

Holland Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

Welcome to O'sakame Preserve

This land has been preserved by the residents of Holland Township in partnership with the efforts of The Hunterdon Land Trust and a grant from Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund.

The name O'sakame was selected by Junior Girl Scout Troup 80309 to honor the Lenape people, early inhabitants of this land.

The 70 acres of land before you have been preserved to protect precious open space and provide access to land of rich natural and historic value. O'sakame honors the early Lenape indigenous people of this beautiful land overlooking the Delaware River. O'sakame, the Lenape word for "across the river", lies along a segment of the National Park Service's Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River and affords a spectacular view of the Nockamixon Cliffs soaring 300 feet above and "across the river" in Pennsylvania.

During the Revolutionary War, Jeremiah Clark (1760-1846) of Nockamixon Township was a private in Captain Manus Yost's Company, Haycock Township, Bucks County Militia, First Regiment of Foot in service of the United States, commanded by Colonel John Keller. Following the Revolution, Jeremiah Clark purchased 165 acres of the Barker Tract for 288 pounds in 1796. Stewardship of this beautiful and fertile land remained in the Clark/Robbins family for nearly 200 years.

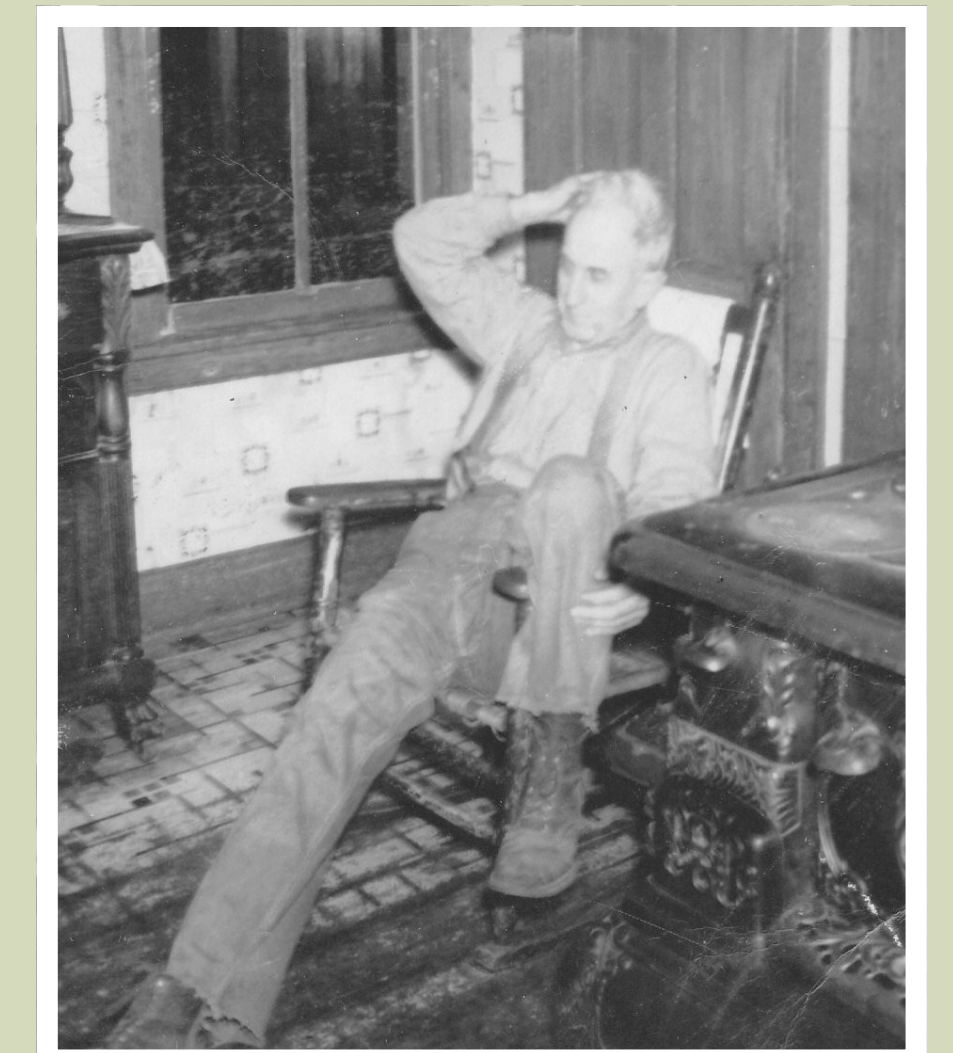


- **By 1842 Jeremiah Clark** divided his land among his four sons and one daughter. Son, William Clark (1786-1868), received the land that we now know as O'sakame Preserve. He worked as a sawyer on Lynn's Island in the Delaware River across from this parcel. William acquired additional adjoining land resulting in 64 acres where he farmed and raised 10 children.



- **Mary Clark Robbins (1858-1934)**, Jeremiah's only child, purchased the land from her father in 1905 following the death of her husband, Edward Robbins. Mary and Edward had 3 daughters and one son, Charles Robbins (1885-1957).

- **Charles Robbins (1885-1957)** married Nettie B. Ulmer in 1907, purchased the property from his mother, Mary, in 1920 and farmed until his passing in 1957. For his entire farming career, Charlie farmed using only horses, never used a tractor. On this land he grew corn, wheat, chickens, and cows and was especially known for his delicious cantaloupes.



- **Following the passing of** William Clark in 1868, Jeremiah Clark (1827-1907) purchased the land and likely constructed additions to the original 1820-30 bank house and barn. In 1880 this Jeremiah cultivated 45 acres in various crops, had 600 peach trees and approximately 75 farm animals (cows, pigs, chickens)



- **A favorite gathering place** for Charlie and Nettie Robbins' 5 children and their families, the farm passed to Nettie B. Robbins upon the passing of her husband in 1957. Nettie is seen here c. 1949 enjoying her backyard with her grandkids and chickens.

The historic Clark/Robbins farm was subsequently sold to New Jersey Central Power and Light in 1972 with Nettie retaining conditional life rights. By 1976 Nettie had moved to live near her daughter in Connecticut and nearly two centuries of the Clark/Robbins farmland came to an end. The farmhouse continued in use by tenants until 2000. The house and barns gradually deteriorated and were ultimately demolished by 2017.

*Photo portrait of Mary Robbins courtesy of Kathleen Sciarello.
Other photos courtesy of Charles Andrews.*