

STORIES of New Jersey

over their branches. One of the two still blooms each spring.

At the rear of the house was constructed a distillery where both Elizabeth and John made medicines and wine which was given free of charge to those who were ill. This was perhaps the first free dispensary in America. After Elizabeth Haddon's death, people continued to use her healing preparations for many years.

The Estaugh home and hospitality became famous throughout West Jersey. Food, herbs and clothing went to the poor. In winter, snowbound roads were opened up for less fortunate neighbors by the great oxen team which Elizabeth sent out. Over the years, the busy couple made three visits to England. On one of these occasions, Elizabeth obtained from her father the deed to a piece of his land to be used for a new Quaker meeting house and burial ground. A village had begun to grow up around Haddon's fields.

The happy marriage of Elizabeth Haddon and John Estaugh lasted for 40 years. Estaugh, at the age of 67 and in delicate health, felt it his duty to go as a missionary to Tortola in the West Indies. Here he became ill and died in 1742. Elizabeth wrote: "Few, if any, in a married state, ever lived in sweeter harmony than we did....My loss is far beyond my expressing, as is his worth." This "Testimony" to Estaugh's memory was printed in a book titled: *A Call to the Unfaithful Professors of Truth: Written by John Estaugh in his Lifetime; and now Published for General Service (1744)*. Elizabeth had this volume printed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia.

Elizabeth Haddon lived for 20 years after John died. She adopted her sister Sarah's son, Ebenezer Hopkins, and spent her declining years in the midst of numerous grandnephews and grandnieces. Not for one moment did she give up her position as head of the family. Up to her last day she ruled over the Haddon fields. In 1762, after three months of painful illness, which she bore without complaint, Elizabeth Haddon died at the age of 82.

Today in the town of Haddonfield there is a brass tablet dedicated to the memory of the only woman who ever settled alone on an American colonial plantation. The tablet is fastened to an old buttonwood tree about 20 feet from where she was buried. The plaque reads in part: "In Memory of Elizabeth Haddon... Founder and Proprietor of Haddonfield, N. J....A Woman Remarkable for Resolution, Prudence, Charity."