

In 1678 the "Shield" of Hull ascended the Delaware as far as Burlington, and was the first vessel known to have ascended the river that far. On board were a large number of Quaker colonists, among whom were Mahlon Stacy and Thomas Lambert, both destined to become prominent in the early history of Trenton. Lambert took up a tract in that portion of the city formerly known as Lamberton. Stacy took up a tract of 800 acres, where now stands the thickest populated portion of the city, and made the first purchase of land north of the Assanpink. His residence of logs was located near the site of the present residence of Edward H. Stokes. A log grist mill erected by him on the south bank of the Assanpink, furnished the flour and meal for the surrounding colonists. Prior to the year 1700 the growth of the settlement was slow, but from that date friends of the settlers began to arrive. Purchases of land were made from the original proprietors or those who had taken up the lands, and most of the deeds of Trenton real estate date back from the period from 1699 to 1710.

About 1714 Judge William Trent of Philadelphia purchased a large tract of land, including the grist mill, of Mahlon Stacy, and came to the settlement to reside. The mill of logs was replaced by a two story structure of stone, and at this spot a century later the ladies of Trenton received General Washington as he was proceeding to his inauguration. Judge Trent was the first Chief Justice of New Jersey, and the residence which he occupied on what is now Warren street was remodeled by his son, and afterward as "Woodlawn," served as the residence of the Colonial Governors.

The colony was now being constantly strengthened by arrivals from the Dutch and English settlements of Long Island and East Jersey. In 1712 the Presbyterians built a log church at Ewing, and in 1726 the congregation had so grown in Trenton that a church was built on the lot now occupied by the First Presbyterian Church, although the patent incorporating it as the "First Presbyterian Church of Trenton" was not granted by George II until 1756. The church was rebuilt in 1805.

For many years the Friends worshiped in the homes of their members, but in 1739 a meeting house was erected on land donated to the society by Mahlon Stacy, at the corner of Montgomery and Hanover streets. The hip-roofed building was plain and austere in appearance, but within its walls worshiped many of the greatest men of early Trenton. A portion of the walls of that old structure are incorporated in the meeting house where the Hicksite branch still meet on first and fifth days for worship. In the burying ground surrounding, repose the ashes of many early