

Chapter 4

Monmouth County - 150 Years Ago

On the cover of his account book, Ike kept track of the five hundred pounds of coal the family used to heat the house from November to April in 1855. The next few pages in the account book offer a glimpse of what life was like in 19th century Monmouth County.

New Jersey Tax Lists 1772-1822 Vol. 5, page 2663
 Ronald Vern Jackson, Accelerated Systems, Inc.
 The earliest tax was paid by James Revey in 1780 -Freehold Twp.
 Thomas Revey, Shrewsbury Township, Monmouth County paid property tax in 1789.

REVEY, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 002	SHREWSBURY TWP	TX1808
REVEY, JAMES	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 007	FREEHOLD TWP	JANTX1783
REVEY, THOMAS	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 014	SHREWSBURY TWP	TX1808
REVIES, PETER	SOMERSET CO.	NJ 003	BEDMINSTER TWP	JULTX1784
REVV, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 004	SHREWSBURY TWP	JU-AUTX1797
REVV, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 003	SHREWSBURY TWP	JULTX1784
REVV, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 003	SHREWSBURY TWP	JULTX1786
REVV, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 003	SHREWSBURY TWP	JU-AUTX1789
REVV, BENJAMIN	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 003	SHREWSBURY TWP	JULTX1785
REVV, BENJAMIN N.	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 004	SHREWSBURY TWP	JU-AUTX1797
REVV, BENJAMIN N.	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 002	SHREWSBURY TWP	JU-AUTX1795
REVV, JAMES	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 012	FREEHOLD TWP	JULTX1781
REVV, JAMES	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 014	FREEHOLD TWP	OCTTX1781
REVV, JAMES	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 016	FREEHOLD TWP	JULTX1784
REVV, JAMES	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 008	FREEHOLD TWP	JULTX1785
REVV, JAMES FREE NEGRO	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 010	FREEHOLD TWP	JULTX1786
REVV, SAMUEL	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 016	FREEHOLD TWP	JULTX1784
REVV, THOMAS	MONMOUTH CO.	NJ 034	SHREWSBURY TWP	JU-AUTX1789

Ike bought several wooded lots throughout Eatontown and Tinton Falls where the family collected bark, harvested cords of swamp wood, and split rails used for fencing. They also cleared some of the land of trees for gardening and selling crops, such as strawberries and potatoes. They dug up marle, which was used as a fertilizer, to sell to local farmers. They planted groves of peach trees, drafted rosebushes, cut ice, mowed and stacked hay. The men killed and smoked hogs to sell. They built houses, wagon houses, ice houses, corn cribs, sheds, barns, fixed wheels and installed pumps.

Ike recorded these daily jobs in his account book and told where he worked, how much he earned, which ranged from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per day. He records the bushels of crops sold. Some jobs listed the total to be paid at completion. He also listed days lost to inclement weather.

Ike's account book listed those for whom he performed work and those who worked for him. Many of those listed are relatives such as brothers and cousins: David, William, Robert, Morris, Andrew, Charles Richardson; Joseph, his father, and his mother, Rebecca; and Myme Richardson, a relative.

Also listed are in-law relatives such as Sarah, Mercedes, Richard, Benjamin and Johnson Revey. Listed are in-laws, Susan Ryers and Asa Crummal, who was the husband of Isaac's first daughter, Emma Richardson, whose first son was named Ryers Crummal.

Other local Eatontown people are listed in the account book as well: Edmund Fielder, owned the farm where Fort Monmouth is located today. Edmund Wolcott, John Vanvere (Vanderveer), Abigail Clausen, Lorenzo Schanck, Edward Whitfield, Thomas and Ann White, William Cain, D.V.L. Parker, John P. Lewis, William Lippincott, Edward Wolcott, John Bean, Samuel Cook George Livingston, Mary Lafetra, (later changed to Lafferty), Robert Wardell, James West, Edward Fields, Joseph Shemo, Johnny Seene, James Britten, Thomas Bell, William Kelly, Benjamin Hathaway, Andrew Anderson, John Stillwell, John Callahan, Patrick Cullery, Lizer Ryal, Deborah Parker, Benjamin C. White, Samuel Holmes, William Brown, Jube Waters, Henry Finch, Dr. Hobert, Charles Calvin Vincent, Holly Wilcox, Curtis White, and Alfred Grant. Many of the names still exist on Eatontown street signs today.

The Richardson men built fences out of stone and performed masonry, mended wire fences, made window and doorframes, put up sheathing, and transported local residents to the bank or the store for \$1.00 per trip. Ike made daily trips to the B.C.White store on Broadway (Broad Street). He bought a coat and pants at the JBCCH store for \$5.75. He purchased corn, rye flour, eggs, and bushels of wheat, corn meal, barrels of

potatoes, pork, butter, a stove, fish, sweet potatoes, eels, molasses, beef, hams, candles, soft clams, a spade, a dung fork and a plastering lath. Many items at the store had a half cent added to the price.

Ike traveled by horse and wagon to the small villages of Shrewsbury, Oceanport, Rumson, Red Bank, and The Branch (Long Branch) to deliver coffins. Stagecoaches connected shore towns by dirt roads during the 1800s. Several references regarding horses and horse-trading are included in his account. He traded a horse with James Gail for \$30.00. Ike recorded debits as De and credits by using the letters, Cr, in his account book.

He also recorded who was “bounded out” as an apprentice and what was expected to be given at the end of the apprentice’s service. On May 4, 1856 Jonathan Richardson, a teenage nephew, went to live with Benjamin Corlies in Eatontown village. On January 2, 1859, Ike records the bounding out of Jonathan Richardson, who “went to live with William Parker until he becomes 21 years old and if he stays out his time he is to have 4 quarters of schooling and \$100.00 and a freedom suit from head to toe.”