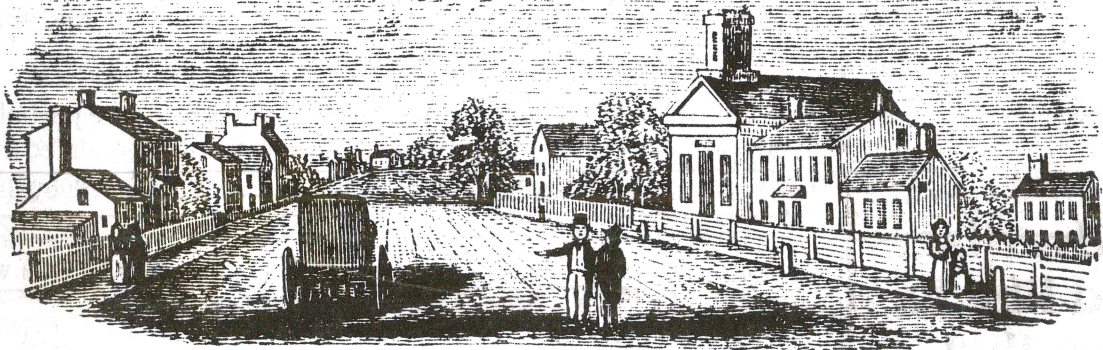


MATAWAN-ABERDEEN HOMETOWN SHOPPER™

**FALL ISSUE
SEPTEMBER, 1991**



Middletown Point — 1842
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The beginnings of what was to become Matawan began on September 30, 1686 when Stephen Warne and his son Thomas received a land grant of 400 acres from the proprietors of East Jersey. It included all the land between Gravelly Brook and Matawan Creek and was called Warne's Neck. Already owning 1,000 acres on the north side of Matawan Creek, in Madison Township, Thomas erected a wigwam there in 1685. He is commonly called the first white man to have lived in the Matawan area.

In that same year, a large group of religious prisoners hoping for freedom set out from Scotland as bonded servants to George Scot who had been granted their services to help make a settlement in East Jersey. With the death of Scot during the voyage, the prisoners were later to find themselves free men in the new world. A total of 24 of these Scotch Presbyterians, now all free men, purchased a tract of 100 acres in Warne's Neck. The land was bought between 1687 and 1689. Settling in the Freneau district of the Borough, these men were the first known inhabitants of Matawan. The settlement was called Mount Pleasant and then changed to New Aberdeen. New Aberdeen gradually became known as Middletown Point since it soon became the principal shipping point for the Middletown settlement to the south.

It was officially changed to Matawan in 1865. The name probably derived from the name of a branch of the Raritan Indians who frequented this area. An early Dutch map designates the land in the vicinity of the Matawan Creek as "Matavancons"

Material in this article was obtained from *MATAWAN 1686-1936*, by the Federal Writers Project, copyright 1936 — Brown Publishing and Printing Co., Inc., Keyport, NJ
KNOW YOUR TOWN — MATAWAN BOROUGH AND TOWNSHIP, prepared and published by The League of Women Voters of Matawan, N.J. — 1965



ON THE COVER:

The engraving on the front cover, sketched in 1842, is a central view in Middletown Point, now Main Street, Matawan, looking toward what is now Route 34. It was obtained from the HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, first published in 1844 by John W. Barber and Henry Howe. The drawings in this book were made on the spot by the authors as they traveled throughout the state conversing with citizens, among whom were survivors of the Revolution.

The following is the authors' own description of their drawing and observation of life in the town:

The large building, with a tower, is the Presbyterian Church, the small structure, on the extreme right is the academy. The Methodists have a church, erected in 1836, distant about 200 yards from where the view was taken. This village is a thriving businessplace; a steamer plies between it and New York. It contains a bank, 11 stores, 25 mechanic shops, and about 70 dwellings, many of them large and commodious.

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