

Chapter 7

The Clan Expands

Eighteen years after their marriage, Elizabeth boarded a boat on March 24, 1862 at the Eatontown dock (Oceanport) to visit her sister, Mary Gabriel, in New York City. Isaac noted this special occasion in his account book because the male children, Isaac, ten years old, Theodore, eight years old, and Richard, four years old, boarded with their grandfather, Richard P. Revey, for \$0.75 cents a week. The girls, Libby and Susan stayed at home with their older sister, Emma.

Elizabeth Revey Richardson lived in Eatontown for thirty years before she and Isaac R. Richardson purchased fifteen acres for \$500.00 and building a new homestead on Sand Hill. This property was located on Widow Tucker's Lane in Whitesville, a part



**Christina Richardson marries
James Dickerson, circa 1900**

of the White family tract near Spring Hill and Hollow Brook, mentioned in the deed. This wooded hill bordered on dirt lanes, which became West Bangs Avenue, Neptune Boulevard and Lake Avenue.

The Richardson families chose the land on the hill where several springs bubbled out of the hill so they would be the first to get clean, uncontaminated water. Eventually, one spring was piped and connected to a hand pump on the back porch of their house at 1115 Springwood Avenue, West Asbury Park. Deeds show property transactions as houses were constructed by

Richardson-Revey men and sold to the other people moving into the area.

Isaac and the Richardson men built a large two Victorian style houses, with five bedrooms, front and back porches and front and back staircases. On the first floor was a large country kitchen, a parlor in the front of the house and a large dining room off the kitchen. On Saturday evenings the family heated water on the wood burning stove in the kitchen to fill a tub for bathing in preparation for church on Sunday.

There was a huge pink Magnolia tree off the west side of the house. Behind the house were chicken coops, a cowshed, a horse barn, a corn -crib, gardens and fields. Ike and his sons supported the family with their carpentry and building skills. Most foods were purchased from stores, as farming was a minor activity for the family. Hogs were slaughtered in the fall and smoked in the smokehouse. Chickens were killed for Sunday dinner. Eggs were collected daily from the hen house. Grapes grew on the grape arbor and were made into jelly and wine. Women baked breads, biscuits and pies for the family.

Outdoor privies were moved to the back porch since sewage systems did not exist in most towns during this period. Commode chairs concealed chamber pots or slop jars. Earth closets and cesspools were used until water closets introduced a system of flushing toilets was devised. Asbury Park became the first shore community to pipe underground sewers into the ocean.

Elizabeth followed Indian recipes by making tea from sassafras roots to rid the body of winter flu. Sage was used as a tonic and hair dye. Wintergreen was used as a cure for stiff joints. Catnip was brewed for happy feelings. Tansy was used as a laxative. Peppermint was used as a mouth freshener. Wild cherry was made into a cough syrup. Sunflower seeds were eaten for good eyesight. Bone marrow was added to soups as a

thickener. Pine needles were used as moth flakes. Onions were used to draw out fever. Copper pennies were used on boils, blisters, pimples and warts.

Family stories relate how James Bradley offered to sell land near the sea to the Richardsons, but fearing hurricanes they selected Sand Hill, which was on higher ground and a mile from the coastline.

As the children married, Isaac and Elizabeth gave each one a plot of land. The Richardson men began constructing a new house for each the new family. As the grandchildren married, more plots were subdivided and more homes were built. By the 1950s, Sand Hill was inhabited by over fifty family members. The community grew to the point that the clan formed its own marching and concert bands, which entertained in



the hotels along the seashore. They formed the Eureka Volunteer Fire Company supplying their own water wagons pulled by the horses, named Dick and Bell.

Elizabeth Richardson lived at Sand Hill for over twenty years before she lost her health and went to live with her daughter, Restelle Richardson Revey, where she died in 1898 at 1697 Broadway, New York. The death certificate states the cause of death was dementia, softening of the brain. Elizabeth was buried in the family plot at Mt. Prospect. Her tombstone reads, Elizabeth 1825 – 1898, the beloved wife of Isaac.

As the shore towns continued to grow in population, Isaac and his sons did extensive building in Asbury Park which had three thousand permanent residents and eight hundred houses, two hundred boarding houses and thirty thousand visitors in the summer months. A trolley connected Asbury Park to Shark River. The shore towns became a tourist mecca.

Asbury Park offered a well-kept beach of clean sand and surf, three fresh water lakes for recreation, sports and amusements. It had the widest promenade in the country at that time. On one end of the boardwalk was the Casino, which became the social center of the beach area. On the other end was the Arcade, full of games of chance, pavilions and rest parlors. The Natatorium included hot salt-water bathing and fresh water swimming. Boats offered game fishing, paddleboats and canoeing on the lakes. The beach area and boardwalk were off limits and closed to any colored people.



The Richardson men built new hotels, The Lake-View and The Grand Avenue, built in 1873 and The Hotel Brunswick in 1880. Hundreds of small cottages and rooming houses were built for summer boarders.

Isaac W. Richardson and grandson, Isaac Revey Richardson, became successful businessmen by continuing the building trades and expanding Ike Richardson's taxi service.

Young Ike owned a prosperous garage for automobile servicing. Great-grandson, August E. Thomas, also owned his own Automobile Repair and Service Center, employing six men full time while operating a general store and restaurant.



The next generation, Wayne and Fortune Thomas, continued the business through the 20th century with Thomas Brothers Autobody Repair in Tinton Falls. Another son, August, became an administrative law judge for the state of New Jersey. Other family members went into the professions, becoming doctors, teachers, lawyers, accountants and business owners.

The family names of Richardson-Revey are listed on the Cherokee Roll of 1900. At one time they were members of an Indian organization called the League of Nations of North American Indians. The Richardson descendants contribute to the great mosaic blend of European-Asian-Amerindian and African cultures that have blended together in these United States today.

Most of the original fifteen-acre homestead at Sand Hill has been sold through the years as the younger generations moved away to the cities. The heritage has been kept alive through family reunions. Some artifacts have been preserved by the Neptune Historical Museum, whose curator, Evelyn Lewis, has taken a special interest in preserving and displaying Indian crafts.

As the last chief, Ryers Crummell, and council members of the clan became older, the heritage slowly faded from the next generation. Ryers was a distinguished looking man with a copper complexion stood over six feet tall. He lived out his days with his grandson, Englemar Crummell, in Pine Brook and his



**Ryers Crummell & N.J.
Governor Alfred Driscoll, 1947**

Morris relatives on Shafto Road in Reeveytown. He was buried in Atlantic Cemetery in 1963 along with his daughter, Virginia Crummel Morris.