

Place Names in Monroe
by Robert J. County
Jones

MIDDLE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP

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Jon

Middle Smithfield Township was erected in 1794 and was erected from Lower Smithfield Township. That township was named for the pioneer Smith family.

BUSHKILL

Former name: Maple Grove
Founded by: Manuel Gunsaulis
Settled in: 1750

Notes: The first settler in this area was Manuel Gunsaulis (not a correct spelling of the name in Spanish, but as is written in local histories). The name comes from the nearby Bushkill Creek. Henry Peters was the first postmaster back in 1812. The town was completely in Pike County until the division of Monroe County in 1836 when the town was split between the two counties. The serenity of Bushkill was further disturbed with the proposal of the Tox Island Dam. If that project had gone through, it would surely have spelled an end to the village.

COOLBAUGHS

Founded by: John Coolbaugh
Founded: As early as 1814

Notes: The year 1814 is the earliest point we know a local congregation met in John Coolbaugh's barn, and thus began the village's history.

DIMMICKS FERRY

Other name: Fisher's Ferry
Founded by: Peter M. Dimmick
Founded in: 1881

Notes: A ferry used to ford the Delaware, Peter Dimmick ran the ferry from 1881 to 1932.

ECHO LAKE

Former name: Seeley's Grove
Founded by: Rev. C. E. Van Allen, D.D.
Founded in: 1865

Notes: A boarding house and small resort set near the lake of repute. Rev. Van Allen renamed it for the remarkable echo which resounded off the lake.

FRUTCHEY'S

Founded by: Frutchey family
Founded in: c. 1850
Notes: This small community had both a church and a school.

POPLAR BRIDGE

Notes: A school was opened here in 1898 on land deeded by Levi Huffman.

RESICA FALLS

Other name: Resaca
Founded by: Depue Miller and Jeremy Mackes
Founded in: 1847
Notes: Resica began its life as a tannery owned by the two gentlemen above. As time went on, a small village grew up around the tannery. Finally the tannery closed and Resica, which lay in the middle of a veritable wilderness, died. Today all that remains of the village are ruins.

SHOEMAKERS

Former name: Sandhill
Founded by: Cpt. Jacob Shoemaker
Founded in: 1810
Notes: The village was named for Andrew Shoemaker, who was the first postmaster here; he was born in 1837.

TURN VILLA

Founded by: M. D. Turn
Founded in: 1883
Notes: This small community was started as a boarding house and hotel, and for many years was a popular stop along the Chestnuthill railroad.

WOODDALE

Former name: Palmer Swamp
Founded by: Opening of Methodist Church
Founded in: 1887
Notes: Wooddale had simple beginnings but currently appears to be growing into a stable community with a post office and fire station.

OTHER PLACES

Middle Smithfield has a sizeable string of odd place names which should be noted. They are: Brick Church, Decker Valley, Hungry Hill, Pine Ridge and Oak Grove.