

STORIES of New Jersey

these shores forever. In 1841, seriously ill, Joseph Bonaparte was taken to Italy on an English ship. Soon afterward he was permitted to join his wife and daughters at Florence, where he died in 1844 at the age of 76.

In Bordentown, Lucien Murat remained after his uncle's departure. But not for long. With the Revolution of 1848 in France, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, his first cousin and brother of Napoleon Louis, Joseph Bonaparte's second son-in-law, became President of the nation. This was the signal for Lucien to hurry abroad. His American wife and their four children followed later. Friends paid for their passage and some of the ladies of Bordentown made their clothes. There is a story that the two little boys were clad in suits made from a coachman's uniform. In France, Lucien became a member of the assemblies and Minister to Turin. When Louis Napoleon, who in 1837 had hunted at Point Breeze during Joseph's absence, was proclaimed Napoleon III, Emperor of France, his cousin Lucien became a Prince of the realm. A year after this event, in 1852, Lucien wrote to an old Bordentown crony: "I am president of three companies and Grand Master of the Masons...How different from the life...I enjoyed under my trees in Bordentown quietly smoking my cigar...However, my pride is satisfied...Pray remember me kindly to...old acquaintances who inquire after me. Tell them I am not changed, and that I often think of them all."

Such was Lucien Murat's farewell to the Bordentown he liked so well. Today his old home, Linden Hall, is known as 49-61 East Park Street, a row of attached houses remodeled in yellow stucco. Lucien belonged to Bordentown more than any of the Bonaparte clan. His children were born there; one was buried there in the graveyard of Christ Church. Lucien himself lived to be 75, but he never forgot the old town on the Delaware where he spent the richest and happiest years of his life.

Point Breeze was inherited by Zenaide's son, young Prince Joseph, who sold it in 1847. The property was later resold to Henry Beckett, an Englishman whom the Bordentown people called "the destroyer" because in 1850 he had the Bonaparte mansion demolished. The portion of the estate known today as Bonaparte Park, consisting of about 250 acres, was purchased in 1912 by Harris Hammond, son of John Hays Hammond, the famous mining engineer. After spending thousands of dollars to revive the splendor of what had once been the refuge of royalty, Hammond lost Bonaparte Park during the depression of the 1930's. In 1937 the company holding a mortgage on the property bought it for \$200. The old Point Breeze is gone forever. There remain only the original lodge house at the gate, the boxwood that Joseph planted and the beautiful old trees in the forest. Like the Bonaparte dynasty, Point Breeze had two periods of magnificence and glory and then decayed. It has long been forgotten that newspapers once called New Jerseymen "Spaniards" and New Jersey "Spain" because a former king of Spain found friendly exile on the eastern shore of the Delaware River.