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New Book is a History of New Jersey's First and Only Indian Reservation and the Communities That Followed

Medford, New Jersey, May 23, 2005. Plexus Publishing, Inc. has announced the publication of George D. Flemming's *Brotherton: New Jersey's First and Only Indian Reservation and the Communities of Shamong and Tabernacle That Followed*. The Brotherton Reservation (1758-1802) was established within the area of the New Jersey Pine Barrens known today as Indian Mills, in the Burlington County township of Shamong. The new book is the first to focus principally on the history of this unique reservation and to offer detailed coverage of the events, industries, people, and communities that influenced and superseded it.

"George Flemming weaves together a variety of primary and secondary sources with archaeology gathered over a lifetime to chronicle the accounts of the Brotherton Reservation and surrounding communities," said William B. Liebeknecht, President of the Archaeological Society Of New Jersey. "This labor of love is interesting and informative, and provides an insightful look into the daily life of missionaries and Lenape Indians living in southern New Jersey from the mid-18th through the 19th centuries. Chapters relating to the surrounding communities are especially interesting considering how much has changed in these areas. Most of the places Flemming documents are mere memories, consumed by development or absorbed back into the landscape."

In the opening chapter of *Brotherton*, the author describes the prehistoric people who first appeared in post-glacial southern New Jersey 10,000-12,000 years ago. Flemming draws on archaeological evidence and supplements the text with numerous photographs of Stone Age Indian artifacts, all from his personal collection. In the chapters that follow, he explains how the Native American people of the region—the Lenape, later referred to as the Delawares—were impacted by the European colonization of the Delaware Valley that began in the early 17th century, then relates the events leading up to the creation of the Brotherton Reservation in 1758.

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In subsequent chapters Flemming tells of the growth of the reservation, with considerable coverage of the pivotal role of Presbyterian missionary John Brainerd, and of its steady decline during the Revolutionary War years. When the last of the Brotherton Lenapes left the reservation in 1802 to join the Oneida tribe in New York State, white settlement of the area quickly followed. The author chronicles the early churches and schools, hotels and taverns, forges, furnaces, mills, and notable citizens of “Old Shamong.” In addition to dozens of historic photographs appearing throughout the book, an appendix offers a pictorial journey through late-19th and early-20th century Shamong.

In his foreword to the book, prominent South Jersey archaeologist Budd Wilson writes, “George Flemming is a storyteller. He has been telling the story of Brotherton for 50 years. Now it is in print—a small story that is part of a much larger picture.”

The Brotherton Reservation has been in the news recently in connection with a land dispute. The Unalachtigo Band of the Nanticoke Lenne Lenape Nation has filed a lawsuit claiming over 3,000 acres in Shamong Township, representing the former Brotherton lands. The suit alleges that the land was sold to the state in violation of both the 1758 treaty establishing the reservation and a 1790 federal law that put new controls on the sale of Indian lands. With the matter currently pending in the New Jersey Supreme Court, Flemming said he hoped his research for the book “might shed new light on the controversy.”

Author George D. Flemming is a life-long resident of southern New Jersey who currently resides in Southampton. A student of history and archaeology since his early teens, he attended the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Charles Morris Price School of Journalism in Philadelphia. He holds membership in many historical and genealogical societies and is a 51-year member of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey. Flemming’s numerous articles on local history have appeared in area newspapers and journals. The publication of *Brotherton*, his first full-length book, is the culmination of a life-long dream.

Brotherton is being simultaneously released in hardcover and softcover editions by Plexus Publishing, Inc., a Medford, New Jersey-based publisher of books and journals. Plexus books, including *Brotherton* (296 pp; hardcover \$34.95/ISBN 0-937548-61-8; softcover \$24.95/ISBN 0-937548-57-X), are available in better bookstores everywhere and by contacting the publisher directly at (609) 654-6500, ext. 144; fax: (609) 654-4309; e-mail: info@plexuspublishing.com; Web site: www.plexuspublishing.com.

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