

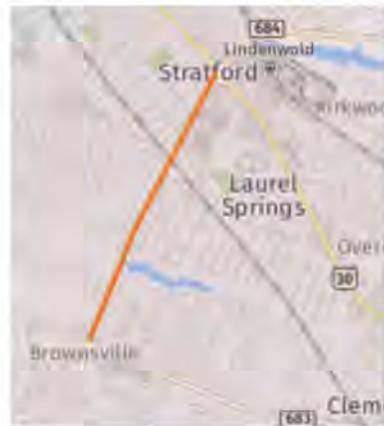
# Stratford's History

*respectfully submitted by Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian (CaroleD444@gmail.com)*

## Roads Through Stratford – Laurel Road, part 4

*By Carole Dadino, Stratford Historian (My articles, contain many shared memories that may not be historically accurate.)*

As mentioned in part 1, the Unalachtoges Clan of the Lenni-Lenape (Original People) trod a path from Little Egg Harbor to Camden, with side paths leading to waterways that terminated at the Delaware River, where furs were traded for trinkets.



Artifacts found on Stratford's banks of Big Timber Creek (Some found by Cadets of the Stratford Military Academy) led historians to believe that such a path from Long-A-Coming Road (White Horse Pike) may have ended at Laurel Road in Stratford.



*In maps and written histories, Laurel Road has been identified by several names. A 1777 map showing the road, named it just that, "Road". From Haddonfield, via the current Warwick Road, Laurel Road was identified as "Haddonfield-Salem Road ". (Not shown.) Rt. 42 was also called "Haddonfield-Salem Road". It can be seen as a Toll road in the upper left*

In 1834, Ephraim Tomlinson acquired land around Laurel Lake and Big Timber Creek and named the road passing through his property, "Laurel Mills Road". It was eventually shortened to "Laurel Road" A 1922 Laurel Springs Map identified it as "Laurel Avenue".

*Laurel Road's businesses in Stratford, continued....*



The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey moved its campus from Camden to Laurel Road where the Hunt/Rexon farm had served the community for over a century. On July 1, 2013, the campus merged with Rowan University. A privately-owned building at 40 Laurel Road, was incorporated into the Rowan complex. It continues to be occupied by medical related services and the Kennedy Pharmacy.



*John F. Kennedy memorial Hospital, 1965*

The Kennedy Hospital moved from a small building on the White Horse Pike in Audubon, to Laurel Road. Jefferson Health Systems acquired the hospital.

**DR. ROBERT M. WARDEN**  
14 E. Laurel Road  
Stratford, New Jersey  
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As the medical school and hospital relocated to Stratford, many homes and businesses along Laurel Rd. were converted to medical related businesses.



Stratford Convalescent Home (1965) became Stratford Nursing Center and then Laurel Manor. Located at Laurel and Stone Roads (Warwick Road), the building sits on a corner of the old Kaighn Farm.



*Stratford V. F. W. Post #7365 at Laurel Road and Pennsylvania Avenue, in 1965.*

A property, with a Brick home and garage, at Laurel Road and Pennsylvania Avenue, was purchased by the Word Fellowship Church. As the church grew they moved to the Stratford VFW building on Atlantic Ave. and the VFW moved into the church's building. The PBA (Police Benevolent Association) then purchased the property for their offices and rented the hall out for functions. When the PBA membership dwindled, the property was purchased by Focus HVAC.



Across Pennsylvania Avenue sits a house where, in the 50s and 60s, many remember purchasing donuts and other baked goods from two ladies who sold them from their front porch.

# Stratford's History ~ continued



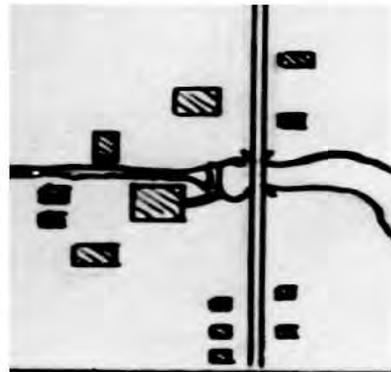
Almost forgot the Hunt Brothers Circus that visited Stratford in the late 1950s and early 1960s. They set up their tents on the Dairy Knoll Farm on Laurel Road.

As we leave Stratford and enter Laurel Springs. . . .



The Smith/Walker House, (Shown below in the upper right, in an 1875 map), remains at 611 Laurel Road. Built by Ephraim Tomlinson in the late 1800s, it remains occupied by his descendants.

Below the house, sits the store Ephraim built for his workers, Laurel Lake and in Lindenwold, houses Ephraim built for his workers. The buildings on the left include the Tomlinson Mansion, Mills, Spillway and additional worker's houses.



As we pass over the Laurel Lake Bridge, there was an access lane to the beaches along Laurel Lake where families could swim, fish and ice skate.



Laurel Road passing over the Laurel Lake Spillway Bridge. The Tomlinson Mansion is in the distance.

As with Stratford, older maps show Laurel Road passing through farmlands in Lindenwold, once owned by James and Isaac Tomlinson, half-brothers of Ephraim.

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Residential areas sprung up along Laurel Road and businesses soon followed. Many Stratford residents frequented the CITCO Gas Station that was located where Lena's Water Ice sits. Numerous businesses along the road served community in various ways, including the D'Adamo Variety Store that was located in the Garden Lake section of Lindenwold.



Remembered as a go-to business on Laurel Road, in Lindenwold, was Duke's Produce Their home remains next to the lot where their business was located. A garden business currently occupies the property.

Laurel Road and Chews Landing Road was known as Fox's Corners. It was located in the village of Brownsville, named after William Brown, owner of the land. Brown's Store stood on a corner. (Later known as Fox's Store.) An early 1800s map shows a Wheelwright and Blacksmith Shop on the Northeast corner of Fox's Corners. Later, the Black Diamond Coal Company was located where Walgreens now sits. The owners of the coal company lived in a house on the opposite corner.

As we finish our brief tour of Laurel Road, in the late 1700's, history mentions two mills owned by William Brown, a sawmill and a wood-turning lathe mill located on the southside of Laurel Road. Both were powered by a dam Brown built on Gravity Run, a branch of Big Timber Creek. There was also a lime burning business on Brown's land, off Laurel Road.

Just before we reach Blackwood-Clementon Road, the Y Worry Kennel, where they bred boxers, was remembered. Across the road from the kennel there with a farm where locals purchased their fresh Jersey Corn. It was known as Garden State Farm.

As Stratford residents were sharing their memories of Laurel Road, I have to include, riding their bikes or taking the family car to Hidden Lake, on the other side of Blackwood-Clementon Road.



**GIANT YARD SALE**  
**At the Quaker Store**  
**Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**9:00am to Noon**  
**Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00am to 2:00pm**