

Bernards Township Timeline

From 185,000BC to 2020

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Bernards Township Historians

LAKE PASSAIC



RED OAKY TRAIL
INDIAN TRAIL
INDIAN TRAIL



Red shale formed from molten lava covered the area.

185,000
Years Ago

Lakes Hackensack and Passaic were formed from melting glacier.

15,000
Years Ago

Indian encampments here through 1760s.

1650

John Harrison appointed King's agent for East Jersey lands.

1701

1st settlers (Scots-Irish) arrive here
3,000 acres for \$50.00 from Chief Nowenoik, Lenni Lenapes.

1717

The Johnstone (Annin) family arrives from Scotland.

1722

1st reference to Basking Ridge in Presbyterian Church records.

1733

50,000
Years Ago

Wisconsin glacier covers northern part of continent.



1417

An acorn falls to earth and takes root in Basking Ridge.



1664

1st NJ Proprietors: Lord John Berkeley and Sir Geo. Carteret.

1664



1688

Somerset County created.



1720

Log Church built for Presbyterian worship.



1726

Somerset County Population 2,271 (386 slaves).

1737

Earliest burial (Henry Hains) in Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery.





Rev. Geo. Whitefield, English evangelist, preached to 3,000 people under White Oak tree.

1740

French - Indian Wars. Brothers William & John Annin bear arms.

1757

King George II creates by charter Township of Bernardston to honor Royal Governor.

1760

Dr. Samuel Kennedy starts the Basking Ridge Classical School at his King George Road Plantation.

1764

17266
RUTGERS

Queens College (Rutgers) chartered.

1766

Declaration of Independence approved by 13 colonies. Now, United States of America! July 4

1776

Washington's troops spend winter at Jockey Hollow

1777

Mary Lewis marries Revolutionary War veteran Joseph Kinnan.

1779

1749

Basking Ridge Presbyterian log church replaced with wooden church.

1758

New Royal Governor Francis Bernard arrives in New Jersey.



1761

Lord Stirling arrives from England and begins building Stirling Manor.



1766

William Annin builds his stone house in Liberty Corner.



1776

Major General Charles Lee arrested by British at Widow White's Tavern.



1778

June 28 - Battle of Monmouth. Gen'l Charles Lee insults George Washington and is court-martialed.



1779

Lady Catherine Alexander, daughter of Lord Stirling, weds William Duer at Stirling Manor.





2nd encampment of Washington's troops at Morristown. Worst winter during the Revolutionary War.

1780



Lord Stirling dies, Albany, NY.

1783



George Washington sworn in as first US President, April 30.

1789

Rev. Robert Finley becomes 5th pastor of Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church.

1795

N.J. Population 211,149 (12,422 slaves).

1800



James Linn of Bernards Twp. casts deciding vote in election of Thomas Jefferson vs Aaron Burr.

1800



William Dayton, born in Basking Ridge; U.S. Senator, V.P. Candidate & Ambassador to France.

1807

1781

Rochambeau's army camped overnight in Liberty Corner enroute to Richmond, VA.

1787

Samuel Southard noted American statesman, born in Basking Ridge.



1791

Mary Lewis Kinnan captured by Shawnee Indians in western Virginia.

1794

Mary Lewis Kinnan, rescued by brother, Jacob Lewis; returns to Basking Ridge.

1797

Andrew Kirkpatrick of Bernards Twp. appointed Chief Justice of NJ Supreme Court.

1802

Basking Ridge gets its first post office.

1806

Warren Twp. organized; leaves Bernards Twp.





Dr. Robert Finley leaves for Athens, GA. to head University of GA.

1817



Bernards Twp. population 2,062 includes Far Hills and Bernardsville.

1830

Rev. James English becomes 1st pastor of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church.

1838



Vealtown name is changed to Bernardsville.

1840

Van Dorn Mill built by Ferdinand VanDorn, replacing 1768 wood structure.

1843



Millington Baptist Church organized.

1851

1809

Brick Academy built by the efforts of Rev. Robert Finley.



1820

Missouri Compromise Bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Henry Southard & Sen. Samuel Southard.



1831

Sen. Samuel Southard serves as NJ Governor for one year.



1839

Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church erected (3rd on this site).



1844

Theodore Frelinghuysen is VP running mate of Henry Clay.



1850

St. Mark's Episcopal Church organized; chapel built 1852.



1853

Bishop Janes Methodist Church organized.



Local School Districts established. Public education arrives in Bernards Twp.

1853



Worship begins in St. James Roman Catholic Church.

1859



Civil War begins. Uniforms and mess wagon axles made in Town.

1861



New Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church built by James P. Goltra.

1869



Dr. Horatio Gates Whitnall, ret. Civil War surgeon, builds his mansion (125 So. Finley Avenue).

1871



The Railroad is completed! Station depots are established at Lyons and Basking Ridge.

1872

1856

William L. Dayton runs as VP candidate with John C. Fremont.



1860

Somerset County population reaches 23,000.

1867

Basking Ridge-Millington Detective Society organized.



1870

1st newspaper printed in Bernards Township.

1871

Washington House Hotel erected. Today's The Store Restaurant.



1876

First mention of Betsy Ross burial under Oak Tree in July 4 Centennial speech.





Flamboyant
Bernardsville
Mountain life
reaches peak:
estates,
servants,
social events.

1890s



Bernardsville
News
first published.

1897

Col. John
Jacob.
Astor IV don-
ates stones for
new Bishop
Janes Church.

1898

May 21, 1898
Basking Ridge
Free Public Cir-
culating Library
organized.

1898



Maple Avenue
School built.

1903



Basking Ridge
Fire Company
organized.

1904

Bernardsville
News reports
local debate
against
women's
suffrage.

1908

1889

Lecture to
Ladies only "The
Perils and
Possibilities of
American
Womanhood"



1895

Morris County
Crushed Stone
Co. (Millington
Quarry) is
incorporated.



1898

The Spanish-
American
War.

1898

Wooden Side-
walks installed
in Liberty
Corner.



1901

Nathan Wood-
ward "Uncle
Nate", last
Bernards Twp.
slave, dies at
age 110.



1903

Brick Academy,
no longer a
School, be-
comes a Union
Hall.



1905

Liberty Corner
School built.





Liberty Corner
Fire Company
incorporated.

1910



Main Street
renamed Finley
Avenue; Church
Street renamed
Oak Street.

1912



The luxury liner
Titanic hits an
iceberg on its
maiden voyage
and sinks. 1500
lives are lost.

1912



President
Wilson makes
a speech on
the Basking
Ridge Village
Green.

1913



April 6- Formal
entry of US into
WWI.

June 5 - Regis-
tration Day - 496
men in the Som-
erset Hills enlist.

1917

The remains of
Lord Stirling's
manor house
are destroyed
by fire.

1919

1908

Henry Ford's
Model T
car is
introduced.



1910

Movies shown in
Koechlein's
Store
upstairs, Liberty
Corner.



1911

Basking Ridge
railroad station
burns. Is rebuilt
in 1915.



1912

Samuel Owen
builds his sum-
mer home
"Cedar Hill"-
Today's' Munic-
ipal Building.



1912

June 6- Wood-
row Wilson
stays overnight
at the Stone
Hotel in Bern-
ardsville while
campaigning.



1915

The liner, Luis-
itania, sunk by a
German U-boat.



1918

World War 1
ends.



Bonnie Brae School locates on Valley Road.

1920



August 26 -19th Amendment - gives Women the right to vote.

1920



Basking Ridge Garden Club is organized.

1923

Brick Academy becomes Town Hall.

1924

Borough of Bernardsville organized. Leaves Bernards Township.

1924



October 10 - Charles Lindbergh makes first non stop solo flight across the Atlantic.

1927



South Maple Avenue becomes one of first paved roads in New Jersey.

1928

1920

VNA starts annual fund raising rummage sales.

1920

Prohibition-18th Amendment to the Constitution is passed.

1921

The Borough of Far Hills organized; leaves BernardsTwp.

1924

Annual Christmas Eve Carol Sing organized.

1924

The KKK arrives in town on Easter morning.

1925

Congress passes legislation creating VA Hospital at Lyons.

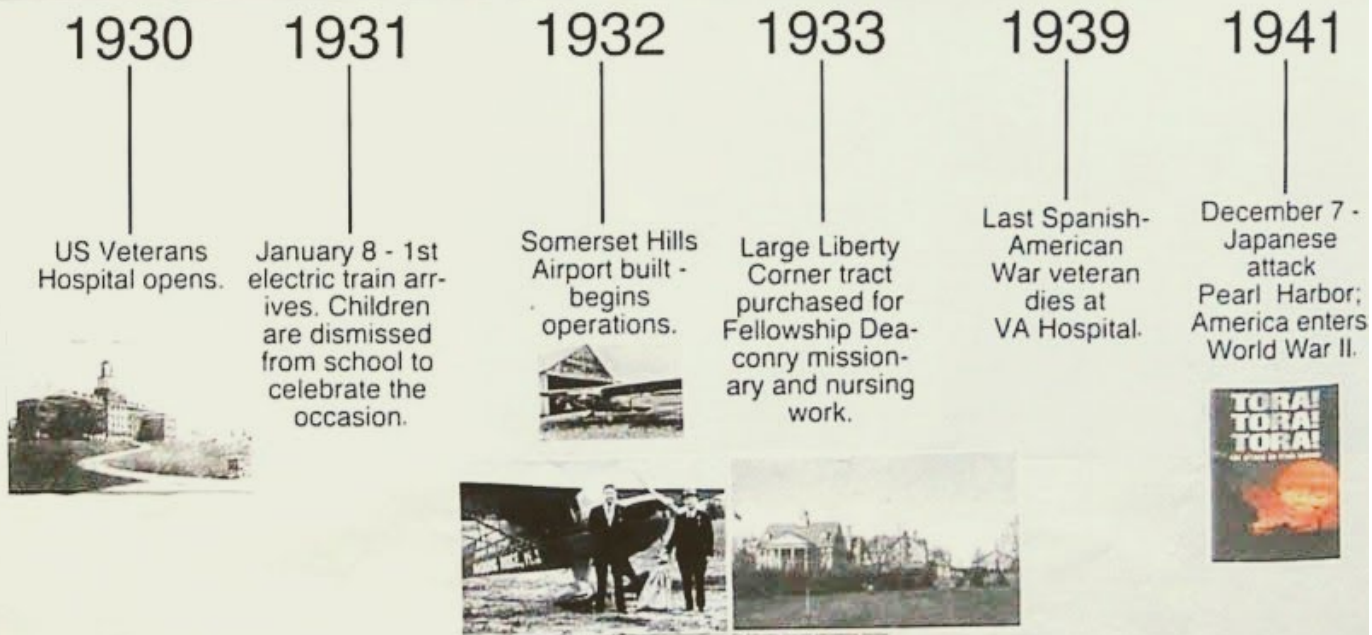
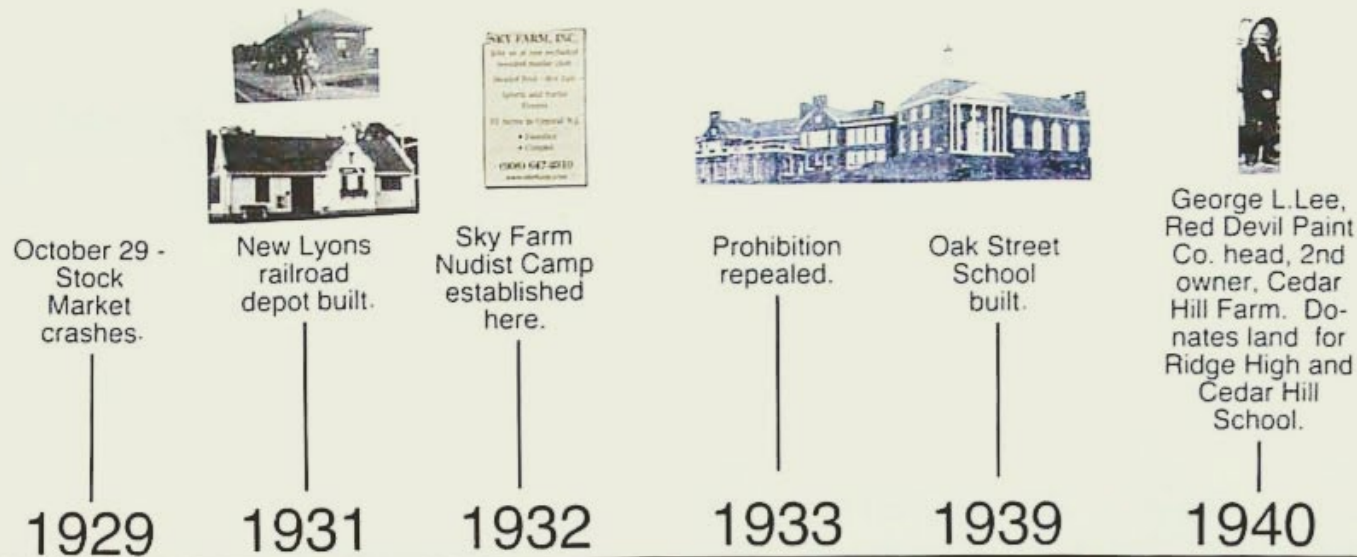
1928

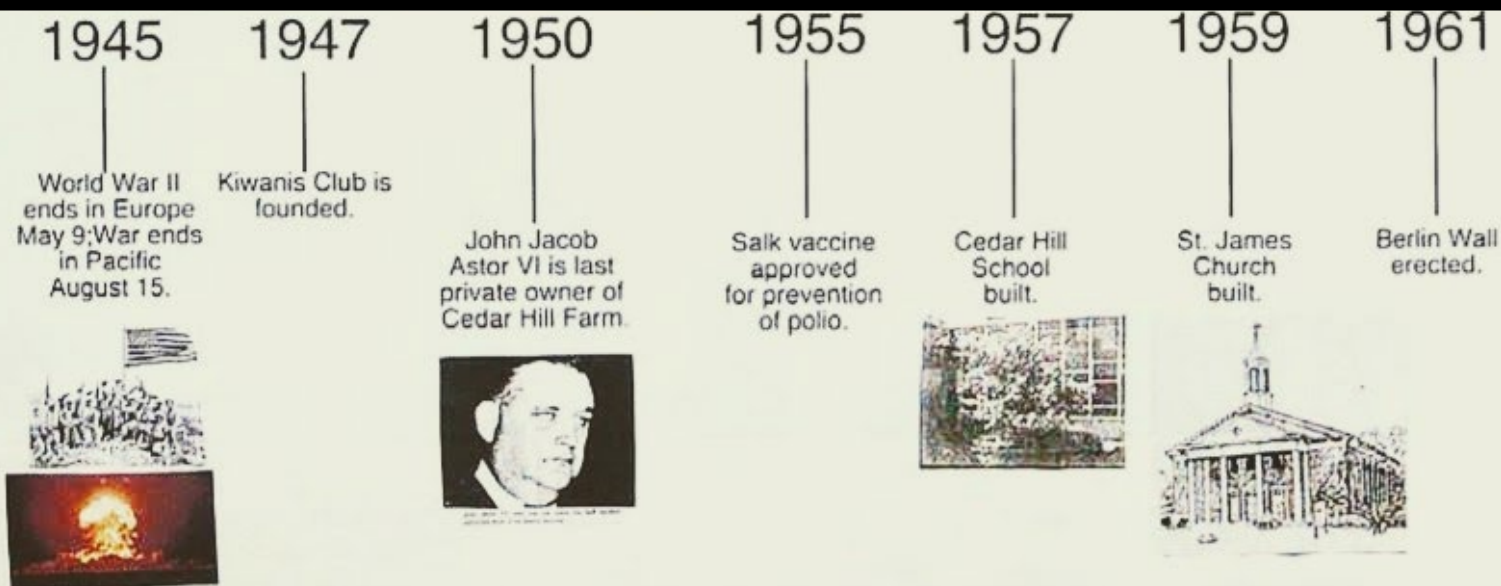
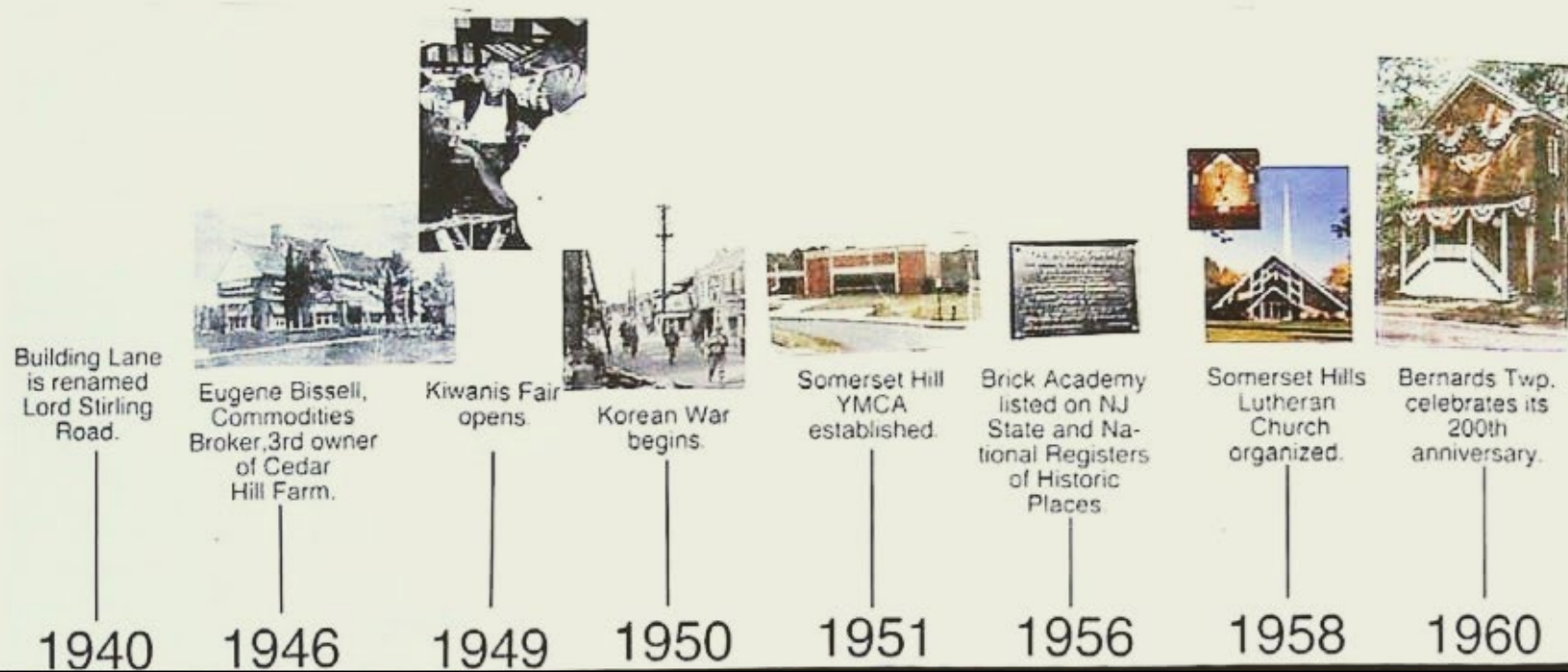
Basking Ridge Historical Society organized.
















Klansmen Take Active Part At Open Air Easter Service







							
Ridge High School built.	President John F. Kennedy assassinated Nov. 22 in Dallas, TX.	NJ is officially 300 Years old!	Somerset Hills Fellowship of Christian Churches is organized.	Robert F. Kennedy killed June 5 in CA while campaigning	New St. Mark's Church built.	Wm. Annin Middle School built.	Grand Union becomes 1st store to open at Lyons Mall
1961	1963	1964	1964	1968	1969	1969	1970

1962	1964	1964	1967	1968	1968	1969	1970
Direct Telephone dialing begins without an operator.	Lord Stirling School opens.	The Beatles make their 1st trip to America-British invasion of Rock'n Roll begins.	Somerset Hills Baptist Church formed.	Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, assassinated April 4 in Memphis, TN.	Completion of Routes 287 and 78.	Neil Armstrong becomes first man to walk on the moon.	Kienast Quints born in Liberty Corner.
							



Vietnam War ends.

1973

Franklin Corners becomes Historic District.

1975



All municipal offices are relocated to Collyer Lane.

1975

Basking Ridge Post office moves into new Brownlee Place building.

1976

Somerset Hills Airport land sold for town houses- Lord Stirling Village.

1980



Pingry School opens.

1983

World Wide Web developed to enable scientists to share documents.

1990

US enters Persian Gulf conflict with Iraq.

1991

1972

US Golf Assn. locates in Liberty Corner.



1974

Present Millington Baptist Church built.

1974

New Bernards Twp. Library built on Maple Ave. School site.



1975

AT&T opens its corporate HDQ in BernardsTwp.

1976

USA celebrates its Bicentennial on July 4.



1979

Ridge Oak completed and Seniors move in.

Mid 1970s
1980s

Court decisions favor Allen-Deane Corp. sales to The Hills developers.

1988

Somerset County celebrates its 300th anniversary.





Liberty Corner
becomes
Historic District.

1991

The Kiwanis Club
of
Somerset Hills



Kiwanis Fair
discontinued.

1994

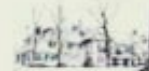
Chabad Center
of Somerset
County opens.

1995



Fellowship
Village
opens.

1996



Bernards Town
Hall has ramp
installed for
disabled.

1999



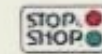
Mount
Prospect
School
opens.

1999



Bethel Ridge
group home
opens.

2000



Grand Union at
Lyons Mall
closes;reopens
as Stop and
Shop.

2001

1990

Congregation
B'Nai
Israel
organized.

HISTORY



1996

Olympic Torch
carried from
Basking Ridge
to Bedminster
en route to
Atlanta, GA
summer games.



1998

Bernards Twp
Community
Center opens
on South
Maple Avenue.



1999

Larger St.
James
Church built

2000

Congregation
B'Nai Israel
House of
Worship
dedicated.



2000

Canterbury
Estates to be
built on
Wm. Annin
Home site.



2001

Harry
Dunham
Park
dedicated.



World Trade Center hit Sept. 11; 17 residents perish

2001



AT&T Complex sold for \$200M to Pharmacia Staff of 3,700 move out.

2002



River Walk Shopping Center Opens

2002



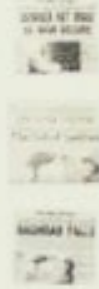
Brick Academy Main Floor Restoration Completed

2003



Gulf War II begins March 20; Hostilities cease six weeks later

2003



2002

Dewy Meadow Shopping Center Opens



2002

Veterans Monument Dedicated at War Memorial Field.



2003

Record snow storms cripple Somerset Hills



2003

Rev. Kennedy Farmstead nominated for N.J. State Register



Copyright 1999

Software causes
Northeast US
power
blackout
Aug.14-16



2003

First
iPhone
released
June 29



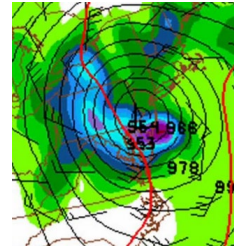
2007

Tobin Heath
Ridge High School '06
wins women's soccer
gold medal at Beijing
Olympics.



2008

Superstorm Sandy
ravages the area that was
without power for weeks
Nov. 7,2012.



2012

April 24-26, 2017
Basking Ridge Oak taken down
after 600 years.

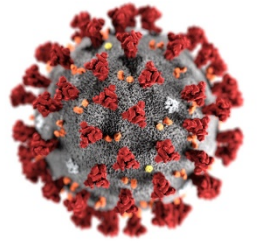


2017

An acorn from
The white oak
Is transplanted in
churchyard



COVID-19
Pandemic



2020

2005

verizon✓

Verizon
announced
move to former
AT&T facility.

2007



2007 - Irwin Richardt
maple syrup farm
purchased
creating Sons of Liberty
Farm

2008



Township purchases
English Farm
Development rights to
preserve open space in
Liberty Corner.

2010



Liberty Corner Fire
Department
celebrates 100 years
of service to the
community

2017

300th Anniversary of
the Basking Ridge
Presbyterian Church



2018

The Grain House
Celebrates its 250th
anniversary.



2019

Bernards Police celebrate
100 years of serving the
local community on April
10, 2019

