



# Discover people and places in our watershed.

SECTION

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**A wealth of history flows  
in the Barnegat Bay  
watershed.  
It's a history built by the  
forests, rivers, streams,  
lakes, ponds, bays  
and ocean beaches.**

It was the early 1600s when Captain Henry Hudson and his Dutch and English crew aboard the ship, Half Moon, cruised the New Jersey shoreline recording sightings of 'broken islands' and a 'great lake of water' (Barnegat Bay), as he sailed north to Sandy Hook and 'New Amsterdam' (New York). Reports of their findings at home in the Netherlands brought many more explorers to our shores.

It was time to make a map! Captain Cornelius Hendrixson, a navigator and cartographer from Holland, was the first to accurately document the Jersey coastline, in 1614, recording the locations of such places we know today as Barnegat Inlet, Toms River, Cattus Island, Long Beach Island, Great Bay and Little Egg.

Between 1665 and 1720, both the Dutch and English cultures arrived with the new settlers, melding with coast-dwelling Native American life to form the roots of New Jersey's heritage. These early residents were primarily whalers who also made good use of the bountiful forests,

building sawmills to make lumber for boat building and villages.

In the 1800s immigrants began pouring onto the eastern shores of America. For some of these folks, the coast of Ocean County rapidly became known as 'the Graveyard of the Atlantic,' due to its violent storms, shoally waters and even pirates.

Hundreds and hundreds of shipwrecks lined our beaches during that time period. Out of necessity, the U.S. Lifesaving Service was born right here. Survivors from many nations, who managed to make it to shore, brought their own cultures and traditions with them.

So it is that the waters of Ocean County, Monmouth County, and coastal New Jersey define who we are: fishermen, boat builders, hunters, millers, inventors, naturalists, and more.

As our population increases, and more 'new settlers' come to our watershed, we have new problems to solve because we live by the sea, and the sea is who we are.

—Carla Miners