

## STORIES of New Jersey

tle on the property, and be both "friend and physician to the people of that region." Her parents, fearing that she was too young to take such a serious step without further thought, asked her to postpone the venture for awhile, and then, if she were still convinced of her mission, they would give their consent.

During the three years that followed, Elizabeth prepared for the future. She learned how to manage a home economically and read much about diseases and agriculture. At last, seeing that Elizabeth's decision could not be changed, her parents permitted her to depart. In the spring of 1701, accompanied by an older woman who was to serve as housekeeper and two reliable Quaker workmen, Elizabeth Haddon set sail on a two-masted ship for America.

The simple log house built for her by Willis became known throughout the province. She helped the needy and made friends with Indians who taught her the secrets of their medicinal herbs. These herbs she used on her nursing expeditions about the countryside. There were no roads, and the narrow Indian trails could be penetrated only on horseback. Elizabeth lived three miles from her nearest neighbor, yet the loneliness did not frighten her. She welcomed every stranger who asked for shelter at her door. John Estaugh, who had learned of her arrival in West Jersey, came to visit with a fellow missionary, but after several days duties elsewhere took him away.

When summer came to Haddon's fields, it brought John Estaugh back along the new King's Highway which stretched from Burlington to Salem. Together with a group of Quakers, he was headed for the Quarterly Meeting at Salem. That night the travelers stayed at Elizabeth's home, and she learned of Estaugh's intention to return to England within a few days. The news saddened her.

Next morning, preparing to accompany the party to Salem, Elizabeth waited until the others had mounted their horses, and then pretended that something was wrong with her saddle. According to Longfellow's story in "Tales of a Wayside Inn," Estaugh came at once to her side and

Then Elizabeth said, though still with a certain reluctance

As if impelled to reveal a secret she fain would have guarded:

"I will no longer conceal what is laid upon me to tell thee;

I have received from the Lord a charge to love thee, John Estaugh."

But John, surprised by this proposal, would not give Elizabeth an immediate answer. Elizabeth guessed that he was troubled by the contrast between her father's prosperity and his own poverty. It was not long, however, before John decided.

Three months later he hastened back from England to tell Elizabeth that he had her father's approval for their marriage. They were married October 1, 1702, at Elizabeth's home in the presence of Quaker and Indian neighbors. John continued with his religious work, but now he was also employed as agent for the Pennsylvania Land Company and as overseer of his father-in-law's growing business interests on this side of the Atlantic. Hundreds of acres were added to the plantation which Elizabeth supervised as before. In 1705 she became Clerk of the Women's Meeting in the Society of Friends, an important position which she held for more than 50 years.

In 1713 Elizabeth and John built a splendid two-storied home on the Haddon estate, a mile from the old house, within the present limits of the town of Haddonfield. The year in which the new house was first occupied is considered the birth date of the town. Yew trees and box hedge, which still live, and bricks for the cellar floor and garden walks were imported from England; bricks for the house walls were made in the kilns in Elizabeth's brickyard. When fire destroyed the house in 1842, some of the fine English furniture was saved and is now owned by members of the family. To save the yew trees, wet rugs were thrown