

The New Hopeful Baptist Church existed in the mid 20th Century, outfitted in a tar building at Orchard Center, by a community of African Americans working for Seabrook Farms, located across the road from the current Cumberland Regional High School on Silver Lake Road, west of the NJ Railroad. Residences were Pemberton buildings 16' x 16'. The village was removed after 1972 and appears on a topographical map of that year. An interior photograph appears right.
(Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center)

SEABROOK BUDDHIST TEMPLE - Active

Date: 1969 **9 Northville Road**

GIS: 39.50737569101381, -75.22097199902707

Seabrook Buddhist congregation first formed as a sect in the winter of 1945 following the coming of Japanese Americans to Seabrook Farms. Initially activities took place in a building funded by the Federal Public Housing Authority as a Child Care Center in Hoover Village, north of the UDT Municipal Building. A new building was completed in 1969 on the north side of Northville Road. The Obon Festival is held on the grounds annually. (Palmer p 144-146)

NORTHVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Date: 1860 **128 Old Burlington Road**

GIS: 39.50517528664221, -75.20359109060043

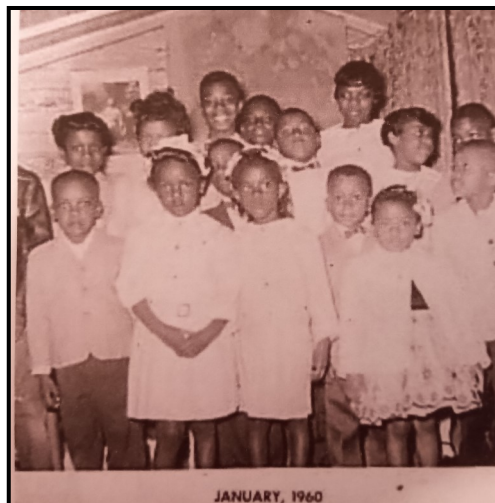
Lutherans from Friesburg established a chapel in 1860 at Northville on the Old Burlington Road. Irregular services were held until Estonians and Germans of Seabrook Farms began to share a chapel nearly 100 years later. Renovations to the chapel, and established cemetery, which has grown behind and on both sides of the structure, followed. (Palmer pp 146-149)

SEABROOK CHRISTIAN CHURCH SITE

Date: 1944 **Route 77, 1343**, Former Seabrook Community Center

GIS: 39.500115426007724, -75.21718320497587

Seabrook Christian Church was established in 1944 as inter-denominational by Japanese Americans who had arrived at Seabrook to seek employment and gathered at the Community House building (site) which stands today on Route 77, north of the UDT Municipal Building and south of the UDT Schools. (Palmer pp 143-144 and Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center Collection)



Interior of New Hopeful Baptist Church
Orchard Center, Seabrook Farms

FRIENDSHIP METHODIST CHURCH - Active

Date: 1847

247 Centerton Road

GIS: 39.48358313713237, -75.19410553628775

Friendship Methodist Church Trustees, in 1847 decided to build a church next to the Friendship School which it had been using for meetings since 1832. The cemetery used by the church is now on three sides of the Church. (Palmer pp 140-141)

WOODRUFF METHODIST - Active

Date: See below

Landis Avenue/ 4 East Finley

GIS: 39.46923548644237, -75.18704613905493

Woodruff Methodist, formerly known and shown, on the 1876 atlas, as the Pleasant Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, began as a class, meeting in a home in 1804. A school house was built c1807 and served as the first church meetinghouse. The first church was built in 1824. In 1869 it was decided to build a new church. In 1891 the name of the church was changed from Pleasant Grove to Woodruff Methodist Episcopal Church. The cemetery is behind the church. (Palmer pp 139-140)

METHODIST CAMP MEETING GROUNDS SITE

Date: Appears on 1876 Atlas **Landis Avenue**

GIS: 39.469205883291025, -75.18394985547972