

NJS Presents***Museums, Archives, Artifacts, and Documents*****In This Issue:*****Indian Summer at Sand Hill: The Revey and Richardson Families at the New Jersey Shore*****By Claire Garland****DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14713/njs.v9i1.312>**

This essay discusses the centuries-long history of Monmouth County's Lenape-Delaware Revey clan and the Cherokee Richardson clan using historical records and photographs from Monmouth County and the States of New Jersey and New York – as well as from the Sand Hill Indian Historical Association and private family archives. Although much of the general public today persists in thinking that all Lenape have left the state, small communities continued to inhabit the northern shore area throughout the colonial period and to this day, as documented by land transactions, vital statistics, censuses, military records, and archival references. They intermarried with whites, other indigenous people, and African Americans, and contributed greatly to their communities. The story of the Sand Hill Indians of Monmouth County told in part here illuminates the historical interactions of Native American, European, and African cultures at the New Jersey shore and how those interconnected communities evolved over two centuries.

A Brief Overview of the Sand Hill

The history of the Sand Hill Indians living on the northern shores of Monmouth County, New Jersey can be traced back to the 1700s. Lenape Indian groups were present when the first European explorers visited the area in the 1600s. Cherokee Indian inhabitants migrated to the area during the 1700s. Since 1780, Sand Hill family names such as Reavy, Revy, Rebee, Revey, and

Richardson are found on tax records, property transactions, deeds, census enumerations, birth indexes, and death and marriage certificates.

Cemetery records, probate records, and inventories from the Monmouth Hall of Records; military lists from Freehold, tin-type pictures, family photos, artifacts from the Neptune Historical Museum, records from the Monmouth County Library Archives in Manalapan, the New York Public Library, the New Jersey State Library in Trenton, the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark, records from the late Jim Revey of the New Jersey Office of Indian Affairs, and oral histories told by generations of Sand Hill families illuminate the story of the survival of Indian families in New Jersey.

As noted above, the Sand Hill have not just Lenape, but also Cherokee heritage. Due to relentless land encroachment, Cherokee groups were gradually forced out of their homelands in Georgia. In the late 1700s, the Cherokee Richardsons migrated to New Jersey and New York to live with their Lenape cousins, the Reveys. Cherokee Indian Isaac Revey Richardson was born in Eatontown village in 1818 to Rebecca Revey and Joseph Richardson. In 1844, Isaac married a distant Lenape cousin, Elizabeth Susan Revey, born in 1826 to Susan Van Surley and Richard P. Revey in Manhattan.

After living in Eatontown, New Jersey for over thirty years, Isaac and Elizabeth Richardson moved their eight children to the newly developing area of Asbury Park in 1877. The family became identified by the name “Sand Hill” after the hill on their 20-acre property. Sand Hill families grew in number with each generation and prospered.¹ The historical record makes this legacy of indigenous history in New Jersey clear to those willing to look.

¹ Sand Hill Indian Historical Association, “Sand Hill Indians,” <https://sandhillindianhistory.org/>.

Sandy Hill Ancestors in Early Land Transactions

Nine years before George Washington was inaugurated as the first president of the United States in 1789, the Delaware Revey ancestors were listed on 1780 tax records in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. James Revey, Benjamin Revey, Thomas Revey and Samuel Revey (Revey) paid property taxes through the 1780s.²

Beginning with the Census of 1790, racial categories enumerated the ethnicity of inhabitants into three categories – whites, all other free persons, and those enslaved. (Native Americans were not granted citizenship until 1924 and no racial category for American Indian existed on the long form census until 1930.³) Land ownership and the ability to engage in commerce were among the reasons the extended Revey clan remained at the shore into the nineteenth century. Research shows Lenape/Delaware inhabitants in the areas of Eatontown, Tinton Falls, Toponemus, Wickatunk, Colts Neck, Little Silver, and Fair Haven.⁴

As the 1800s dawned and the territory of the United States expanded, the new government sent explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on friendship building missions to the western Indian nations to create maps of the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands in the west, record scientific discoveries of plants and animals, and forge military alliances with Indian nations by granting peace medals to their new allies.⁵ Meanwhile, in Monmouth County, one can find clear evidence of land ownership by both the Revey and Richardson families in this new century. The townships of Shrewsbury and Eatontown, for example, recorded hundreds of land transactions for

² Ronald Vern Jackson, *New Jersey Tax Lists 1772-1822*, Accelerated Systems, Inc. (NJ State Archives, Trenton, NJ).

³ *American Indians in the Federal Decennial Census, 1790-1930*,
<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/native-americans/1790-1930.html>.

⁴ Jean Soderlund and Claude Epstein, *Lenape-Colonist Land Conveyances in West New Jersey: Evolving Expectations in Space and Time*, (*NJS: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Summer 2018), 206, 209, 210.

⁵ National Archives and Records Administration, “*Lewis and Clark Expedition*,”
https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lewis-clark?_ga=2.92807317.902087244.1669583275-1412551598.1668609956.

the Revey-Richardson clans beginning in 1801. These transactions included land under what is today the Monmouth Mall, Eatontown Traffic Circle (Highways 35 & 36), the United Parcel Service (UPS) complex on Hope Road in Tinton Falls, and the Monmouth County Reclamation Center located along Shafto Road, also in Tinton Falls.⁶

Family Ties

The earliest record of the Revey family was actually written in a Book of Common Prayer beginning with the marriage of Henry Augustus Revey and Catherine Rodger in Eatontown, circa



Elizabeth Susan Revey Richardson (1826-1898). Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.

1750s. Their sons were: Thomas Revey, James Revey, Benjamin Revey, and Richard P. Revey (1784-1868), who married Susanne Van Surley (1786-1866) of Manhattan.⁷

The matriarch of Sand Hill would be the daughter of Richard P. and Susanne Van Surley Revey, Elizabeth Susan Revey (1826-1898). Elizabeth married the patriarch of the Sand Hill Indians, Isaac Revey Richardson (1818-1904), in 1844. Between 1848 and 1867 eight children were

⁶ *Records of Officers and Men of New Jersey in Wars, 1791-1815*, Office of the Adjutant General, (NJ Legislature 1898-1903, Trenton, NJ, State Gazette Publishing Co 1900) #59 Expedition Against the Indians in 1791.

⁷ Henry Hoff, *Frans Abramse Van Salee and His Descendants: A Colonial Black Family in New York and New Jersey*, New York City Archives, Microfilm ZI-106, reel 13:121:65-71, 157-161, 205-211: A/C 132:301. You can also find Revey and Richardson land transactions recorded at the Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ in Book A-4, 419; Book S-13, Book 87; Book S-7, 227; Book L-4, Book 311; Book L-4, 173; Book L-5, 342; Book A-5, 467; Book 167, 54; Book 364, 390; Book 246, 250; Book 214,33; Book L-6, Book 316; 145, 434; Book V-6,448; Book 255, 307; Book W-6,24; Book 209,128; Book 154, 443; Book 689; Book 145, 434; Book 269, 224; Book 375, 224; Book 431, 346; Book 426, 44; Book 431,163; Book O, 47-49; Book H-4, 1836; Book447, 483; Book 447, 385; Book 457, 366; Book 517, 134; Book 648, 394; Book 804, 270; Book 1169, 414; Book 1092, 28; Book 1168, 290.

born to them in Eatontown and formed the core of the families who purchased twenty acres of land at Sand Hill in the 1870 and 1880s.

It is worth pointing out that Sand Hill matriarch Elizabeth Susan Revey was, through her mother's line, a descendant of John and Margaret Van Salee (Surley, Sallea, Sourlay), whose Dutch ancestors were among the earliest arrivals to seventeenth century New Amsterdam.⁸ After their marriage, Susan Van Surley Revey and Richard P. Revey lived with Margaret Van Surley (1772-1842) until her death. The estate of Margaret Van Surley was documented in a will dated January 5, 1826 (New York Co. Deeds 240.91) and recorded August 1, 1828.⁹ (In an interesting aside, in 1842 Margaret Van Surley's estate at 6 Laight Street, Manhattan, was purchased by the American Express Company for new offices and stables. During the construction of the Holland Tunnel in the 1920s, automobile ramps eliminated the property. However, the American Express Company bulldog symbol remains on a nearby building.)¹⁰

As for the paternal side of matriarch Elizabeth Susan Revey's lineage, as noted above, Richard P. Revey was one of four sons (also including Thomas, Benjamin, and James) born to Catherine Rodgers and Henry Revey in Eatontown in the 1780s. In 1839 Richard P. Revey purchased property from John L. Corlies in the Township of Shrewsbury along the Pine Brook and moved to Eatontown from Manhattan.¹¹

⁸ RootsWeb.com, <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/read/Dutch-Colonies/2005-08/1123059882>.

⁹ Henry Hoff, *Frans Abramse Van Salee and His Descendants: A Colonial Black Family in New York and New Jersey*, 121:65-71, 157-161, 205-211:A/C 132:301.

¹⁰ New York Deeds 24091, recorded 1 August 1828, <http://forgotten-ny.com/collister-street-tribeca>.

¹¹ Hall of Records, Monmouth County, NJ Deed Book X-3, 340 and Elizabeth Saltar, Book B-6, 479.



Headstones of Susan Van Surley Revey and husband, Richard P. Revey (1784-1868) include a Masonic symbol and are located at the Indian Burial Ground renamed Shadow Rest Cemetery, Squankum Road, Tinton Falls, New Jersey. Courtesy of the author. ¹²

¹² Keith Brown, "Long Forgotten Graveyard to be Historic Site in Tinton Falls," *Asbury Park Press*, 11 February 2004.



Left: Revey family plot located at White Ridge Cemetery, 246 Wall Street, Eatontown. Courtesy of the author. Right: Isaac Revey Richardson (1818-1904), circa 1880. Father of the Sand Hill Indian Community. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.

As noted above, in 1818, just four years after the British burned the White House in Washington, DC, Isaac Revey Richardson was born to Joseph and Rebecca Richardson in Eatontown.¹³ Isaac married a distant cousin, Elizabeth Susan Revey, in 1844. Land transactions in Monmouth County are recorded for Isaac and Elizabeth Richardson in the villages of Shrewsbury, Eatontown and Tinton Falls from 1844 to 1890s. For example, a purchase from Jacob Corlies, Jr. recorded in 1840 for Isaac A. Richardson reads:

this indenture made this twenty ninth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty between Jacob Corlies, Jun and Hannah his wife of the township of Shrewsbury county of Monmouth and State of New Jersey party of the First part and Isaac A. Richardson (a coloured man) for the sum of fifty dollars lawful money of the United States and paid the second part before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt given granted bargained sold aliened enfeoffed release and confirm to pay Isaac A Richardson, at certain lot of piece of land one acre situate lying in the township of Shrewsbury about one mile southward of Eatontown on the road leading to (S)hark River beginning at a stake.

¹³ Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ, Deed Book B-6, Book L-5, 342.

Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson ultimately raised eight children, all born and raised in the village of Eatontown, beginning with Emma (1847-1924), Isaac W. (1851-1921), Theodore (1853-1918), Richard P. (1856-1934), Elizabeth (1857-1940), Rebecca Susan (1858-1940), Joseph (1865-1921) and Restelle (1867-1939).¹⁴ The children were christened at Christ Church, Shrewsbury.

Isaac and Elizabeth continued purchasing properties throughout the areas of Eatontown and Tinton Falls for the next four decades. The 1851 Lightfoot Map of Eatontown records the locations of Richardson Avenue, Ryers Avenue, and Revey Avenue, located off South Street in Eatontown.

In 1854, another deed records Isaac Richardson and Lorenzo D. Schanck as “trustees having purchased land from William Richardson for \$25.00 a parcel lying between the ocean on the northside of the road leading from Eatontown to erect a School House for the use and benefit of colored children in the said school District 14 and their successors.” This land is located on Wall Street, now under the Eatontown Circle.¹⁵

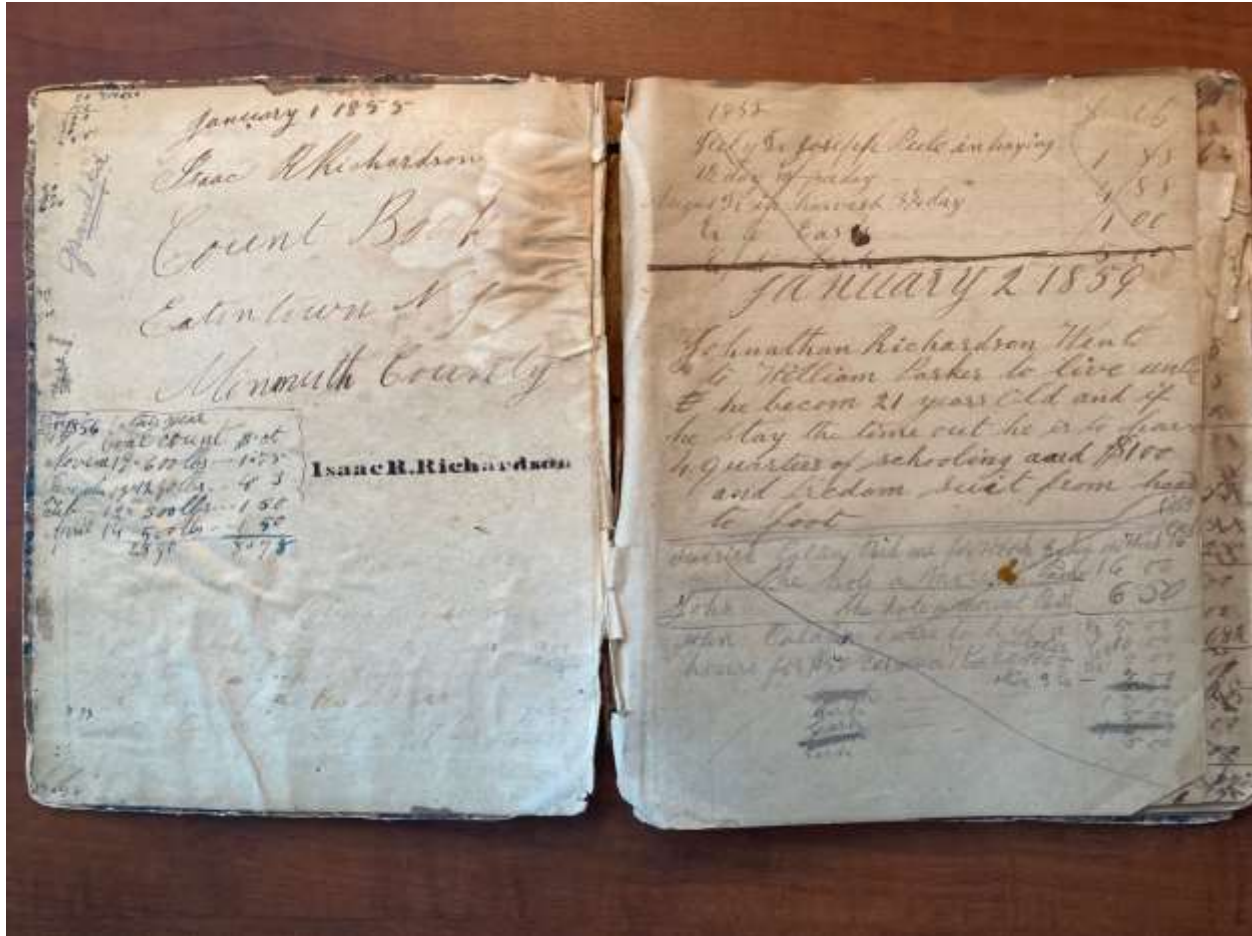
¹⁴ Bureau of Vital Statistics, State of New Jersey, Certificate and Record of Death, 1924, 1921, 1918, 1934, 1940, 1921, 1949.

¹⁵ Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ, Deed Book 364, 390.



Today, Richardson Avenue in Eatontown denotes what was once family land. Courtesy of the author.

Isaac's Account Book 1855-1877 was the basis of much of the research that has been done on the Sand Hill Indian community at the shore. Isaac recorded names of neighbors, employers and employees for construction projects, and contracts and transportation services in Eatontown. He listed horse and buggy transportation services for neighbors, coffins delivered, tons of coal purchased, bushels of crops harvested and sold at market. He recorded trading and selling horses and land purchases and used the term "shillings" for several transactions.



Isaac Revey Richardson's Account Book, 1855. Courtesy Neptune Historical Society.

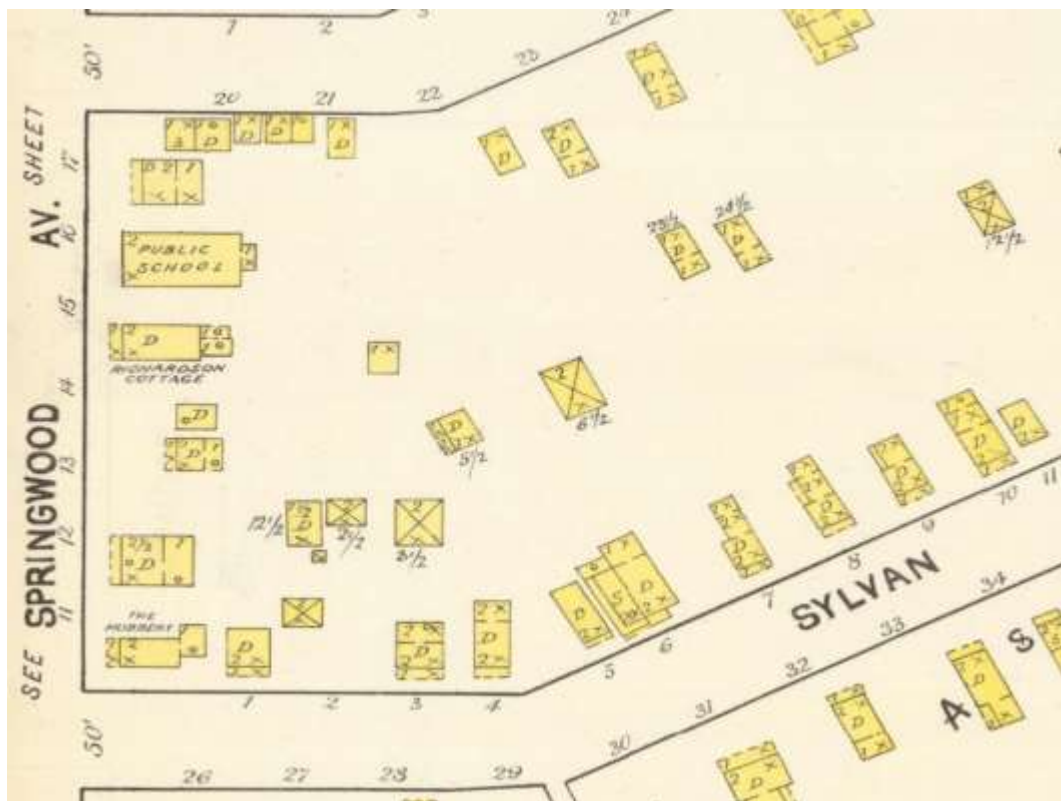
Some entries can be a little harder to interpret. On January 2, 1859, for example, Isaac documented that “Jonathan Richardson went to live with William Parker to live until he becomes twenty-one years old and if he stays the time, he is to have four quarters of schooling and \$100 and a freedom suit from head to foot.” This practice was known as “binding out” and was often a way for minors to learn a trade.¹⁶

The account book also accounts for family travels. In the 1850s, the Eatontown Steamboat Company built docks on Oceanport Creek located on the Shrewsbury River to ship farm produce

¹⁶ Graham Russell Hodges, *Slavery, Freedom in the rural North: African Americans in Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1665-1865* (Madison House Publishers: Wisconsin, 1997), 187-188.

to markets in New York City.¹⁷ On March 24, 1862, Elizabeth traveled from Eatontown Dock to New York by boat. Isaac recorded this excursion to New York in his account book to record Elizabeth's first trip home to Manhattan in sixteen years. The children were boarded with their grandparents, Richard and Susan Revey, for fifty cents a day.

After sixty years living and working in the village of Eatontown, Isaac was contracted in 1877 by the founder of Asbury Park, James Bradley, to complete new construction projects for the expanding ocean front resort.¹⁸ Isaac and Elizabeth Richardson purchased property at 207 Springwood Avenue, Asbury Park. Their children Richard (age twenty-one), Joseph (age eleven), and Restelle (age nine), moved with them.



The Richardson Cottage was located at 207 Springwood Avenue, Asbury Park in 1890 next to the Springwood Avenue Public School. Courtesy Monmouth County Archives.

¹⁷ Helen C. Pike, *Eatontown and Fort Monmouth*, (Arcadia Publishing, 1995) 1.

¹⁸ Peggy Goodrich, *Ike's Travels*, Neptune Historical Society, 1976.

The New Jersey Census of 1880 recorded the Richardson family as white. Isaac and sons, Isaac Whitfield, Theodore, Richard P., and Joseph continued to construct Victorian style structures and provide services for the growing resort towns of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove. During the 1880s Richardson descendants purchased twenty acres of property in Ocean Township about mile west of Asbury Park called West Park. Isaac Revey Richardson and sons Isaac W., Theodore, and Richard P. (and other relatives) set out to build a new community. Isaac continued working on construction contracts until his leg was amputated at age seventy-seven in 1895.¹⁹

Most of the history of the Sand Hill community has been written about the lives and achievements of Revey and Richardson men. However, it is important to note that women also ensured the Sand Hill community flourished and played a big role in maintaining their cultural traditions. For example, Emma Della Richardson Crummal was the mother of Ryers Crummal, who grew up to be the Chief of the Sand Hill Council. Jennie Gibson Richardson's marriage to Isaac W. Richardson in 1874 created the homestead of the Sand Hill clan at 1115 Springwood Avenue, West Park. Reselle Richardson Revey married a cousin, Johnson Benjamin Revey, and became well-recognized for her talent and artistic skills of Native American art. Let us now look at this next generation of Sand Hill history in a bit more detail.

The Next Generation

Emma was the first daughter born to Sand Hill patriarch Isaac and matriarch Elizabeth in 1848. In 1867, Emma married Asa Crummal and raised two sons, Ryers and Rudolph, in

¹⁹ "Real Old Folks in This Concert," *Asbury Park Press*, 1904.

Eatontown. Ryers Thomas Crummal was the first grandson of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson and served as Chief of the Sand Hill Council until his death in 1963.



Emma Della Richardson Crummal (1847-1924), from tintype, circa 1865. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.



Emma's son, Ryers T. Crummal (1870-1963), circa 1900, as Chief of the Sand Hill Indian Council. Ryers Avenue is located off Gant Street in Eatontown. Courtesy Victoria Crummal.

Elizabeth and Isaac Revey Richardson's first son was Isaac Whitfield Richardson, born in 1851. He married Jennie Gibson in Eatontown in 1874. After purchasing nine acres for \$500 from James Bradley, the family moved to Sand Hill where they raised six children: Jonathan, Adeline, Edith, Isaac, Robert, and Charles.²⁰

The second son of Isaac and Elizabeth was Theodore Benjamin Richardson, born 1853. In 1876 Theodore married Margaret Thorn and purchased nine acres at the top of Sand Hill from James Bradley and raised Charlotte, Elizabeth Theodora, Rockell, and Richard.

The third son of Isaac and Elizabeth was Richard Peter Richardson, born in 1856. In 1887 Richard married German-born Anna Snow and purchased three acres from James Bradley on Springdale Avenue (renamed Neptune Boulevard). Here they raised Theodore, Emma, Julia, and Alphonso.

Daughters Elizabeth Richardson Vandever and Susan Richardson Thorn also purchased several acres on Sand Hill. Joseph and Restelle were minors at the time and lived with their parents until their marriages.

The Richardson families developed twenty acres of farmland for flower and vegetable gardens, fruit trees, black walnut trees and trellised grape arbors, barns, horses, cows, geese, chickens, a corn crib and constructed additional Victorian style houses with front, side, back, and upstairs porches at Sand Hill as their children married and new families emerged.²¹ Fresh water was pumped from two springs from property along Springwood Avenue, Springdale Avenue, and Sand Hill Road (now West Bangs Avenue) into barrels on back porches along with butter churns and barrels of flour and grains. Employed by James Bradley, the Richardson and Revey men and

²⁰ Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ, Deed Books 346, 76; 414, 363, 414, 346; 517, 375.

²¹ Peggy Goodrich, *The Sand Hill Band of Cherokees* (Bicentennial Tales, 1953), 35.

spent the next few decades constructing hotels, houses, churches, and other structures including the original boardwalk in Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, New Jersey.

Construction included St. Augustine’s Episcopal Chapel at 114 Sylvan Avenue near the home of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson at 207 Springwood Avenue. The chapel soon included a bell tower, altar, pews, choir loft, two small chapels for baptisms, and a pipe organ. The Sand Hill community benefited economically as the shore area grew into a popular seaside resort for vacationers from New York and Philadelphia. Despite certain members of the family sometimes being listed as white on the census, the clan shared Lenape-Delaware-Cherokee stories and heritage by participating in local events and state fairs.



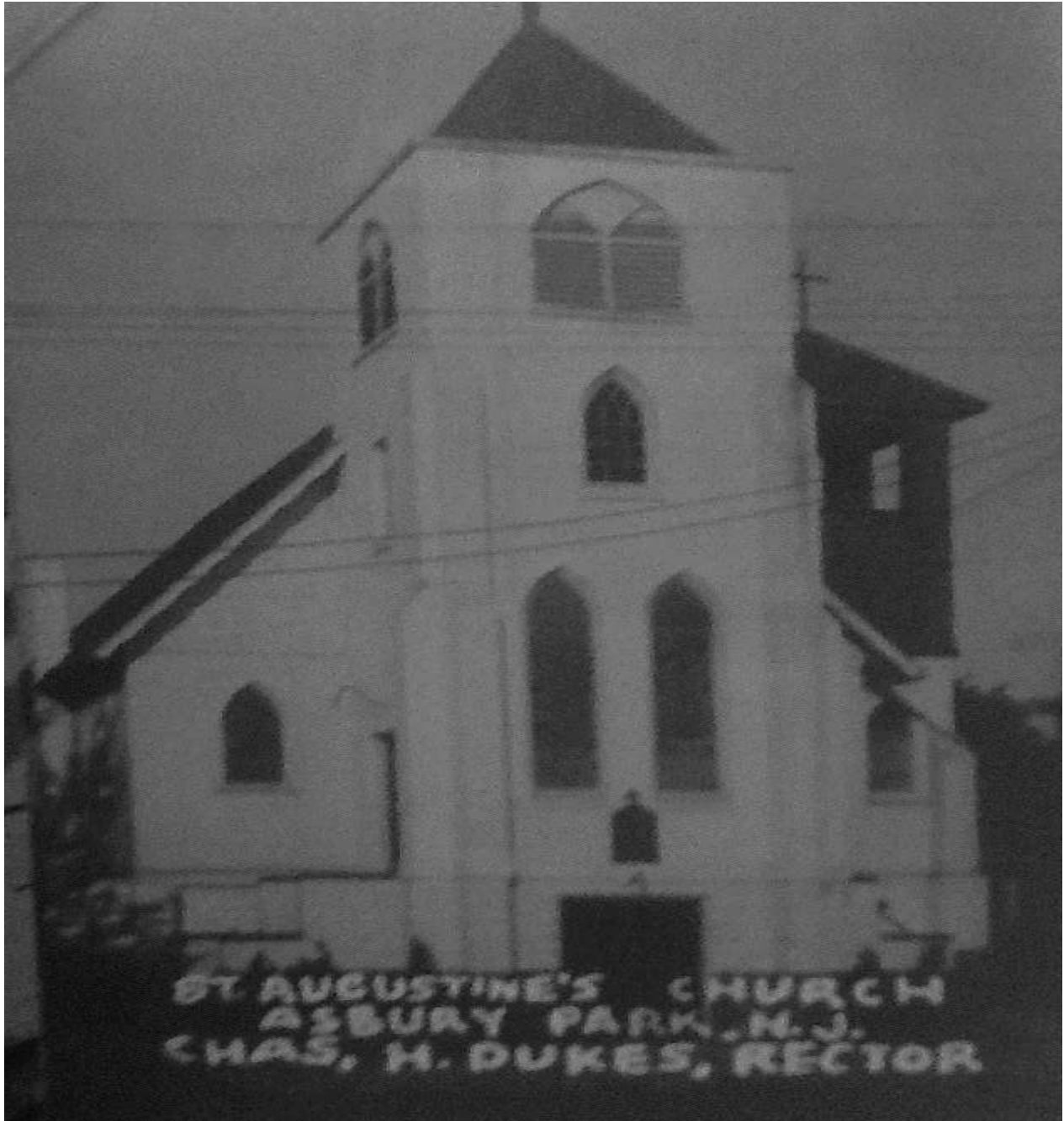
Sand Hill family properties. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.



**St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, circa 1893, Sylvan Avenue, Asbury Park.
Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.**



Easter Sunday with Father August Ernst Jensen, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Asbury Park, 1904. A stained-glass window in the narthex of the new church building memorializes Father Jensen's service. Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.



St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, circa 1940, located at 114 Sylvan Avenue, Asbury Park, was relocated during 1970 Urban Renewal to 155 Prospect Avenue, Asbury Park - along with stained glass windows and communion railings engraved with Richardson family names.²² Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.

²² Barbara LaMar, Chairperson, *History of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church*, (120th Anniversary Celebration, 2010) 6,7, 9.



St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel was located (upper right on map) on Sylvan Avenue, Asbury Park, New Jersey in 1890. Map of Asbury Park, Courtesy Monmouth County Archives. The church continued to be the center of the Sand Hill community.



St. Agnes Guild of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, circa 1950, included Sand Hill residents: bottom center, Eva Harris Richardson; middle second row, Madeleine Thomas Phillips; top row, Florine Richardson Evans and Edmonia Bell Brooks. Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.



Isaac Revey Richardson (1884-1963), grandson of Isaac and Elizabeth Richardson, expanded taxi and coach transportation services at the seaside resort of Asbury Park.²³ Shown circa 1911. Courtesy of Theresa Richardson Gentry.

²³ Helen C Pike, *Asbury Park*, Images of America, (Arcadia Publishing, New Hampshire, 1997) 11, 59.



A 1913 postcard shows the Eureka Fire Wagon driven by grandson Charles Augustus Henry Richardson and his dog, Ted. The horses were Dick and Bell. The Colored Fire Department was housed in a structure located next to Mt. Pisgah Church at the corner of Borden and Springwood Avenues. Courtesy Neptune Historical Museum.

Jennie Gibson



Jennie Gibson Richardson. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.

A key woman in Sand Hill history is Jennie Gibson (1852-1931). Jennie was born in Savannah, Georgia, to Madelyn Vaughn and Robert T. Gibson. Both sides of the Gibson family served in the Civil War, fighting against each other. South Carolina Civil War service records of Confederate soldiers (1861-1865) list Robert Gibson's father, Joshua Gibson, serving with the

First Cavalry, 1st Regiment, Company G of the Confederate Army.²⁴ Robert Gibson himself joined the Union 54th Massachusetts Infantry. In 1862 at age ten Jennie Gibson was transported to Buffalo, New York to live with relatives Elijah and Adeline Gibson while her father served. Robert died of smallpox on May 5, 1864, making Jennie an orphan.²⁵ When Elijah Gibson served as a private in the Union Army, 5th Regiment, heavy artillery, Company A. (Civil War index 1861-1865), Jennie continued to live with her Gibson relatives until she married Isaac W. Richardson on May 5, 1874, in Eatontown. After purchasing nine acres from James Bradley for five hundred



dollars, Jennie and Isaac W. Richardson moved to Sand Hill to raise their six children, Jonathan, Adeline, Edith, Isaac, Robert and Charles.²⁶ Although Jennie grew up as an orphan, she became a prosperous woman and property owner.

Homestead of Isaac Whitfield Richardson and Jennie Gibson Richardson, 1115 Springwood Avenue, West Park, circa 1900. Courtesy of Edmonia Bell Brooks.

²⁴ South Carolina Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865.

²⁵ United States Civil War and Pension Index, 1861-1917, Files of Veterans who served between 1861 and 1900, film 23481563, Image 0782.jp2; Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N7JV-YZ5>; citing Readville, Massachusetts, v 175, p 227, State Archives, Boston, FHL microfilm 960, 184.

²⁶ Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ Deed Book 346, 81.

As each of her descendants married, Jennie divided her properties for new homesteads. One two acre plot was at Chestnut Plains, located at 750 Hope Road in Tinton Falls (where the United Parcel Service building is now located). Chestnut Plains was located at the junction of Wayside and Wycoff Roads in Shrewsbury Township. Chestnut Plains Ridge, elevation one hundred feet, was located along the Delaware and Raritan Bay Railroad from Shrewsbury to Port Monmouth, Middletown Township, after the railroad crosses the road to Tinton Falls.²⁷

Jennie Gibson's ancestry traces back to Gideon "The Regulator" Gibson (1720-1792), who had African and European ancestors. The Gibson families were free people of color who became wealthy landowners in the South Carolina backcountry and "became" white in the 1760s, ascending to the height of the Southern elite. Gibson ancestry includes the Reverend Randal Gibson (1766-1836), Senator Randall Lee Gibson (1832-1892), and Tobias Richardson Gibson (1874-1930). Randall Lee Gibson served four terms in the US House of Representatives and nine years in the US Senate and had cousins living in New York.²⁸

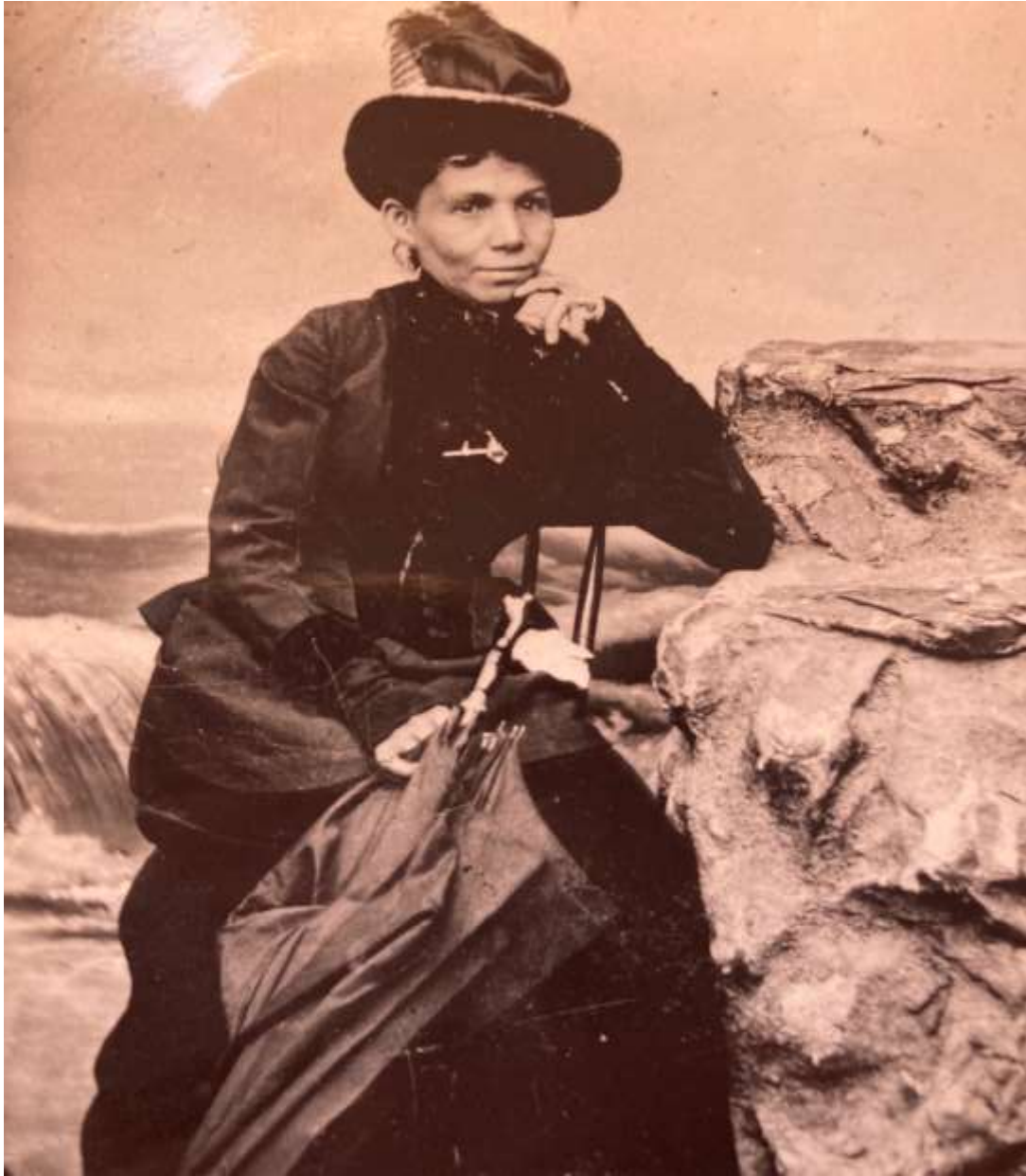
²⁷ J. Lobdell, *Geology of New Jersey* (Newark: 1868).

²⁸ Woody Holton, *Liberty is Sweet, The Hidden History of the American Revolution* (Simon and Schuster, New York, 2021), 9.



Isaac Whitfield Richardson (1851-1921), center, was employed by Glences as master carver of mantles, mirror frames, windows, and doors in Asbury Park, circa 1900.

Courtesy of Edmonia Bell Brooks.



**Elizabeth Susan Richardson (1867-1940), circa 1880, was the mother of Elizabeth, Luxemma and Eccus.²⁹
Courtesy Neptune Historical Museum.**

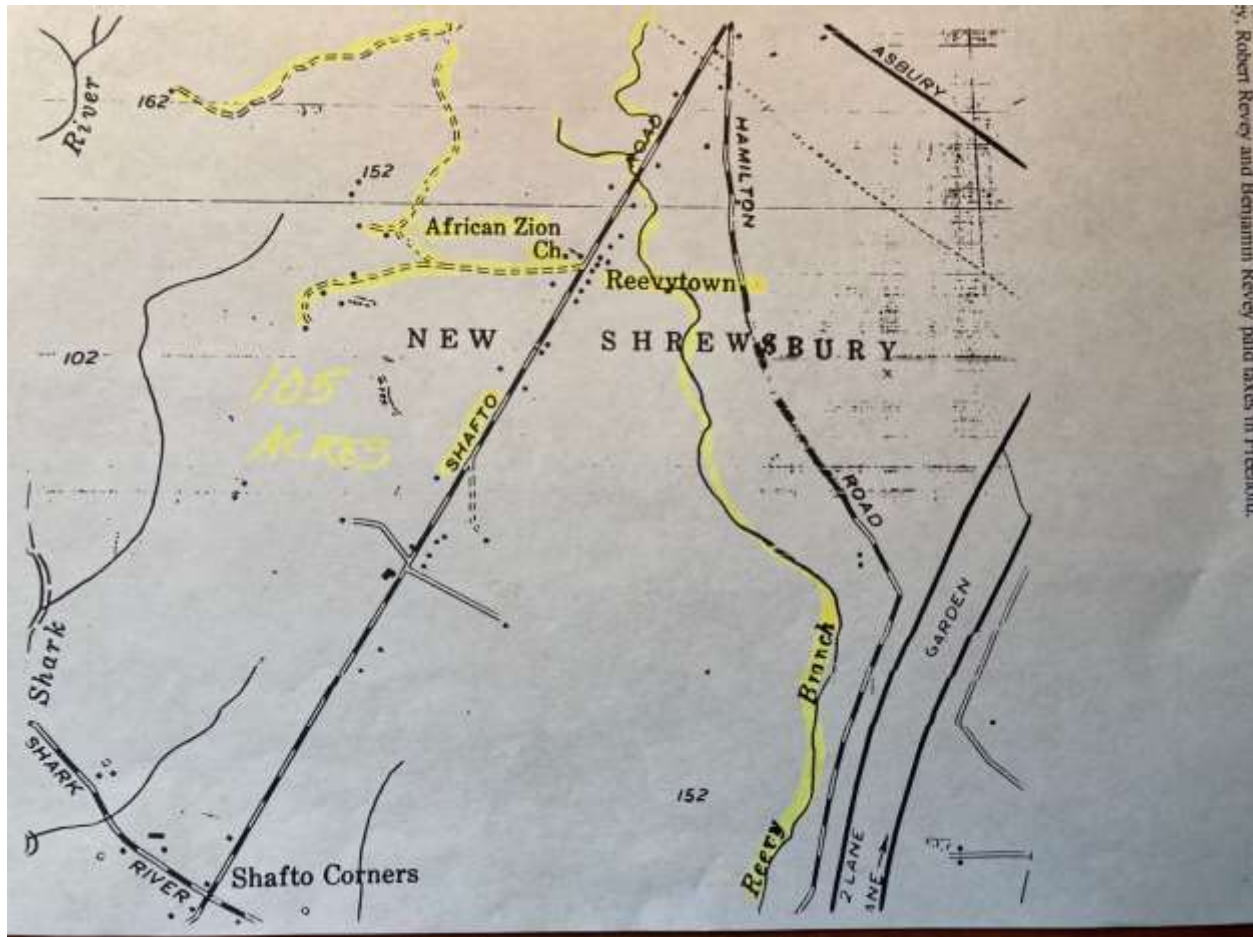
²⁹ Daniel J Sharfstein, *The Invisible Line: Three American Families and the Secret Journey from Black to White*, (The Penguin Press, New York, 2011), 5-7, 23, 54-72, 144-149.



One of four daughters born to Elizabeth and Isaac Revey Richardson, Elizabeth Susan Richardson Vandever (1867-1940), spent winters in Manhattan and summers at Sand Hill. Pictured here circa 1910. Courtesy Neptune Historical Museum.



The home of Elizabeth S. Richardson and Theodore Vandever, located across from Isaac W. and Jennie Richardson's home at 1115 Springwood Avenue, Sand Hill. In 1970s this street was renamed West Lake Avenue, Neptune, New Jersey. Courtesy of the author.



On August 24, 1906, the *New Jersey Sun* newspaper printed an article announcing the foreclosure of Reevytown property valued at \$500 belonging to the estate of James Revey (1810-1896), who was a bachelor and died without a will. The estate was eventually divided among fifty-four nieces. At the time thirty-three descendants lived in Monmouth County. Descendants listed were William H. Richardson, Theodore Richardson, Robert Richardson, and Charles Henry Richardson of the Sand Hill clan. Courtesy of the author.



**Anna Theodora Jackson Richardson, wife of Joseph S. Richardson (1865-1921).
Parents of Emma, Ryers, Charlotte, Julian, and Christina.
Courtesy Gloria Richardson Holloway.**



Serving with the First Army Post Band in Verdun, France, 1917-1919 was Ryers C. Crummal Richardson (1896-1963), son of Anna Theodora and Joseph S. Richardson. Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.



Christina Richardson Dickerson 1881-1979, daughter of Anna Theodora and Joseph S. Richardson, dressed in Sand Hill regalia. Courtesy Evelyn Stryker Lewis.



The Sand Hill Marching Band performed for parades in Asbury Park. The Concert Band was directed by Jonathan Richardson and included many musicians of color during the summer months. Shown here circa 1940. Jonathan Richardson was selected by Asbury Angels to be honored in June 2022 as an Asbury Angel for his contribution to music at the Jersey Shore. Courtesy Edmonia Bell Brooks.



A new industrial age brought new technologies to the shore and changed the way people lived. Photography, the telegraph, telephone, moving pictures, electricity, stream engines, and locomotives brought thousands of visitors a day. Isaac Revey Richardson, grandson of Isaac and Elizabeth Richardson, offered a taxi service using a Cadillac 8 or Ford Sedan, telephone Asbury1011-M. Fare to New York or Philadelphia- cost \$50; Long Branch- \$5.00; Trenton- \$25.00. Shown here circa 1915. Courtesy Theresa Richardson Gentry.



Restelle Elizabeth Richardson (1867-1939) and Johnson Benjamin Revey (1865-1940). Courtesy of the author.

Restelle Elizabeth Richardson

Another key female figure in Sand Hill history is the fourth and last daughter of Elizabeth and Isaac Revey Richardson, Restelle Elizabeth Richardson (1867-1939). Restelle married Johnson Benjamin Revey (1865-1940) of Little Silver at Trinity Church in Asbury Park in 1893.³⁰ She was an expert seamstress and craftsperson who made traditional native articles, clothing,

³⁰ State of New Jersey, Marriage Return, R-55, October 19, 1893; New Jersey Marriage Records, 1670-1965 FLM000495718.

beaded bags, dolls, shirts, jackets and headdresses. Restelle was recently included in the Asbury Park Historical Society exhibit titled "Trailblazing Women of Asbury Park," mounted at the Asbury Park Library.

Restelle's sons, James Rodney (1896-1938) and Robert Vincent Revey (1898), were raised in Asbury Park and served as altar boys at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church during the first decade of the twentieth century. As musicians, both sons departed Asbury Park to serve in WWI. James performed with the Lt. James Reese Europe Harlem Hell Fighters Brass Band which toured in Europe for many years. On returning to New York, Robert married Vivial Ritter and had two children, Mercedes (1921-2002) and James (1924-1998), who served as the Director of the New Jersey Indian Office in Orange, New Jersey.

Restelle and Johnson Revey farmed their one-hundred-acre property in Reveytown, located at the southern end of Tinton Falls and bordered by the Revey Branch of the Shark River.³¹ Later they acquired a large boarding house at 125 Ridge Avenue, Asbury Park, to provide accommodations for boarders who were employed in summer the resort industry.³² As farming declined during the twentieth century, Restelle and Johnson Revey invested in a multifamily-houses located at 110th Street, Manhattan, West 128th Street in Harlem, New York and 822 E 167th St, Bronx, New York. They would later be buried in the Richardson family plot located at Mt. Prospect Cemetery, Neptune, New Jersey, next to their son, James Revey.³³

The Matriarch and Patriarch Pass; Their Legacy

In 1898 at age seventy-two the matriarch of the Sand Hill clan, Elizabeth Revey Richardson, died of dementia while residing with her daughter Restelle at 1649 Broadway, near 50th Street,

³¹ Monmouth County Hall of Records, Freehold, NJ, Deed Book S-13, 87.

³² *Four Centuries of Monmouth County Women* (Monmouth County Archives: October 2019) 84-85.

³³ Suzanne Jewell and Carol Clarke, Sand Hill Newsletter, vol. 2, Issue 87, 2008, great-granddaughters of Restelle Richardson Revey.

Manhattan.³⁴ The patriarch of the Sand Hill clan, Isaac Revey Richardson, lived the remainder of his days with his son Isaac W. and Jennie Gibson Richardson at the Sand Hill homestead at 1115 Springwood Avenue, Neptune. Their descendants are many, their accomplishments well-documented for those who care to look. So why do many believe there are no indigenous people left in New Jersey?



Left: Robert Vincent Revey (1898-1964) son of Restelle and Johnson Revey. Courtesy of Edmonia Bell Brooks.

Right: James "Lone Bear" Revey, (1924-1998) grandson of Restelle and Johnson Revey. During World War II James served as a glider pilot with the 82nd Airborne. After the war James attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Courtesy of his niece, Suzanne Cook Jewell.

³⁴ New York City Deaths, 1892-1902, "Elizabeth S Richardson," 7 February 1898, Certificate 3756. See <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml>.



In 2009 Sand Hill Indian regalia belonging to Robert and James Lone Bear Revey was included in the 400th Anniversary Exhibition of Dutch Settlement of New Amsterdam at Ellis Island. James Revey was the Director of the New Jersey Indian Office, Orange, New Jersey until 1998. Courtesy of the author.

As late as the post-WWII era, it was acknowledged that Indians remained in the state. The Sand Hill Indians were documented in the Smithsonian Report of 1948, which noted:

Near Eaton Town in Monmouth County, New Jersey a band of Indians settled before the Revolutionary War. They were supposedly descended from Tuscarora or Cherokee migrants from North Carolina. At a somewhat later date 1877 they located at Asbury Park upon a site known as Sand Hill. They came to be known as Sand Hill Indians of Monmouth County and their home was called The Reservation or Richardson Heights after the name of one of their prominent members. Indian traditions and arts have survived among this group until the present time. Beadwork and basketry have been made in recent years.

And in 1974, the Sand Hill Council provided memorabilia and handmade articles for educational purposes to the Neptune Historical Museum located on the second floor of the library on Neptune Boulevard, Neptune. The Museum displayed the Sand Hill Collection until 2004 for the public and school groups. At that time the Neptune Township chose to close the museum for a new building expansion.

Sand Hill artifacts and historical memorabilia were returned to the Sand Hill Indian Historical Association, which was formed by descendants of the Revey and Richardson families who resided at Sand Hill. Artifacts are now displayed during lectures, presentations and local exhibits. Descendants of the original landowners of Sand Hill formed the Sand Hill Indian Historical Association to preserve the Revey-Richardson heritage for future generations.

The Lenape exhibit at the State of New Jersey State Museum in Trenton also includes Sand Hill Indian artifacts and photos of the clan. A summary of the Sand Hill community was included in the New Jersey Archeological and Ethnography Collection Report in 2012.³⁵

During the twentieth century Sand Hill descendants chose additional educational and employment opportunities found in growing industries. While descendants continue to own some

³⁵ Margaret M. O'Reilly, *The Story of New Jersey's Indians*, New Jersey State Museum's Archaeology and Ethnography Collection, (NJ State Museum, Trenton, NJ 2012), 36.

of the original properties located on Sand Hill, other properties have been rented or sold. The homestead of Isaac W. and Jennie Gibson Richardson remains in the family thanks to Carolanne Nicholas, a descendant of Theodore Richardson (whose own house at the top of Sand Hill was struck by lightning and later demolished). Descendants of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson continue to save the Sand Hill family story of survival along the seacoast of Monmouth County through lectures, presentations, exhibitions, newsletters and reunions to connect present day generations with their past.

The idea that indigenous people left New Jersey centuries ago is just plain wrong. As this article has shown, a vibrant, if relatively small, indigenous community has flourished in Monmouth County for centuries, and their presence can be traced readily throughout the historical record.

The author would like to extend a special thank you to all Sand Hill descendants who contributed to preserving the Sand Hill community information, to include hundreds of photos, artifacts, and documents of the history and heritage of the Lenape-Delaware-Cherokee Revey and Richardson families, who were among the original settlers this area at the shore. Special thanks to descendants Theodora Ashby for extensive genealogical research; Phillipa Ashby Benin for media documentation of Sand Hill artifacts; Sharon Coleman Davis, a descendant of Richard P Richardson, for presentations and liaison efforts with the Township of Neptune; Fortune H. Thomas for serving as Chief; and Marie Thomas Gallashaw for their service on the Sand Hill Indian Council. Thanks, too, to local historians Randall Gabrielan and Rick Geffken for their contributions to this piece.

The author hopes that readers enjoy the Addendum to this article, which features additional images and artifacts that tell further pieces of this important, dynamic, and fascinating centuries-spanning story.

Claire Garland, of Neptune, New Jersey is a long-time champion of New Jersey's Native American heritage. A member of the Sand Hill Band of Lenape, she is a tireless advocate for her people and for Native American history and rights generally. A lifelong educator, Claire taught for 36 years in the Tinton Falls School District. She received her BS in Education from Monmouth College (now Monmouth University) and her Master in the Sociological and Philosophical Foundations of Education from Rutgers University. Claire's teaching has not been limited to the classroom but includes regular presentations to schools and community groups where she has shared the stories of her ancestors, New Jersey's first inhabitants. She has researched and written about the life and times of Cherokee Indian Ike of Monmouth, developed a website and Facebook page on the Sand Hill Indians, consulted on museum exhibits, and presented on NJTV. She has lectured across the state on the Lenape people and is the recognized expert on the Sand Hill Band. Claire also serves on the New Jersey Commission on American Indian Affairs as a Resource Person. She has been honored by the New Jersey Historical Commission for her work, and is a member of the Commission's Indigenous Education Project.

Addendum



**Grandsons of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson, 1939, from left: Robert Gibson Revey, Jonathan Richardson, Chief Ryers Crummal, Isaac Revey Richardson, and Robert Vincent Revey.
Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.**



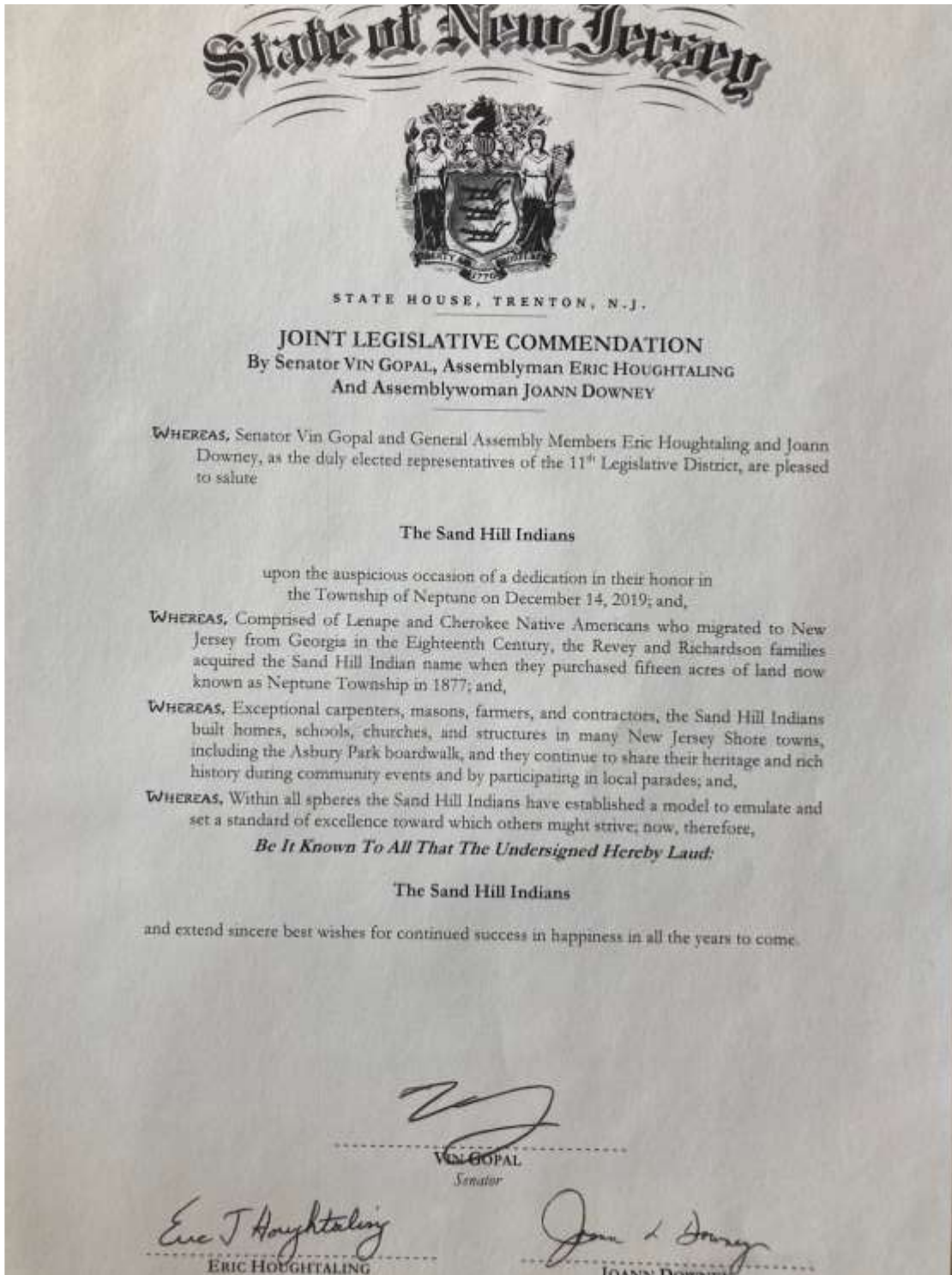
After a twenty-minute performance, Chief Ryers Crummal makes New Jersey Governor Alfred E. Driscoll an honorary member of the Sand Hill Indian Community in 1949 on Governor's Day at the New Jersey State Fair, Trenton. Courtesy *Asbury Park Press*, September 29, 1949.



Sand Hill Indian Council, 1949. Dressed in regalia for New Jersey State Fair from left: James Lone Bear Revey, Jonathan Richardson, Isaac Revey Richardson, Chief Ryers Crummel, Robert Gibson Richardson, Robert Revey. Seated: Theodora Richardson Bell, Edith Richardson Gardner, Christina Richardson Dickerson, Adeline Richardson Thomas, Restella Richardson Fox, and Charlotte Richardson (all grandchildren of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson). Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.



Certificate of Engraving on the Wall of Honor at the American Indian Museum in Washington, DC featuring the names of Isaac and Elizabeth Revey Richardson, 2004. Courtesy of the author.



The Sand Hill Indian Community was honored by the 11th district of the New Jersey State Legislature on December 14, 2019, recognizing the history, contributions, and heritage of the Revey and Richardson families to the shore area of Monmouth County. Received by Carolanne Nicholas, a descendant of Theodore and Margaret Richardson.



Revey and Richardson family nineteenth century headstones and cemetery plots are located at Locust Grove Cemetery, South Street Eatontown; the Indian Burial Ground at Shadow Rest Cemetery, Squankum Road, Tinton Falls; and Mount Prospect Cemetery in Neptune. From the Richardson-Revey family plot located at Mount Prospect Cemetery, Neptune, New Jersey. Courtesy of the author.



Located at the Richardson-Revey family plot at Mount Prospect Cemetery, Neptune, about a half mile from the Sand Hill homestead often called "The Reservation." Courtesy of the author.



On August 7, 2004, a Proclamation for "Sand Hill Indian Day" was issued by the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders at the biannual reunion of descendants of Sand Hill Indians, Shark River Park, Neptune, New Jersey. Courtesy of the author.



Presented to Sharon Coleman Davis, a descendant of Richard P. Richardson, was a Proclamation from the Mayor of Neptune, Carol Rizzo, and the Township Council, when restoring the original road sign of Sand Hill Road, now called West Bangs Avenue, February 16, 2019. Courtesy of the author.



Pictured here at the renaming of Sand Hill Road ceremony are Sand Hill Indian descendants Sharon Coleman Davis and Chief Fortune Harris Thomas, with Neptune Township Council representatives on December 14, 2019. Courtesy of the author.



Proclamation renaming Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 12, 2020, from the Office of the Mayor and City of Asbury Park; presented to honor the contributions of Sand Hill Indians in building the resort community in the 19th and 20th twentieth centuries. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.



Proclamation of Native American Heritage Month presented by Mayor Anthony Perry and the Township of Middletown on November 15, 2021, honoring the settlement of Navesink in 1662. Courtesy Sand Hill Indian Historical Association.



Claire Garland showing Sand Hill Peace Pipe made by James Lone Bear Revey and receiving Proclamation for Native American Heritage Month from Mayor Tony Perry on November 15, 2021, at Township Hall, Middletown, New Jersey. Courtesy of the author.



Descendants of Theodore and Margaret Richardson: Phillipa Ashby Benin, Theodora Ashby, Albert Ashby, Charles Nichlolas, Edmonia Bell Brooks, and Marguerite Richardson Bryant, circa 1985. Courtesy of the author.