

Dover New Jersey, 300th Anniversary

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Dover, Morris County, New Jersey U.S.A., is situated on the Rockaway River and lies some 31 miles west of New York City. The 2020 census gives the population of Dover as 18,520 with nearly 70% identifying as Hispanic.

The Town is run by a board of eight Aldermen, elected from the four wards, and the present Mayor, Carolyn Blackman, elected from the voters of the town of Dover. The mayor is the Chief Executive and is known as the Alderman-at-Large and is elected every four years.

The town has been celebrating its tricentenary throughout 2022, with the townspeople being involved in the many planned events.

Today, Dover, New Jersey, is a vibrant community with a rich and wonderful history and an even more exciting future. Dover has an active community with monthly events and an ever-growing gathering of fantastic restaurants. The town is marketed as a hidden gem that's been polished to a sheen. There is easy train access directly to and from New York, only 31 miles away.



Dover New Jersey 84th Dover Days Festival 2022

Until 2006 there also existed the Township of Dover, established 1767. Its name was then changed to the Township of Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey.

Important Dates in Toms River Township:

June 24th, 1767: Chartered by Act of the Colonial Legislature

March 24th, 1782: Village of Toms River attacked and burned by the British
1782 -1783: Revolutionary War peace talks in Paris delayed due to British attack on Toms River

1850: Ocean County established; Dover Township chosen as County seat

1954: Garden State Parkway opened; Dover Township divided into eastern and western parts as a result

1990: Dover Township census population reaches 76,371

2000: Dover Township census population reaches 89,706

2006: Dover Township name changed to Toms River Township

Originally Henry Hudson, in his ship *The Half Moon*, explored the Hudson River, Manhattan Island and the Jersey shore. The Dutch then claimed the territory that he had explored. In 1613 they founded a trading post on Manhattan Island and named it New Amsterdam and called the surrounding area New Netherland.

In 1620 the *Mayflower* landed about 100 people ashore. Many of them were members of the English Separatist Church, later to be referred as the Pilgrims. They named their settlement Plymouth. In 1614 Captain John Smith had named the surrounding countryside New England. This now consists of six states, with Plymouth being part of Massachusetts.

By 1643 the Dutch were having trouble with the Native Indian tribes and on 25th February of that year Dutch soldiers tortured and murdered Lenape men, women and children at Pavonia. Then on 1st October a force of United Native Indian Tribes retaliated by attacking Pavonia and burnt most of the homesteads to the ground. By 1655 the Dutch had brought New Sweden under their control. but the Peach Tree War erupted and on the 15th September 1655 about 500 Susquehannocks, New Sweden's allies, attacked Pavonia (now part of Philadelphia) killing over 100 settlers, Hoboken (across the river from Manhattan) and Staten Island (now a borough of New York).

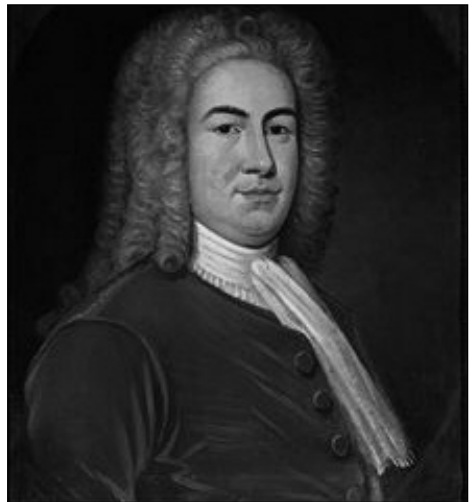
The Dutch retained control of New Netherland and New Jersey until 1664. King Charles II's brother James, Duke of York, then took over the area. He was president of The Royal African Company – slave traders – when it had been chartered in 1660.

The original inhabitants of New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region were the totemic tribes of Lenni Lenape Indians. The Lenape had three clans (or phratries) the Turtle, Turkey and the Wolf. Eventually subjugated by the Iroquois Indians of New York State, their warriors were downgraded to the status of “women.” During the Indian Wars, 1755, Sir William Johnson restored them to their fighting status of “men”. Many iron arrowheads have been found in the Dover area. Iron was known by the Indians as the black stone or heavy stone.

In 1702 East and West New Jersey were reunited as one royal colony by Queen Anne (1665-1714), run by a governor and a twelve-member council appointed by the crown. The first Royal Governor she

appointed was her cousin Edward Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, Until 1738 the provinces of New Jersey and New York shared a governor.

The founding of Dover can be traced back to 1713 when land, which includes the present-day Dover, was purchased from the Native Americans by Joseph Latham and his wife Jane. On 31st May 1722 they sold 522 acres to John Jackson who settled on the east side of the property at Granny's Brook and built himself a log cabin, becoming the first settler and founder of Dover. Jackson built the second forge in New Jersey at Jacksons Brook, where Singleton's silk mill stands today. There he established Jackson's Forge to process iron ore which was plentiful in the area. At the time, the Governor was William Burnett, a godson of William of Orange and King George I and a British civil servant and colonial administrator.



Colonial Administrator Governor William Burnett

Until 1739 Dover was in Hunterdon County, but it then become part of Morris County, named after the new governor.

In 1750 an Act of the English Parliament forbade the colonists to set up rolling mills to produce iron goods. They had to ship the iron to England where the goods were processed and then sent back to America to be sold at high prices. The colonists did however continue to produce iron goods in secret.

In 1753 John Jackson was forced to sell his land and property at a "Sheriffs Sale" and he moved to West Virginia, where the town of Jackson was named after him.

It is unclear how Dover, New Jersey gained its name, but it is thought that it may have come from Moses Hurd, the first associate of John Jackson who, it is said, came from Dover, New Hampshire.

The exact date of when the town was known as Dover is uncertain, but the name "Dover" has been found in an old account book from 1794-99 with a reference to the "Dover Store" in an entry dated January 13th 1798. The book also lists 173 persons with an account living in Dover or the close vicinity. It was also noted that business had to be conducted in English money, pounds, shillings and pence.

Sometime prior to this the town was also known as "Old Tye", why it is not known. The following has however been put forward, in 1776, Gen. Winds (then Lieutenant-Colonel) and many men from this part of New Jersey were at Ticonderoga, New York. Among them was one Joseph Tuttle, who kept a diary, in which he constantly refers to Ticonderoga as "Tie." On October 11th 1776, he writes, "Col. Winds made application to go home, but no success by reason of the senior officers devilish lies told to the General; the old Col. is shamefully abused and belied." On November 5th and 6th, he

notes that Col. Winds got an order to "be off" and left Ticonderoga with 105 men of our Battalion, some say with scandal, but Col. Winds says with honour. On the basis of such memoranda, we may venture a guess. Some old soldier, returning from this expedition, may have referred to his experiences so frequently or in such a way as to gain the nickname "Old Tye" and if he lived here, as Gen. Winds did, the name may have passed over to this locality. Perhaps both names, Old Tye and Dover were synchronous for a while, and Dover "won out."

At this time Dover continued to grow. Canfield and Losey purchased the iron works and added mills, a nail factory and a dwelling house for Mr Losey, who lived in Dover. The house also served as the "Dover Store" and the towns first known post office. Mr Losey, the postmaster, was the first person to successfully cultivate the tomato in the town.

At the end of the eighteenth century, it is said that Dover was full of infidelity and wickedness. Standards were low after the American Revolutionary War 1775-83 (American War of Independence), but that applied to much of the country.

By 1810 the town itself had 10 to 15 dwellings. A fourth of July celebration was held on Morris Street in 1823, a sort of picnic in the woods with speeches and singing.

Two years later The Morris Canal and Banking Company started digging out the Dover Canal. This reached Newark in 1831 and was fully completed in 1836. The first canal boat *The Dover of Dover*, made its maiden trip commanded by Captain Byram Pruden, setting off from the Freight House on the canal basin.

In 1816 the first Sunday School was organised by the Rev. Barnabas King of Rockaway.

1826 - Blackwell & McFarlan had the village of Dover incorporated.

1827 - Dover and the vicinity now had the National Union Bank and a number of new stores.

1829 - Complaints about the educational shortcomings of the time led to an Act of Legislature to establish schools and introduce much-needed reforms. Too many of the haphazard teachers of the country schools were addicted to intoxicating beverages, with sad results in the schoolroom. "A drunken teacher has been known to 'wale' a boy until the iron ferrule of his cane was embedded in the flesh of the boy's back, as I have heard from one who saw it." (The first law providing for public schools was in 1693).

By the mid 1830's the population had risen to just under 400 with many more stores, the bank, two academies, 30 dwellings, an iron works, Sunday school with 150 scholars and 28 teachers. There were The First Presbyterian Church of Dover, the first Methodist Episcopal Church and a Methodist church. The stagecoach arrived from Newark three times a week and a stagecoach ran to Morristown. The Sons of Temperance was founded by Mr Sugar and their library became Dover's first public library. Dover also became the banner town for temperance in New Jersey.

Dover was incorporated as a town in 1831 and formed as part of Randolph township. In 1869 it increased in size to 1,100 acres and in 1871 the town limits enlarged and on 5th March 1896 it became fully independent. On 7th May 1896 Dover was

reincorporated as a city. It regained its status as a town on 21st March 1899, after the referendum that approved the change to a city was invalidated by a court ruling.

On Monday 31st July 1848 the Morris and Essex Railway opened in Dover with the first train to Morristown offering a free ride.

By 1850 the population was 700 and a railway station had been established.

1861 and the American Civil War saw the boys and girls of Halls School make and raise a school flag. The Memorial Day services were held every year under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic and bear witness to the part that Dover played in the struggle to preserve the Union and the Abolition of Slavery.

In 1873 the Dover Fire Department was organised.

The nineteenth century Dover is seen as an industrial town with its prosperity dependent on the mines and the manufacturing of iron.

Local inventors included Joshua H Butterworth, a Scotsman, who made patent locks and invented a rivet machine. He had a little shop where he made and repaired clocks and watches. He invented a shuttle for a sewing machine. He is also said to be the father of modern bank combination locks. Two of his specimens still in existence today require five or six keys to operate them.

In 1922 at the bi-centenary there appeared "1722 - The Dover Primer - 1922." *Of Blessed Memory is he who knows his Dover A, B, C.* This lists some 50 names and facts connected with the town over 200 years.