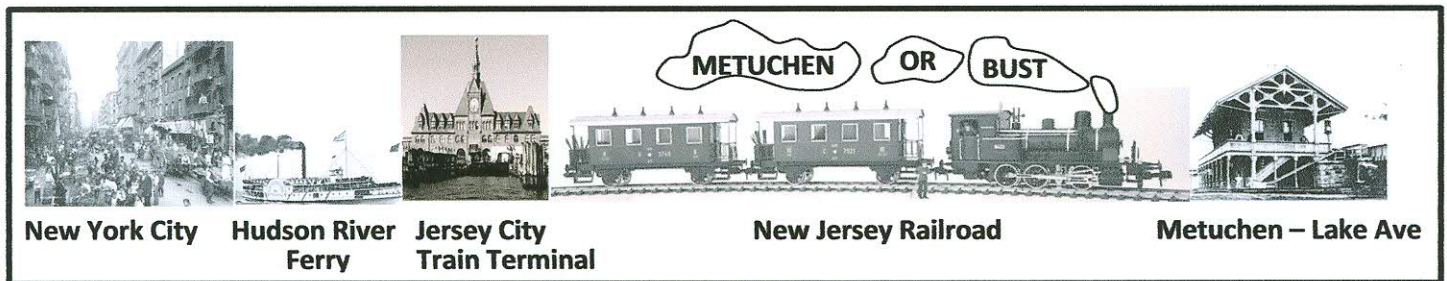
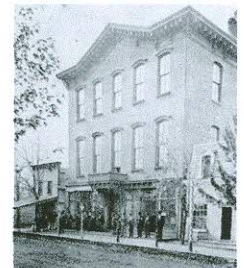


Piscataway and Woodbridge with the rest of the world. In the late 18th and early 19th Centuries “new tools of the trade, toll roads called “Turnpikes,” connected the small farming hamlets, such as Metuchen, to these port cities. But there was a price to pay. Tolls were collected by toll takers on horseback and at bridges and ferries that crossed rivers and streams. As shown in the map above, transportation technology advanced with the construction of two new turnpikes that passed through Metuchen. An important coincidence that started the development of a commercial “downtown” at those crossroads centered on Lake Avenue. When the New Jersey Railroad was completed through Metuchen in 1837, a new transportation technology expanded our commercial reach further out to the world and decreased the time for trading goods. It also allowed humans separated by large distances, to travel those distances in shorter times. Tracks initially built adjacent to the previously established turnpikes on flat land also intersected at the crossroads of downtown Metuchen. At one time there were no less than five railroads with five passenger and cargo stations in this town, shown by the red dots in the map above.

Here come those summertime Episcopalians (and others) from NYC



Those New Yorkers who had some wealth looked beyond the summertime’s steamy, grimy and crowded city, looked beyond the city limits for a summer retreat. Metuchen was just what the doctor ordered. A cooler, slower paced and bucolic countryside, now “quickly and easily” accessible by train, to relax with one’s family and enjoy the company of their own class of people, including Episcopalians. New vacationing and social amenities were added to the Metuchen landscape to meet and greet these visitors. Some of those new amenities are shown below.

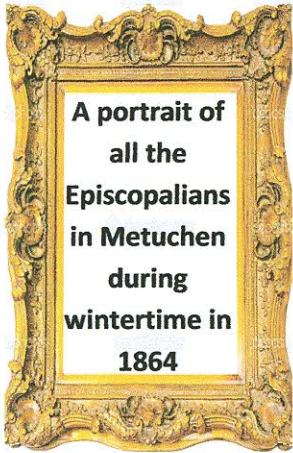


Hillside Inn on Main Street Primitive Golf Courses Metuchen Inn-1848 Horse Racing & Riding Clubs Robbins Hall 1870



The 19th Century Victorian prints above reflect some of the pleasures of social interactions that the New Yorkers enjoyed as pastimes in their summer experiences in Metuchen. They brought a diversity of religious and political discourse, performing arts and sporty activities that integrated into the entire social fabric of Metuchen, even when they went back to New York in the wintertime, they left behind a more enlightened community.

Metuchen Becomes a NYC "Bedroom" Community



Mommy, do we have to go to church in Rahway today?



Going to Church



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rahway – 1843
Rector – Rev Abercrombie

Daddy, are there outhouses on trains?



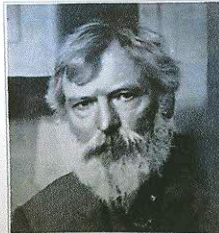
Coming home from Church

Metuchenites are getting used to using the train and eventually the summertime Episcopalians start to build year round homes for their families while daddy commutes to his job in New York City. Such was the case of the Alden Family.

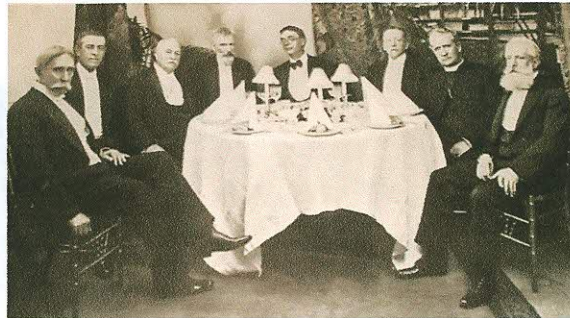


The Alden family's summer bungalow in Metuchen becomes "Home Sweet Home"

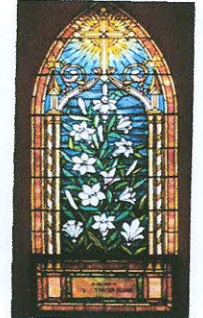
Henry Mills Alden's
70th Birthday
SOUVENIR OF ITS CELEBRATION



Henry Mills Alden 50 Years Editor of Harper's Weekly, Over 50 years St. Luke's vestry and warden



President Woodrow Wilson seated at head table with guest of honor, Henry Mills Alden, and other guests.



A St. Luke's window dedicated to Susan Foster Mills

An Episcopalian congregation grows in Metuchen and quickly needs their own Church

or

