

Southern New Jersey
SYNAGOGUES

A SOCIAL HISTORY

HIGHLIGHTED
BY
STORIES
OF JEWISH LIFE
FROM THE
1880'S - 1980'S

Written By
ALLEN MEYERS

HISTORIAN
of the
Jewish Community
Greater Delaware Valley
Philadelphia, PA.

CHelsea TITLE AND GUARANTY COMPANY
P. O. BOX 578
MIDLAND, NEW JERSEY 08360

MAP OF THE
SONS OF ISRAEL LANDS
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, N.J.
AS SURVEYED IN MAY 1892.

Sons of Israel tract and Isles of Pines Village

These two remote Jewish settlements were founded in 1892. These were land schemes that Jewish people from Philadelphia could easily access. These locations were north of the Woodbine Colony along the West Jersey Seashore Railroad. These settlements were situated in Maurice Township and located a few miles North of the Manamuskin Railroad station. Further South, would be the Jewish settlements of Halberton and Montiefore.

The land was originally bought by the Fries family who had a mill further East along the Manamuskin Creek. This grist mill was owned by John and Mary Fries. They bought the land in 1875.

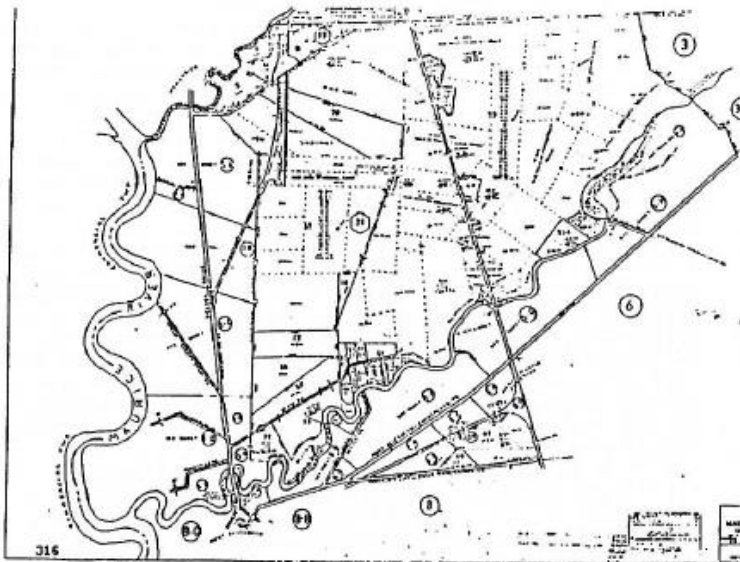
The Sons of Israel Society originated in Philadelphia. The trustees of the society were Meyer Alsberg and Abraham Tractenberg. These people ran a beneficial society which deviated from the usual operation in Philadelphia. Their purpose was not subscription for mutual aid in the traditional sense but for Land ownership. This society fostered a new community and solicited membership for those newly arriving Jewish immigrants from the old world. This was truly a utopian adventure into land speculation and settlement.

Newly arriving Jewish immigrants did buy these irregular lots. This represented their future. These lots measured anywhere from four to ten acres. The idea of settlement was centered around both sides of the Railroad and other land which laid away from the tracks.

These lands were specified for individual use. These people could not transfer the lands to other people who were not their heirs. The members of the society who bought land from the trustees included some thirty men.

A few miles North of this settlement lie another attempt at Jewish settlement and colonization in the woods of Southern Jersey along the Railroad. This area was called the Isles of Pines Village Tract and was settled in 1892. As the train passed on its way from Millville to Woodbine and then onto the shore meant that passengers would see five Jewish settlements along the way.

The Sons of Israel lands were surveyed in May 1892 and laid out by S.M. Sheldon.



SECTION 1 AND 2 being more land from Philip purchased of the Fries and others, Book 100 pg 417, Dec. 2, 1876.
Pg. 40 20000 acres of Mountain View, Section 18 a north and west by the edge of the water the same being a corner of one John Jones land, thence nearly North 45 degrees 30 minutes East 1170 chains to a stone corner in the North (Eastern) side of an old road; also corner of Pleasant Ridge land; thence nearly East 87 degrees 30 minutes East 7.90 chains to a stone corner also in the Northern edge of said road and to Stone Shed's land; thence by side (See Book 75 degree 30 minutes East 7.10 chains to Stone's corner; thence still by Stone's land 87 degrees East 8.70 chains to a corner; thence North 88 degrees East 5.50 chains to a place first marked as a corner in Stone Shed's corner land; thence by the land corner 1.00 chains to Stone Shed's corner land; thence the same corner 4.20 chains to a corner by the edge of the road (See the map); thence North 84 degrees East 20 chains to the beginning.

SECTION 18, 21.00 acres or less.
Being the same as Book 100 page 417, Dec. 2, 1876.
Pg. 40 20000 acres of Mountain View, Section 18 a north and west by the edge of the water the same being a corner of one John Jones land, thence nearly North 45 degrees 30 minutes East 1170 chains to a stone corner in the North (Eastern) side of an old road; also corner of Pleasant Ridge land; thence nearly East 87 degrees 30 minutes East 7.90 chains to a stone corner also in the Northern edge of said road and to Stone Shed's land; thence by side (See Book 75 degree 30 minutes East 7.10 chains to Stone's corner; thence still by Stone's land 87 degrees East 8.70 chains to a corner; thence North 88 degrees East 5.50 chains to a place first marked as a corner in Stone Shed's corner land; thence by the land corner 1.00 chains to Stone Shed's corner land; thence the same corner 4.20 chains to a corner by the edge of the road (See the map); thence North 84 degrees East 20 chains to the beginning.

SECTION 18, 21.00 acres.
Being same land 100 page 417, Dec. 2, 1876.

S.M. Sheldon
Surveyor
Philip, Jr.
1 dated Apr. 15, 1892
2 recorded Apr. 20, 1892
3 to Book 100 417 page 417
4 Dec. 1876, 1877
5 Grant to Phil. to secure a mortgage
6 Granted, normally
7 2100 acknowledged Apr. 15, 1892
before Samuel H. Shelton,
Notary of State

Having the following land Township Maurice River,
Maurice River, N. J.
Pg. 40 20000 acres of Mountain View, Section 18 a north and west by the edge of the water the same being a corner of one John Jones land, thence nearly North 45 degrees 30 minutes East 1170 chains to a stone corner in the North (Eastern) side of an old road; also corner of Pleasant Ridge land; thence nearly East 87 degrees 30 minutes East 7.90 chains to a stone corner also in the Northern edge of said road and to Stone Shed's land; thence by side (See Book 75 degree 30 minutes East 7.10 chains to Stone's corner; thence still by Stone's land 87 degrees East 8.70 chains to a corner; thence North 88 degrees East 5.50 chains to a place first marked as a corner in Stone Shed's corner land; thence by the land corner 1.00 chains to Stone Shed's corner land; thence the same corner 4.20 chains to a corner by the edge of the road (See the map); thence North 84 degrees East 20 chains to the beginning.

Reference Source Credit

While the author was doing research at the Cumberland County Court House in Bridgeton on October 10th, 1988, Allen Meyers met Phillip Hermanson. Mr. Hermanson referred Allen to the Chelsea Title Agency in Vineland who owned the original maps of the land in that area.

It is likely that the community was inhabited for a short period of time and that the land was put up for sheriff sale in the early 1900's for lack of payment of property taxes. This means that area was abandoned by the Jews.