



OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BARNEGAT BRANCH TRAIL

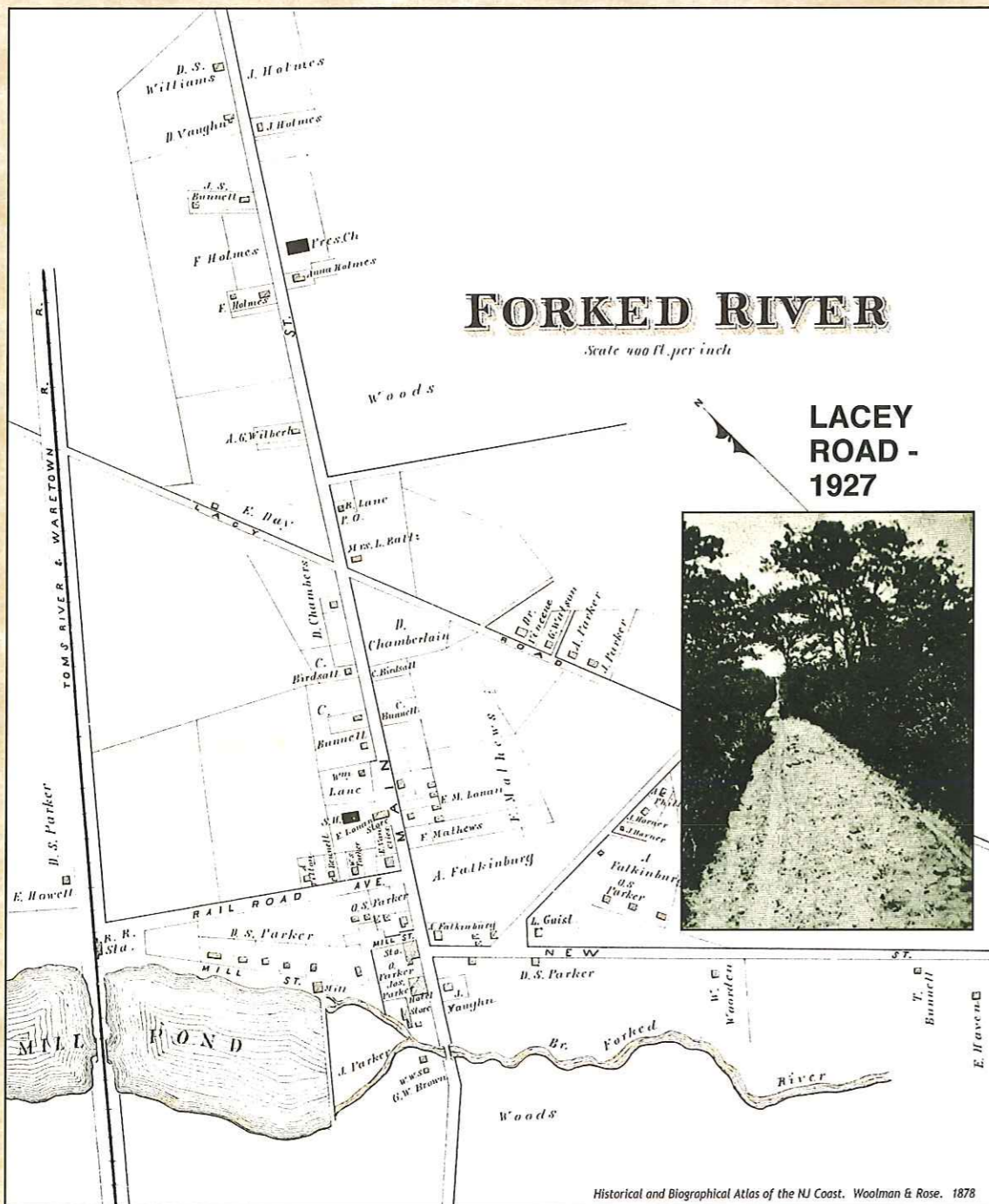
DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PARKS & RECREATION

WELCOME TO LACEY TOWNSHIP

CNJ Forked River Passenger. Photo: July 1950



Collection of Ocean County



Historical and Biographical Atlas of the NJ Coast. Woolman & Rose. 1878

HISTORY OF LACEY TOWNSHIP

Lacey Township is composed of the areas of Forked River, Lanoka Harbor and Bamber Lake. At approximately 84 square miles, Lacey Township is vast in size and rich in natural resources.

Lacey Township was named after Revolutionary War General John Lacey (1755-1814). General John Lacey, in partnership with his son Thomas R. Lacey, developed Ferrago Forge on the middle branch of the Cedar Creek, eight miles northwest of Forked River in 1809 which included an area he had surveyed in 1794. It included a dam that created "Forge Pond." The settlement that sprang up around the forge was first called Ferrago Village. General Lacey built a road from the forge to Forked River in 1810 to ship the iron products from Ferrago Forge and nearby Dover Forge, built in 1809 by Lacey's son-in-law, William Smith, in what is now Berkeley Township. The road was named Lacey Road. In 1865 William Hurry purchased the Ferrago Forge Tract and renamed the settlement Bamber after the family name of his mother. Mr. Hurry closed the forge shortly thereafter. General Lacey died on February 17, 1814 at the age of 62.

Lacey Township was formed from Dover and Union Townships on March 23, 1871. In 1876 a small portion of the township along the Oyster Creek was ceded to Ocean Township (Waretown). On June 23, 1933, Island Beach Borough is formed from parts of Berkeley, Ocean and Lacey Townships that are on the ocean side of Barnegat Bay. This part of Lacey Township contained the Forked River United States Life Saving Station #16. In 1953, the State of New Jersey acquired 2,694 acres at a cost of \$42,750,000 to create Island Beach State Park. On July 25, 1965 the Borough of Island Beach ceased to exist and the lands were ceded to Township of Berkeley.

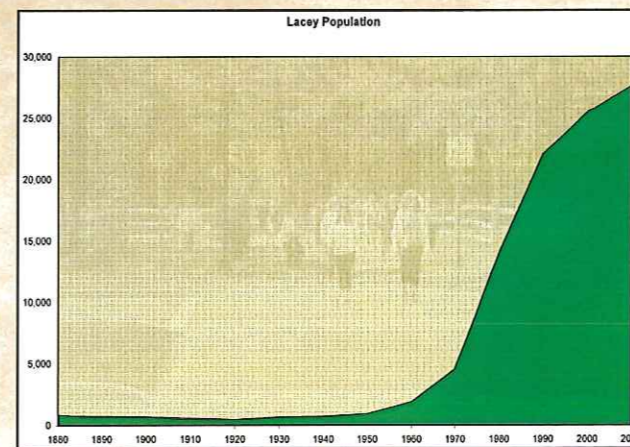
Forked River was a destination for hunting, fishing and outdoor activities as demonstrated by the number and quality of the inns and taverns.

Please visit the Lacey Schoolhouse Museum, Route 9, Forked River. The museum is open during regular summer hours. Each year, the Lacey Historical Society organizes the annual Apple Festival in September. Special appointments for other times are available at 609-971-0467.

Adapted from information supplied by the Lacey Historical Society.



Collection of Lacey Historical Society



The Barnegat Branch Trail logo was explicitly designed with history in mind: Lady Liberty's silhouette is reminiscent of the Central Railroad of NJ (CNJ) logo, adopted by the railroad in 1944 to reflect the close proximity of the CNJ Terminal in Jersey City to the Statue of Liberty. The BBT logo also includes a ghost locomotive, as well as Ocean County's most recognizable environmental features.