

## STORIES of New Jersey

ble boy to pay the lad in town who held his horse. Typical of his escapades was the aftermath of a billiard game in the hotel in Bordentown one summer night. Faced with the prospect of walking home through a sudden rainstorm, Lucien calmly removed all his clothes, tied them in a bundle and started off. The other young men followed suit, and soon the incident was the talk of Bordentown. During the 20 years he lived in New Jersey, Lucien made three attempts at farming and failed each time. These ventures and his love for horses, dogs and boats cost him and his creditors more than \$70,000.

When he was 24, Lucien eloped with beautiful Carolina Fraser of Bordentown, formerly of Baltimore. This marriage to a woman who was not of royal blood was the last straw for Joseph Bonaparte. Thereafter his unprincipled nephew could get no money from him. Soon Lucien had spent all his wife's money, and her sister's too. Carolina then opened a fashionable boarding school at her Park Street home in Bordentown and young girls were sent from great distances to study the graceful arts in the home of Mme. Murat whose charming husband was a prince. A woman of nerve as well as accomplishment, Mme. Murat once led the way when the people of Bordentown hesitated to step aboard the first railroad train. As the locomotive, called the *John Bull*, stood roaring on the track and puffing sparks from its funnel, all those who had come to witness the run of the first commercial railroad in New Jersey stepped back in fear. With one hand on her bonnet and the other holding her full skirts tightly, Carolina Murat stepped forward and was helped to a seat. It was only then that the rest of the gathering followed.

Lucien had an older brother, Achille, who settled in Florida. This Murat, who disliked to drink water or to wash with it, was a friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson and wrote several books on American manners and institutions. He married a grandniece of George Washington and became an American citizen. His first visit to Bordentown occurred in 1823, on his arrival in this country. In 1827, the year of Lucien's marriage, he again came to New Jersey to see his relatives.

If nephew Lucien was a problem to Joseph Bonaparte, nephew Pierre was a curse. Pierre Bonaparte, brother of Joseph's son-in-law, Charles, the sober scientist, came to Bordentown in 1831 when he was 17. Already he had killed a man in Italy. During his stay of a year in this country he earned a reputation for his uncontrollable temper and immoderate ways.

Besides worrying about the young members of his family, Joseph Bonaparte was now troubled by the fact that he was growing old, and there was still no immediate sign of a Bonaparte restoration in France. In 1832 he wrote urgently to the King of Rome, known also as the Duke of Reichstadt, Napoleon's frail son, who lived under the guardianship of his grandfather, the Emperor of Austria. "Let his Imperial Majesty consent to entrust you to my care...I will quit my retreat to...restore to the love of the French the son of the man whom I have loved the most of anyone upon earth. My opinions are well known in France... If you enter France with me and a tricolor scarf, you will be received there as the son of Napoleon."

But it was too late for the young Duke to act. He was already dangerously ill. Joseph, learning this, left Point Breeze in 1832 and sailed for England, hoping to be permitted to go to Vienna to see his nephew. Arriving at Liverpool, he was notified that Napoleon II had died on July 22, aged 21. Joseph Bonaparte, the Count de Survilliers, was now first their and claimant to the empire once ruled by his brother.

For five years, Joseph resided in England. His request that he be allowed to join his family in Italy was denied by the allied nations. In 1837 he came back to Point Breeze for two more years and then returned to England, leaving