

*New Jersey's
Revolutionary Experience*

4

*The Cultural
Geography of
Eighteenth Century
New Jersey*

PETER O. WACKER

New Jersey Historical Commission

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Larry R. Gerlach, *Editor*

This series of publications is dedicated to the memory of Alfred E. Driscoll, governor of New Jersey from 1947 to 1954, in grateful tribute to his lifelong support of the study and teaching of the history of New Jersey and the United States. He was a member of the New Jersey Historical Commission from 1970 until his death on March 9, 1975.

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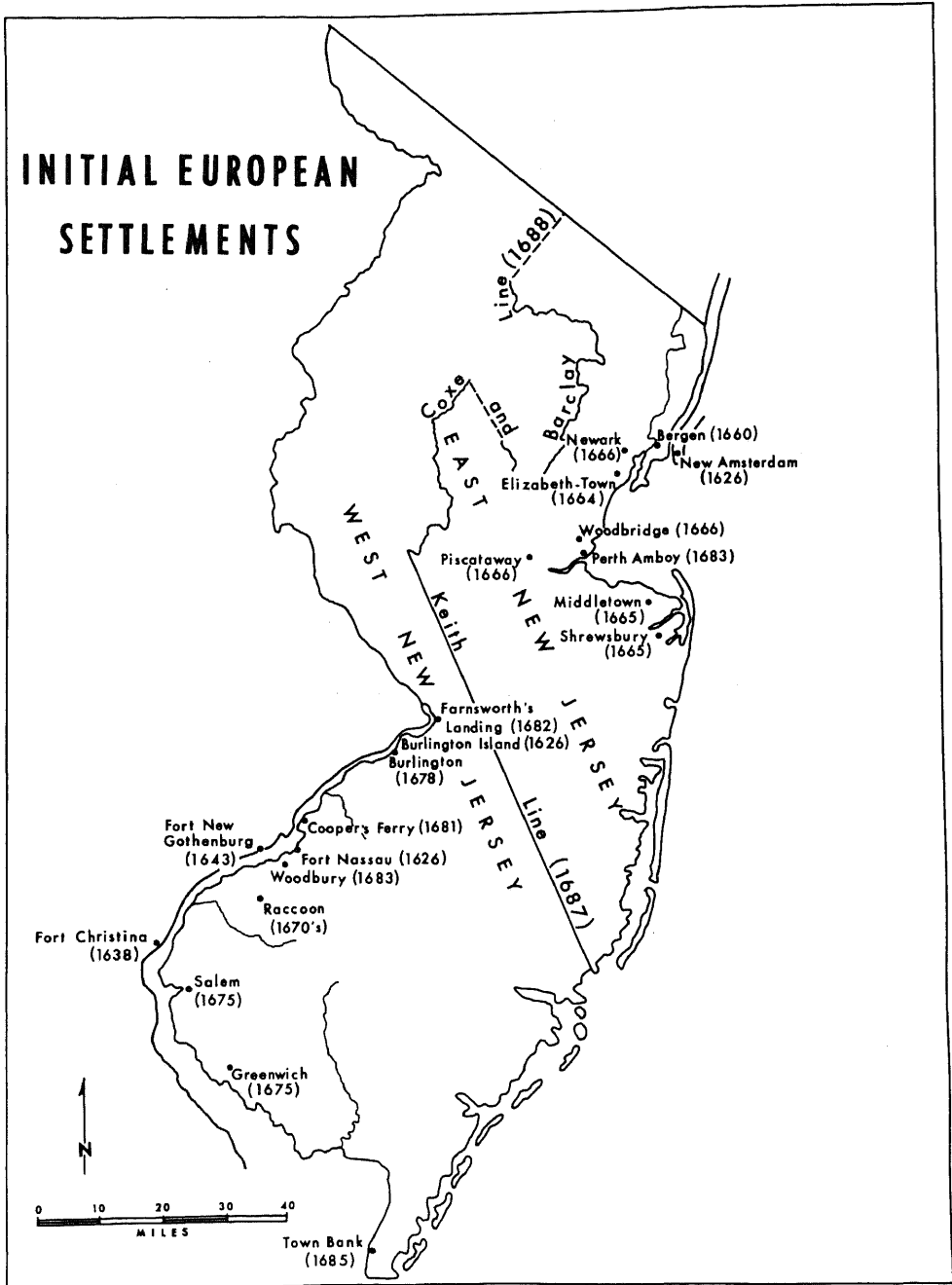
**THE NEW JERSEY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMISSION**

Foreword

New Jersey's Revolutionary Experience is a Bicentennial pamphlet series published by the New Jersey Historical Commission with a grant from the New Jersey Bicentennial Commission. The twenty-six numbers and two teachers' guides are intended to acquaint secondary school students and the general public with the state's history during the era of the American Revolution. Some titles treat aspects of the Revolution in New Jersey, while others show how important themes of the colonial period developed during the revolutionary years; some bring together the results of existing scholarship, while others present the findings of original research; some are written by professional historians, and others by laymen whose investigations of Jersey history exceed avocation. Because the series is directed to a general audience, the pamphlets have no footnotes but contain bibliographical essays which offer suggestions for further reading.

New Jersey's Revolutionary Experience is the product of a cooperative venture by numerous individuals and agencies. On my behalf and that of the pamphlets' readers, I accord recognition and appreciation to the individual authors for their contributions to New Jersey history, to the New Jersey American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Commission and the New Jersey Historical Commission for their support of the project, to Hank Simon, president, Trentypo, Inc., for his invaluable suggestions and cooperation in producing the series, and to the staff of the Historical Commission: Richard Waldron, Public Programs Coordinator, who as project director supervised the series from commencement to completion; Peggy Lewis, Chief of Publications and Information, and Lee R. Parks, Assistant Editor, who edited and designed each number; and William C. Wright, Associate Director, who contributed valuable suggestions at every stage of production.

Larry R. Gerlach
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Map 1. Initial European Settlements in New Jersey. Map by author.

The purpose of this brief pamphlet is to describe what is currently known of the cultural geography of New Jersey at about the time of the American Revolution. To make the intent of the pamphlet more clear, a word about the nature of geography is in order. As the major concern of history is time, the major focus of geography is space. Changing human geographical patterns through time, and the circumstances bringing them about, form the subject matter of historical geography. Historical geographers generally emphasize one or more of the aspects of human geography, such as economic, cultural, political, urban, or transportation geography.

For New Jersey, knowledge of the cultural geography of the colonial period is of special value. The main reason for this is that New Jersey's population at about that time was made up of extremely diverse cultural groups who were not equally distributed over the colony's land surface. The cultural groups occupied distinct areas and because culture, simply defined as "way of life" affects all that people do, even the landscapes made by man (cultural landscapes) varied from place to place in keeping with the local culture. It is precisely man's varied cultures, their distributions and impacts, through time, which the cultural geographer studies.

Different cultures can be identified by means of their "trait complexes," that is, by their differing combinations of ways of doing things. These culture traits can be material or non-material. Material traits are those that can be seen and have substance. An extremely important material trait in New Jersey, for example, was the form of the dwelling preferred by various groups. On the other hand, in New Jersey as well as elsewhere in the colonies, religion was a most

important nonmaterial culture trait. The Dutch Reformed Church, for example, had a primary role in causing the disparate elements settled by the Dutch West India Company to come together and be one people. As culture traits, in combination, make up the cultures, cultural geographers are most concerned about the distributions of the more important culture traits, the reasons for the existence of such distributions, and the effects they brought about.

How did the cultural diversity which characterized New Jersey come about? At the time of the American Revolution the population of the thirteen colonies was mostly of English origin. This was especially true for New England, largely true for the South but less true for the Middle Colonies — New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. In this region, beginning very early in the seventeenth century, commercial companies began settling non-English peoples. Later, proprietary interests continued this trend.

Although Pennsylvania is often thought to have been the most heterogeneous colony in terms of the origins of her settlers, the title rightfully belongs to New Jersey, which began to be settled by large numbers of people of European origin well before the Penn colony was founded. New Jersey's ethnic and cultural diversity stemmed largely from two factors — her geographical position and her political history. New Jersey lay between and included territory claimed by Dutch and Swedish commercial interests early in the seventeenth century. The "spillover" of settlers from Pennsylvania and New York, as well as New England, later added even more diversity to New Jersey's population.

New Jersey's first permanent settlement by Europeans was at the village of Bergen, now part of Jersey City, in 1660 (Map 1, p. 4). The Dutch, who settled Bergen, had made several attempts to settle in that general area earlier, but difficulties with the Indians had resulted in the destruction or abandonment of the settlements before 1660. The "Dutch", actually a mixture of Hollanders, Flemings, Protestant French and German speakers, and others, were first settled in the Hudson Valley by the Dutch West India Company. These settlements in the Hudson Valley as well as on Long Island, provided streams of settlers for northeastern and central New Jersey, and to a lesser extent, for the extreme northwest. The Dutch were also interested in the lower Delaware Valley but the effective initial settlement there was made by a

Swedish company and mostly Swedes and Finns were concerned. These people, however, were very few in numbers and were almost entirely settled on the west bank of the Delaware until some of them moved to the New Jersey side in the 1670s.

Other non-English groups who came early to settle New Jersey included Africans, who came involuntarily, Scots, Irish, Scotch-Irish, and Germans. Africans were first associated with the Dutch West India Company as slaves and in general, slavery came especially to be associated with Dutch-settled areas. At first, the Africans could hardly be thought to be a single cultural group, because many different peoples and languages were represented. In large part, however, they initially came from the Guinea Coast of West Africa.

Scots came to New Jersey later than Africans, mostly in the 1680s. At that time East Jersey was a separate proprietary colony and several of the proprietors, who were Scots, took an interest in settling their countrymen in the central part of their colony. Scots founded Perth Amboy in 1683. The Scotch-Irish were closely related in culture to the Scots. Indeed many of their ancestors had been Scots who had settled in northern Ireland several generations before. The Scotch-Irish appeared in New Jersey early in the eighteenth century, generally arriving as families independently or as part of a general migration of people who had first settled in southeastern Pennsylvania and later moved to new land in northwestern New Jersey. Southern Irish, who were Roman Catholic rather than Presbyterians, as were the Scotch-Irish, were undoubtedly present in considerable numbers at the time of the Revolution but did not settle in large numbers in any one location. As there were no Roman Catholic churches, and as the Irish easily mixed with the English-speaking population, they were not able to remain as a distinct cultural element. Germans, however, were more successful than Scots, Scotch-Irish or Irish in retaining their cultural identity. Their use of their own language, instead of the English used by the other groups, strengthened their resistance to cultural assimilation. Germans came largely to northwestern New Jersey, especially to Hunterdon County, along with the general tide of Pennsylvanians in that area, also, at an even earlier time, to central New Jersey.

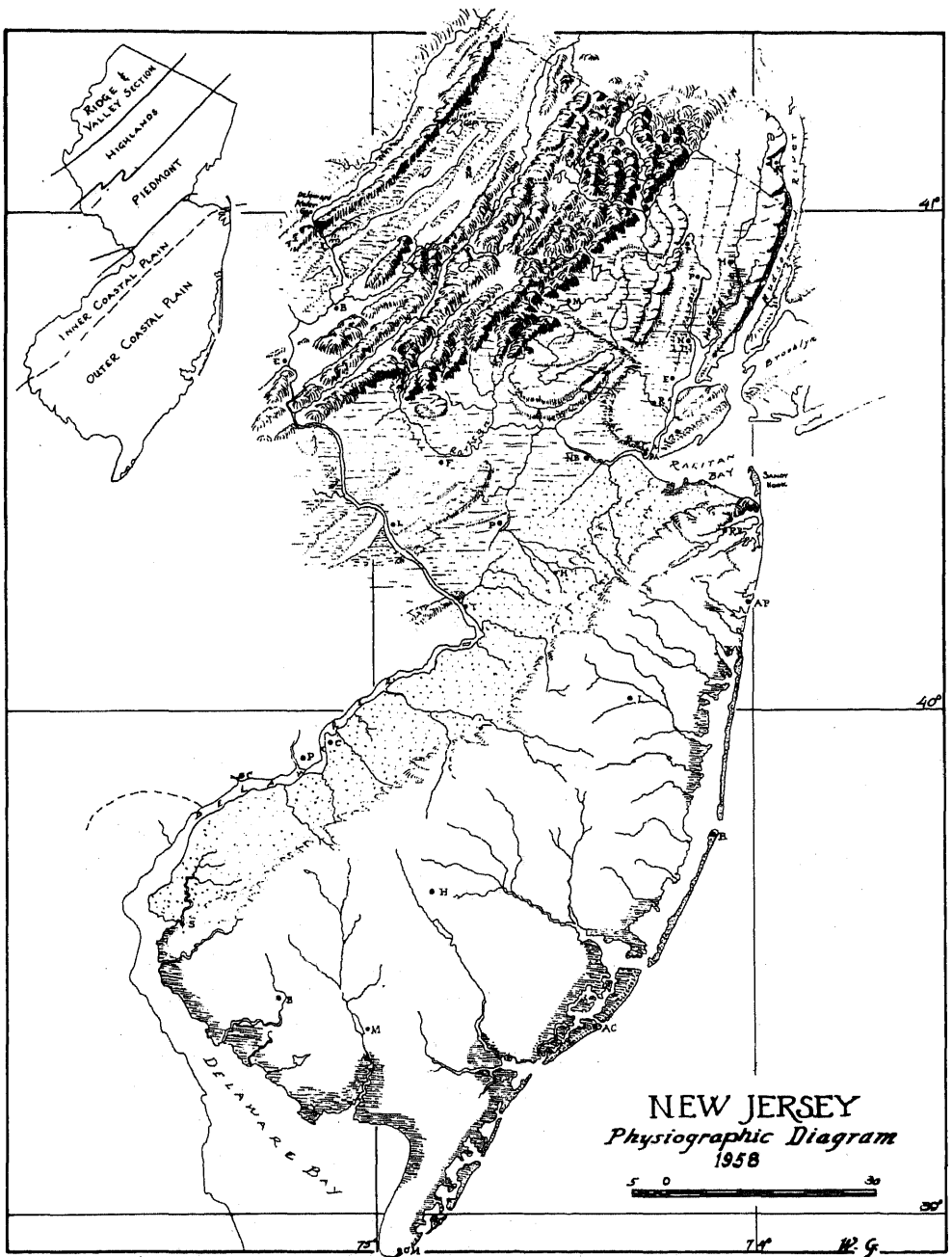
It should also be understood that people of English origin had

wide cultural differences in colonial New Jersey. Although many Englishmen came as individuals or in family groups and settled in various places, distinct areas were dominated by New Englanders who were Puritans, and believed in a rather harsh code of laws, or by English Quakers, who believed in tolerance and in nonviolence. The New England settlements, which were in the form of large, group-occupied town grants, began at Elizabethtown (modern Elizabeth) in 1664. Quaker settlements began in the southwest with John Fenwick's colony at Salem in 1675 and with other groups coming a few years later to places such as Burlington (Map 1). Most estimates of the total numbers of all those of English origin place them at from slightly less to slightly more than half the population of New Jersey in 1790.

The early European and African settlers of New Jersey, as did their predecessors, the Lenni-Lenape (later called Delaware "Indians"), used and transformed the surface of the land. Although cultural geographers believe that the natural or physical environment does not *force* a narrow range of reactions on the part of man, to deny the importance of the physical environment in *offering* different kinds of *opportunity* to man would be foolish. Moreover, it is of great significance to determine what differences, if any, the various cultural groups saw and created in the various environments. Finally, knowledge of the major physical divisions provides us with a handy frame of reference for discussing man on the land in New Jersey. In addition to the maps presented in this pamphlet, a handy study aid for New Jersey history and geography may be found in the use of an ordinary road map of the state.

Map 2 (p. 9) depicts the several physiographic (surface feature) divisions of New Jersey. These are areas that are very much alike in their geological makeup and in what their surfaces look like. As New Jersey contains a relatively small area and vast differences in climate did not and do not occur, generalizations about soils and natural vegetation can also be made within the framework of the physiographic divisions.

As can readily be seen, New Jersey's physiographic divisions trend in a northeast-southwest direction. The largest division is that of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which is made up of two parts, together comprising about three-fifths of New Jersey's total land area. The Inner Coastal Plain is in general quite fertile but the Outer Coastal Plain tends, in most places, to be composed of extremely



Map 2. The Physiographic Regions of New Jersey. Courtesy Department of Geography, Rutgers University.

porous sands and is thus comparatively infertile. Most of the plain is low, ranging up to about 400 feet above sea level. A prominent feature, the Navesink Highlands, fronting Sandy Hook Bay, is only 276 feet high.

Bordering the Inner Coastal Plain is the Piedmont, which includes about one-fifth of New Jersey. This is a plateau made up of gently rounded hills separated by wide valleys. In some places knobs and ridges rise several hundred feet above the general surface. These include the well-known Watchung "Mountains" which rise to 879 feet above sea level at Paterson, the lower Palisades, Cushetunk Mountain (839 feet), and Sourland Mountain (563 feet). These were all formed through vulcanism, a name for a group of natural processes associated with various forms of volcanic activity. The rolling lowlands which comprise most of the region are made up of sandstones and shales, which provide fertile soils with characteristic brown and red coloration. The sandstone, popularly known as "brownstone," was formerly an important and widely quarried building stone.

The Piedmont, as well as the physiographic divisions to the north, were affected by Pleistocene (Ice Age) glaciation. The Wisconsin terminal moraine, a hilly belt which marks the farthest advance of the last ice sheet, crosses the Piedmont from around Perth Amboy looping northward to cross the Watchungs and then trends almost directly west. Glaciation affected the land surface in several ways. In some places the soil was removed. In other places deposits of sands, clays, and even boulders seriously diminished agricultural potential.

In the case of the Piedmont, two major effects of Pleistocene glaciation were the formation of glacial lakes Passaic and Hackensack. Lake Passaic formed between the second Watchung Ridge and the Highlands (Map 2). Heavy clays were deposited in the lake and the prior drainage was disrupted by glaciation to form a series of swamps in the Passaic watershed, the best known of which is the Great Swamp. The legacy of Lake Hackensack is the tidal marsh known as the Hackensack Meadows.

Bordering the Piedmont on the north and west is a distinctly higher belt of uplands known in New Jersey as the "Highlands." This physiographic division is really an extension of New England's hard crystalline rocks, with an average elevation of one thousand

feet above sea level. Several relatively narrow valleys trend northeast-southwest at elevations of four hundred to six hundred feet below the "mountains," which have local names such as Musconetcong Mountain. Southwest of the glaciated area these valleys are fertile and productive, the uplands somewhat less so where they are level enough for agriculture. Northeast of the terminal moraine glacial scouring and deposition has made both upland and lowland surfaces generally unfit for agriculture.

The Ridge and Valley section, lying northwest of the Highlands, comprises only about one-twelfth of the state's land surface. As the name implies, the area is made up of alternating ridges and lowlands. The ridges are composed of sandstones and conglomerates and the lowlands of softer limestones and shales. The highest of the ridges is the locally prominent Kittatinny Mountain, lying between sixteen hundred and eighteen hundred feet above sea level, through which the Delaware River flows to form the Delaware Water Gap. The largest part of the region is the lowland known as the Kittatinny Valley, which varies between four hundred and one thousand feet above sea level. The other distinct lowland surface is that portion of the Delaware Valley locally termed the Minisink Valley, which lies northwest of Kittatinny Mountain. This is the locale of the "Old Mine Road" and a national recreation area. Legend attributes a mid-seventeenth century origin to the road, which ultimately led to Kingston on the Hudson. More surely known is that it encouraged penetration of the area by a few Dutch pioneers around 1700. In general, these pioneers found soils in the lowland portions of this area which were fair to good for agriculture but not nearly as fertile as the better soils of the Inner Coastal Plain or the Piedmont.

In climate New Jersey varies appreciably but not greatly from south and east (coastal) to north and west (interior) locations. The average length of the frost-free season for example, varies between 210 days for the tip of Cape May and 140 days for the northwestern interior. The growing season, which for the hardier crops that can withstand light frosts, begins at 43° F., lasts 216 days in the northwestern part of New Jersey and 255 days at Cape May. Precipitation is less variable than temperature. New Jersey receives between 44 and 48 inches annually.

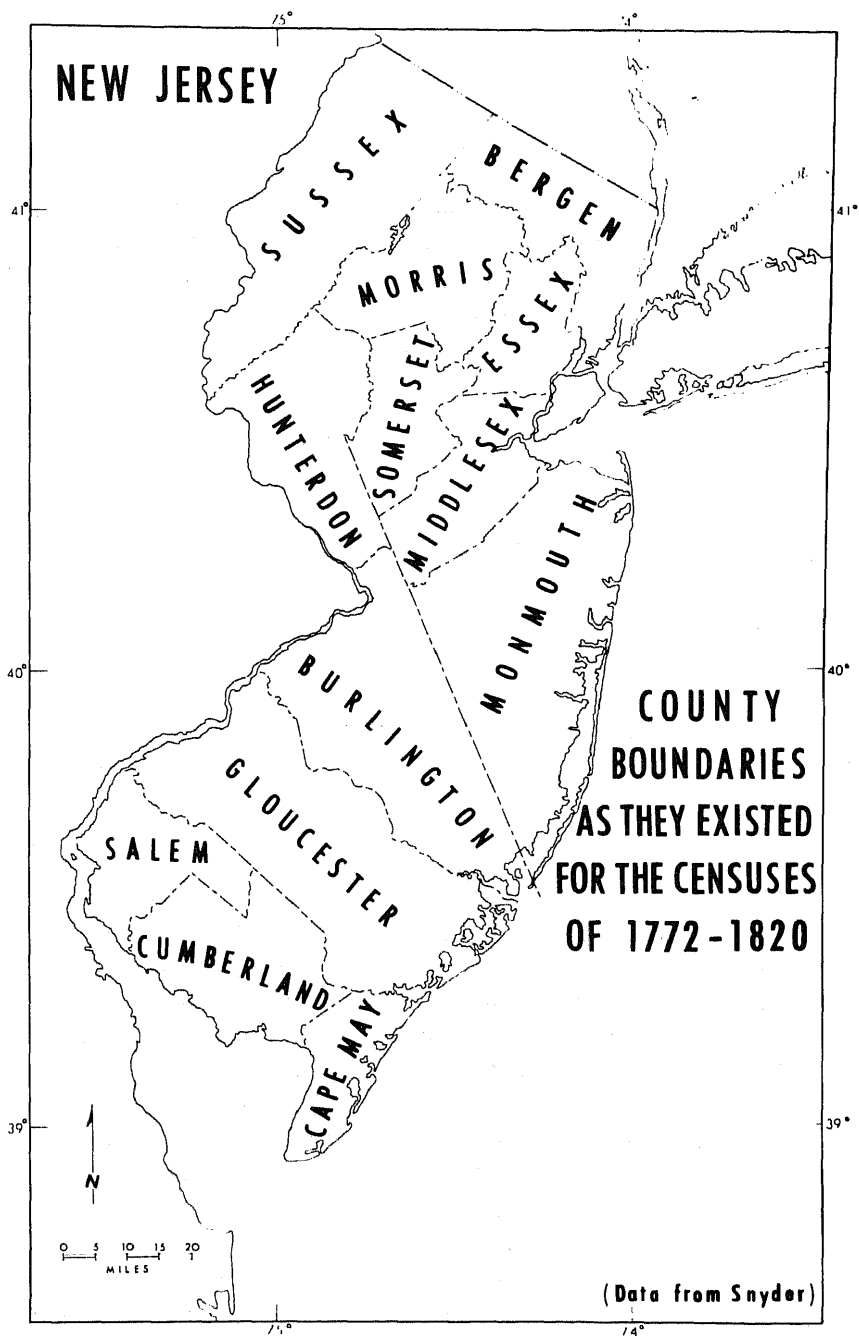
The latest research on natural vegetation (vegetation as it

would be if man were not present) indicates that where soil cover and drainage allow, forest would be the plant cover. From the Piedmont north a forest dominated first by sugar maple, then by American chestnut (now virtually extinct) and various oaks, would exist. Almost all of the Inner Coastal Plain and much of the Outer Coastal Plain would be a mixed oak forest with few sugar maples but including the American chestnut as a common tree. Even in the area which came to be known as the "Pine Barrens" oaks would dominate if it were not for the fact that for centuries man-made fires have served to favor pines.

Although forest would be the natural plant cover except in swamps and marshes and some very few other places, early European descriptions of New Jersey emphasize the existence of a great deal of open meadow and grassland. The reason for this was that many centuries of human occupation of New Jersey had passed by the time Europeans arrived. Present at that time were the Lenni-Lenape, who largely relied on agriculture. Their farm plots were rather small, consisting generally of only a few acres, but they moved them often when soil fertility fell off and thus fairly extensive areas came to be affected. The larger cleared areas were probably due to the deliberate Indian practice of burning to drive game. Early European accounts often mention the Indian-set fires and stress the attractiveness of the many open areas and the possibility of good hunting and productive agriculture. The Raritan Valley was especially praised in this respect.

As mentioned earlier, in order to understand how the regionalization of New Jersey's cultural groups took place, it is important to know something of her political history. Other than the fact that the English wrested control of the area including New Jersey from the Dutch in 1664, the most important factor was that New Jersey was actually *two* proprietary colonies during her early formative years. These were the colonies of East Jersey and West Jersey, which were two separate governments until 1702. Even after that time (and, indeed, today), unsold land still belonged to either the proprietors of East Jersey or West Jersey and not to the colony or state.

The two proprietary colonies came about as a result of the fact that King Charles II had deeded a vast domain in eastern North America to his brother James, duke of York, in 1664. James then



Map 3. County Boundaries, 1772-1820. Data from John P. Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries, 1606-1968* (Trenton: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969). Map by author.

sent the fleet which took the area from the Dutch but even before the fleet had reached America, James deeded the area to become New Jersey to two friends, Sir George Carteret and John, Lord Berkeley. Unfortunately, the maps of the day were poor and the deed's boundaries inexact. For that reason the boundary with New York was not exactly determined until 1769 (compare Maps 1 and 2). Berkeley and Carteret were responsible for the government and sale of land in New Jersey for about a decade, until 1673, when the Dutch temporarily regained control. When the Dutch were again ousted in 1674 Berkeley sold out his proprietary rights to two Quakers. Unfortunately, again the boundary was not certain. Even Berkeley's legal right to sell half the colony was in question. In any case, the colony of West Jersey shortly evolved from the Quaker purchase. In 1676, the Quaker proprietors met with Sir George Carteret and executed the "Quintipartite Deed" which divided New Jersey by a line running from a point on the east side of Little Egg Harbor to the most northerly point of the boundary with New York. Unfortunately, no one could agree on where the boundary with New York actually was. This did not matter in the earliest years but as the two colonies began to fill in, and proprietors sold more and more land, some agreement on the boundary had to be made.

A general solution to the question came in 1687 when George Keith was commissioned to survey the line. Keith terminated his line at the South Branch of the Raritan River because the governor of West Jersey protested that the boundary favored East Jersey (Map 1). In the next year the governors of the two colonies agreed on extending a boundary for administrative purposes but the question of who had legal title to the land remained in doubt for years. In any case the boundary lines did effectively separate the West Jersey county of Hunterdon (later Hunterdon, Morris and Sussex counties) from the East Jersey counties of Somerset, Essex and Bergen. This boundary line today still exists as a partial or full line of division between the counties of Burlington, Monmouth, Ocean, Mercer, Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Union, Essex, and Passaic.

What was the cultural significance of the establishment of two colonies? Most important, perhaps, is the fact that the two sets of proprietors deliberately sought selected cultural groups as their customers for land sales. The Quaker proprietors of West Jersey initially sought Quakers from England as settlers. When

TABLE 1

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF CULTURAL AND RACIAL GROUPS IN NEW JERSEY BY COUNTY, 1790

County	Dutch	French	English & Welsh	Swedes & Finns	Blacks	Scots	German	Total Population
Bergen	32 (66)	12	12		20	8	16	12,601
Burlington			81	5	4	10		18,095
Cape May			47	47 (8)	6			2,571
Cumberland			66	12	3	10	10	8,248
Essex	14	5	55		7	19		17,785
Gloucester			77	10	4	5	5	13,363
Hunterdon	23		28		7	19	23	20,253
Middlesex	18	4	35		9	33	2	15,956
Monmouth	— (45)	3	66		12	18	2	16,918
Morris	10		53		4	14	19	16,216
Salem			79	7	5	9		10,437
Somerset	25 (67)	2	49		16	5		12,296
Sussex	15		54		3	10	19	19,500

Figures on blacks are from the 1790 census: *Return of the Whole Number of Persons Within the Several Districts of the United States* (Washington, D.C., 1802), pp. 38-40. Figures on white ethnic groups are from United States Census Bureau, *A Century of Population Growth from the First Census of the United States to the Twelfth, 1790-1900* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967), pp. 119-121, and Marcus L. Hansen "The Minor Stocks in the American Population of 1790," *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1931*, Vol. 1, pp. 370-372, 396-397. Figures in parentheses are from the latter.

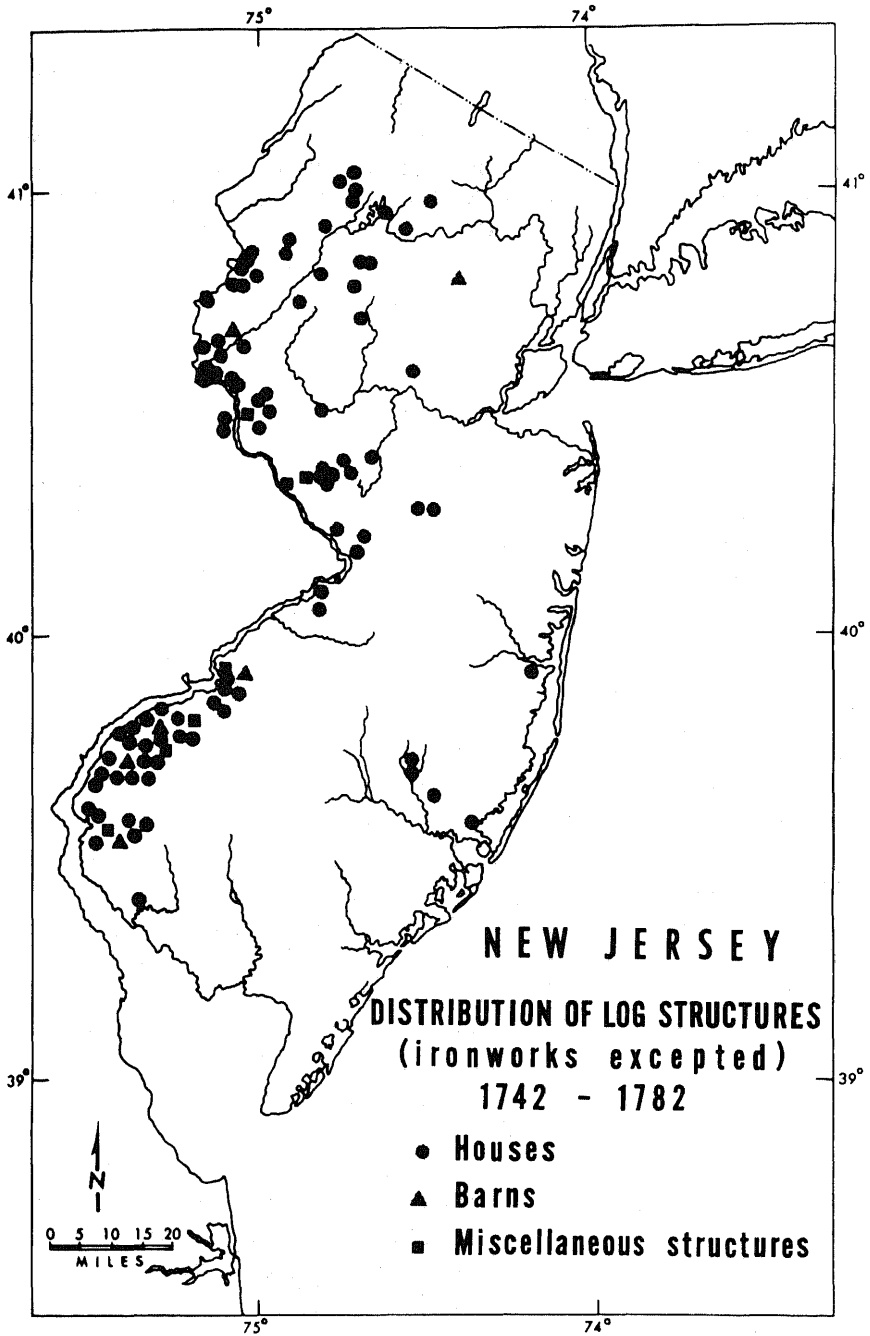
Pennsylvania was founded and became the primary sphere of Quaker activity, the stream of English Quakers was diverted elsewhere and the northern part of West Jersey had to depend on movements of people (often squatters) from eastern Pennsylvania and from East Jersey. For this reason the cultural geography of West Jersey is quite different north of the northern boundary of old Burlington County (Map 3, p. 13).

In East Jersey, Dutch settlement had existed before the English arrived. The duke of York's governor sought to populate the area with Englishmen and encouraged the movement of people from nearby New England. Unfortunately, in the case of the very earliest New England immigrants, the area which became New Jersey had changed hands *before* they came, so they found their ownership of land in question. This later resulted in land riots during the 1740s and 1750s. In any case, Berkeley and Carteret also encouraged New Englanders, especially, to come to East Jersey, and many did.

In 1682, a group of men bought the rights to remaining unsold land from George Carteret's widow. These became the East Jersey proprietors, among whom were several Scots, and thus during the 1680s Scottish emigration to East Jersey was encouraged.

Undoubtedly there were other important consequences of the division of New Jersey into two governments. Quaker laws and administration were much more lenient than the oppressive Puritanism of East Jersey. In regard to the cultural landscape, one aspect of the toponymy (naming of places) of New Jersey is striking. Small streams in West Jersey are characteristically called "runs" in keeping with the general practice in Pennsylvania and points to the south and west. In East Jersey they are termed "brooks," the common practice in New England. The distribution of these place names is clearly related to the old East-West Jersey division and not at all to physiography.

Physiography, however, did influence rapidity of settlement. Before 1700 the most fertile and accessible portions of the Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain had been settled in East Jersey. West Jersey, which began to be settled a decade later, exhibited the same general pattern. In both provinces, the Outer Coastal Plain, despite its accessibility, was recognized as a poor place for



Map 4. Distribution of Log Structures, 1742-1782. Map by author.

agriculture, and, as a result settlement there remained quite sparse. Even in Cape May, where fishing and somewhat better soils had encouraged early settlement, very few people were involved.

Through time the numbers of people in various areas in New Jersey varied considerably. Total population, as revealed by colony-wide censuses, was 32,442 in 1726; 46,676 in 1738; 61,403 in 1745; and 184,139 in 1790. In general, the greatest densities existed in those areas settled earliest (especially by New Englanders) and on the better soils. Greater densities in the New England-settled areas occurred also because of their desire for more compact settlement in order to encourage social interchange. Conversely, the most dispersed population in the older-settled areas was that of the Dutch.

For all of New Jersey at the time, an important factor was the lack of urban places. Small agglomerated settlements other than the villages established by New Englanders (Newark, Elizabethtown, Woodbridge, for example), included places such as New Brunswick, Salem, Trenton, and Princeton, but these did not amount to much before the nineteenth century revolutions in transportation, industrialization, and urbanization. Places such as Burlington and Perth Amboy had been planned to be major ports and administrative centers by the proprietors in the seventeenth century, but the relatively small size of East and West New Jersey and the fact that the most fertile portions of those colonies lay near either Philadelphia or New York, made New Jersey a "barrel tapped at both ends" by those two aggressive commercial centers.

Census figures, which are probably not completely accurate, indicate a rapid immigration to New Jersey before the Revolution. A natural rate of population increase per year at that time, for example, might have been about 2.5 percent but most counties grew on an average of 4 to 5 percent annually between 1726 and 1738. In frontier areas growth was even more rapid. Hunterdon County (later split into Hunterdon, Morris, and Sussex) grew at an average rate of 9 percent a year between 1738 and 1745, for example, and an incomplete census taken in 1772 reveals an average rate of 13.5 percent per year increase for Morris and Sussex counties from 1745. By 1790, however, when the first nationwide census was taken, New Jersey's population totally or by county was growing at *less than* the natural rate of increase and

other evidence also reveals people leaving the state instead of entering it. Thus, it is probable that the population of 1790, in terms of cultural origins, was much like the population on the eve of the Revolution. Table I (p. 15) is an attempt to provide estimates of the varying members and percentages of cultural and racial groups in New Jersey, by county, in 1790. The figures in parentheses represent an independent estimate of the numbers of two minority groups, the Dutch and the Swedes, which may be more accurate than the initial estimates shown.

Some modification of Table 1 can be made on the basis of a knowledge of the distributions of the various churches and meeting houses prior to the Revolution. Religion was one of the most important nonmaterial culture traits at that time and is thus a good index of the distribution of particular cultural groups. The following picture of cultural distribution results from the study of Table 1 and the information on the distribution of religious groups.

1. Englishmen were widely dispersed in all the counties, but English Quakers were especially dominant in the older West Jersey counties of Burlington, Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland.

2. New Englanders, distinct from other Englishmen culturally, made a few settlements in West Jersey, including Cape May, but dominated Essex County and adjacent portions of Morris, Somerset, and Middlesex counties.

3. Blacks were found in small numbers in West Jersey, but were especially to be located on fertile Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain soils in East Jersey, settled by non-Quakers, especially of "Dutch" origin. Hunterdon County, the major exception for the location of relatively large numbers of Africans in West Jersey, was largely settled from East Jersey and also by Pennsylvanians of non-Quaker origins.

4. It is difficult to separate individuals of Scottish, Irish, and Scotch-Irish origins as the Catholic Church was not legal and as both Scots and Scotch-Irish (along with most New Englanders) were Presbyterians. It is probable that in West Jersey Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania were a strong element in the population, while in East Jersey, especially in Monmouth and Middlesex counties, many Scots were undoubtedly present.

What could be said of these various groups at about the time of the American Revolution? A contemporary, John Rutherford, a

wealthy man of English background, revealed the common stereotypes of the various cultural groups in his "Notes on the State of New Jersey," written in 1786.

"Tho some of these settlements were made, with some intermixtures above 120 years ago, they still retain the manners, Language, and worship of their predecessors; those from New England affect more gentility, are more apt to run in debt, to scheme and speculate, more litigious, and have more Genius and Learning, fond of Arms, Liberty, and Democracy. While the low Dutch are a quiet, frugal People, possess considerable property, are afraid to run in Debt, without being fond of Law, or Offices of Government."

Rutherford thought the Quakers to be "noted for a frugal and industrious People ... [and] have no Poor among them." The Germans, "who came here late and poor," were "laborious, ingenious and parsimonious," and as a result were "daily acquiring Estates, especially in the large Counties of Hunterdon and Sussex."

By that time, it is interesting to note that the Swedes, Finns, French, and other non-Hollander "Dutch," Scots, Scotch-Irish and Irish were not mentioned as separate cultural groups. Rutherford did not even consider blacks for at that time most blacks were slaves and had little to say about politics or economy. In any case, all evidence points to the assimilation of blacks by the various cultures of European origin. This was especially made possible by their status as slaves, and by the fact that several quite different African cultures were originally represented.

There is no doubt that Rutherford's view of the cultural groups in New Jersey was held by others. How true this view was is open to question. Recent research on the national groups present in southeastern Pennsylvania, for example, indicates that from the economic standpoint at least, various national groups were more similar than dissimilar.

Nonmaterial cultural traits may have suggested different reactions toward the contending factions in the revolutionary war. Quakers generally remained aloof from the fighting. "Dissenters" (i.e., British or non-Anglican Protestant religious association such as Scots, Scotch-Irish, and New Englanders) were often in the van of

those who fought the English. Thus, New Jersey, because of her population as well as her location in the fertile, relatively densely-settled, easily accessible corridor between the major American port cities of New York and Philadelphia, which were special military objectives, was more heavily involved in the war than was Quaker West Jersey. Further definitive statements about the involvement of cultural groups in the conflict will not be possible without a great deal more painstaking research, especially concerning the activities of individuals of known cultural affiliations.

We can be more sure in making conclusions about material cultural traits and their distribution. But even here we have to be careful in analyzing data. A map of the distribution of the cultural trait of building with logs instead of with sawed lumber, for example (Map 4, p. 17) reveals a general absence of the trait in timber-rich East Jersey. This conforms with the Dutch and New Englanders' known dislike of logs as a building medium. To use the distribution of log-building further as a cultural indicator, however, we should know that certain log-notching techniques are associated with particular cultural groups. A Swedish technique of log-building was widely used in southwestern New Jersey, for example, while in the northwestern part of the state a distinctive Pennsylvania-German notch is found.

At present, based on types of houses, buildings, and settlement patterns, we can say that "English" culture was remarkably dominant in New Jersey, although it took several forms. If we were to generalize about the cultural regions of New Jersey we could easily name five or six which were distinct:

1. The Outer Coastal Plain, which because of its remarkably sparse population, could be thought of as a separate region, although most of it was dominated by the culture found in region 2
2. English-Quaker New Jersey, which comprised the southern portion of old West Jersey
3. Old Essex County, which included portions of adjacent Middlesex and Morris counties, where New England culture dominated
4. Old Bergen County, where "Dutch" culture was very strong but strong New England cultural influences were found as well
5. A central New Jersey zone of cultural heterogeneity, which centers on the Raritan Valley and northern Monmouth County,

where no one culture prevailed but a "mixture" had not yet entirely come about

6. A northwestern region, where elements from East Jersey and southern West Jersey were deluged by the stream of emigrants from eastern Pennsylvania

Most of the important battles of the revolutionary war fought on New Jersey soil took place in the Piedmont and Inner Coastal Plain sections of regions two through five, which were strategically located on the most accessible corridor between New York and Philadelphia. How regional cultures affected these battles or indeed encouraged the revolt against England, we do not fully know at this time. As with the real differences between the cultural groups of the day, we need to learn a great deal more before we jump to hasty conclusions. In any case, there can be no doubt of the extremely varied cultural regions in New Jersey at the time. This must have had some concrete effects on the origins, course, and aftermath of the war.

For Further Reading

Several sources shed light on selected aspects of New Jersey's early cultural geography, but few provide a spatial framework. Histories, such as Richard P. McCormick's brief general survey, *New Jersey from Colony to State, 1609-1789* (Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1964) and John Pomfret's two volumes *The Province of East New Jersey, 1609-1702* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962), and *The Province of West New Jersey, 1609-1702* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956) provide a good general starting point. *New Jersey, a History* (6 vols.; New York: American Historical Society, 1930-1932) edited by Irving S. Kull, is both chronological and topical and (though dated) is useful for its monographs on sociological, economic, and cultural topics. An excellent (but again dated) source on the material and non-material culture history of the New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania region is Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker's *The Founding of American Civilization: The Middle Colonies* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1938).

Population, largely in terms of numbers and gross distribution through time, is treated by John E. Brush in *The Population of New Jersey* (2nd. ed.; New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1958). Rudolph Vecoli, on the other hand, has provided us with a history of the population of New Jersey, by cultural groups, from colonial times through the twentieth century in *The People of New Jersey* (Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1965). Several recent papers, read at the annual symposia of the New Jersey Historical Commission and subsequently published by the Commission, shed new light on specific cultural, racial, and social groups. Especially valuable are Adrian C. Leiby's "The Conflict Among The Jersey Dutch During the Revolution" and Francis D. Pigeon's "Slavery In New Jersey On The Eve Of The Revolution", both in William C. Wright, ed., *New Jersey in the American Revolution: Political and Social Conflict* (rev. ed.; Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1974), and a much-needed quantitative study, "The Revolution In East Jersey: A Whig Profile" by Dennis P. Ryan in William C. Wright, ed., *New Jersey in the American Revolution II* (Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1972).

New Jersey must be viewed in the perspective of the cultural geography of the United States. The best general introduction to the topic is Wilbur Zelinsky's *The Cultural Geography of the United States* (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1973). Henry Glassie, in *Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), has presented the best account of the distribution of traditional material culture traits and existing culture areas for the region. Also relevant is James Lemon's landmark study in historical social geography, *The Best Poor Man's Country: a Geographical Study of Early Southeastern Pennsylvania* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972).

This pamphlet has been based in large part on several of the author's own books and articles, and the maps are taken from these publications. Population and settlement patterns are treated in *Land and People*, Vol. 1, *A Cultural Geography of Pre-Industrial New Jersey* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1975). The historical geography of the black population in particular is developed in "Patterns and Problems In the Historical Geography Of The Afro-American Population Of New Jersey, 1726-1860" in

Ralph E. Ehrenberg, ed., *Proceedings of the Conference on the National Archives and Research In Historical Geography* (Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1975). The distribution of major house and barn types is briefly set forth in "New Jersey's Cultural Landscape Before 1800," which has been published in New Jersey Historical Commission, *Proceedings of the Second Annual Symposium* (Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1971). The author's book, *The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey: A Historical Geography* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1968) is useful for an overview of the historical geography of the northwestern portion of the state. Much of the author's research on population patterns has been made feasible by the appearance of a standard source on New Jersey's civil divisions. This is John P. Snyder's *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries: 1606-1968* (Trenton: Bureau of Geology and Topography, 1969). Hopefully, interest in the Bicentennial will provide much-needed additional sources on New Jersey's cultural geography.

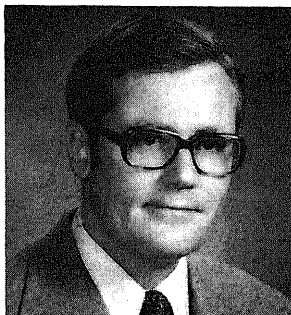
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T.M.