

STORIES of New Jersey

circumstance as to food and Raiment. Josh took them a considerable parcel of old cloaths with which the poor nakid children seemed Exceedingly Pleased. Joshua had been under some concern for these poor creatures and proposed to them that if they could get some money he would try to get some Blankets for them and so mentioned the Case amongst friends and collected a parcel of Blankets for them gratis and so made them pay for them at a moderate price and when he had got their money he laid it out in Corn for them. Not letting them know what he intended to do with their money until after he Delivered the Blankets, this he did because these poor things are apt to lay out their money in Strong Drink.

In 1801, the "Original People" were invited to "eat out of the same dish" with the Indians on the reservation at New Stockbridge, near Lake Oneida, New York. The following year, in May, the Edge Pilloock reservation was sold. The proceeds were used to pay the transportation of the little band of 100, accompanied by members of the Commission, to their new home. The Legislature appropriated \$3,551 in settlement of their Brotherton claims and the money was invested in United States securities for the benefit of the New Jersey Indians.

At the end of twenty years, the combined tribes bought a tract of land on Lake Michigan at Green Bay, Wisconsin. It would seem that these children of the wilderness would have been able to subsist as their forefathers had before them in this virgin territory. But they had become softened by their contact with civilization. Their numbers gradually dwindled until, in 1832, there were only 40 of the Lenapes left in the Green Bay colony; and these were living in poverty and misery. Even at this late date they still felt that they had a claim to the hunting and fishing rights in their old home.

They deputed one of their number, Bartholomew S. Calvin, who had been educated at Princeton University and had conducted a school at Edge Pilloock, to present a petition to the New Jersey State Legislature for a payment of \$2,000 in lieu of their claim to the hunting and fishing privileges. Obviously, they had no legal claim to the money but the plea was made so eloquently and so courteously that the Legislature was persuaded to see the moral aspect of the issue. The money was appropriated promptly, and the Indians finally relinquished all claim they had, or thought they had, on New Jersey.

A rusted water wheel, half-buried in the dust near the village of Indian Mills is all that marks the last home of the Lenni-Lenapes in New Jersey. A few shell piles along the sea coast where they had their gala feasts; a few graves covered with shells to keep wild animals away; arrowheads, dishes and stone hatchets buried in the woods or swamps; the Indian names of towns, rivers, parks and streets are the only reminders of the "Old People."