

STORIES of New Jersey

Republican army which was struggling to oust foreign troops who were sent to stamp out the revolution. Soon Napoleon's genius as a military leader was recognized, and with his brother's gradual rise to power, Joseph gained prominence as a diplomat--a role for which he was well fitted by temperament and training. In 1800, a year after Napoleon became First Consul and virtual dictator of France, Joseph kept France at peace by making treaties with the United States, Austria and England. Then in 1804 Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of France, and two years later he made Joseph King of Naples and Sicily. With the conquest of Spain in 1808, Napoleon ordered Joseph to move on to the royal palace at Madrid. Their brother-in-law, General Joachim Murat, replaced Joseph on the throne at Naples. Twenty years afterward, the name of Murat, as well as Bonaparte, was to arouse excitement and gossip among the citizens of Bordentown.

Within 20 years the Bonaparte family rose to the greatest heights in the political and military life of Europe, and then swiftly they fell. In 1812 Napoleon retreated from Moscow. In June 1813 the British, after driving Joseph and the French army from Spain, prepared to invade France. Two months later Austria declared war on Napoleon and was joined by Russia, the German States and a Swedish army under Crown Prince Bernadotte. The Prince, afterward King of Sweden and Norway, had been one of Napoleon's ambitious generals and had married Joseph's sister-in-law who was resentful because Napoleon did not marry her. Today the royal house in Sweden is descended from Bernadotte and his Queen.

In October 1813 Napoleon was defeated at the decisive battle of Leipzig, and early in 1814 France was invaded by the allies. The Emperor, now desperately occupied at the front, made Joseph Lieutenant General of the Empire and instructed him to defend Paris and to protect the Empress Maria Louisa and Napoleon's little son, the King of Rome. The fall of Paris came on March 31, followed immediately by Napoleon's abdication and departure for the island of Elba. Here he was to be confined for life. Joseph meanwhile fled to live quietly with his wife and two daughters in Switzerland.

For one year all was calm in Europe. Then suddenly the world was startled to learn that the Emperor had escaped from Elba, had landed in France, was sweeping vigorously across the nation with a growing army of loyal followers. Joseph, after burying a casket of precious jewels, hastened back to France to be with his brother. Victory succeeded victory, but at the end of a hundred days, disaster crashed down upon Napoleon at Waterloo and once more nothing remained for the Bonapartes but exile.

At the town of Rochefort in June 1815 Joseph pleaded with the Emperor to flee to America. He reminded him of the day three years before when Napoleon, with a map in front of him, had determined that a point on the Delaware River, convenient to New York and Philadelphia, would be the best location for a refuge if escape became necessary. Joseph urged his brother, who resembled him, to exchange passports and go aboard the American brig *Commerce* which lay at anchor in the small port of Royan. Napoleon, after much deliberation, decided to place himself in the hands of the British, and Joseph, taking the name of Bouchard, sailed for the United States on July 25. The *Commerce*, after eluding patrolling British frigates, reached New York on August 28, 1815. Safe in America, the mysterious passenger no longer feared to reveal that he was Joseph Bonaparte. To the public he presented himself as the Count de Survilliers, using the name of a village on his former estate in France.

During the two years following his arrival in this country, the ex-king of Spain took up various residences in New York City and Philadelphia. During this time he was looking about for an estate where he could settle down with greater privacy in more spacious surroundings. His search brought him to Bordentown where in August 1816 he instructed his interpreter, James Carret, to pay \$17,500