



## **Joshua Saddler and the Saddlertown Community**

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(Saddlertown) Haddon Township, New Jersey*

## Introduction

N.B.: Saddler, Sadler, Sadlar, Sedley and Sedler are variant spellings of the same family name in this paper.

In 1804 the State of New Jersey passed the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, calling only for the eventual freedom of the children of slaves owned in the state who were born on or after July 4, 1804, after serving an apprenticeship to their mother's owner until age 21 years (female) and 25 years (male).<sup>1</sup> However, this Act did not abolish the continued practice of being "sold South" so that the New Jersey owners of slaves could reap a profit off their young slaves' lives prior to their reaching the age of emancipation.<sup>2</sup> (Quakers, usually considered the friend of the runaway slave, did themselves own slaves until circa 1775.) After 1804, slaves escaping from southern states into New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and other northern destinations, faced the continual threat of recapture by bounty hunters bent on returning them (or any other African American man, woman or child, that they were able to forcibly seize) to the Southern plantations for often large sums of money. Indeed, in 1826 New Jersey passed legislation to authorize the return of fugitive slaves from other states who were caught in New Jersey. In 1860 there were still eighteen slaves recorded for New Jersey in the U.S. census, making it the last state in the North where slaves can be found. It would not be until 1865 with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment that slavery was abolished in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

The State of Maryland relied on African slave labor to build its economy. In the 17th and 18th centuries slaves were brought in directly to Maryland ports, including Annapolis. By 1775 Maryland's slave population was 90,000, the second largest slave population in the British North American colonies.<sup>4</sup> In 1783 Maryland legislation barred international slave trade. On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, slave labor was initially used for tobacco production, a highly labor intensive crop which required a nearly year round labor force for sowing, replanting, harvesting, curing and packing. By the mid 1700s, however, overproduction of tobacco, falling prices, and changing economies shifted agricultural production from tobacco to cereal grains. Thus, by 1800 Maryland's Eastern Shore region began a decreased reliance on slave labor and by 1810 Maryland had a large free black population. Slaves in Maryland could gain their freedom through service in the Union Army during the Civil War, by buying their freedom with money they earned, by running away, or by being granted freedom (manumission) in their master's will or deed. Free blacks and slaves often associated with each other although many slave holders feared that free blacks would influence slaves to escape or revolt. After 1815, as grain prices dropped further and production declined, Eastern Shore planters began to reduce their work force by selling their slaves to cotton planters in the Southwest. In 1832 a law was enacted to try to remove free blacks from Maryland and to induce former slaves to renounce their freedom if their removal would separate them from enslaved relatives.<sup>5</sup> Free blacks and slaves began to journey North. Despite the abolition efforts of the Quakers, Nicholites and Methodists in Maryland, slavery was not abolished in the State of Maryland until November 1864 (by 1783 the majority of Quakers in Maryland had manumitted their slaves).<sup>6</sup>

There were several routes of the Underground Railroad taken by fleeing slaves from Maryland. Although we can never know for certain, a possible escape route taken by Joshua Saddler could have been from Maryland to Delaware, crossing the Delaware Bay

to Cape May (Cold Springs), to Millville and points North; or perhaps he crossed the Delaware River passing through Greenwich, Cumberland County, Salem, or Woolwich Gloucester County, to Snow Hill (Lawnside) then to Haddonfield. Another possibility is that he traveled from Cape May, through Kresson and Blackwood, and on to Snow Hill (Lawnside) to Haddonfield.<sup>7</sup> In any case, he surely was given aid in some of the small, African American communities in southern New Jersey which served as Underground Railroad safe havens. He may have headed for Snow Hill (Lawnside) and from there it would have been a relatively short distance to the Farm and Mill located in Waterford Township (Cherry Hill, NJ) owned by Thomas Evans and his son Josiah B. Evans. (*See Work History*)

### **Joshua Saddler (1785 - 1880) and Family**

Little is known of the life of Joshua Saddler, Founding Father of the community of Saddlertown, Haddon Township, NJ. Oral history, census records and vital records indicate that Joshua Saddler was born in Caroline County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The 1840 Census of Waterford Township (Cherry Hill), Gloucester County, New Jersey lists Joshua "Sadlar" under the column heading "Free Colored Persons," male 36 - 55 years of age. With his entry is also counted 1 male child under the age of 10, 2 female children under 10, 1 female 10 - 24, and 1 female between 36 - 55, presumably his wife Hannah.

The earliest New Jersey **vital** record of John Saddler, eldest son of Joshua and Hannah, is his December 1835 marriage record to his first wife Rachel James. This record indicates that John was born in Maryland. In the 1840 Census of Newton Township (present day Haddonfield, Haddon Twp. and other surrounding townships) in Gloucester County, New Jersey, John "Sadlar" is listed as a "Free Colored Person," male 10-24 years of age. Along with his listing are 3 female children under 10 years of age, and 1 female between the age 24 - 36. John Sadler is also recorded in the Wood Farm Account (Haddonfield, NJ) book beginning in 1838. These records show John Sadler working, paying rent, and making purchases (*See Work History*). For some reason the 1860 census notes John's age as 35, and that he was born in Delaware, however later censuses and vital records correct this and list his place of birth as Maryland. John Saddler and family eventually settled on property adjacent to Joshua Saddler in Newton Township, which John purchased from his father in May 31, 1854 for \$40 (Camden County Register of Deeds, Book X, Pg. 395&c.). John and Rachel had 8 children: Esther, Hannah, Mary, Sarah, John W., Isaac, Joshua and Aaron. When Rachel died, John married Pricilla. According to his death record, John Saddler died of consumption (apparently intestate) on April 1, 1867 at age 50.<sup>8</sup> At the time of his death his third wife, Mary Louisa Hankinson whom he married on December 19, 1861, inherited all his property. On the map within Joshua Saddler's Last Will and Testament his son John Saddler's property is clearly shown. Joshua's will was drawn up one year after his son John died, and he was very specific on his property disbursements to his wife and children, possibly due to lessons learned from his son John's lack of a Last Will and Testament at the time of his death.

The 1855 New Jersey State census for Newton Township records "Josha Sadler" with the family count of 3 "Colored Males" and 2 "Colored Females." 1860 Census records for

Newton Township place Joshua "Sadler," age 70, occupation Farm Laborer, born in Maryland, living with his wife Hannah, age 60, also born in Maryland. Their daughter Henrietta Bryant, age 20, was living with them, as well as her 1 year old daughter, Henrietta. In the 1870 census Joshua Sadler's age is indicated as 84.

The Death Record of Joshua Saddler (NJ State Archives, citation 1879-1880, 15-S23) indicates that he was born in Caroline County Maryland, lived in New Jersey for 50 years, died at age 95 (a notation reads "supposed to be" over his age), was a "Light Mulatto," and died on January 15, 1880. Therefore, with this information as well as census data, we can estimate that Joshua Saddler was born in Maryland about 1785. He is buried at the Mt. Zion Cemetery (134 S. White Horse Pike, Lawnside, NJ) in an unmarked grave. His wife Hannah was also born in Maryland about 1785. Hannah Saddler died in Haddon Township at age 92 on September 12, 1877. Her death record indicates that she was born in Maryland and her mother's name was Amy Carnish. (NJ State Archives, Vol. BC Atlantic - Hudson Co. Deaths 1876-1877.) Oral history indicates that Hannah may have been born a free black.

According to the Last Will and Testament of Joshua Saddler, and the property map contained therein, Joshua and Hannah had 10 children: John (b. abt. 1817 in MD ; first wife Rachel), Ann (b. abt. 1818 in MD; married Jefferson Fisher), Joseph (b. date possibly abt. 1825, may have moved to Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ: wife Elizabeth), Nelson (b. abt. 1831 in MD) William (b. abt. 1832 in MD; lived in Boston, MA c. 1860 -- see below\*; married Harriet Coburn), Hannah Ann (b. abt. 1833 in NJ; married name Coley; 2nd marriage Fussell), Melissa (b. abt. 1835 in MD; married Eli Mott); Lucinda (b. abt. 1835; married Charles Fussell), Henry (b. abt. 1837 in NJ) Henrietta (b. abt. 1839-41 in NJ; married name Bryant; 2nd marriage Hankinson). If census records, vital records and historical records are correct, Joshua and Hannah Saddler came to New Jersey sometime around 1834 (either individually or together) as indicated by the State in which some of their children were born and married (also see *Work History*). Relying on census records to estimate birth years is often inaccurate, however, upon examination of the birth date of Hannah Saddler and the birth dates of her children, it appears that she had her first child (John) at age 32 and her last child (Henrietta) at age 54. Does this mean there were more children born to Hannah in Maryland, or are the birth dates and ages recorded in the various records simply inaccurate?

It is interesting to note that William Sadler, another son of Joshua, age 29 and working as a waiter, was located on the 1860 Census of the 6th Ward, Boston City, MA. He was living with his wife, Harriet, age 26, and their daughter Elizabeth J., age 8 months. They were living in the John P. and Caroline Coburn household. Everyone in the household is listed as "Mulatto." The Coburns were born in Maine, as was Harriet Sadler, so we can assume that William Sadler was living with his in-laws. Harriet and William were married in Boston. In the 1870 Census, William (age 40) occupation Steward, and Harriet (age 30), and their daughter Elizabeth J., age 10 (born in MA), Anne F., age 7 (born in NJ), and Laura, age 1 (born in NJ), were all living in Haddon Township, NJ very near Joshua and Hannah Sadler. William worked as a Steward/Cook on a revenue cutter. Established as an armed maritime law enforcement agency operating under the US

Department of Treasury, revenue cutters enforced trade embargos, and from 1794-1865 intercepted ships operating in the illegal slave trade. During the Civil War, revenue cutters searched for smugglers and assisted in many Naval operations. William Saddler died on board a ship in the Delaware Bay on April 24, 1877.<sup>9</sup> His wife attempted to get a military pension but was refused because his service was not considered military. Before he died, William and family were living in Camden, NJ where the family continued to live after his death. How and why William Sadler became separated from the rest of his family and lived in Boston for a period of time remains a mystery.

Noteworthy is that Jefferson Fisher, also born in Maryland circa 1800, was an early settler in Saddlertown having purchased fifteen hundredths of an acre from Joseph Saddler in 1858, later increased to a half acre. Jefferson Fisher was employed by Josiah Evans at the Evans Farm, Waterford Twp., NJ in the 1830s and 40s, where he also paid rent to live, and he was employed by Isaac Wood at the Wood Farm in Haddonfield as early as 1836 (*see Work History*). This was during many of the same years that Joshua and John Saddler worked on the same two farms. Jefferson Fisher married Joshua Saddler's eldest daughter Ann on September 13, 1834. Jefferson Fisher died between the years 1860-1870. An insurance policy written by Jacob Rowand for Jefferson Fisher, Jr. (born abt. 1852) son of Jefferson and Ann Saddler Fisher, describes the kitchen as 18' x 12' and being built 28 yrs. prior (1859). This may have been a remnant of the original Jefferson and Ann Fisher homestead.<sup>10</sup>

On May 3, 1842 a Deed for the purchase of 5 acres was recorded from the Estate of John Rowand to Joshua Saddler (Deed Folio Y3, Page 436, Gloucester County, NJ). The fact that Joshua Saddler, an escaped slave from Maryland, worked and accumulated \$200. to purchase land while under the continual threat of recapture, is indeed a testament to his character. The Deed is recorded as follows:

*This Indenture, made this third day of May in the year of our Lord 1842, Between Jacob Rowand, Executor of the last Will and Testament of John Rowand deceased of the Township of Newton in the County of Gloucester in the State of New Jersey of the first part and Joshua Saddler of the Township of Waterford in the same county and state, Labourer, of the second part.*

*Witnessed that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Dollars lawful money well and truly paid by the said party of the second part to the said party of the first part at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof by acknowledging To all granted, bargained, sold, [illegible], released, conveyed, and bargained by these presents Doth grant, bargain, sell, [illegible], release, convey and unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns all the following tract or piece of land, situate in the Township of Newton in the County of Gloucester, and the State of New Jersey and bounded a follows.*

*Beginning at a stone for a corner in the tract of land now the property of Nathan Davis, thereby said Davis Land south three degrees and forty minutes West from Chains and Thirty nine links to a stone for a corner thereby land belonging to the estate of Joseph Hinchman, dec. thereby said land North three degrees and forty minutes East Seven chains and thirty nine links to a stone for a corner to a lot belonging to those lands of Jacob Hampton aforesaid thence by*

*the same South forty seven degrees and twenty minutes west seven chains and fifty three links to the place of Beginning.*

*Containing five acres of land by the same more or less. The same being a piece of land which aforesaid John Rowand deceased in his lifetime purchased of Samuel Eastlack and Hannah his wife and by deed bearing the twenty fifth day of March in the year of our Lord 1806 which deed is recorded in the clerk's office of the County of Gloucester at Woodbury in Folio 4 of 6 Deeds reference thereunto being had will more at large appear. Together with all and singular, the buildings, improvements, rights, liberties, hereditaments and appurtenances to those same belong or may otherwise and the reversions, remainders and remainderments, rents, issues and profits of and every part and parcel thereof.*

*And also all the Estate, rights, titles, interest property and whatsoever both in law and equity of the said party of the first part made to the said with the appurtenances (etc. - illegible).*

*To have and to hold, the said premises with all and singular the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns the said party of the second part has been and the said party of the first part for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators does hereby covenant, grant and agree to and with the said party of the second party his heirs and assigns that the said party of the first part and his heirs, the abovesaid premises with the first part and his heirs and assigns every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof shall and will warrant and forever defend.*

*In witness whereby the said party of the first part has set his hand and seal hereunto the day and year first above written Jacob Rowand, sealed and delivered in presence of Thomas Redman, Thomas Redman Jr. New Jersey, Gloucester County.*

*Before me the subscriber, one of the judges of the Superior Court Common Pleas of said County Personally appeared Jacob T. Rowand, Executor of the estate of John Rowand deceased, the grantor named in the foregoing Conveyance acknowledges that he signed, sealed and delivered the same as his voluntary action, Deed, the Contents thereof having been first made known to him by me and I being satisfied that he is the grantor mentioned in the said deed. Acknowledged before me this third day of May Anno Domini 1842. Thomas Redman-----\$200. Reserved the day and year first above written of Joshua Saddler Two Hundred Dollars being the amount of the Consideration money mentioned in the written deed of Conveyance in full. Jacob L. Rowand Witness: Thomas Redman. Recorded June 21, 1842.*

The Last Will and Testament<sup>11</sup> of Joshua Saddler gives us another window into this man's good character. Notice that he stipulates that his wife shall be "keeping the fences and buildings in good repair and condition as the same shall [be] at the time of my death." Saddler also makes provisions for the fair and equitable division of his property to his wife and children. Note too that he could count as his "trusty friend" prominent Haddonfield civil engineer/conveyancer John Lewis Rowand to be the sole executor of his Will. Joshua Saddler's love of the land he owned is evident in the second paragraph with the specific language "... but in no instance to commit waste by cutting the timber growing thereon or otherwise..." The full text of Joshua Saddler's Last Will and Testament is as follows:

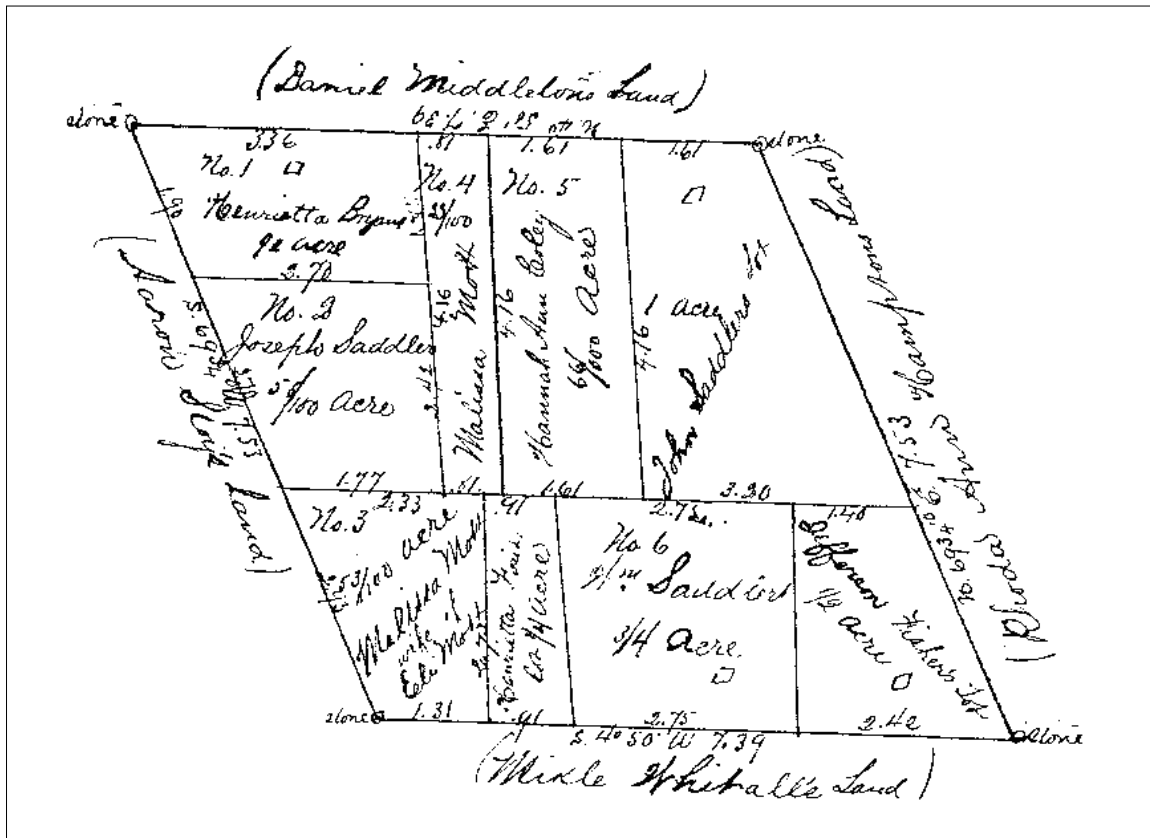
I Joshua Saddler of the Township of Haddon, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey being of a sound mind, memory and understanding do make, publish and declare the following writing to contain my last Will and Testament, as follows, to wit:

First, I direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and satisfied;

Second, I give and bequeath unto my wife Hannah Saddler, after the debts, funeral expenses and fees and cost of proving this will and the inventory of my personal effects before the Surrogate, all the residue and remainder of my Estate both Real and Personal, to hold to her and for her use, for and during her natural life; that is to say: she to occupy and use the same or receive the rents, issues and profits thereof keeping the fences and Buildings in good repair and condition as the same shall at the time of my death, and pay all the taxes assesses thereon, but in no instance to commit waste, by cutting the timber growing thereon or otherwise;

Third, I give and bequeath the following money legacies to be paid within one year after the death of my said wife, out of this sale of my personal property to be made after her death, to wit: To my daughter [Hannah] Ann the sum of two Dollars, and to my Sons Joseph, Nelson and Daughter Lucinda, the sum of Five Dollars each.

Fourth, I give and bequeath my Real Estate, situate in the Township of Haddon, aforesaid and now occupied by me, being a part of the land purchased by me of Jacob L. Rowand, Executor of John Rowand, Decd. and conveyed to me by Deed Dated the third day of May A.D. 1842, recorded in the Clerk's Office of Gloucester County, the Liber Y 3 of Deeds page 436, to the following named of my children, in parts or shares as represented on the following Map of said land, to hold to them individually, and to their and each of their heirs and assigns forever; subject however to the life estate and interest of my said wife Hannah Saddler, as herein before provided, that is to say:



*To my daughter Henrietta Bryant, Lot No. 1 on said map, containing half an acre, be the same or less, including my Dwelling house; - to my son Joseph Saddler, Lot No. 2 as shown on said Map, containing fifty-eight hundredths of an acre, more or less; - To my Daughter Malissa Mott (wife of Eli Mott ) Lots No. 3 and 4, the first containing fifty three hundredths of an acre more or less, and the second of said Lots thirty-three hundredths more or less; To my Daughter Hannah Ann Coley, Lot No. 5 containing Sixty-six hundredths of an acre, more or less; and to my son William Saddler Lot No. 6 as shown on said Map containing three quarters of an acre of land be the same more or less; Provided, however, that it is expressly my will that if the above named legatees shall desire to sell and convey his or her lot of Land above devised, he or she shall first offer the same to such member of my family as will pay the highest price therefore. And if difficulty should arise in fixing such evaluation, the matter shall be submitted to the judgment of two or three disinterested persons to be mutually chosen by the parties, who shall fix and determine the valuation of said lot; and after the valuation of said lot shall have been fixed and determined by the persons so chosen, and all members of my family shall decline to purchase said Lot at the price so fixed, then the owners of said Lot, shall be at Liberty to sell and convey said Lot to a stranger or person of no family connection with me, but not otherwise. My object and desire being to retain my land among my children and their descendants as long as possible.*

*Finally, I nominate and appoint my trusty friend J. [John] Lewis Rowand of Haddonfield to be sole executor to this my last Will and Testament.*

*In Testimony whereof I Joshua Saddler, the Testator herein named have set my hand and seal hereunto the Thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty Eight 1868.*

*Joshua Saddler*

*(his Mark and seal)*

*Signed, Sealed, published and declared by Joshua Saddler, the Testator above named, to be his last Will in the presence of us whose names are hereunto subscribed as witnesses in his presence, and in the presence of each other.*

*J. L. Rowand*

*Joseph Kay*

**\* \* \***

### **Work History: Joshua and John Saddler and Jefferson Fisher**

The pre-Revolutionary War era property we now know as Croft Farm and Evans Pond in the Township of Cherry Hill, NJ (formerly Waterford Twp. and Delaware Twp.) was the site of four different mills from 1697 through 1897. In 1816 Joel and Thomas Evans of Evesham purchased the property from Mathias Kay, which then passed in ownership to Thomas's son Josiah Bispham Evans (1811-1868) in 1844. Josiah named the family homestead "Edgewater," enlarging the house with an addition. He lived on the farm with his wife Hannah Gardner Evans (b. 1808), their children, and his sisters-in-law, Esther, Mary and Sarah Gardner. The Evans property was one of the largest farms in the area. It contained over 400 acres when Thomas Evans owned it, and was separated into two farms by 1850 with Josiah owning 130-140 acres. Josiah Evans' farm was valued at \$14,000 in the 1860 NJ Census of Agriculture with half of his acreage labeled improved. Thomas Evans also built a large fulling mill in 1820 and rebuilt a corn mill on his



property in 1839. The fulling mill continued to operate until about 1854 when it was destroyed by fire. The gristmill was updated in 1883 but closed by 1897. It was also destroyed by fire in 1913.<sup>12</sup>

Thomas Evans died in 1849, and Josiah B. Evans died in 1868 while fighting flood waters at his mill. The following was written in *The Early Grist and Flouring Mill of New Jersey*: "Josiah B. Evans, of Haddonfield, died in 1868 as a result of strains while struggling with the gates of the millpond during a heavy flood." (p.85)<sup>13</sup> After Josiah's death, ownership of the farm eventually passed from his wife to his son Joseph G. Evans in 1869. The house and several outbuilding still stand today. Both Thomas and Josiah Evans are believed to have been members of the Abolition Society, although there is no written proof. Thomas Evans's father Enoch Evans (1743-1830) was a member of the "New Jersey Society for promoting Abolition of slavery."<sup>14</sup>

Joshua "Sedley" first appears in the Evans Farm Account Ledger on May 24, 1834. The records show that he purchased grain, bushels of corn, and other items for a total of \$5.55 which he paid for in full on December 24, 1834. Saddler and Fisher appear in the 1840 census of Waterford Twp. where the Evans farm and mill were located. By 1839, accounting records of the Evans Farm denote purchases of staples such as flour and grain and paying rent, plus credit earned by "Joshua Sedley" for "9 days mowing." Throughout 1841 and 1842 ledger entries show Joshua "Sedler" making steady purchases from Evans of pork, potatoes, cords of wood, cheese, corn, flour, butter, etc., as well as advances of cash, and paying his rent, then working off his debts by his labors. Likewise, Jefferson Fisher, who first appears in the Evans Accounting Book on March 9, 1839, worked for Evans to pay off his purchases of food, tobacco, rent, and sundries. Fisher's entries in the ledger continue through to 1852.<sup>15</sup>

On October 10, 1836 an entry in the Evans Fulling Mill Account Ledger (Pg. 517) shows Joshua Sadler charged 31 cents for mill services. He returns in journal entry (Vol. 2, pg. 257) dated Dec. 2, 1839 for weaving services at \$1.36, and paid 31 cents on the debt in September 1845.<sup>16</sup>

Joshua Saddler, eldest son John, and Jefferson Fisher also worked on the Haddonfield, NJ farm owned by Quaker Isaac H. Wood. Isaac Wood's wife, Elizabeth H. Cooper of Cooper's Point Camden, purchased the 132 acre Haddonfield property, originally owned by John Estaugh and Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, about one year before she married Wood in 1831. According to the farm account books, Isaac Wood hired men to help with the planting, harvesting and mowing work on the farm, and in winter employed men to cut wood and deliver it to his customers. The first evidence of the Saddlers working on the Wood farm appears in the farm accounting book in 1838. John Sadler is recorded here for day work, which included sawing cords of wood and mowing, and paying rent, which indicates that he also lived on the Wood farm. (There were several tenant houses on the Wood property, one near the corner of Maple Avenue and Grove Street, and one on Grove near Rhoads Avenue.) Jefferson Fisher first appears in the farm accounting book in July 1836 for day work and purchasing pork. Fisher worked on the Wood farm throughout the month of July. An interesting note next to Jefferson Fisher's name on July 16, 1836 states "\$4.00 got to go to Philadelphia." There is also a cross reference on the Wood ledger that Fisher worked 2 days helping "Thomas Evans with his rye."<sup>17</sup> In April

1842 the Wood farmhouse was destroyed by fire. Farm accounts show Joshua Saddler was employed to help dig out the cellar and clean the bricks after the fire.<sup>18</sup> The new house constructed after the fire still stands at 201 Wood Lane in Haddonfield.

## **The Oral History**

Several oral history accounts concerning Joshua Saddler - his escape to freedom in New Jersey, avoidance of re-capture by his owner or bounty hunters, and the use of the names Fisher and Saddler - all have been told and re-told throughout the years following his death.

One such account that has been repeated often originates from a November 30, 1937 *Evening Post* newspaper article containing the statements of then 84 year old Saddlertown resident Jackson Barnett. Barnett believed that "Jonathan Fisher," "Jonathan Saddler," and Joshua Saddler were the same person. In Barnett's account "Jonathan Fisher" was owned by a cruel Maryland plantation owner and decided to flee with his wife and two daughters. After a two day's journey from Maryland to New Jersey, Barnett says that "Jonathan Fisher" searched for a safe place in New Jersey where he could find work, secured a position with "Cy" Evans, and changed his name from Fisher to Saddler to avoid re-capture. In Barnett's account, Fisher/Saddler's old master came to New Jersey, stopping at farm houses along the way trying to find Fisher/Saddler, until reaching the Evans farm in Haddonfield. But, Evans had received warning that this man was looking for Fisher/Saddler and, according to Barnett, devised a plan to ring a warning bell if he saw the Maryland man approaching, thereby allowing Fisher/Saddler time to hide. Not only did Evans successfully fool the Maryland man but, says Barnett, he also offered to pay the Maryland man for his runaway slave, thereby insuring Fisher/Saddler's freedom. As Barnett says, not only did Fisher/Saddler repay "Cy" Evans whatever sum of money was bargained for his freedom, he also became so well liked by Evans that Evans bought him a 50-acre plot of land in a dense woods, and built a house for him "which still stands today." Barnett concludes by saying that word of Saddler's new found success spread to Fisher/Saddler's friends in Maryland, and they came to join him, which led to the formation of Saddlertown.<sup>19</sup>

Some information in Barnett's account can be matched to certifiable facts today. For example, it is fact that Joshua Saddler and some members of his family, including his wife Hannah, came from Maryland. It is not known whether they traveled as a group or separately. Joshua Saddler did find work with Josiah Evans in Waterford Township (now Cherry Hill, NJ), and perhaps "Cy" was a nickname for Josiah. But questions remain. Did Barnett confuse *Jonathan* with *John*, and was he actually recalling information on Joshua Saddler's eldest son John Saddler? John was also born in Maryland, and he did come to New Jersey, but John worked for Isaac Wood in Haddonfield, as evidenced in the Wood Farm Accounting Books (*See Work History*). He also was not married until he came to New Jersey. Then there is the person *Jefferson Fisher*. He worked for Josiah Evans on the Evans farm at least from 1839 through 1846 as it appears in the Farm Ledger (*See Work History*). Fisher married Joshua Saddler's daughter Ann. He was also a resident of Saddlertown, although he purchased his first property there from Joshua Saddler's son Joseph in 1858.

A second oral history accounting of Joshua Saddler appears in 1918 when the grandson of Josiah Evans, Walter Wills Evans, wrote that Edgewater (the name of the house on the Evans farm) "was one of the stations to which runaway slaves were brought. The slaves came from Woodbury [NJ] and were received by Thomas Evans, then quickly hidden in the haymow or attic of the house... so that none could find them. Then in the middle of the night they would be given something to eat and hurried off in a covered wagon to Mount Holly [NJ], where they were received and hidden again... Thomas Evans, in order to save himself and the slave whom he was helping, was forced to purchase the slave, whose name was Joshua Sadlar. This colored man became well known in the community, finally settled near Westmont and started a colored settlement known as Sadlartown."<sup>20</sup> Walter Wills Evans (b. 1886; d. 1970) was born about 6 years after Joshua Saddler's death, and retold the story as told to him by his father, Joseph G. Evans (son of Josiah B. Evans), who also was not born when the event took place. In a 1956 newspaper article Walter Evans told the story slightly differently than in 1918. Walter said that Josiah B. Evans arranged to purchase two fugitive slaves, Joshua Saddler and Jefferson Fisher. Walter recalled he was told that Fisher and "Sedler" (aka Sadlar, Sadler or Saddler) "had been colored [fugitive] slaves [and] Josiah B. Evans quartered the two men in a tenant house on the corner of his property near Brace Road."<sup>21</sup> Walter went on to say that a report of Sadler and Fisher hiding at the Evans farm was leaked out by a white man named Hoag in Snow Hill (Lawnside, NJ) "who cooperated in such matters with southern slave owners" and Walter attests that Josiah Evans and members of the Society of Friends "arranged to purchase the freedom of both slaves."<sup>22</sup>

Although we have no evidence of this purchase, we do know that Joshua Saddler and Jefferson Fisher did work and pay rent to live for a period of time on the Evans farm, as indicated in the Account Book of the Josiah Evans Farm 1834-1879. The evidence of Saddler's and Fisher's paying of rent to Josiah Evans seems to lend credence to the recollections of Walter Wills Evans that they had lived for a time in Evan's tenant house, and, perhaps, attests to the Walter's capacity to remember some events accurately. As with the Jackson Barnett oral history, the Walter Evans story contains some information that can be traced to certifiable records.

Another newspaper account on Joshua Saddler and the history of Saddlelertown was written about 1907 by Isabella Shipley (*See Summer Rest Cottage Below*), a Camden schoolteacher born in England in 1847. She was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and supervisor of a Summer Rest Cottage for the elderly in Saddlelertown from about 1893-94 to about 1915. She can be found on the 1910 census in Haddon Twp., Saddlelertown, and her daughter Fannie Cole can be found on the 1900 census living in Saddlelertown with her husband Henry. In her article titled "Rest Cottage At Sadlertown," Isabella wrote "Nearly seventy years ago a slave man by the name of Joshua Sadler fled from the South, bringing with him his free wife. His master soon followed and traced him to Haddonfield, where he worked for Lemuel Evans, who seeing in Joshua a worthy man, kindly advanced the money that he might buy his freedom. This was returned by labor. Afterward Joshua Sadler bought five acres of woodland, built a little house, which is still standing, planted a garden, and named the place Sadlertown. He had ten children, and to each was given their portion of the land. Some of the men

here now live in the same house in which they were born, more than fifty years ago." Isabella Shipley writes that she was present during the formation of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church in Saddlertown, recalling when Charles Rhoads called a meeting "about fourteen years ago" of the heads of eighteen families, to which she was also invited, and described his desire to build a church in Saddlertown.

The Isabella Shipley article has some details which are corroborated in census and vital records. For example, she tells of Joshua's ten children and that he gave them each a piece of his 5 acre settlement in Saddlertown which is evidenced by his Last Will and Testament. She refers to a Haddonfield man "Lemuel Evans" advancing the money to Joshua to buy his freedom, which Joshua repays with his labor. As seen in his work history, Joshua did work for many years on the Josiah Evans farm situated in the Waterford Township bordering Haddonfield.

In 1980 a book titled "Origins of Haddon Township" was compiled by several teachers in the Haddon Township school district as an elementary level teaching unit on the history of Haddon Township. Within the first section of the book covering the years 1664 through 1865, there is a chapter called "Saddlertown Is Founded" (pgs.16-17). According to the book's bibliography, this chapter was compiled from three sources: interviews in 1980 of longtime Saddlertown residents Edward Fussell and Mildred Walden, and the Frank Voight *Evening Post* article.

In 1978 a bronze historical marker was placed at the entrance to Saddlertown on Rhoads Avenue by the Haddon Township Board of Education. This plaque states that Saddlertown "is the site of an original land grant by Cy Evans (Quaker) to Jonathan Saddler (ex slave). Jonathan was born Jonathan Fisher about the year 1837 in the State of Maryland."

Joshua Saddler was actually born about 1785; John Saddler was born about 1817, and Jefferson Fisher was born about 1800, all in Maryland. To date, the earliest record of John Saddler in New Jersey is his marriage record dated 1835, so we know the Saddler family was in NJ by then. Judging by the reference to "Cy" Evans and "Jonathan Fisher", the information on the plaque appears to have been based on the 1937 *Evening Post* article.

Finally, there is some oral history information regarding Saddler reported in a 1995 *Haddon Herald* newspaper article, although this article largely deals with the founding of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church in Saddlertown. One interesting comment states that the town "was named after a former slave named Jonathan Saddler, who lived in a shack next to the church site. Saddler had several names...but they were only one person." The article goes on to explain that there was no Jonathan Fisher, but there was a Joshua Saddler and a Jefferson Fisher, Joshua's son-in-law. The article also explains that Joshua Saddler purchased 5 acres, and was not given the land by "Cy" Evans.<sup>23</sup>

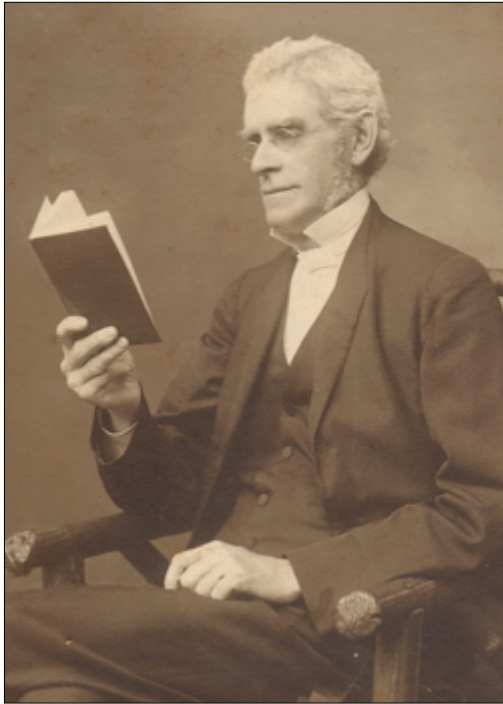
Joshua Saddler notes in his Last Will and Testament that the land he was giving to his daughter Henrietta Bryant contained his dwelling house, and, as explained in the history of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church (*Below*), Henrietta Bryant's land eventually did become the land deeded to Charles Rhoads. Therefore, as recalled in the

oral history in the *Haddon Herald* account, we are left to concur that Joshua Saddler's house was where the church and/or parking lot are today.

### **Charles Rhoads (1828 - 1903)**

As written in the booklet *Memorial of Charles Rhoads*, Rhoads was born January 21, 1828 in Marple Township, Delaware County, PA. He was the son of Joseph and Hannah Rhoads and raised by them in a home "where piety and intelligence of a high order were beautifully combined."<sup>24</sup> He had a twin brother James E. Rhoads, who went on to become the first President of Bryn Mawr College. Charles attended the Friend's School of Springfield, PA and the Westtown Boarding School. The Westtown School was established in 1799 by members of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers) as a school for the moral and academic development of Quaker boys and girls. Set on 600 acres in rural Chester County, PA it was a full day's carriage ride from the city of Philadelphia. Interestingly, one of the courses offered at Westtown was Surveying, which perhaps fostered Rhoads's later choice of occupation. It is written that Charles's lack of a strong, physical stamina was compensated by a vital mental energy, and he became a very successful businessman in early adulthood. "After training in the office of a prominent Philadelphia conveyancer he studied law specializing in titles and transference of property."<sup>25</sup> Charles Rhoads became a Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer with offices in Philadelphia (21 N. 7th St.) and Haddonfield, NJ. "Conveyancers drew up the appropriate legal documents whenever real estate was transferred, conveyed or assigned. They were quite common in rural areas like old Haddon Township, where attorneys were scarce... A conveyancer's duties also included representing the seller upon the sale of property. When the property was sold, a conveyancer received one percent of the sale price for real estate and three percent for personal property or wooded lots."<sup>26</sup> "His character as a businessman was marked by sterling integrity, coupled with intelligence and experience, excelling many of his profession; which caused him to be sought after by friends and neighbors for advice..."<sup>27</sup> Later in life, so concerned was he with the moral issues of justice in business practices regarding borrowing, lending, employee relations, and so on, Rhoads wrote "*Business Ethics in relation to the profession of the Religious Society of Friends*" and delivered this treatise before the Friends Institute for Young Men of Philadelphia in February, 1882.<sup>28</sup>

At age 28 Charles Rhoads married Ann Hopkins Nicholson (b. 1832) of Haddonfield on October 2, 1856. They lived for 3 years in Philadelphia at 513 Pine Street, before taking up residence in "Brown Cottage," located at 56 Haddon Avenue in Haddonfield. The house was a gift from Ann's father Samuel Nicholson.<sup>29</sup> Charles and Anne had 4 daughters and one son. Sadly, Charles Rhoads lost his wife Ann in 1864, and eldest daughter Mary (b. 1857) also died suddenly in 1867. Two years later, Charles Rhoads felt a strong calling to the ministry of his faith, the Society of Friends. He felt particularly drawn to active works of charity to the less fortunate. In March 1870 the widower Rhoads found a companion in his life's works when he married Beulah S. Morris (b. 1829), daughter of Samuel B. Morris and Hannah Perot Morris, of Germantown, PA. Beulah is described as "a liberal-minded Christian... Hospitals and schools were [her] favorite objects of care..."<sup>30</sup> After their marriage, Beulah and Charles continued to live in "Brown Cottage."



Charles Rhoads

*Courtesy Haddonfield Historical Society*



Beulah M. Rhoads

*Courtesy Haddonfield Historical Society*

By 1872 Church elders officially recognized Charles Rhoads's gift of public ministry, and in that year he ceased working in his conveyancer/real estate occupation to devote himself full time to ministry. In 1877 he traveled to Friends Meetings in Kansas and the Indian Territory, and in 1886 journeyed with his brother Joseph to the Friends Meeting in North Carolina.

Charles Rhoads's health was declining in the 1880s (he often suffered with bouts of pneumonia and pleurisy), but he continued to pursue the abolition of certain "evils" of the day, namely horse racing and intemperance. He joined with the New Jersey State Temperance Alliance and was one of the proponents of Haddonfield's resolution to continue prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. His son Samuel Nicholson Rhoads recalled "Our father was a staunch Temperance worker, and upheld reform legislation of various kinds in our state, distributing a great deal of literature, also, on these subjects... Father and Mother [also] felt the needs of the African race very keenly, and built a Meeting and School house for them at Sadlertown, N.J." <sup>31</sup>

In the recollections of Charles Rhoads's friend, Sarah R. Shivers-Murray and her brother, Dr. Charles Shivers (personal physician to Charles Rhoads for 18 years) Charles was a tall, handsome, generous and cheerful man. According to Shivers-Murray "at the beginning of winter, when the poor colored people of Saddlertown, a small colored settlement back of Westmont, were sure to be without work most of the time, [Rhoads would] lend them sums of \$50. or more..."<sup>32</sup> According to census records of the time, the majority of African Americans living in rural Haddon Township were farm laborers.

Earning enough money to sustain a family over the fallow wintertime must have been difficult.

Charles Rhoads died at age 75 on January 25, 1903. His friend Sarah Rodman Murray recalled that the funeral for Charles Rhoads was the second largest funeral ever held in Haddonfield. (The first being the funeral for Haddonfield Baptist Pastor Rev. Robert F. Young.) Businesses were closed from 2 - 4 PM out of respect, and hundreds came by train to attend the service. Charles Rhoads is buried in the Friends Burying Ground in Haddonfield, on a hillside under a large tree. Beulah Rhoads died at the age of 97 in January, 1923. Ann and Beulah are buried on either side of Charles.

Charles's son, Samuel Nicholson Rhoads (1862 - 1952) graduated from Harvard University and became an acclaimed botanist and ornithologist. It is said that Samuel and his wife Mary Cawley, admirers of famed ornithologist John James Audubon, are responsible for the naming of Audubon, NJ, a small community near Haddonfield.

### **Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church**

It was during Charles Rhoads's ministry years in the Society of Friends when he was drawn to build a church/school in the African American community of Saddlertown, Haddon Township, NJ. In *An Extract From The Diary of Charles Rhoads, Haddonfield, NJ*, he writes:

*I have noticed that in a colored settlement at Saddlertown in Haddon Township, and west of it, their children were obliged to walk a long distance to the colored school house on Grove St., Haddonfield, and these families have no place of worship within reach of their homes. These considerations have induced me to build a two-storied house, 25 feet by 40 feet, at Saddlertown; of which the upper room has been fitted up as a meeting-house, and a First Day Bible School room; and the lower room, for a day school for the colored people of that vicinity. The house was opened for that first named object, in the second story, 2nd month [February] 26th, 1893.*

*I have put these concerns in the management of the Colored Methodist Congregation who meet at Mt. Zion, near Snow Hill [today's Lawnside, NJ]. There was a large number met, probably 125, and I explained to them my object in building the house; and devoting it to their use.<sup>33</sup>*

Tracing ownership of the church property (land) begins with Samuel Eastlack selling 5 acres of a larger landholding to John Rowand on March 25, 1806. As noted previously, Joshua Saddler purchased five acres from the Estate of John Rowand in 1842. According to Saddler's Last Will and Testament his land was divided among several of his children. His daughter Henrietta Saddler Bryant received the half acre Lot No. 1 which included Joshua Saddler's dwelling. On May 8, 1883 (Camden County Deeds Book 129, Pg. 428) Henrietta Bryant, now Henrietta Hankinson, conveyed her half acre of land to her son Isaac Bryant, grandson of Joshua Saddler. Isaac Bryant also purchased 58 hundredths of an acre on September 4, 1880 (Camden County Deeds Book 129, Pg. 426) from Joseph Saddler, the land known as Lot No. 2 inherited by Joseph from his father Joshua Saddler.

On September 8, 1891 (Camden Co. Deed Book 168, Pg. 107) Isaac Bryant and his wife Annie, sold the combined two properties above to Jefferson Fisher, Jr. (grandson of Joshua Saddler and son of Jefferson Fisher, Sr. and Ann Saddler Fisher) for \$300. On August 22, 1892 Jefferson Fisher, Jr. sold part of his property (acreage not specified) in Saddlestown to Charles Rhoads of Haddonfield for \$309. (Camden Co. Deed Book 178, Pg. 606). One year after completing construction of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church/School in February 1893, Charles Rhoads and his wife Beulah M. deeded the church building and land for \$1. to the Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church of Lawnside, NJ (incorporated by charter dated January 19, 1892) (Camden County Deed Book 178, pg. 606). In this deed Charles and Beulah specifically state that this property's purpose is to provide for "the religious, moral, and literary benefit of the colored population of the Township of Haddon in the vicinity of church."

It appears that Jefferson Fisher, Jr. kept all or most of the land once owned by Joseph Saddler, which by 1907 was divided into 3 lots with houses on two of the lots. The church and parking lot today sits on what was originally Lot No. 1 inherited by Henrietta Bryant from her father Joshua Saddler. (See G.M. Hopkins Atlas 1907)

As noted in church records, the 8 founding members of Rhoads Temple came from the Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Lawnside, NJ: Robert Hankinson, Elizabeth Hankinson, Joseph Hankinson, Jefferson Fisher, Jr., Mary Ann Fisher, Moses Cornelius, Margaret Fussell, and Isaac Saddler.

Church records also indicate many improvements to the original building and its accessories. Hymnals were procured through the fundraising efforts of Ms. Mamie Trusty. Electric wiring was installed in the Church in 1924, during the pasturage of Rev. Coleman. Communion linens were the handiwork of Mrs. Robert Fussell which she gifted to the Church in gratitude for the conversion of her son William. A new roof was installed in 1949, during the pasturage of Rev. Brown. A kitchen was installed in 1951, and a choir loft was constructed by Mr. Herbert Wilson. A portrait of Christ was donated in 1955 for the Church Bible School under the direction of Mrs. James Obey and Mrs. Myrna Blakely. Carpeting was installed for the first time in 1954, during the pasturage of Rev. Bowden. Bathrooms and exterior siding were installed during the ministry of Rev. G. W. Cuff, and furniture on the rostrum was gifted by the Sherrerd Family of Haddonfield in remembrance of church member Mrs. Sadie Kirby, a former employee of the Sherrerd family.

According to the oral history of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church as written by Isabella Shipley in her 1907 article titled "Rest Cottage At Saddlestown," Charles and Beulah Rhoads saw that the people of Saddlestown had to walk five miles to the Mt. Zion M. E. Church, and that some were too old or the children too small to walk the distance. Rhoads then became determined to establish both a church and a school to serve the needs of the community. After calling together eighteen families, and inviting Isabella Shipley to attend, he offered to buy property in Saddlestown, build a suitable structure, hire a teacher for the school, and stock the building with wood and coal to last the winter. Isabella reports that the dedication service at the new Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church was conducted by Rev. James Richardson, pastor of Mt. Zion M. E. Church. By 1907 the Rev. J. W. Parker was pastor of the Rhoads church. According to Shipley, Mrs.



I. V. Woodlin was the first teacher of the day school in the church, and she remained in the position for twelve years. She was succeeded by Mrs. L. G. Taylor. Mrs. Shipley also notes that a parsonage was built beside the church, and she refers to a large picture of Charles Rhoads with a bible in his hand hanging above the pulpit.<sup>34</sup>

In a 1995 newspaper account of historic Saddlertown, the Rhoads Temple is described as having a small church community, "but plenty of heart." The article notes that the church still retains what appears to be the original dark painted wooden flooring, and behind the pulpit remains a rope attached to the bell in the belfry. The bell is said to have been used to summon Haddon Township firefighters to Saddlertown in pre-telephone years. Church member Mary Ellen Norton's family was among the early church membership and she grew up in a house next to the church. The Fussell family moved to Saddlertown in 1912 and Edward Fussell attended school in the downstairs rooms of the church.<sup>35</sup>

### **The Saddlertown School**

In a "Report of School Houses of the School District of the Township of Haddon" (June 30, 1911), the Township indicates having 4 schools, with 2 not in service. These were Westmont School No. 1, built in 1909 of brick construction, 2 stories, 8 classrooms and 259 desks; Westmont School No. 2, of wood construction, built in 1904, 1 story, 2 classrooms, not in use at this time; and the Saddlertown School No. 3, located in the Rhoads Temple Church building (built in 1893), of wood construction, 1 floor (the basement of the church), 1 classroom, and 56 desks. The W. Collingswood Champion School (built in 1821) was the fourth school in the district, of brick construction, one story, two classrooms, and not in use at this time. All Haddon Twp. schools in 1911 had outhouses separated from the school building with a fence.<sup>36</sup>

The first mention of a proposal for a new school for Saddlertown was recorded in the Haddon Twp. Board of Education (HTBOE) Meeting Minutes dated April 28, 1911. "A committee of residents of Saddlertown was present and given an opportunity to address the Board, which they did through Messrs. H.T. Johnson, Wilson, and Fisher. They asked the Board to erect a new school house at Saddlertown - two rooms - and made a general complaint on conditions there today. It was a motion agreed that the Board, as a committee of the whole, go to the school house to inspect the property."<sup>37</sup> The following month, May 26, 1911 reports that a committee had visited the Saddlertown School, also called the Rhoads Church School, and observed conditions, reported the conditions to the State School Authorities, and addressed a letter to the County Superintendent of Schools. With a motion, a district committee was instructed to view building sites near Saddlertown, inquire on costs, and report at the June meeting. Also on May 26, 1911 a Ms. Emma Brown was elected teacher at Saddlertown for a salary of \$550. per annum.

On June 23, 1911 "A communication was recorded from the Trustees of the Rhoads Chapel at Saddlertown, touching on the matter of [the] rights as lessees of Saddlertown School."<sup>38</sup> (Note: HTBOE leased the school from the Mt. Zion M.E. Church of Lawnside, owners and trustees of the Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church and Day School.) In Board minutes dated August 28, 1911, the property committee reported "that it had reviewed several lots offered as a site for a school house at Saddlertown: H.P. Stoy Lot, \$500., 100' x 200'; Watson Lot, \$250. 57' x 200'; Fussell Lot, \$350, 90' x 150'... the

committee [also] interviewed owners of ground facing on Crystal Lake Ave. at the junction of the lane leading into Saddlertown, namely Messrs. H.P. Stoy, Clarence Hinchman, and Mrs. Sarah Hunt and each declined to sell ... On motion the Property Committee was instructed to procure plans and specifications for a one story brick school building...building to cover a space about 30 x 40 feet."<sup>39</sup>

Finally, on November 24, 1911 "it was moved and seconded that the property committee in purchasing the lot in Saddlertown from the Aaron Stoy Estate take title to a plot measuring 75 ft. fronting Beechwood Ave. and that the north boundary line run at right angles to Beechwood Ave. [approved]... the purpose of the motion was to permit the erection of the school building parallel with the front road." Motion was adopted.<sup>40</sup>

The building lot was purchased for \$500; construction costs, furniture, and other equipment costs were to not exceed \$4000. The building was to be of brick construction and to contain one room.

By December 2, 1911 Mr. Stoy presented blue prints of the survey of the ground at Saddlertown and they were accepted. Located on a corner of Aaron Stoy's (deceased) property fronting Beechwood Avenue, and adjacent to the Mellissa Mott property in Saddlertown, the trapezoidal lot measured 75'x176.65'x153.36'x158.32'. However, by April 26, 1912 construction on the schoolhouse at Saddlertown had yet to begin. As reported in the HTBOE minutes, the deed for the land still had not been drawn up, and in May, 1912 the construction firm of Boyer & Lewis informed the board that they were declining to build the school for the money specified in the bid dated Dec. 2, 1911 because costs for materials and wages had increased since then.

In June 28, 1912 changes to the original building specifications were submitted. These changes included a change to the water table to a second course of bricks, a change in a vent flue dimensions, a change to the style of fencing in the rear of the school building, a change from hip roof to gabled roof, a specification for north side porch wainscot to be of solid material to prevent drifting snow and rain to fill up the cellar way pit, a change to the glass in the basement windows, and a change to the front porch horses to be 3x12 heart pine with 2x6 treads. A change was also made to the slate roof specifications to 8x16 inch Chapman "Boys" Slate.

In September 27, 1912 "the building committee reported on the progress made on the building of the new Saddlertown School building and requested the board to meet with the architect & builder next Sunday..."<sup>41</sup> On October 25, 1912 it was reported that the State School Board had approved the construction work on the new Saddlertown School building, and finally, on November 22, 1912 it was reported that the official Dedication Ceremony of the new Saddlertown School would take place on Thanksgiving Day [November 28], at 2 o'clock.

The new school building was not without problems, however, as it was also reported in the minutes of November 22, 1912 that a delegation of Saddlertown residents were present and said among other things that the school was short on books, books were torn and incomplete, and the school on several occasions had experienced problems with the heat. Indeed, problems with regulating the heating temperature seemed to continued

through to March 1913 when school teacher Mrs. Brown complained before the BOE that there was too much heat in the building and "she was compelled to hold sessions on the porch and vestibule of the school building."<sup>42</sup>

In January 24, 1913 the HTBOE reported a total of 276 students in the district, and of that total, 39 attended the new Saddlertown School. Also in that year, Mrs. Emma Brown, of Philadelphia, PA was re-elected teacher of Saddlertown School for a salary of \$550 per annum.

The schoolhouse building is today remembered by Saddlertown residents as having a classroom area on the first floor, and a high-ceilinged basement, partially below grade, which served as an all-purpose area.

Elementary school age children of Saddlertown began attending Stoy Elementary School sometime after it was constructed in 1928. (NOTE: The State of New Jersey banned school segregation in 1944; segregation was banned nationally in 1954 with the landmark US Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. BOE, Topeka, KS*. Haddon Township schools were desegregated at least 20 years prior to *Brown vs. BOE* as evidenced by 1934 class photographs from Stoy school currently in the Haddon Township Historical Society Collection.)

The Saddlertown Schoolhouse was converted into a private residence occupied by the John Obey family. Mrs. Ida Mae Obey, daughter of John Obey, grew up in the old schoolhouse and recalled that her father paid \$9 per month to rent the house.<sup>43</sup> The building was later destroyed and a Township water tower now stands approximately where the schoolhouse once stood.

## **The Glover Tract**

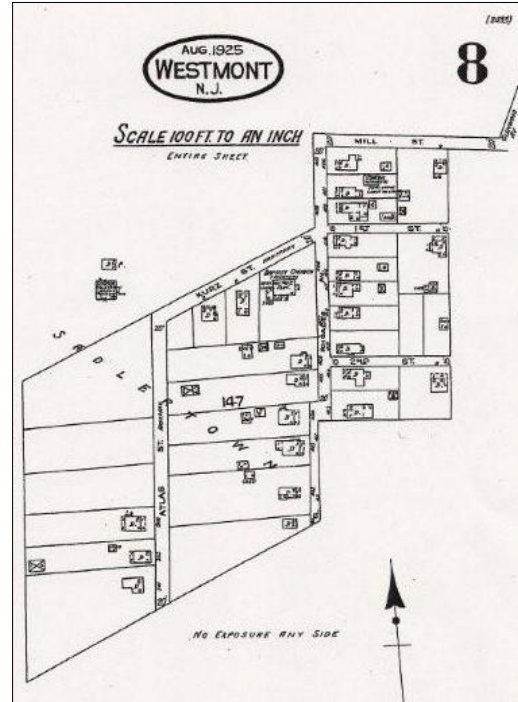
The Saddlertown community was enlarged in 1899 when the Dr. Lawrence L. Glover Tract was surveyed and divided into 18 building lots each roughly 40'x104' (a total of about 812 square feet). In 1899, the tract bordered Aaron Stoy's land (now MacArthur Blvd.) to the North, Sarah Elizabeth Hunt's land to the East, and Rhoads Ave. and Saddlertown to the West. The land was conveyed by Sarah Elizabeth Hunt to Lawrence Glover (Camden County Deed Book 235, p. 298). Eight houses, vacant building lots, and First and Second Avenues are on the 1907 G. M. Hopkins Atlas, "Vicinity of Camden."

Dr. Lawrence L. Glover was born in Camden circa 1864, but spent a part of his youth in Bridgeton with his brother-in-law Dr. Thomas J. Smith.<sup>44</sup> Lawrence Glover appears on the 1880 census of Haddon Township at 16 years of age, living with his parents Elisha V., a Clergyman born in Boston, MA, and Matilda B. Glover, born in Canada. He had a brother George B., and sister Agnes living in the household. He graduated from the South Jersey Institute (a private preparatory school in Bridgeton, NJ established in 1868 by the Baptists of New Jersey) and entered Thomas Jefferson Medical College (Philadelphia, PA) in the fall of 1879, graduating in May 1882. He began his medical practice in Hancock's Bridge, Salem County, NJ before moving to Haddonfield about 1885. Lawrence Litchfield Glover married Elizabeth T. Purnell of Germantown on January 17, 1889. According to his obituaries, he had a very successful medical practice,

and was one of the best known physicians in Camden County. He was the physician for the Haddonfield Board of Health. He was also the Assistant Surgeon of the Second Battalion, New Jersey Naval Reserves, with the rank of Ensign, when the Battalion was organized in 1895. He served in the Spanish-American War on the U.S.S. Montauk, which patrolled off the coast of Maine.<sup>45</sup>



Dr. Lawrence L. Glover  
*Courtesy Haddon Township Historical Society*



1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map  
*Courtesy Haddon Township Historical Society*

According to the history of the Bancroft School (Bancroft NeuroHealth), Dr. Lawrence Glover "was the school physician for years and was always on call to take care of the constant needs."<sup>46</sup> He was a member of the Haddonfield Masonic Lodge, No. 130 from its inception in 1872, the Baptist Church of Haddonfield, the Camden County Medical Society, and many other fraternal organizations.

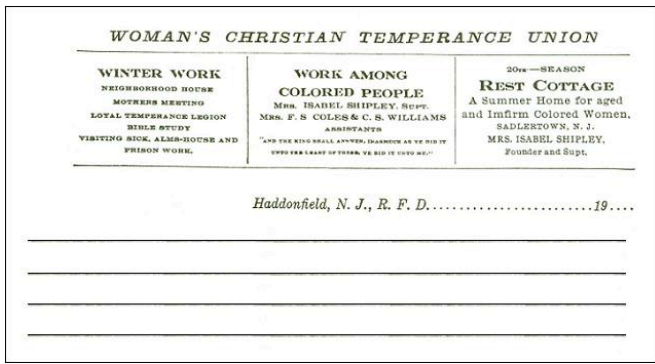
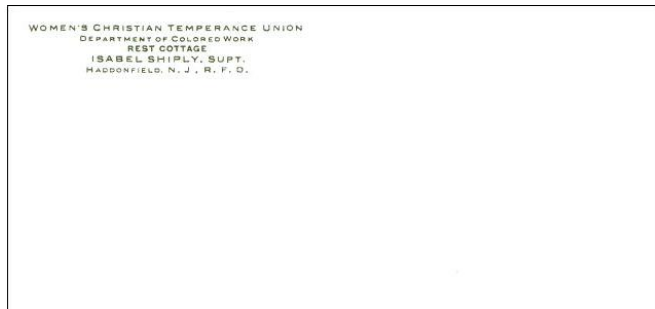
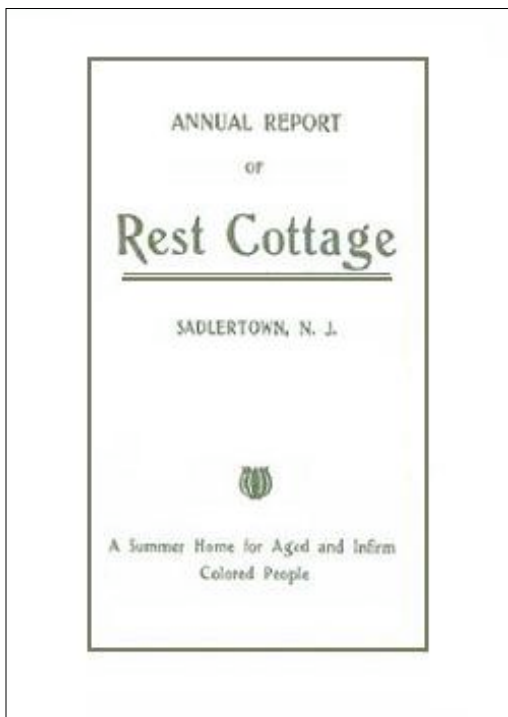
His obituary indicates that "he was of a most genial nature and was possessed of a remarkably sunny disposition... [and] was also one of the most valued and most enterprising citizens of the borough."<sup>47</sup>

Dr. Lawrence L. Glover died in Haddonfield, NJ on March 21, 1904. He died after contracting pneumonia during a particularly severe winter caring for many of his patients. He was about 40 years old at the time of his death. He was survived by his wife Elizabeth, and daughter, Frances Glover Bloempot, his brother George B. Glover and two sisters. Another obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper notes "one of the largest funerals this borough has ever witnessed took place today when Dr. Lawrence L. Glover was buried from his home, 229 E. Main St. [now Kings Highway]." Six doctors from the area served as pallbearers.<sup>48</sup> Dr. Glover is buried in the Haddonfield Baptist cemetery (Grave H-L20-G3).

## Summer Rest Cottage In Saddlertown

In 1893-94 Isabel M. Shipley of Camden, NJ founded and worked as the Superintendent of a Summer Rest Cottage in Saddlertown. The home was advertised as "A Summer Home for Aged and Infirm Colored People." It was open for 2 months in the summer season and served as a respite house for approximately two weeks per person. The Cottage was in existence for at least 20 years, and during those 20 years provided care for a reported total of 200 people. The exact location of the Cottage is not known, only that it was counted on the 1910 federal census as dwelling number 187 Mill Rd., Haddon Township, NJ. A 1925 Sanborn Insurance Map of the Saddlertown community shows a 2-story frame dwelling with a detached, smaller building in the rear yard labeled "Chapel (Colored) - Heat: Stove; Light: Oil Lamp." The dwelling, located in the Glover Tract, is currently 503 Rhoads Ave. Further investigation is required to determine if this was the site of the Rest Cottage. In the Annual Report of the Rest Cottage (1904-05), written by Isabel Shipley, the home is described as being "across the way from... a chapel [Rhoads Chapel], built by a friend [Charles Rhoads] of the race... This place is so near that our aged friends take much pleasure in attending on the Sabbath." She also notes:

*We would like to build this spring, so send this request to our friends, whom, we hope, will promptly aid us to complete the proposed work. We feel it would increase the efficiency of the Cottage to add to it two bedrooms, a pantry, and a kitchen, so that the superintendent need not rent rooms in the neighborhood...as the present sleeping accommodations being sufficient for six persons only. We have no good kitchen. The cooking in summer is done in a shed, which does not communicate with the main building.*



The Rest Home was a charitable enterprise sustained by the hard work and personal determination of Isabel Shipley, along with donations from local residents including members of the Nicholson family, Beulah, Catherine and Samuel Rhoads, E. S. Eastlack, and members of the Wood, Evans, and Morris families, among others. Collection monies and donated goods also came from the Haddonfield Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal congregations, and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ferry Avenue, Camden, the Presbyterian Church of Camden, as well as many Camden residents.

A paragraph from the Annual Report describes the Cottage:

*From the porch of the cottage there is a beautiful view of the sunset, with all its glories; and the birds hovering amid the branches of overhanging trees, sing all day long. Each morning a praise and experience meeting is held in our large front room by the inmates. To this service many of the neighbors come in to hear the old people talk of the love of Jesus, and the wonderful answers to prayer they had had since being delivered from bondage, which was often hard and bitter, in slavery days.... The good people of Haddonfield, Audubon, and other places sent fresh vegetables...groceries...and old clothing.*

In an undated newspaper article (estimated to have been written c. 1907) written by Isabel Shipley, the Rest Cottage and the Saddlestown community are described:

*In this lovely little hamlet, with its peaceful surrounding scenery, is found [the] Rest Cottage, so near the church [Rhoads Chapel] that those of our guests who are unable to attend the services, can sit on our porch, and from the open windows distinctly hear the preaching of the Word and hymns of praise.... Any respectable woman over the age of 60 years of age, who can give reference, and whose home is in Camden, can be admitted free for two weeks and sometimes a longer period. We have plenty of good plain food, three meals a day...*

In an article written by Isabel Shipley titled "ANNUAL REPORT of Colored W.C.T.U. Work 1905-06," Mrs. Shipley described the charitable services provided by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Saddlestown Summer Rest Cottage by noting that the Rest Cottage was "owned by seven trustees, John B. Rhoads of Moorestown, president" and "was founded twelve years ago by the present superintendent [Isabel Shipley], and is a pretty structure, with fine old oaks in front, and beds of bright flowers, and is a resting place for many an old pilgrim..."

Little is known of the life of Isabel M. Shipley. Research indicates that she was born in England in 1843 or 1844, the daughter of Edward and Isabella Filby. She came to the US in October 1849 where the family settled in Van Vorst, Hudson County, NJ. City Directories from 1876 through 1886 list her home address as 436 Jackson St. in Camden. Her Husband, Edward B. Shipley, born in Salem County, NJ, was a Civil War veteran serving with the Union troops in the 22nd US Colored Infantry (Volunteers), Company F, from April 4, 1865 to October 16, 1865. Isabel and Edward had 4 children: Caroline (Carrie), Fanny, Robert and Isabel. According to census data and city directories, Edward Shipley worked as a teamster. He died at age 52 circa 1882-83 from the effects

of illness suffered during his service in the Civil War. As a widow, Isabel supported her family as a teacher at the Ferry Avenue School for Colored Children, later called the Charles Sumner School in Camden, NJ. Isabel M. Shipley is described by family members as being a generous, caring and courageous woman, and a traveling spokesperson for the WCTU who was assigned to do her work in the Saddlestown community. She is cited in George Prowell's book, *History of Camden County NJ* (1886), page 482-483, as being the leader of 30 children attending a Mission Sunday School located at Broadway and Branch Sts. run by the Seventh Baptist Church of Camden.

Edward B. Shipley is buried in Johnson Cemetery, 38<sup>th</sup> and Federal Sts., Camden, NJ. Isabel M. Shipley died in 1915 in Saddlestown. She is buried in Lawnside, NJ, in Mt. Peace cemetery. Her daughter, Fanny, lived for a period of time around 1900 in the Saddlestown community with her husband Henry Cole; she later moved to Ferry Ave., Camden, and eventually moved to Philadelphia, PA, her place of death in 1958. Daughter Carrie, married to Edward B. Williams, also lived in Camden and is listed in the Camden City Directories from 1911 to 1947 as a public school teacher.

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#### Endnotes

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- <sup>2</sup> Rizzo, Dennis, *Parallel Communities: The Underground Railroad in South Jersey*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2008.
- <sup>3</sup> Wright and Wonkeryor, op. cit.
- <sup>4</sup> Calderhead, William L., "Slavery in Maryland in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1790." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Spring 2003, 1, 34.
- <sup>5</sup> Dorsey, Jennifer Hull, *Free People of Color in Rural Maryland, 1783-1832*. Diss. 2002. Georgetown University.
- <sup>6</sup> Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum [http://anacostia.si.edu/Plummer/Docs/JKWright\\_Paper.pdf](http://anacostia.si.edu/Plummer/Docs/JKWright_Paper.pdf). (accessed May 16, 2009).
- <sup>7</sup> Switala, William J., *Underground Railroad in New Jersey and New York*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2006.
- <sup>8</sup> New Jersey State Archives, *1848-78 Vital Statistics, Vol. E: Camden Co., Births, Marriages, Deaths*
- <sup>9</sup> New Jersey State Archives, *Vital Records, Births, Marriages, Deaths 1877*.
- <sup>10</sup> (Rowand, Jacob) Jacob Rowand to Thomas Jefferson Fisher, Rowand No. 518, 1879, *Haddonfield Record Book No. 3*, Historical Society of Haddonfield, 611, R. 15, Vol. 3, pp. 120-121.
- <sup>11</sup> Gloucester County, NJ. Surrogate's Office. Will of Joshua Saddler, G-261, 1868.
- <sup>12</sup> Munn, David, "History of the Croft Farm, Cherry Hill, NJ." Manuscript Collection, Township of Cherry Hill, NJ, 1988.
- <sup>13</sup> Weiss, Harry, and Robert Sim, *The Early Grist and Flouring Mills of New Jersey*. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Agricultural Society, 1968.
- <sup>14</sup> Manuscript No. 5 "The Abolition Collection," Box 1, File Nos. 4 and 26, Delia Biddle Pugh Library Manuscript Collection, Burlington County Historical Society.
- <sup>15</sup> (Evans, Josiah) "Josiah B. Evans, Ledger dated 1834-1879 For Evans Grist Mill." Camden County Historical Society, 426-V48.
- <sup>16</sup> "Evans Fulling & Weaving Mill Accounting Ledger 1825-1850." Ledger Collection, Historical Society of Haddonfield, E02, Vols. 1 and 2.
- <sup>17</sup> (Wood, Isaac H.) "Isaac H. Wood Farm Accounting Book, 1834-1856," 2 vol., Historical Society of Haddonfield, 14-03-2442-2443.
- <sup>18</sup> Hartel, Carrie Nicholson, "Wood Farm (Estaugh Plantation)." Historical Society of Haddonfield, MS 1913-001-1177; 1947.
- <sup>19</sup> Voight, Frank, "Saddlestown Once Haven For Many Fugitive Slaves," (Camden) *Evening Post*, November 30, 1937).

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- <sup>20</sup> Evans, Walter W., "The Story of Edgewater, The Historic Home at Evans Mill Pond" 1918 , Historical Society of Haddonfield. MS, 1913 - 001- 138.
- <sup>21</sup> Beck, Henry Charlton, *Newark (NJ) Star Ledger*, February 12, 1956.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Swanson, Mark, "A Quiet Bit of Past Remains in Historic Saddlertown." *The Haddon Herald*, June 15, 1995.
- <sup>24</sup> "Memorial of Charles Rhoads, A Testimony of Haddonfield Monthly Meeting." Philadelphia, PA: Friends' Book Store, 1904.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Raible, Dennis, *Down A Country Lane*. Camden, NJ: Camden County Historical Society, 1998.
- <sup>27</sup> Memorial of Charles Rhoads, op. cit., p. 8.
- <sup>28</sup> Rhoads, Charles, "Business Ethics In Relation To The Profession of the Religious Society of Friends." Address by Charles Rhoads of Haddonfield, NJ, Second Month 9th, 1882, p.8.
- <sup>29</sup> Rauschenberger, Douglas B., and Katherine Mansfield Tassini, *Lost Haddonfield*. Haddonfield, NJ: The Historical Society of Haddonfield, 1989.
- <sup>30</sup> Rhoads, Samuel N., *Boyhood Memories of Boxwood Hall*. Haddonfield, NJ: Historical Society of Haddonfield, 1967.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid., p. 18.
- <sup>32</sup> Murray, Sarah Shivers, "Haddonfield Reminiscences," October 1932, MS 595. Manuscript Collection, Historical Society of Haddonfield.
- <sup>33</sup> "An Extract From The Diary of Charles Rhoads," Haddonfield, NJ: Rhoads Temple United Methodist Church Archives, Saddlertown, NJ, undated.
- <sup>34</sup> Shipley, Isabel, "Rest Cottage at Sadlertown." Publisher unknown (c. 1907).
- <sup>35</sup> Swanson, op. cit., p.20.
- <sup>36</sup> "Minutes of Board of Education Meetings Minutes 1911," Book 1, Haddon Township, NJ, pp. 416-417.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 406.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid., pp. 413-414.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid., pp 422.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid., pp. 425-431.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid., pp. 478.
- <sup>42</sup> "Minutes of Board of Education Meetings Minutes 1911," Book 2, Haddon Township, NJ, pp. 18-19.
- <sup>43</sup> Swanson, op. cit., p.20.
- <sup>44</sup> "Obituary of Dr. Lawrence L. Glover." *West Jersey Press*, Saturday, March 26, 1904, p. 5.
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid, p. 5.
- <sup>46</sup> Day, Bill, "Days of Yore." *Haddon Gazette*, March 2, 1978.
- <sup>47</sup> "Dr. L. L. Glover Died Last Night." *Camden Daily Courier*, March 22, 1904, p. 8.
- <sup>48</sup> *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 26, 1904.

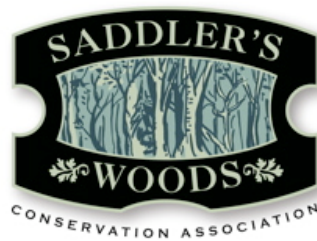


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<http://www.saddlerswoods.org>