

The Delanco Story—
Its Past and Present

The Delanco Story— Its Past and Present



The Delanco Bicentennial Book Committee

Delanco, New Jersey

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and encouragement of the township's entire official family in preparing this history of Delanco. We appreciate the financial underwriting of this publication by the township committee during the two years of its preparation. Without that assistance, this volume might never have come to be.

Furthermore, we dedicate this book to the men and women of our township who served our country in time of war and especially to those who paid the supreme sacrifice so that we in this community and this nation might live in peace.

— Bicentennial Book Committee

Copyright © by The Delanco Bicentennial Book Committee
All Rights Reserved
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 77-71-1454
First Edition—Second Printing
Manufactured in the United States of America by
THE KINGSWOOD GROUP

Contents

<i>1971 Map of Delanco</i>	<i>Frontispiece</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
A General History	1
Doing Business—through the Years	22
The 1860 Census	49
The Police: They Broke the Mold After They Made Chief Hahner	57
Houses	64
The Delanco Camp Meeting	71
The Churches of Delanco	76
The Fire Department	85
Community Organizations	
First Came the United Boys Brigades then the Boy Scouts	91
The Girl Scouts of Delanco	94
The Library	96
The Parent-Teachers Association	99
The Senior Citizens	100
The Delanco Woman's Club	100
Recreation and Sports	101
Public Service	110
The School System	115
Potpourri	124
The Zurbrugg Story	128
<i>Bibliography</i>	131



THE EDITORS of "The Delanco Story," the township's Bicentennial journal, were, front row, Margaret Hunter (left) and Agnes Perkins. Rear, from left, Adair Herbst, John Lester Daniels Sr. and Charles A. Frush.

Foreword

This journal was compiled, written and edited by the Delanco Bicentennial Book Committee, with the assistance of a great many persons.

Production Staff

Editor: Charles A. Frush

Associate editors: Adair (Bud) Herbst, Margaret (Peg) Hunter, Agnes Perkins.

Photographer: John Lester Daniels Sr.

Assistant photographers: Nelson Harding, Earl Hines.

Typographical advisor: Lewis C. (Bub) Osmond.

Typists: Mrs. Beatrice Smith, Alyson Brown, Mary Oakerson, Rosemary Herbst, Mary Parsons, Betty Fenimore.

Researchers and reporters: Fred Bohnberger, Ruth Bolton, John Brown, Hubert Clair, Alice Erlston, Helen Graebeldinger, Adair Herbst, Joan Hinkle, Margaret Hunter, Esther Klaproth, Mary LeConey, Edith Lewis, Francis Leith, Elenore Maguire, Dick Mueller, Mary Oakerson, Agnes Perkins, Robert Raber, Edward Reynolds, Alberta Silber, Raymond Vanaman and Alice Yardumian.

Acknowledgments

The Bicentennial Book Committee wishes to extend its appreciation to all who so generously contributed their assistance. In particular, we are grateful to Albert Freeman, publisher of the Burlington County Herald, who provided maps and other materials; Edward A. Kelly, county clerk, and members of his staff, who provided help in locating deeds and maps; Elton Conda, county surrogate, who provided information; Mrs. Bertha Wanckel, Delanco township clerk, who provided access to township records; Jane Queenan, who provided assistance in researching old homes; and Mrs. Alice Yardumian, who provided files of old newspapers from the Delanco library.

A Preface . . .

Should this publication still be in print when our nation reaches its Tri-centennial, the historians of the year 2076 may well turn to journals such as this in order to learn about the state of affairs in the United States on the occasion of its 200th birthday.

Our descendants will discover that we make no pretense that we are professional historians. Nor do we presume to suggest that this work has the intellectual scope of a full-scale history, although we labored over it for nearly two years.

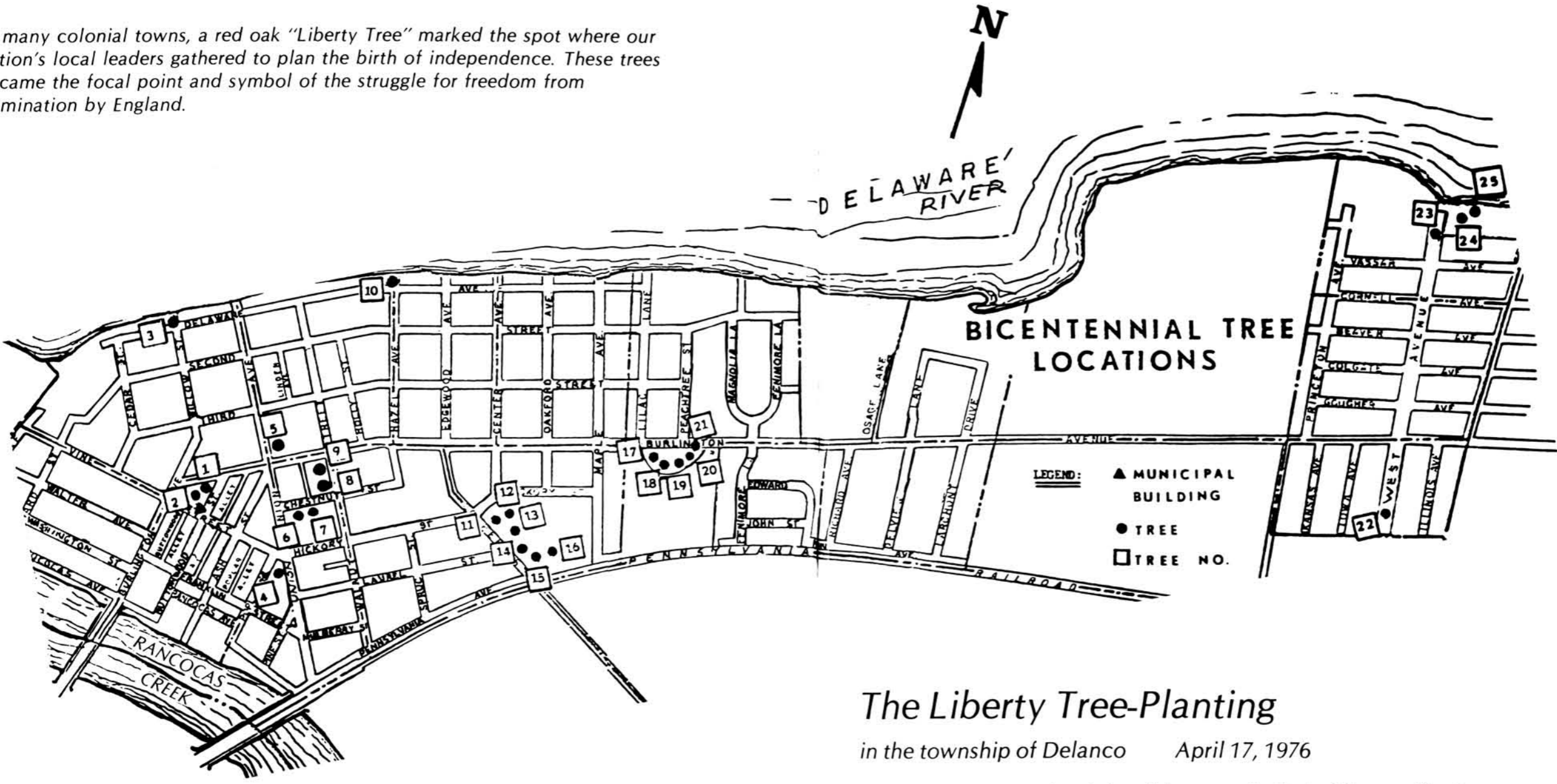
But we have conferred upon these pages something no historian ever gave more of—a love of our community and a desire to see its history carefully preserved. If some errors have crept into our research—and assuredly some have—we beg forgiveness. Had our scholarship been the equal of our enthusiasm, these pages would have been chiseled in stone.

And so, for the errors that are no doubt included and the facts no doubt omitted—however inadvertently—we apologize. We will be grateful if we have been able to commit to paper some of the essence of Delanco's history and the history of early New Jersey. With fervent wishes that our grandchildren will look kindly upon our efforts, we pass these pages on to future generations. May they find our little history helpful.

—THE EDITORS

February 1, 1977

In many colonial towns, a red oak "Liberty Tree" marked the spot where our nation's local leaders gathered to plan the birth of independence. These trees became the focal point and symbol of the struggle for freedom from domination by England.



The Liberty Tree-Planting

in the township of Delanco April 17, 1976

A Bicentennial project and symbolic rededication to the ideals of liberty and freedom

Tree numbers Those persons and organizations who participated in the planting of 25 red oak Liberty Trees were:

1 & 2	Mayor William Ryan; Freeholder Michael Conda; Township Committeeman Ken Walton; Township Committeeman Lewis Osmond; other township officials were Township Clerk Bertha Wanckel; Township Treasurer Rev. Alfred Parker; Township Tax Assessor Rowen Bright; Township Tax Collector Jane Queenan; Chief of Police Nathan Brennan; Sewerage Authority Secretary James Atkinson; Shade Tree Commission Chairman Ray Smith; Agnes Perkins, Bicentennial Book Committee; Liberty Tree Project Chairman Adair (Bud) Herbst; Mrs. Joseph Phile and Delanco's oldest resident Mr. Ed Diggs.	11	Recreation Commission
3	Sea Scouts	12	Girl Scouts—Brownies
4	First Presbyterian Church	13	Girl Scouts—Juniors
5	Dobbins Memorial United Methodist Church	14	Girl Scouts—Cadets
6 & 7	Washington Fire Company No. 1	15	American Legion
8	Children of Hickory Street School	16	Veterans of Foreign Wars
9	Children of Walnut Street School	17	Children of Burlington Avenue School
10	Garden Club	18 & 19	Senior Citizens
		20	Parent Teacher Association
		21	Woman's Club
		22	Cub Scouts
		23	Boy Scouts
		24	Albert McCay Republican Club; John F. Kennedy Democratic Club; Library Association; Spartans Football Club and Mrs. Joseph Phile, Widow of the former Township Clerk, Joseph C. Phile.
		25	Bicentennial Committee