

== Hopewell Borough History Timeline - SUMMARY ==

Date	Event
1698-06-12	Dr Roger Parke, first settler of Hopewell, receives his deed (was the only doctor for several years, learning and applying Indian remedies as well)
1706	Jonathan Stout settled east of Hopewell - bought land in 1703 and 1705
1714-03-11	Hunterdon County established, split off from Burlington County, included Hopewell
1715-04-23	Meeting to form a Hopewell Baptist Church at the house of Joseph Stout in Hopewell
1730s	First school built - "Golden School" - log schoolhouse in woods - only school from Province Line to Harbourton
1747	Old School Baptist Church ("Meeting House") built (46 W Broad), land from John Hart. "Square, old fashioned stone building of some size" [Ege]
1756-1767	Hopewell Academy, Baptist classical school for boys, Rev. Isaac Eaton (19 W Broad)
1785	Thomas Phillips buys property containing Phillips House (86-88 W Broad) and future site of Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Formerly owned by John Hart
1798-02-21	Hopewell Township re-incorporated by act of N. J. Jersey Legislature, one of initial group of 104 townships. Incorporated by Royal charter on 3/1/1755.
1816	Old stone school house was in Hopewell Baptist Church graveyard (46 W Broad)
1820-1822	Franklin and Georgetown Turnpike laid through Hopewell (518 / Broad / Louellen) by Franklin and Georgetown Turnpike Company. Extended from Lambertville to New Brunswick
1822-1826	First Baptist Church rebuilt - present brick building (back still stone) (46 W Broad)
1825	Hopewell Post Office established, George Blackwell, postmaster. Previously known as Columbia. Mail now came by stage, previously needed to pick up in Trenton. (46-48 W Broad)
1855c	Hopewell Academy, first public school building built (75 W Broad at Louellen). Land bought 9/9/1856 from Patrick Riley (owned 19 W Broad) by the Columbia School District No. 6
1856-1857	Brick store built, west of 46 E Broad, occupied by Nelson D. Blackwell; . Farley F. Holcombe and Ed Titus
1866-1890	Hopewell Seminary, private Seminary for Young Ladies (23 E Broad) - Miss Elizabeth H. Boggs bought land from Patrick Riley. Built 4 story brick building. Ran with help of sister M.J. Boggs. Soon built 3 story addition on left.
1870-11-11	Mercer & Somerset Railroad bought land from North Greenwood east from Stephen Blackwell and wife Francis for \$1252, about 2000 feet
1870c	S. Smith Ege's blacksmith and wheelwright shop established in Hopewell at Broad and Louellen (after 1869 and before 1875).
1870s	Hopewell Boro railroad passengers building on the southeast was at 41-43 Model Av, between the two train lines. Depot was the eastern half of the existing building(?)
1872	Calvary Baptist Church built (3 East Broad). Lot purchased from Jerome Morrell. (Deed says Morrell reserves right to harvest his crop of potatoes.) Cornerstone laid 6/12/1872. Building dedicated 12/19/1872. Cost including lot \$5925.
1873-03	Mercer & Somerset (M&S) railroad opened - stations in Pennington and Hopewell
1874	Catholic parish of Hopewell began as Reverend Thomas A. Moran of St. Paul's, Princeton, came twice a year (spring and fall) to say Mass at the home of Daniel and Hannah Reardon on their farm along Province Line Road. For many years before, the scattered Catholics of the area attended church at Lambertville or Princeton. Meeting with Bishop Michael A. Corrigan of Newark to intercede for their own church.
1874 fall	Hopewell Herald printing office established. Printed on 2nd floor of F.F. Holcombes' store (47 W Broad) [Gantz]
1874 summer	Finney and Fetter located a steam saw mill in Hopewell (93-95 Model)
1875-06	Western Union Telegraph Co. established an office in Hopewell
1876	Current Hopewell train station built by Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad to serve passengers to Philadelphia Centennial Exposition
1876	First telephone in Hopewell at Finney and Fetter saw mill. Second in train station
1876-01-05	"Frog War" between Delaware and Bound Brook (D&BB) and Mercer & Somerset (M&S) railroads
1877-01-10	Delaware and Bound Brook (D&BB) railroad station in operation in Hopewell Boro (2 Railroad). Ground broken 10/4/1876
1877-05-25	Hopewell Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 founded, first fire company
1877-07-11	Cornerstone laid and first mass said at St. Alphonsus Church (54 E Prospect). Father Michael Holland had charge of Hopewell. Church completed within a few years for \$5000.

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1877-08-12	First service held in new Presbyterian Chapel (79 W Broad). Lot cost \$450, 3/4 acre, purchased from John A. Moore. Building cost \$3017.77; groundbreaking 11/14/1876, cornerstone laid 4/17/1877
1880	Columbia Hall is formed (current Hopewell Theater site): community center with theater, hosting lectures, performances and films on 2nd floor, 1st floor for Fire Dept and Borough Council
1882-01-25	Hopewell Herald moved into new office on Railroad Ave.
1888-07-07	Completion of four room school (12-18 Model) for \$5500. Land purchased from J.M. Phillips for \$776.
1890	"Cook Block" building built (2 E Broad at N Greenwood). Block from Broad to Railroad, Greenwood to Blackwell
1890	Hopewell National Bank opened by JM Phillips with \$40K in deposits
1890-01-31	Pennington Borough incorporated
1890-03-17	Hopewell National Bank opens (13 East Broad), later Hopewell Public Library
1891-03-21	Hopewell Borough incorporated. Town had 178 male voters. Wm. W. Drake was first mayor
1892-02	Private water service in use in Hopewell
1892-03	Hopewell Canning Company founded
1893	Chocolate Factory brick building built (37 Railroad). Has been nightshirt factory, candy factory, organ builders factory, part of Rockwell's
1893	Hopewell Methodist Church organized. Cornerstone laid 1894. (20 Blackwell, now Burton Hall)
1893-07-31	Behre's Hall fire - fire in the barn on the property of C. Behre (1 W Broad), rear of his immense new hall. Too close to save Hook & Ladder Truck House. Parsonage of the Calvary Baptist Church, directly across Greenwood Ave. also lost
1894	Main St became Broad St
1895	Union Fire Co. formed. Engine housed in Dr. T.A. Pierson's barn (25 Blackwell)
1895	Webster Edgerly started buying land for Ralston Heights development (Castle Lane)
1895	Hart Ave. became public street
1895-03-25	Public meeting to organize Union Fire Company. ordered fire engine, approx. \$500, housed on property of Dr. Pierson (10 E Broad?)
1895-11-01	Hook and Ladder Fire Company meeting to plan new fire house - Columbia Hall, 35 x 50 feet. 2 stories, estimated cost \$2,004 (5 S Greenwood). Plus additional land to increase lot to 41 x 60 feet, est. cost of \$50.
1898	Methodist Church built
1898	St Michaels Orphanage opens (11 nuns and 200 children) (130 Hopewell-Princeton)
1899	Hopewell school (12-18 Model) added two rooms on west end, \$2500
1899-07-12	Cook's Block destroyed by fire, large group of stores (2 E Broad)
1903	Acetylene lights in Hopewell - Calvary Baptist Church sold its kerosene lamps. Acetylene lights being installed, mostly as a gift of then Hopewell Gas Company
1903	Trolleys in Hopewell - Calvary Baptist Church gave right of way in front of church to Trenton, Pennington and Hopewell Street Railway Co.
1904	Electric lights in Hopewell
1904	Trolley went from Hopewell to Pennington to Trenton
1904-04-13	Hopewell Presbyterian purchased "triangle" at Broad and Louellen. Other source suggests 1913
1907	Borough takes over private water company
1911-04-07	Meeting to organize Hopewell Fire Department. Union merged in July (some members did not follow)
1912	First constructed building for a high school built in Hopewell (4-6 Columbia, became Borough Hall)
1912-01-03	First meeting in new Hopewell Fire Department fire house (15 Seminary). Upper story used as Hopewell Public Library, also first home of Hopewell Building and Loan Association
1914-03-18	Hopewell Free Public Library opens in former harness shop of Joseph Harrison (64 West Broad at Mercer). 600 volumes
1915	Hopewell Post Office replaces Hopewell National Bank at 13 East Broad Street
1915-03-15	Hopewell Free Public Library moves to Fireman's Hall, 2nd floor (15 Seminary, next to Schanck's Market). Children carry books in wagons

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1921-07-01	Union Hook and Ladder Company [w/ Union] merges with Hopewell Fire Department. Columbia Hall not included due to outstanding bonds
1922-02	Hopewell Free Public Library and Museum Funding and Building Association incorporated, separate from library, to solicit funds for combined library and museum
1924-04	Hopewell museum opens to visitors in Stout House (current Museum, 28 E Broad)
1925-01-22	Hopewell Free Public Library moves into Stout House with museum (current Hopewell Museum, 28 East Broad). Uses 2 rooms on west side ground floor.
1926	Hopewell Elementary School dedicated (35 Princeton), 14 rooms, \$155,700
1929	Rockwell Manufacturing Company founded
1932	Lindbergh baby kidnapping in Hopewell area
1940	Colonial Playhouse built on Columbia Hall site (5 S Greenwood), served as a firehouse, dance floor, motorcycle repair shop, movie theater
1940	Hopewell Theater new lobby and cinder block addition, re-opened as Colonial Playhouse movie theatre
1956	Harry Richard starts the Hopewell Valley News newspaper
1958	Present-day high school built on Pennington-Titusville Rd for \$1.7M
1959	Second Calvary Baptist Church built (69 Columbia)
1960s	Colonial Playhouse purchased by George Gallup Jr. (5 S Greenwood). Used as "Mirror of America" public polling station - audiences shown movies and commercials, polled for reactions
1963	Bell Telephone starts dial service (466 prefix), replacing operators
1965-02-13	Hopewell Public Library moves to current location (old Hopewell National Bank building, 13 E Broad); Bell Telephone Company reports appraised at \$15,700
1966	Timberlane Middle School is built for \$2M
1973-06-29	Plans made demolish St. Michael's Orphanage, razed shortly thereafter. Last graduating class 6/1972.
1982	Train service to Hopewell train station terminated
1983	Hopewell Borough Historic District created
1993	Train Station bought by the Borough for mix of public and private use (2 Railroad)
2006	Borough purchases Masonic Temple to serve as Borough Hall (88 E Broad)
2007-03-15	Borough uses \$8M in funding, with \$3M in private donations, to buy the St Michael's tract and save the open space from development