
HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY

- 1723 Log Town settlement started.
- 1764 Pastor Samuel Kennedy establishes classical school for boys in his home.
- 1776 In October, Major General Charles Lee leaves his troops in Bernardsville for the comforts of White's Tavern in Basking Ridge and is captured by the British.
- 1777 Washington sleeps in Bernardsville. His diary January 6, 1777: "At 9 a.m. we marched from Pluckemin for Morristown via Vealtown where we arrived at 5 p.m. and encamped in the woods, the snow covering the ground."
- 1781 First divisions of our French allies stop here in August. A French officer comments, "The road which I took to the Vealtown Tavern is not disagreeable...."
- 1779-80 During the worst winter of the Revolution, the New Jersey Brigade camps on Hardscrabble Road.
- 1779 Mutinying Pennsylvania troops stop to parley at Bernardsville's Vealtown Tavern.
- 1822 Bernards Township starts a boarding school in Basking Ridge to teach "alphabet, Spelling, Arrethmetic, redding, geography, and English grammer."
- 1840 Name changes from Vealtown to Bernardsville.
- 1872 The railroad comes to Bernardsville. Its first depot is now the Bernardsville News Office. The peach industry flourishes.
- 1871 It took \$1171 to operate the Bernardsville, Mine Mount and Mine Brook schools, with an enrollment of 219.
- 1872 Calvin D. Smith appointed the first postmaster of Bernardsville. He kept a general store next to the library building. Across the square were stables and a blacksmith shop. The town pump was in the middle of the square.
- 1895-99 When S.S. Childs built his home Bairns Brae (now the Fellowship Deaconry), he installed a small electric light plant. Later he built the stone wall on Old Army Road and installed light poles the length of the wall. This was the first electric lighted public road in the state and was such a novelty that many came from Newark, the Oranges and elsewhere to see it.
- 1905 A nine room high school is built of stone on 26 acres donated by Mr. Olcott
- 1912 Woodrow Wilson sleeps here at the Old Stone Hotel while campaigning for president. The whole town turns out to hear him speak.
Grammar school built on the present high school site.
- 1913 Saturday movies come to Bernardsville.
- W.W. I The town subscribes to more Liberty Bonds than any other town of its size in the state.
- 1920s The most heavily traveled roads were paved.
- 1924 Bernardsville separates from Bernards Township by an act of the New Jersey legislature and becomes the Borough of Bernardsville.
- 1927 First municipal elections held. First mayor - George Cross. Members of the Borough Council were Dr. Clare Henry, Charles Parker, Joseph Dobbs, H. Rivington Pyne, James J. McGuirk and George B. Post.
New high school built, containing 14 classrooms.
- 1932 Avenue of trees are planted on High School grounds in honor of Washington Bicentennial.
Sixty-six students are graduated from Bernards High School
Work begins on local sewer system.
- 1933 Legal beer arrives in Bernardsville and 18 licenses are issued to permit sale.
Local movie house given permission to show movies on Sunday.
- 1940 Women's Club favors aid to Britain, all aid short of war.
- 1942 In April, 110 municipal youths were inducted into the armed forces.
In May, gas rationing and scrap metal collections begin.
Bernards High School graduates 105.
- 1946 In July, floodgate breaks and the borough pond empties.
- 1948 Bernardsville separates from the Township school system.
- 1951 Bernardsville voters authorize a \$300,000 addition to Bernards High School.