

# A Little Piece of History

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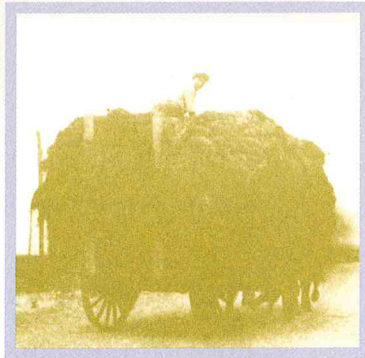
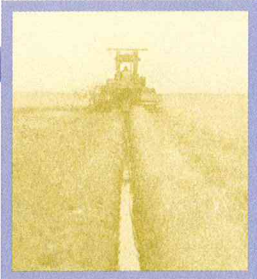


PHOTO: Carla C. Miners

## 1 OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- identify significant events in Ocean County/Barnegat Bay Watershed history.
- describe the relative timing of events by creating a time line.

### CORRELATION TO NJCCCS:

The correlations in this publication were done prior to 2002 utilizing the older standards from 1994.

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<b>SOCIAL STUDIES:</b>	6.2: (1)
	6.3: (1,3)
	6.7: (2)
	6.8: (1,2,3,4)
	6.9: (2,5)

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<b>LANGUAGE ARTS:</b>	3.1 (7,8,12)
	3.4 (12)

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### Subject Areas

Social Studies, History, Language Arts

### Duration

One to two class periods

### Setting

Indoors.

### Skills

Analyzing, comparing, sequencing, interpreting, organizing, inferring .

### Charting the Course

The history of Ocean County is indeed a long and intriguing examination of the ingenuity of people and the characteristics of our watershed that make it suitable and desirable for living.

### Vocabulary

Rum runner, bog, whaler, piracy, grist mill, clammer, privateer, saltworks, mossers, schooner, and others.

## 2 Materials

- Copies of the chronology pages (included).
- Markers,
- Large butcher paper or brown wrapping paper to construct time line.

**PLEASE NOTE:** any long paper may be used. If it is not available, standard paper may be taped together end to end.

## 3 Making Connections

What we have now in the county and the watershed has been influenced and shaped by what came before. Understanding the history and settlement of the area will undoubtedly enlighten students and provide a historical perspective on the area.

■ Ocean County celebrated its 150th anniversary in the year 2000; surely a milestone event. However, things were happening here long before the area officially became Ocean County.

## 4 Background



Specific information on the history and culture of the Ocean County area is available from the Ocean County Historical Society. Numerous publications, books and pamphlets can be obtained to supplement this activity. In addition, there is a chapter on Human Uses and History in

the National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP can be found online at the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program's website: [bbep.org](http://bbep.org).

Of particular note is the book entitled: *Ocean County - Four Centuries in the Making* by Pauline S. Miller, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

## 5 Procedure

**WARM UP:** Begin by asking students how long they (and their families) have lived in Ocean County.

■ Answers will vary and discussions about people moving in and out of the area can result.

■ Why do they think people move here now?

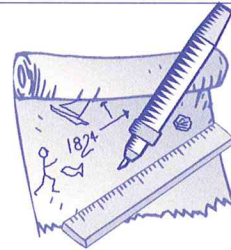
■ Generate a list on the board.

■ How long do they think people have been living here?

■ What do they think brought people here to begin with?

■ What types of things are in Ocean County that would attract settlement?

■ What was the major form of transportation in the early days of Ocean County?



## THE ACTIVITY

Working in small groups, students create a time line depicting significant events in the history of the Barnegat Bay. Divide the class into five groups. Assign each group a period in history and distribute the corresponding chronological list of events.

**GROUP 1 - 985 AD THROUGH 1737**

**GROUP 2 - 1750 THROUGH 1789**

**GROUP 3 - 1802 THROUGH 1848**

**GROUP 4 - 1850 THROUGH 1876**

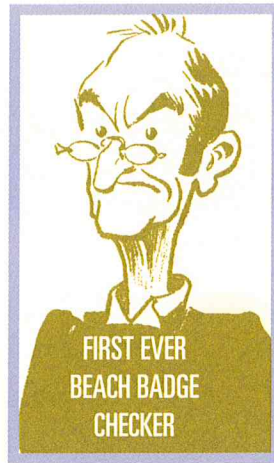
**GROUP 5 - 1878 THROUGH 1954**

**GROUP 6 - 1956 THROUGH PRESENT**

Give each group supplies for creating their time line. As a class, set a scale of measurement to use so that there is consistency in the relative distances between years on all groups' time lines. (A suggested scale is 1 inch equals 1 year.) The resulting time line will be quite long, and may be displayed around the perimeter of the room or in the hallway.

## WRAP UP

Have each group present and describe to the class the major and significant events on their time line piece starting with Group 1, then 2, etc. Have each group attach their piece of the time line to the first, and so on, until completed. Again, the resulting length will depend on the scale used.



## 6 Assessment

Time line created by each group.

## 7 Extensions

Have students research the history of their own town. Start with the local historical society or town hall for more information. Brick Township, for example, has a curriculum developed for use in the elementary grades that examines specific history of the area.. The booklet, called "Our Town" is basically a workbook for each student in Grade 2 to learn specific information about Brick Township.

## ACTION

Have students investigate and research important people in the history of Ocean County. Begin by contacting their local or Ocean County Historical Society. Assign each student a different person or time period. Students can create skits, write reports, create bulletin board or poster displays showing their findings.

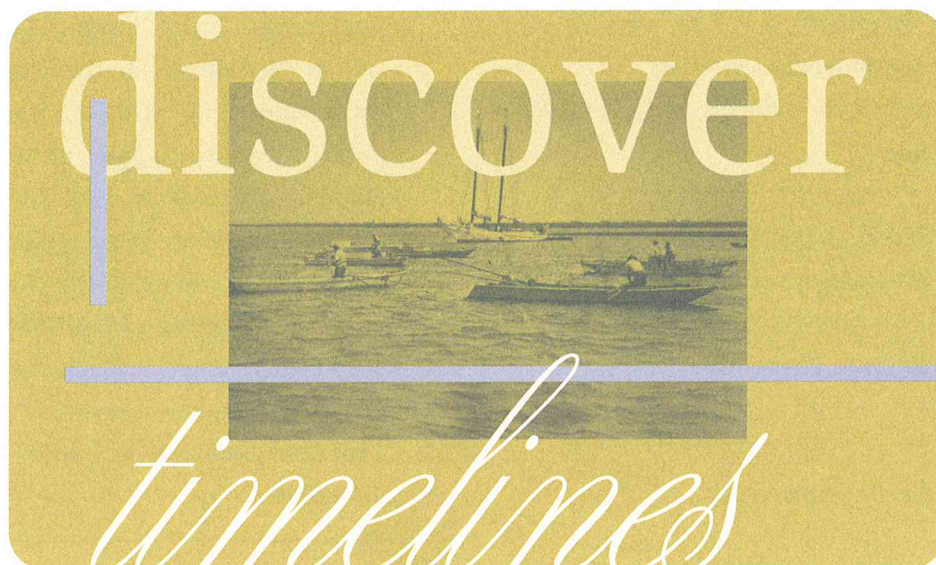
## 8 Resources Referenced

Barnegat Bay History Packet, compiled and provided by Jeanette Lloyd, Stafford Township Schools.

## 9 Additional Resources

Contact the Ocean County Historical Society, Cultural and Heritage Commission, local museums, etc. for additional historical information.

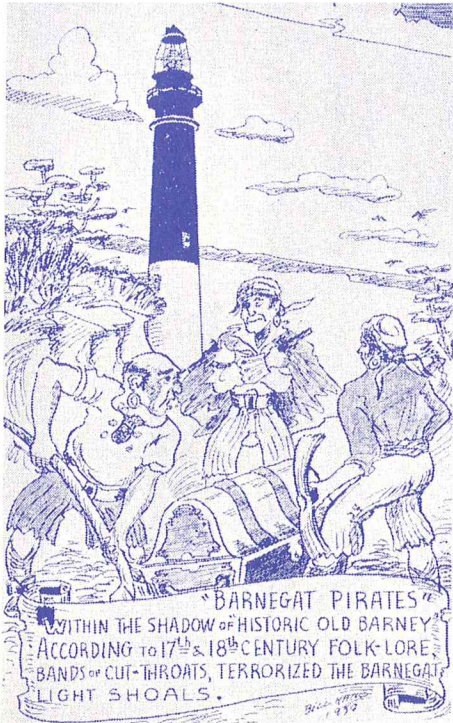
*Ocean County - Four Centuries in the Making*, Pauline S. Miller, Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, 2000. Library of Congress Number: 99-70605



985A.D.

1750

1878



## GROUP 1 - 985A.D. THROUGH 1737

**985A.D.:** Viking, Lief Ericson is believed to have passed by with his fleet of ships.

**1524:** Giovanni Verrazano, Italian navigator, probably stopped by for fresh water on his voyage up the American coast.

**1609:** Captain Henry Hudson aboard the Half Moon dropped anchor for the night of September 2, off Barnegat Inlet.

**1614:** Dutch Captain Cornelius Mey named Barnegat Inlet "Barendegat" or Breakers Inlet.

**1620:** The Mayflower lands in Plymouth, Massachusetts .

**1645:** Eric Mullica, a Swede, settled near Mystic Isles.

**1650:** Whalers from Cape Cod and Long Island built temporary settlements on the beaches above and below Barnegat Inlet, whaled during February and March and usually caught two to four per season and averaged 50 barrels of oil from each whale.

**1680:** Whalers bring their families to settle around the Bay.

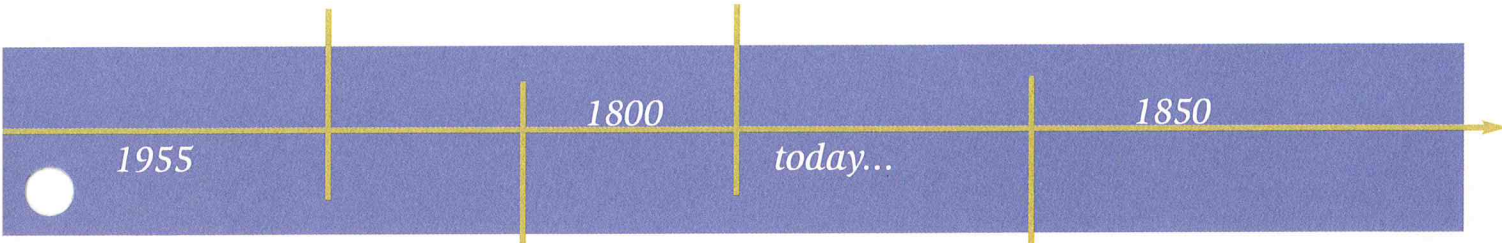
**1690:** Britain made piracy a capital offense.

**1701 - 1712:** Pirates - At the end of the 17th century, some of the most famous pirates in American history practiced their profession off our shore. Reports of pirate crews being seen in Ocean County were common. Captain William Kidd was one of the most famous. He was commissioned by England to fight the pirates, but soon after capturing a pirate ship, which he renamed the San Antonio, he became a pirate captain himself. He was rumored to have courted a girl from Barnegat. In 1701 Captain Kidd was captured and hanged.

Robert Teach, better known as Blackbeard, was said to have sailed into Barnegat Bay when escaping from the British. Richard Worley, a pirate, terrorized shipping off the New Jersey shore for six weeks in 1712. Other equally ruthless pirates raided the shipping lanes off the Mid-Atlantic coast. Many of the pirates were protected by local citizens and bribed public officials who helped piracy reach large proportions.

**1735:** First land purchased in Stafford Township.

**1737:** Abraham Waeir, a Baptist, settles in Waretown.



**GROUP 2 -1750 THROUGH 1789**

**1750:** A few hundred settlers live around Barnegat Bay. They were farmers, fishermen, clambers, oyster diggers, saw and grist mill operators, and tradesmen. They lived on the mainland, away from the beachfront hazards of storms, mosquitos and pirates. They used the pine wood to make tar, turpentine, charcoal, and to construct their cabins. Cedar trees were used to build boats, clam rakes, baskets, and cranberry scoops.

**1760s:** Small, busy seaports sprung up around the bay from Toms River to Barnegat and down to Tuckerton. The Continental Congress designated Tuckerton as the third port of entry in the United States, after New York and Philadelphia.

**1773:** BOSTON TEA PARTY

**1775 - 1783:** American War of Independence (REVOLUTIONARY WAR)

**1775:** When the American Colonists rebelled against the King of England, many Barnegat Bay area smugglers, whalers, and fishermen aided the cause of Independence by attacking British shipping along the coast. These Privateers were commissioned by both the Continental Congress and the state of New Jersey.

**1776:** Building cannons and casting cannonballs was a thriving industry along Barnegat Bay shores. Forges were located at Stafford, Barnegat, Lakehurst, Toms River, and Lacey.



**1778:** British raid the saltworks in Toms River, Forked River, Waretown, and Barnegat. Salt was a crucial commodity during the Revolutionary War, used for making gunpowder and preserving food. Long shallow ditches were dug in the meadows with a floodgate or sluice gate at the bay end. At high tide, the ditches would be filled with water and the gates closed. The water, exposed to the sun, would gradually evaporate and become brine. This brine was scooped up into big iron kettles and boiled down to salt, which in turn was packed into wicker baskets from which the brine would ooze, leaving marketable and edible salt.

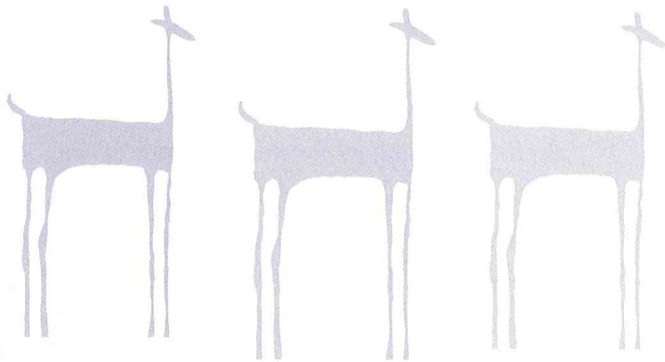
**1782:** “Storming of Toms River Block House”  
The most famous patriot hero of the Revolutionary War in Ocean County was Joshua Huddy. His defense of the Toms River blockhouse was one of the many skirmishes that took place between those supporting the British and those fighting for independence. William Franklin (son of Benjamin Franklin) and former Royal Governor of New Jersey, ordered an attack on a “nest of pirates” in Toms River. He sent the ship Arrogant with a force of 80 British and 40 colonists loyal to England. Joshua Huddy and his men were defending this privateer center. In the battle on March 24, the blockhouse, twelve houses, a tavern, two sawmills, and a salt warehouse were destroyed. When the men in the blockhouse were told to surrender, Huddy replied “Come and take it.” Nine men were killed, twelve were wounded, and Huddy was captured. Huddy was executed less than a month later in the Atlantic Highlands.

**1789:** George Washington elected as our first President.

985 A.D.

1878

1750



### GROUP 3 - 1802 THROUGH 1848

**1802:** Last remnant of New Jersey (Lenape) Indians, numbering between 70 & 80, are forced to migrate both east and west.

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**1812:** The 54-gun frigate the USS Constitution (later known as Old Ironsides), encounters a British squadron of five warships off the southern end of Long Beach Island and a scrimmage ensues.

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**1812:** Cranberry Inlet disappears in the night – Cranberry Inlet (located near the present-day A&P Store in Ortley Beach) began shoaling up early in the nineteenth century. One morning in 1812, after a great northeast storm, David Mapes, the shepherd of Squan Beach, woke up to find the inlet had closed entirely during the midnight gale. Squan Beach and Island Beach were joined to become a 22 mile peninsula. Captains from the head of the bay and Toms River were forced to sail 12 miles south of old Cranberry Inlet to Barnegat Inlet.

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**1812-1814:** War of 1812 (Against British tariffs)

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**1812-1823:** Twelve families of whalers settle and build homes in Great Swamp (Surf City).

**1815:** Coastal Trade and Barnegat Bay – Barnegat Bay sloops and schooners fished the local waters and traded up and down the coast from New England to Southern ports. These vessels sailed in and out of the bay carrying lumber, charcoal, tobacco, tea, vegetables, and many other goods. The bay was the highway between the scattered villages that lay on her shores. The coastal trade expanded the sense of possibility for local youths who dreamed of seafaring. Many Barnegat sailors went on to other ships and other seas.

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**1819:** U.S. Mail delivered by stagecoach throughout the area.

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**1834:** Barnegat Lighthouse is built for \$6,000. Whale oil was used to illuminate it.

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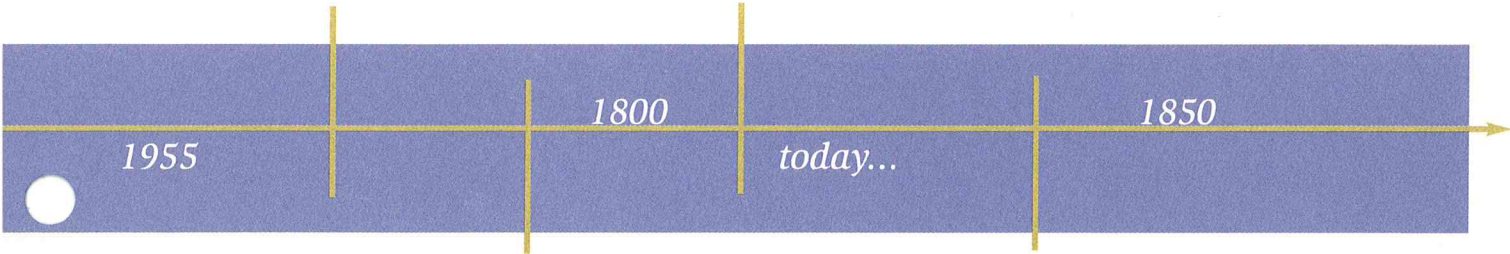
**1839:** Dr. Newell from Manahawkin witnesses a shipwreck and, due to his frustration at being unable to help, eventually becomes the founder of the Life Saving Stations. He heard the sound of panicked voices roll in across the pounding surf and stood helpless on the beach. The 14 bodies were transported across the bay and buried at the Baptist cemetery in Manahawkin.

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**1822-1855:** Sportsmen Hotels are being built along the bayside of Long Beach Island. There were two in Holgate, Mansion of Health in Surf City, two in Harvey Cedars and two at Barnegat Light.

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**1848-1927:** Tucker's Lighthouse is built on Tucker's Island, just south of Long Beach Island. It fell into the sea in 1927 and by the 1950s, Tucker's Island was a sandbar visible only at low tide.



**GROUP 4 - 1850 THROUGH 1876**

**1800-1850:** Between 1800 and 1850, New Jersey’s first seaside resorts developed. A number of places were already entertaining a few summer guests, but they were too small to be considered resorts. Before the railroads came, vacationers had only two ways of getting to the seashore. One was the overland route which was a long and difficult journey through the “pinebelt” by wagon, and later by stagecoach from either Philadelphia or New York.

**1850:** On February 15, Ocean County is formed with a population of 10,032. Prior to this, it was still the southern part of Monmouth County. Some residents felt that they were not getting a fair share of tax monies, so a request was made to the State Legislature for an Act to establish a new county. Toms River was selected as the county seat. The six townships of the new county were Plumsted, Jackson, Dover, Union, Stafford, and Brick.

**1850:** Development of the cranberry industry and cranberry bogs.

**1856:** Barnegat Lighthouse erodes into ocean.

**1859:** A new Barnegat Lighthouse is built. Lieutenant George Meade was in charge of construction. He later became famous as the victorious General who defeated Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. The tower is 165' high. Its light revolved every 4 minutes and flashed every 10 seconds. The light was visible to ships for over sixty years. Although the light atop no longer works, the sides of the tower are now lit with floodlights to serve as a symbol of its many years of service.

**1861- 1865: CIVIL WAR –**

In Ocean County, the war took one man in four away from home. Salter’s book “The History of Ocean and Monmouth Counties,” has a full listing of all who served from Ocean County. In 1861, the Ocean County Freeholders appropriated \$2,000 to help support the needy families of soldiers. The baymen and fishermen along the coast were of particular value to the Navy as they were seasoned sailors and were, in many cases, familiar to the coastal areas of many southern states and thus able to navigate these waters to either bring in supplies or create an effective blockade.

**1865:** Just after the war the development of transportation began throughout the county beginning with the construction of turnpikes or toll roads. Towns were now being connected by straight roads and bridges were “surfaced” where necessary with wooden boards to make travel easier and faster regardless of the weather.

**1866:** The railroad comes to the area and connects Toms River to Barnegat.

**1870:** Lavallette is started as a seaside resort. It is named for Admiral Elie Lavallette, the first commissioned admiral of the U.S. Navy.

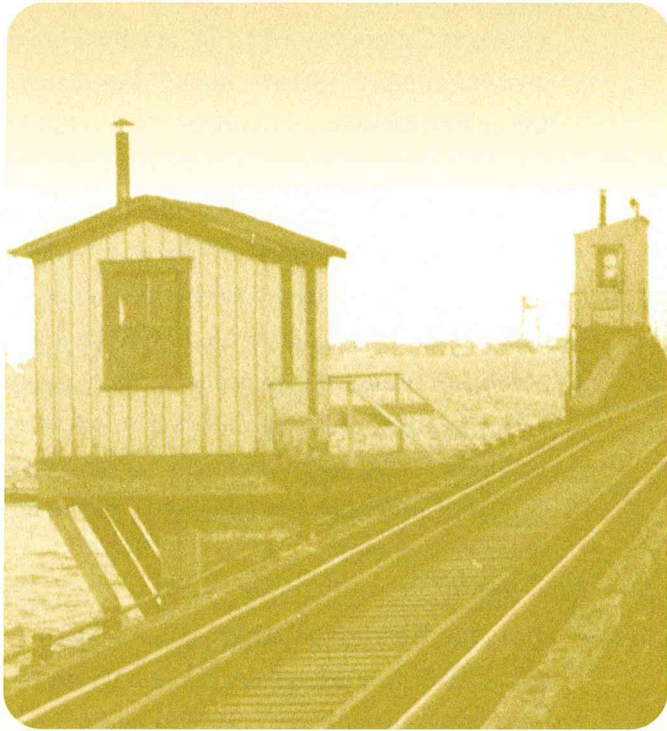
**1871:** The railroad now connects Manahawkin to Tuckerton.

**1876:** Baptists founded Seaside Park, a 300 acre campground that would be “free from the influence of immorality and drunkenness.”

985A.D.

1878

1750



ARCHIVE PHOTO COURTESY OCEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## GROUP 5 - 1878 THROUGH 1954

**1878:** Mantoloking is founded by Captain John Arnold. He brought over inland soil to grow grass. This cost extra money and also attracted more money in land sales.

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**1879:** Bay Head is founded by Princetonians. The little resort became a summer vacation place for Princeton's faculty.

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**1883:** Railroad bridge is built across the Bay from Manahawkin to Ship Bottom.

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**1908:** Inland Waterway is dredged from Barnegat Bay to Cape May.

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**1912:** Building of Tuckerton Wireless Tower by the German government.

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**1914:** Automobile bridge is built to link Manahawkin to Long Beach Island.

**1914 - 1918:** World War I -

Sphagnum moss is raked out of the cedar swamps and used for surgical dressings in the war. It is three times more absorbent than cotton. The men that collected it were called "Mossers."

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**1915:** Formation of the Coast Guard.

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**1918:** First boardwalk is built in Seaside Heights.

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**1920 - 1933:** Prohibition period and the "Rum Runners."

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**1926:** Island Beach was discovered in 1865 as a vacation place. The 22 mile peninsula was divided into the upper part known as Squan Beach and the lower half, Island Beach. It was bought in 1926 by Henry Phipps; partner of Andrew Carnegie of Pittsburgh Steel. He bought it from Columbia University as a land investment for fine homes. The 1929 Stock Market Crash erased Island Beach Development and, in 1952, the State of New Jersey bought it for a park for \$2,750,000.

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**1930:** County population at 33,069.

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**1941 - 1945:** World War II -

Submarine warfare was heavy off Ocean County shores during both World War I & II. During a short period in 1942, twenty-four ships were sunk. Two ships, "The Razor" and "The Gulf Trade" were sunk near Barnegat Inlet sending several million gallons of oil onto the neighboring beaches.

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**1954:** The opening of the Garden State Parkway - probably the single most important event to change the landscape of Ocean County because this now allowed easy access.

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**1954:** Train service discontinued.



1955

1800

today..

1850

**GROUP 6 -  
1955 THROUGH  
PRESENT**

**1960:** Ocean County  
Population grows to  
108,240.

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**1969:** Opening of the  
Oyster Creek Nuclear  
Power Plant in Forked  
River.

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**1970:** Population  
explosion - Population  
grows by over  
100,000 (92.6%) to  
208,470.

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**1973:** Establishment of  
the Coastal Zone  
Management Plan which  
has had a significant  
impact on development  
patterns in the county.

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**1980:** Population  
grows to 346,038.

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**1980:** Pinelands  
Comprehensive Master  
Plan is adopted.

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**1990:** County  
population grows to  
433,203.

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**1991:** First farm (139  
acres) was preserved  
through the Ocean  
County Farmland  
Preservation Program.

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**1997:** The Natural  
Lands Trust Fund was  
established by over-  
whelming voter sup-  
port.

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**1999:** The population  
in Ocean County  
approaches 500,000.

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ORTLEY BEACH AND  
NORTH. Photo Studio 9,  
Waretown, NJ



Eelgrass was harvested  
for mattress stuffing  
and upholstering chairs  
and sofas.