

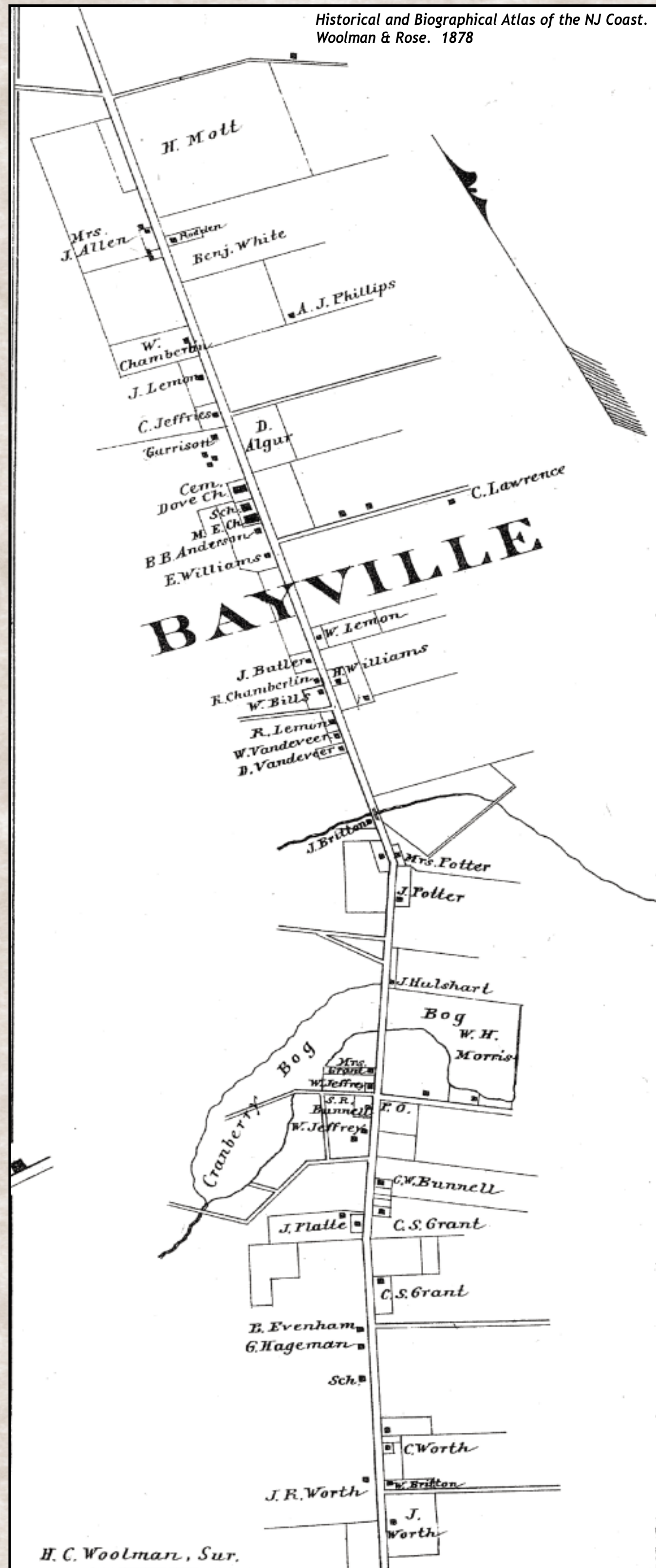


OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

# BARNEGAT BRANCH TRAIL

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PARKS & RECREATION

## WELCOME TO BAYVILLE (1870)



Bayville is generally considered the eastern portion of Berkeley Township that is around Route 9 (formerly Route 4 or the Shore Road). The area has gone by several names over the years including Dover Chapel and Potters Creek.

According to **Place Names in Ocean County, New Jersey 1609-1849** by Vivian Zinkin, Bayville acquired the current name because the village is located by Barnegat Bay. "In the four years from 1866 to 1870, both the village and Post Office underwent two changes of name. In 1866 Potters Creek, the original name, was replaced by Chaseford; in 1870, a petition was filed to drop Chaseford as the Post Office name in favor of Sea View, but Bayville was adopted instead. In both of these instances, it was the change of Post Office name which was responsible for the new village name."

John Rogers bought a farm at Potters Creek in the late 1700s. During the Revolutionary War his ship was captured by the British. In April 1781 the British were foraging for cattle, chickens and other supplies and burning houses on their march up present-day Route 9. John and Abigail Rogers claimed loyalty to the crown and thereby their farmhouse and family were spared.

A quarry off Hickory Lane in the Bayville section of the township is the site of the New Jersey Pulverizing Company which was established in 1925. Major League baseball standout, Al Leiter played Little League in the Bayville section of town.

Bayville is notable for roadside curiosities on Route 9. The 20' plaster Dinosaur (modeled on a Brontosaurus – really an Apatosaurus with the wrong head attached) was apparently moved from Lakewood around 1935 as a promotion for Will Farrow Taxidermist. Legends have claimed that this was originally a Sinclair Gas Station display or from either the 1934 Chicago or the 1939 NY Worlds Fair. Legend also contends that the Dinosaur is exactly halfway between NY City and Atlantic City. Over time the head has been removed by vandals and accidents and replaced with varying degrees of artistic talent. The head in the color image at the top of the page is by noted Ocean County sculptor Brian Hanlon. Named by a promotional naming contest, *Ruggles* the Dinosaur has promoted the many businesses that have been located at the site. The 20' neon Cowboy sign proudly stood for many years at its namesake, the Cowboy Steak House and Saloon. The 25' Renault Champagne bottle has seen several motifs including advertisement for propane. A 1950 Fiat has been a long time attraction at Cosmo's Auto Parts where it hangs over the salvage yard building. A replica of the tear drop travel trailer that replaced an actual US Air Force fighter jet is located at the entrance to the Cedar Creek Campground.



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.

Photo Credit: Asbury Park Press

The Rogers Homestead • Photo Credit: Ocean County Collection

Photo Credit: Ocean County Collection