

J.L. Grimstead's Chronology 1939

In 1939 J. Lloyd Grimstead did a chronology of the history of the Metuchen area. Below is what he wrote, with corrections in italics.

Chronology

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| 1630-1700 | Metuchen was the chief of the Indians in this section. |
| 1666 | Daniel Pierce and associates purchase land from Governor Carteret and associates for the settlement of Woodbridge. |
| 1670 | Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary sets up a mill on Papiack Creek. |
| 1705 | Bonhamtown-Oak Tree Road surveyed through Metuchen. |
| 1717 | First Metuchen meeting house is erected, near the intersection of the Bonhamtown and Woodbridge Roads. |
| 1753 | Metuchen builds a larger church. |
| 1764 | First all-land stage route runs from Philadelphia to Jersey City via Piscataway, Bonhamtown, and Woodbridge. |
| 1776 | The Allentown Tavern on Durham Avenue serves cake and beer to British and rebels between skirmishes. |
| 1778 (1777) | Battle of Oak Tree. Washington vs. Cornwallis and Howe. |
| 1784 | Copper is discovered near Menlo Park. |
| 1790 | Ayer's blacksmith shop stands at Main and Christol Streets. |

- 1793 Metuchen church becomes independent at the request of Woodbridge.
- 1793 Metuchen becomes a separate voting district.
- 1800 Ezekiel Ayers's hotel pump in north Metuchen gives Pumptown its name.
- 1807 The original Franklin schoolhouse is built.
- 1810 Completion of Middlesex-Essex and Amboy-Boundbrook Turnpikes through Metuchen.
- 1832 Lewis Thomas establishes Metuchen's first store and opens Metuchen's first post office there.
- 1836 January 30. Present Presbyterian Church is dedicated. First train puffs through the village enroute to New Brunswick.
- 1855 Thomas Van Siclen opens the Raritan Hotel.
- 1857 December 29, The Reformed Church is organized in the morning; it's cornerstone is laid in the afternoon.
- 1866 October 2, The Centenary Methodist Church organizes. November 28. St. Luke's Episcopal Church incorporates.
- 1887 St. Joseph's, Metuchen's original Catholic church, is built.
- 1870 February 28, 1870. Metuchen opens its library and reading room.
- March 17. Raritan Township is formed, including Metuchen.
- 1873 Nathan Robins builds Robins Hall.
- The Lehigh Valley Railroad passes through town.
- 1875 November. The protective Association of Metuchen is organized to maintain law and order in the village.

- 1880 October 20. The Metuchen Inquirer, first local newspaper, begins publication.
- 1882 Eagle Hook & Ladder Company begins fighting fires.
- 1886 May 25. Ice Cream, at reasonable terms, brings Metuchen into a new gastronomic era.
- 1888 Pennsylvania station is built at its present site. Main Street discreetly under the railroad.
- 1889 Metuchen votes not to become a borough.
- 1890 June. The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church becomes Metuchen's first Negro church.
- 1891 The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad adds Metuchen to its itinerary.
- 1894 The Metuchen Recorder begins publication and the Inquirer discontinued soon after. A temporary policeman keeps the streets safe for women after dark.
- 1897 Metuchen gets its first telephone and water service.
 The Washington Hose Company is organized.
- 1898 The trolley comes to town.
- 1899 December 21. The Edgar Clays Corporation is founded.
- 1900 March 20. Metuchen becomes a borough.
- 1901 June 14. The Borough Improvement League organizes.
- 1902 November 17. The one- man police force is aided and abetted by a Vigilance Society.
- 1903 St. Joseph's College is opened.
- 1905 May 23 Truman T. Pierson distinguishes himself as the first depositor in the Metuchen National Bank.

- 1907 Metuchen encourages motorists to go slowly, and moochers to go swiftly.
- 1908 April 24. The First Baptist Church organizes.
- 1909 The Second Baptist Church is formed.
Movies in Town.
- 1911 The borough acquires a regulated police department.
- 1914 Metuchen acquires a nickelodeon.
- 1916 The Edgar Memorial School is dedicated.
The Empire Floor and Wall Tile factory (now used by Celotex Corp.) is built.
- 1920 Metuchen acquires a post office building (Power) and delivery service.
- 1921 The Metuchen Review is started at Highland Park.
- 1922 September 17. The YMCA building is dedicated.
- 1923 December 11. The New Hope Baptist Church and the Christadelphian Church are organized.
- 1924 The Costa Ice Cream Company builds it's factory.
- 1925 The Commonwealth Bank opens for business.
- 1927 The Washington School is completed.
- 1929 St. Francis Parochial School is opened.
August. The Missionary sisters of Our Lady of Africa established their only US Branch in Metuchen.
- 1930 The Church of Jesus Christ is organized.
- 1931 Metuchen becomes the first community to go to the rescue of the unemployed with direct work relief.

1936

The Celotex Corporation moves into town.

1939

Work is started on the new Metuchen Post Office.