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SCOTCH PLAINS

THE STORY OF AN OLD COMMUNITY

By

REIGNETTE MARSH

*I have considered the days of old,
The years of ancient times."*

Psalms 77, 5:6.

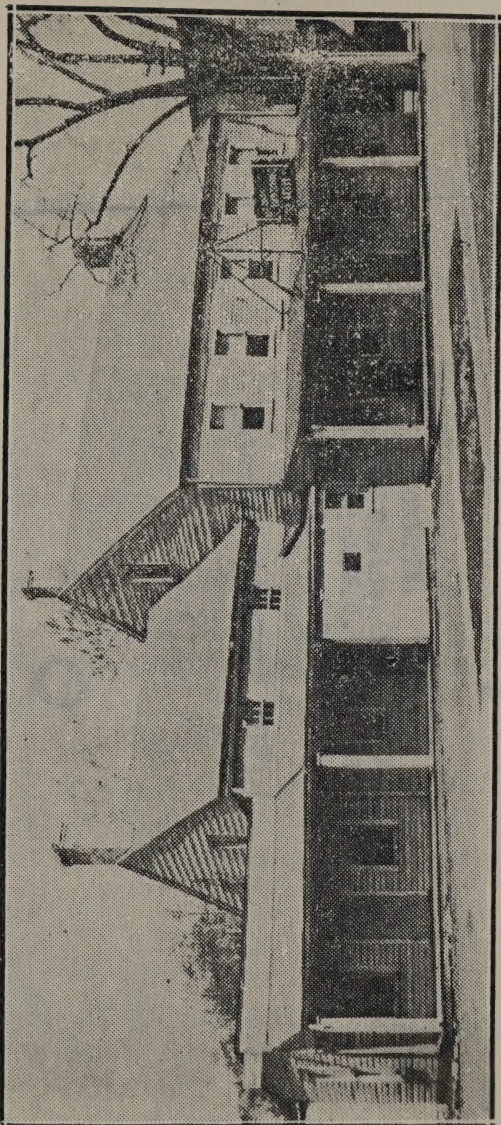
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YE OLDE TAVERN

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THIS LITTLE BOOK IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO MY MOTHER

PREFACE

During the past few years, we Americans have become history-conscious. We have learned much of the part played by our people of an earlier time—especially in connection with National affairs. The life and achievements of George Washington—our first President—have furnished the themes for splendid pageants. Books by the score have been written about brave and heroic deeds performed by patriots in Philadelphia, Boston, Morristown and many other places during the Revolutionary War.

We have read many of these books, have learned of the exploits of American patriots of other places, and we have asked ourselves: "Did not Scotch Plains have any part in the events of those stirring times? Did our little village sleep through the thundering of the cannon, and the galloping of horses carrying messages to and from General Washington?" We know, now, that our townspeople in that time of need did all in their power to aid their new government. Men and boys enlisted, in both the Militia and the Continental Army.

Much sorrow and suffering were experienced by the people in our community. In the old burying-ground many are quietly sleeping, who carried to their last resting place, hearts torn by devotion to the new government, and reverence for

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the old. Forgotten now is the bitterness of spirit felt by some whose sons and husbands remained loyal to Old England, and who were scorned by their old friends and neighbors as Tories.

In compiling this small record of by-gone days we have been privileged to consult many old letters and papers—treasured by their owners as precious relics of the past.

Miss Anna Littell, of old Raritan Road, and Mrs. William Buckley of Front Street have been most generous. From strong-boxes and chests have come many interesting documents. Many valuable papers in the custody of Mr. John Z. Hatfield of Stout Ave. concerning the early history of the old Baptist Church—and which in a great measure was a history of the village as well—have made it possible to provide a background for the narrative to be presented.

It was also necessary to consult in Essex and Somerset County Courthouses many wills and deeds of families known to have been early settlers in this neighborhood—in order to build a foundation for the genealogical data which forms a part of the history of the village.

The compiler of this brief record wishes to express her grateful appreciation for the kind assistance and unfailing encouragement extended to her by many old friends and neighbors.

THE AUTHOR.

North Plainfield, New Jersey.
April, 1936.

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SCOTCH PLAINS

The name "Scotch Plains," apparently made its first recorded appearance in 1736, when Nathaniel Bonnell, in making his will on June 19th of that year, refers to 140 acres of land "by Scotch Plains, joining land of Richard Beech and John Shadwell."

That the present village of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, was "settled" by some of the Scotch immigrants of 1684-1685 is a matter of record. The eminent historian, Rev. Edwin Hatfield, in his "History of Elizabeth, New Jersey," has referred to many papers and letters written by these Scotch settlers to their friends and relatives, back home, in Scotland. One of these letters, quoted on pages 227-8-9 of the history, reads as follows: "Governor Lawrie conferred with Captain Baker, Stephen Osborn, Joseph Meeker . . . and other Elizabethtown settlers regarding their lands, saying he had a mind to make a purchase of some lands lying westward of their purchase, and asked them to go with him to mark out their bounds. Accompanied by an old Indian chief, Wewampo, they went on or about the 16th day of July 1684 to a Plain back of Piscataway, to a marked tree with some stones about it, and a stake by the tree, and thence, forward towards the Green River near where it comes out of the mountain; and lodged by the river-side that night; and the next day they made a circle or compass along the foot of the mountain, by

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the direction of the Indian, till they came to the Minisink Path, and then came down to Eliz. Town. It was affirmed, however, that it was confessed by the Indian chief, that this compass included only a part of the Town lands.

This transaction, however, became the source of serious litigation. Baker was charged with having prevailed on the Indians to include a much larger tract within the bounds than the town had originally purchased; and so with having contravened the Act of Feb. 1682-3; forbidding private purchases from the Indians——”.

The above quotation from Hatfield's History has been given in order that we may know how and when the Scotch people acquired their lands. The litigation that followed may have caused many of them to, subsequently, return to Perth Amboy to live. The wills of many of these old Scotchmen were proved in Middlesex County.

It is very evident, however, that the section was not entirely uninhabited before the arrival of the Scotch settlers. Hatfield's history tells us that they found some of the families from Elizabethtown had moved to the out-lying districts. A letter, evidently written by Governor Lawrie, and dated March 29th, 1684, says: “Many of those who have settled here upwards of sixteen years have lived upon the product of the land they cleared the first two years after they came——.” p. 224, Hatfield.

On August 20, 1684, Peter Watson, one of David Barclay's servants wrote to a friend in Scotland, that “This country is very well settled with People, most part of the first Settlers

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came out of New England, very kind and loving people, kinder than in Scotland or England—." pp. 225-6.

In the history of Elizabeth, only a few lines are devoted to the settlement of Scotch Plains. On Page 565 there is the statement that "A large part of the Scotch immigration of 1684-1685 found a pleasant home on the eastern side of Green Brook."

On page 249 we find that, "The Alexander family came with others in the Scotch congregation about 1685—and had large allotments of land at the Scotch Plains—".

Another reference to these early settlers appears in the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, January, 1930, in a paper written by Dr. George S. Pryde, of the University of Scotland, entitled "The Scots in East New Jersey." He quotes from a letter written by one of the settlers, as follows: "I went out to the weeds to the land we have pitched upon, with several of our countrymen—; where we have all pitched near by one another upon a piece of excellent land as we supposed; whereof I judge I have not the worst (if not the absolute best piece of land in all the tract, for we had it all at our own choosing and not by lots." (This settlement was the nucleus of the village of Scotch Plains.)

Despite the Scotch occupancy of the territory along the Green "River" the Elizabethtown Associates never conceded their own claims to the ownership of these lands, and after the second division of lots, we find sons and grandsons of the associates in possession of much of the land on the "Plains."

The settlement was growing and the people had come to

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stay. They had built homes; they were rearing their families; and now were beginning to realize their need for spiritual and cultural advancement; influenced, no doubt, by the "Great Revival" of 1740.

CHURCH HISTORY

From an old paper in the custody of Mr. John Z. Hatfield, we learn that, in 1742, between thirty-five and forty men—head of families—decided to get together and build a meeting-house. The paper reads as follows: “Wee whose names and hands are hereunto subscribed think necessary that there should be built a First Day Baptist Meeting House in the Borough of Elizabeth on the East side of the green River and near to sd River at such a place as the major part of the Subscribers which shall be Mett on Thursday the sixteenth of September next ensuing at the dwelling house of Henry Lines (in sd Borough) for that purpose and shall nominate and appoint and on the sd sixteenth of September and at the house of sd Henry shall by a majority of votes appoint and choose two or more managers (as they shall think proper) for the carrying on and finishing the sd house and all to agree on the form and size that the sd house shall be built and to the intent that the managers may be Inabled to carry on finish of the sd house.

“Wee whose names and hands are hereunto subscribed do hereby bind and oblige ourselved severally and also our executors and ——— to pay or cause to be paid unto the managers the sum of ——— announced to each of our names in manner following that is to say that one equal third part of the sum so subscribed by each subscriber shall be paid or

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payable in six months after the date hereof and one other third part in ten months after the date and the other third part in sixteen months after the date (it being money at eight shillings per oz.) and on the payment of the said sums of money according to the tenor hereof wee do hereby empower the managers—to give receipts for the same they shall receive and the sd managers shall keep an exact account of what they receive and also of their disbursements so as to render an account when thereunto called by a committee consisting of three of the subscribers which shall be chosen on the above sd sixteenth day of September at the house of the above sd Henry Lines as witness our hands this fourth day of August Anno Dom. 1742.”

This document was signed by the following:

William Darby	Zerobadel North
John Stites	Jeremiah Lodlam
Henry Lyons	Joseph Lyons
John Blackford	John Van Sikel
John Blackford Jr.	Jeorg Crosle
John Line	Henry Crosle
Isaac Le Forge	William Danel
John Davis	John Rains
Jethro Manning	William Stitz
William Lyons	Elijah Stitz
Isaac Manning	Joseph Aling Sr.
Jonathan Fitz Randolph	Jeremiah Randolph
Edward Drake	Izac Searing
William Joans Sr.	John Joans
Daniel Joans	Silas Rains—2 days work

CHURCH HISTORY

William Miller
Henry Clark
Samuel Darby

John Jellison
William Robson
Andrew Littell

John Stitz
William Lyons
William Darby

} Managers

John Lambert
Isaac Manning
Henry Lyons

} Committee

Having built their house of worship, they next proceeded to organize their church, which was accomplished in August, 1747.

A most interesting history of the "Scotch Plains Baptist Church" was prepared by the late Rev. J. H. Parks, D.D. and the late Judge James D. Cleaver, at the time the church celebrated its 150th anniversary, in 1897.

A perusal of the minutes of the Church meetings, especially of the earlier years of its existence, sheds much light on the habits and customs of the times. It, the church, served, in its own way, as a sort of "Court of Domestic Relations." Family quarrels, lapses from the accepted codes of morals, even the case of a too-gossipy housewife, (conditions, which—like the poor—we have with us always) were brought, in those times, not to a Police Court, but to the Church Meeting.

A committee of the Deacons, or other members of approved judgment, was appointed to call upon the erring member, and

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if the case proved stubborn, to "cite" him to the next meeting. That they were faithful to the responsibility placed upon them is shown by the following deplorable incident, copied from the minutes: "The Committee requested to report this meeting of Business what progress they have made in the business assigned to them, say that the charges against Sarah —— the wife of —— in drinking to excess is too well supported to be denied—and that there appeared no probability of reformation in her conduct—which being considered—it was voted she be excommunicated, and that the sentence of her exclusion be publically declared after divine service next day of preparation."

In 1782, it was decided, "That the Communion be held as they formerly were (*viz*) on the second Sabbath every two Months and No Respect to be Paid to christmas more than any other day." The Puritan influence of our forefathers was still a power in the community!

The first minister, Reverend Benjamin Miller, probably lived during the greater part of his pastorate on his own farm; as is shown by the terms of his will, made in 1765,—though not proved until 1781—in which he leaves his home farm to his son, Benjamin.

However, in 1775, the Trustees purchased of the heirs of William Darby, 15 acres which, thereafter, constituted the "parsonage farm." The will of William Darby, proved in 1775, directed his executors to sell his homestead; and, as he devised his other properties to his sons, it seems very probable that the present parsonage-house stands on the site of the old home of the first Ruling Elder, William Darby.

CHURCH HISTORY

Early in 1786 the parsonage was burned; it had been a frame building, and the trustees decided to rebuild with stone. It was at first thought necessary to raise funds for the work by selling some of the "lots" on which the house had stood. The plan was vetoed, as the money was loaned by one of the members, Jedediah Swan.

On March 20th, 1786, "Meeting of Business of the Church and Congregation; Reported that it is necessary to build a parsonage house, and took into consideration whether it would be best to build a frame or a stone house on the parsonage. A question arose at price stone could be had and William Miller sold stone, therefore it was voted that Capt. John Darby and Capt. Benjamin Laing be a committee to proceed immediately to inquire of sd Miller at what price he would dispose of building stone." It is quite probable that William Miller furnished the stone for the beautiful old "Manse," one of the landmarks of the community.

For more than a hundred years the Baptist Church satisfied the religious needs of the people in our community; but during the latter half of the nineteenth century a movement was begun to organize churches of other "persuasions." The Methodist Church began its active career in the fall of 1867 with 16 members. A few years later—in 1871-2—a fine meeting-house was erected on the Springfield road. This Church, like its Baptist neighbor, has been a power for good in the community. The present minister, the Reverend Dr. C. S. Kemble, is a well-known author and lecturer.

In 1873, the Protestant Episcopal Church began its religious work in the village. All Saints Mission, as it was first

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called, has expanded into the present Parish of All Saints. The present Rector, the Rev. Mr. W. F. Bassill, is a leader in many civic projects.



THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ON GRAND STREET



SCHOOL HISTORY

After the "meeting-house" had been built, and the Church organized, the next community project was a school. This important undertaking, like its predecessor, was sponsored by the leading men of the neighborhood. In 1768, William Darby, "yeoman" deeded a piece of ground and building for school purposes. The document describing this transaction is in the custody of Mr. J. Z. Hatfield, and bears the names of the following persons, who, no doubt, served as members of the "Board of Education" of that day:

Recompense Stanbury	Jonathan Osborn
Joseph Coles	William Coles
Abraham Hamton	Benjamin Jenning
Benjamin Miller	Samuel Hicks
William Elston	Dennis Coles
Henry Line	Elias Darby
Jedidiah Swan	Joseph Searing
John Darby	James Coberly
John Squier	John High
William Darby	William Miller
Isaac Halsey	James Miller
Daniel Hand	William Line
Abner Hamton	Joseph Frazee
	and heirs of
John Meeker	and Ichabod Valentine

Jonathan Hand Osborn, son of Jonathan Osborn, and Re-

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compense Stanbury Jr., son of Recompense Stanbury, Sr., were probably among the first "scholars"; many years later they stated that, as boys, they attended school together.

One of the first teachers in the new school was Miss Charity Prowtt, who came well recommended by her former Pastor, the Reverend James Caldwell, whose letter, now owned by Mr. Hatfield, reads as follows: "That the Bearer, Charity Prowtt, hath been received in full communion with the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth Town, where she hath for some time taught school, hath behaved well and is free from scandal, known to me, is certified by

James Caldwell,
Pastor of Church.

Dec. 9, 1773."

Among the list of Members' Deaths in the Church Minutes is the following: "Charity Prout, Died May 22, 1779."

Whether Miss Prout had an immediate successor is not known. The closing years of the war were bringing much suffering and hardship to the people in the little village; troops were quartered in its midst, for a while; and everyone was expected to help furnish supplies for the army. Perhaps the town fathers were too busy to look for a new teacher, at that time; but in 1783 we find them advertising for one—a school Master, this time, as appears from the following advertisement, in the *New Jersey Journal*, dated Wed., April 23, 1783: "Wanted by the first of May, a school master who can be well recommended for his ability in teaching English language and good morals. Any such, on application to Isaac

CHURCH HISTORY

Halsey, in behalf of the employers at Scotch Plains, will meet with generous encouragement."

The school-house, later called "The Academy," (when that was the popular term), was used for many years—as such—and then moved away to another location, where it was turned into a dwelling-house. It is still in use; located on Stout Avenue.

On page 616 of the History of Union County, by F. W. Riord, there is shown a picture of the next school-house, located on Grand Street; which building had, formerly, been the second church of the Baptist people. This picture was taken about 1885, and shows the number of children who attended the school at that time. Most of these children were of native American stock, and if we could recognize their faces, we would find among them descendants of Corys, Lines, Darbys, Millers, Frazees, Mooneys, Parses, Shotwells, and many other well-known families of the early days. The accompanying picture was taken in 1889.

At present, the township has four well-equipped grade schools, and a fine high school.

INNS AND INNKEEPERS

One of the most interesting landmarks in Scotch Plains, and probably the oldest for many miles around, is the old tavern at the corner of Front Street and Park Avenue, "The Road to the Mountain." This old house bears the date of 1737 on a stone in the fireplace. No proof has been presented that it was built to be used as an inn, or tavern. There was very little need for an inn at that time; there were few travellers, and the roads were poor. However, some time before the Revolution, in 1769, a new route was arranged by the Swift Sure Stage Line, which ran from Philadelphia, through New Hope, Flemington, Somerville, Bound Brook, Scotch Plains and Elizabeth-town. Reference: "Early Transportation in and About New Jersey," page 113 of the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, April 1924—C. C. Vermeule.

Great changes were taking place; a political storm was brewing; many messengers were riding up and down the country-side—on the King's business, as well as many who—later—were to be called "rebels." Weary travellers found refreshment—for man and beast—at the Inn of Jonathan Osborn, as early as 1771. This is the first reference I have found for an Inn-keeper in Scotch Plains (New Jersey Archives, Newspaper Extract for 1771).

Osborn's Tavern was located on (present) Front Street, midway between Park Avenue and Terrill Road; as shown

INNS AND INNKEEPERS

on a map drawn for the use of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. This map also indicates that a Tavern was kept by one Marselis, at the intersection of Front Street and Park Avenue. This is the place now known as the Frowery Hotel.

There appears to have been some competition in the tavern trade, for in 1775 we find Amos Swan doing business at "Swan's Tavern." This was probably on the Springfield Road, as he lived there. "At the plantation of Amos Swan on the Scotch Plains, a short half-mile from the meeting-house on the road leading to Springfield." Ref. New Jersey Journal, page 152, year 1778, Newspaper Extracts, N. J. Archives.

Also: "At the house of the subscriber at the Scotch Plains, seven miles from Springfield, on the road leading from thence to Princeton, Amos Swan." Ref. N. J. Journal, 1780.

These notices were advertising his business of breeding horses, but it is evident that he, also, "kept" a tavern.

I quote the following from an old bill found among some papers owned by Mr. John Frazee, Central Avenue, Westfield:

"David Squire to Amos Swan, Dr.

1775 April To Sundry.....4:11

1777 July 29 To Rum and Lodging.....3: 9

1781 Jan. 18 For Grogg.....1: 0

9: 8

To intrest on ye Above.....6:11

16: 7

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* * *

The following notice appeared in the *New Jersey Journal*, Wed., March 8, 1780: "Notice given by Daniel Marsh, Quartermaster (Militia to those having claims against his department, — to meet him on Tuesday, March first at Swan's Tavern, Scotch Plains."

Amos Swan died November 16, 1782.

* * *

A later reference to Jonathan Osborn, "inn-keeper," appeared in the *New Jersey Journal* of Wed. 29, 1783, and reads as follows: "— land in the Short Hills near Scotch Plains, bounded on lands of William Terry, Thomas Terry, etc. etc. to be sold at public auction at the house of Jonathan Osborn, inn-keeper at the Scotch Plains, on Tuesday the 25th day of March, next."

RECOMPENCE STANBURY, TAVERN KEEPER

On January 7, 1788, David Morris and Mary, his wife, of Elizabeth, County of Essex, yeoman, deed to Recompence Stanbury, Tavern-keeper of the same place, a certain lot or parcel of land being in County of Somerset and Borough aforesaid, Beginning at a stake standing in the line of Joseph Scaring's land, (South of the Falls Mill), bounded by Jacob Frazee's land, etc. etc. Ref. Somerset Co. deeds.

N.B.—David Morris was preparing to remove to Kentucky.

In the *New Jersey Journal* of Wed. May 21, 1791, the fol-

RECOMPENCE STANBURY, TAVERN KEEPER

lowing notice appears: "By John Chetwood, Esq., one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of New Jersey; Notice is hereby given that on application to me by Thomas Frazer and Hannah his wife—late Hannah Searing—one of the daughters of Joseph Searing, dec., and which said Hannah claims an undivided third, etc. etc.—in certain property—, at a place called the Scotch Plains,—said property adjoins the lands of Jonathan Hutchins, Melvin Pierce, & Anthony Littell,—also adjoins lands of Jacob Stanbery, William Darby and Recompense Stanbury Commissioners to divide the land,—and unless proper objections are stated to me at the house of Recompense Stanbury, Inn-keeper at the Scotch Plains,—".

Jacob Stanbury was the last one of his family to "keep" the old inn. A notice in the N. J. Journal states that on the 16th day of March, 1818, Nathan Squire, Sheriff, would sell certain mortgaged premises (owned by Elkanah Drake in Scotch Plains to the highest bidder, between the hours of 12 and 5 in the afternoon, in the house of Jacob Stanbery, Inn-keeper. The premises referred to were those afterwards owned for more than fifty years by the family of the late John R. Marsh, and now occupied by the family of Mr. Alexander Muir. At the sale the property was bought by Isaac Marsh, the grandfather of John R. Marsh, who sold it a few years late to a member of the Osborn family.

Jacob Stanbury had kept the old inn for several years before his death in 1821.

With the advent of the Rail Road and subsequent loss of patronage to the inn which had served as a regular stopping

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place for the "Swift Sure" Stages, the tavern lost prestige. Its reputation may have suffered also, through the active work of a Temperance Society, organized in 1831 by a group of prominent local citizens, the first meeting of which was held on May 9, 1831, "at early candle light," in the Academy, when the following officers were elected:

Rev. Mr. Rogers, President.

John B. Osborn, Vice President.

Elijah Shotwell, Treasurer.

Dennis Coles, Secretary.

Henry Hetfield, William Acken, Alexander Wilson,
managers.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

To those of us whose ancestors lived in or near Scotch Plains during those perilous times, it is most interesting to know that our village was the scene of several events—the importance of which seems to have been overlooked by most historians.

Several skirmishes occurred in our vicinity; troops were stationed here for weeks at a time; many of the local “boys” enlisted and took an active part in the great struggle.

Dr. Edwin Hatfield, in his History of Elizabeth, says: “At Scotch Plains, a severe engagement ensued with the troops under Lord Sterling, who were obliged, being greatly inferior in numbers, to fall back to the heights in the rear, with the loss of a few men and three cannon.” This, he states, took place on June 26th, 1777. Some writers disagree as to the exact location of this engagement, contending that it took place at the Short Hills—a few miles away. General Israel Shreve, who was in command of the 2nd Regiment of New Jersey, called it the Battle of Short Hills. General Shreve was testifying regarding the death of Ephraim Anderson, and says, “that he, the said Captain Ephraim Anderson was killed in the Battle of Short Hills in the State of New Jersey on the twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven: and do further certify that I was on said twenty-sixth day of June Colonel

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of (and commanded) said regiment. Given under my hand at Tioga, the sixteenth day of August, 1779.

Israel Shreve, Col'l,
2nd Regt. of N. Jersey."

Colonel Shreve's testimony, given only two years after the battle, indicates that the battle did not take place in Scotch Plains. The retreating troops, no doubt, passed through the village on their way to the "heights in the rear."

Sentries were posted at Scotch Plains to notify the Commander-in-Chief of the movements of the enemy, on Long Island, and elsewhere. The Condict Revolutionary Record Abstracts give many references to these sentries and guards. On pages 134-5, of the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society for April 1922, are to be found the records of two soldiers who tell of being ordered on guard to baggage wagons, etc.; Peter Hendrickson says, "one month at Scotch Plains; another month at Scotch Plains where two refugees were Hanged." John Hall, of Somerset County, tells of being sent to Scotch Plains, in November 1776, to guard roads and passes. At that time the road to Morristown was along the foot of the mountain, from the old Hollingsworth mill-site towards Feltsville, past "Seeley's" mill-site. This road is in bad shape, now, and little used; but for many years, was one of the most important roads in this locality.

Jedidiah Swan, a resident of Scotch Plains, and son-in-law of Recompense Stanbury, Esq., was given a Captain's commission, and directed to raise a company of men from his district. Among the Scotch Plains men who joined his com-

pany were Recompense Stanbury Jr., (his brother-in-law), Michael Pearce (Parse), who later removed to Ohio; and, possibly, the Osborn brothers.

In 1779, a campaign was planned to break the power of the Indians, who were spreading terror among the settlers living in Pennsylvania—along the Susquehanna River, and in other out-lying districts. The head-quarters of these Indians were in Central New York State, from where they could draw supplies for themselves; and for the British—whose allies they were.

This campaign is known as General Sullivan's Expedition Against the Indians; and met with popular approval from all parts of the Colonies. The terrible Wyoming Massacre called for reprisals, and Congress met the demand by appropriating one million dollars for the campaign. Many New Jersey troops participated in the expedition; Jonathan Terry, from the Short Hills, nearby, was one of the local heroes of this campaign. He now lies sleeping in the old burying-ground—not far from the scene of a happy home-coming. Upon returning from the "Indian Country,"—having destroyed crops and villages, General Sullivan brought his troops back towards Easton; where he was to receive the thanks of Congress. A portion of the army under General William Maxwell—marched through Warren, Morris and Essex Counties—camping at night and marching a few miles each day until they reached the place where they were to remain for several weeks. This place was Scotch Plains.

In "General Maxwell's Brigade of the New Jersey Line" by Stryker, page 36, appeared the following: "On October

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21st, 1779, General Maxwell's Brigade, with General Hand's riflemen crossed the Delaware, camping at Oxford. thence to Scotch Plains where they arrived on Friday, November 5th. General Washington was at this time at his headquarters at West Point, but within two weeks thereafter he determined to place the main body of his army in the neighborhood of Scotch Plains, New Jersey; and on December 7th we find him at Morristown."

The following letter, a copy of which was received from the Congressional Library in Washington, shows that General Maxwell was making his headquarters in Scotch Plains, in November 1779.

"Scotch Plains, November 13th, 1779.

Sir:

Your Excellency's favour of the 9th, I received the 10th in the evening and have given the necessary orders about the provisions to my Brigade and the Light-horse.

The State Regiment and Militia, I suppose you have given orders to, if you thought it necessary, and I have no right to consider them under mine.

The other part of your letter, I shall carefully observe, should the enemy make any approaches this way. By every account I have from the Island, they are seemingly much afraid of us, by their posting troops lately at the extremities of it. By several reports from New York, the enemy are preparing for a large embarkation, but no one pretends to say for what place. It is also said that the troops from Rhode Is-

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

land have not landed yet. I have deferred writing to your Excellency these two days past, expecting something more certain.

There are three men in Morris Town jail, who are deserters from the Jersey Brigade and were taken on board the vessel, that was brought up from near Deckers ferry. I should be glad you would direct what should be done with them.

I am, with the utmost respect,

Your Excellency's most ob. servant

Wm. Maxwell.

His Excellency
General Washington."

"Head Quarters, West Point, 16th November, 1779.

Sir:

I have rec'd yours of the 13th. You will be pleased to forward the enclosed to Gen. Livingston. Should there be occasion to act, the State Reg't and Militia will undoubtedly be under the command of you or the oldest continental Officer who may be upon the spot. The men taken on board the vessel who were deserters from the Brigade are unquestionably to be tried as deserters found in arms with the enemy.

I have rec'd an account of our repulse in Georgia, but not the particulars.

I am, etc., etc.

Gen'l Maxwell."

SCOTCH PLAINS

The dates on the letters show the speed with which messages were relayed; and, incidentally, may shed some light upon another matter: horse-stealing was a common occurrence, and it is very possible that many a horse went on its way carrying messages to and from the Commander-in-Chief, without the knowledge of its owner. The enemy likewise helped himself when he had a chance. The newspapers of that time carried many distress signals such as: "Elizabethtown, July 16, 1775. Stolen, horse to be returned to Ralph Marsh near Quibbletown, or Jacob Dunn at Scotch Plains.—Reward.—Henry Luse."

N.B.—This may have been Line.

"Horse stolen September 5, 1778, belonging to John Webster, the 3rd, at Scotch Plains, Essex County."

Another notice tells that on Friday morning, (this was on the Friday previous to June 18, 1780) on the mountain near Scotch Plains—"A party of villains" from Staten Island—to steal horses—discovered by Mr. Casterline, an officer of Militia, who killed one Inslee, and took three others—Lesegh, Hutchinson and Closson. "A court martial is now sitting."

* * *

General Maxwell's troops remained in camp at Scotch Plains for nearly six weeks, from November 6th until December 15th, at which time they were ordered to Morristown; where they were to remain for the winter.

From diaries kept by some of the young officers who had been attached to Gen. Sullivan's forces, we learn a few very

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meagre details concerning the encampment at Scotch Plains.

From the Journal of George Grant, Serg. Major in the 3rd Regiment of New Jersey, we learn, that upon their return (from the Expedition) they crossed the Delaware, on October 27th, and encamped opposite Easton. He further writes:

"Oct. 28, Marched to Queensborough Meeting House.

29 To the Log Goal.

30 To Sussex Court House.

1762882

31 To Wallen's Tavern.

Nov. 1 To Warwick.

2 Parted with the Western Army.

3 Marched to Sterling Iron Works and from thence to Pompton.

4 To Morristown.

5 To Springfield.

6 To Scotch Plains and encamped. Remained there in tents for six weeks during the most severe and cold weather.

Dec. 16 Marched for Chatham.

* * *

Lieut. Samuel Shute left a Journal containing this information. He says:

"Thursday Nov. 4, Marched within one mile of Springfield, 10 miles.

Friday, Nov. 5, 8 miles to Scotch Plains.

Saturday, Nov. 9, Still."

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N.B.—He probably meant Nov. 6.

Several pages after this last quotation are missing.

* * *

We can imagine the excitement and rejoicing in the little village, when the troops marched in. Though they wrote of spending six long, cold weeks in tents, it is quite probable that the officers were quartered in the homes of prominent citizens. Surely, our best families of those days, the Darbys, Stanburys, Osborns, Lines, Swans, Stites, Coles, Frazees, etc. would have vied with one another in entertaining the returning heroes. No doubt many "donations" of pumpkin pies, dough-nuts and good home-made bread and butter, found their way to these weary, foot-sore soldiers. Our people had sent to Princeton charitable donations from the congregation of the Scotch Plains Church for the sick soldiers in the hospitals; they could do no less for these in their midst.

* * *

From the War Department in Washington this information has been received: "The records show that Spencer's Regiment, Continental Troops, the 1st and 3rd New Jersey Regiments were encamped at Scotch Plains, November 8 and 9, 1779."

* * *

After the war was over and peace had come, many of our local young men found it hard to "settle down" to the old

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

ways. Some of them had gone into the army while mere boys; they had come out of it men. The reaction from active military campaigns to the quiet hum-drum of village life was not to their liking; and less than five years after peace had been declared, we find that many were answering the "Call of the West. Many of these pioneers were members of the old village church; and the Minutes of the church tell of giving letters of dismissal to many who were about to remove to the "Western Country." Some tarried for awhile in Western Pennsylvania, before going on to Ohio—the West of that day—others went to Kentucky.

The following list, copied from the Minutes, gives, at least, some idea of the magnitude of this migration:

Benjamin Stites,	to Ohio	} Sons of Captain Benjamin, of Scotch Plains.
Henry Stites,	to Ohio	
Elijah Stites,	to Ohio	
Hezekiah Stites,	to Ohio	
Phebe Masters,	to Redstone, now Brownsville, Pa., 1786.	
Thomas Clark,	to Redstone, 1787.	
Ann Dove,	to Kentucky	
Joseph Drake,	to Redstone, 1787.	
William Estil,	to Redstone, 1787.	
Hannah Frazee,	to Virginia, 1787.	
Catharine Jennings,	to Redstone, 1787.	
Martha Jennings,	to Redstone, 1787.	
Stephen Woodruff,	to Redstone, 1787.	
Richard Ayres,	to Kentucky, 1788.	

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Cornelius Drake,	to Kentucky, 1788.
Isaac Drake,	to Kentucky, 1788.
Benjamin Drake,	to Kentucky, 1788.
David Morris,	to Kentucky, 1788.
Daniel Runyon,	to Kentucky, 1788.
Rachel Runyon,	to Kentucky, 1788.
John Shotwell,	to Kentucky, 1788.
Abigail Shotwell,	to Kentucky, 1788.
James Miller,	to Redstone, 1789.
Jemima Miller,	to Redstone, 1789.
Ann Powelson,	to Virginia, 1789.
Nathaniel Powelson,	to Virginia, 1789.
Elizabeth Stoten,	to Kentucky, ?
Joseph Stoten,	to Redstone, ?
Mary Stoten,	to Redstone, 1792.
Henry Tucker,	to Miame (Ohio), ?
Mary Tucker,	to Miame (Ohio), ?
Elias Solord,	to Western Country, ?

These were followed from time to time, by members of the Line, Cory, Parse, Osborn, Hand, Marsh and many other local families, whose descendants have helped to settle the Great West.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

Of the men and boys from Scotch Plains and vicinity, who fought in the War of the Revolution, some are buried in the local burying-ground, while many others are sleeping their last sleep far from the homes of their youth. During the great migration to the West, after the war, many of our local patriots removed to Ohio; to Kentucky; to Virginia, and other sections that were being opened to new settlers.

Among those who removed to the new "settlements" were the following, (although this list is far from complete):

Michael Pearce, a brother of Deacon Melvin Parse, to Ohio.

Philip Pearce, a brother of Deacon Melvin Parse, to Ohio.

Stephen Woodruff, to Ohio.

Isaac Drake, a son of Deacon Nathaniel Drake, to Kentucky.

Cornelius Drake, a son of Deacon Nathaniel Drake, to Kentucky.

David Morris, to Kentucky.

Captain William Piatt was killed on the field of battle, at Fort Recovery, Ohio, on November 4, 1792. This battle is known as St. Clair's defeat.

* * *

Among the patriots who lie sleeping in the old burying-ground, are the following, though, again, the list is incomplete:

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Recompense Stanbury, Esq.	William Line
Recompense Stanbury, Jr.	John Darby, Sr.
Jonathan Terry	Andrew Drake
Jonathan H. Osborn	Deacon Nathaniel Drake
John B. Osborn	Henry Frazee
David Osborn	Melvin Parse
Jedidiah Swan	David Pierson
Noah Clark	Hezekiah Hand (probably.
Benjamin Miller, Jr.	

Recompense Stanbury, Esq., was chosen by the Essex County Committee of Correspondence, to serve on a committee and work "for the more vigorous prosecution of measures recommended by Congress." His death, in 1777, removed from this village, one who was indeed a Patriot. Recompense Stansbury Jr., son of Recompense Stanbury, Esq., was born in Essex County in 1758, and was one of the young men from this neighborhood who fought in the Battle of Long Island, Aug. 27, 1776, where he was severely wounded, and in other engagements; in the Militia and in the Continental Army. He served, for a time, in the Company of his brother-in-law, Capt. Jedidiah Swan. On August 17, 1832, he applied for a pension, giving the following information: "Born Sept. 23, 1758, the family record being in his possession at time of application; always lived in same place in Essex County, except for about a year and a half when he lived in Middlesex County; Entered service in Spring of 1776 as volunteer in Capt. Thomas Morrell's Co., then enlisted in Capt. Jedidiah Swan's Co." This statement was certified to by the Rev. John Rodgers, a clergyman residing in Westfield Town-

ship (Scotch Plains), also by Dennis Coles, also by Jonathan H. Osborn, who testified that he had been well acquainted with Recompense Stanbury for over 70 years, that they, as boys, went to school together. This was accompanied by a declaration by Ann C. Stanbury, that she was married to Recompense Stanbury on November 14, 1820, by the Rev. Thomas J. Kitts, of the Baptist Church, of Camden, N. J.

Jonathan Terry was born April 19, 1755, died June 3, 1820. In 1845, his widow, Huldah (Van Sickle) applied for a pension stating that she had married Jonathan Terry on Sept. 3, 1783; that Jonathan had served under Capt. Laing; that he had engaged in the battle of Short Hills June 26, 1777, and Springfield, June 23, 1780; that he had lived in the house in which she was then residing—in 1845,—in Short Hills. Family records, torn from their family Bible, proving her own and husband's birth, death and marriage dates, also their children's birth dates, are carefully preserved in the Pension Bureau, at Washington, D. C.

Jonathan Hand Osborn, born Feb. 22, 1760, died March 13, 1846, applied for a pension on Aug. 17, 1832, stating that he was born in Elizabeth Township; drafted, May 1776 in N. J. Militia, served on short tours until close of war, first as private, then as drummer under Capt. Laing; then after two years again carried a musket. Served under Capt. Benj. Laing, Capt. Mulford, etc., was in skirmishes at Quibbletown, Martin's Woods, etc. On Oct. 31, 1833, John B. Osborn declared that he is a brother of Jonathan H. Osborn. That he beat the drum under various officers as musicians were scarce during part of the war." Recompense Stanbury declares "that

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he has been acquainted with Jonathan H. Osborn since boyhood; they lived in the same neighborhood, and performed duty together in Capt. Laing's Co., etc."

John Baldwin Osborn was born in Westfield Township, June 6, 1754, according to his father's record in his possession Aug. 17, 1832, when he applied for a pension. He stated that he enlisted June 1776, under Capt. Garthwait; was in the Battle of Short Hills, etc. (An item of possible interest to John B. Osborn's descendants, is found in Vol. VI, New Series of N. J. Historical Society Proceedings, p. 92, in which he states that he bought his homestead, of Jesse Dolbear, in 1778).

These, and many other records in the Veteran's Bureau, in Washington, prove the patriotism of the men and boys, of this neighborhood, during the Revolutionary War. A few years later, they were called upon to help protect the frontier, on the western boundary of Pennsylvania. From Scotch Plains went Captain William Piatt, who was killed on November 4, 1792, in St. Clair's defeat, at Fort Recovery, Ohio. Captain Piatt had served as Capt. of the First Regiment of the New Jersey Continental Line in the Revolutionary War; later being sent to the frontier, to aid in subduing the Indians.

Captain Piatt had married Sarah Shotwell, of Scotch Plains, and had a daughter, Jemima, who married her cousin, Elijah Shotwell. William Piatt Shotwell, a great-grandson of Captain Piatt,—living in Buffalo, New York, in 1922,—wrote some interesting letters to some of his old friends, regarding events and people of an earlier day. He

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was born in the old Shotwell homestead, on West Front Street, February 16, 1848. His letters tell of the ancestor who had been killed by the Indians, in the terrible battle, and where only one man in the company escaped death, and he, (John Penny, a drummer) was taken prisoner by the Indians. Penny returned to Scotch Plains, about ten years later, having been held a captive by the Indians for a long time.

A very graphic account of this tragic affair appears in *The Historical Collection of Ohio*, by Henry Howe, published in 1869, on pp. 132-4. This account was given by Jacob Fowler, a relative of Captain Piatt, and a member of the unfortunate expedition.

The old Shotwell homestead, referred to, is still standing, and is claimed—by some authorities on old houses—to be nearly two hundred years old.

* * *

The little town has had its share of joys and sorrows; of prosperity and adversity. Our people can tell, with pride, that James Manning—the first President of Brown University in Rhode Island—was a native of Scotch Plains, and probably studied as a boy under Dominie Miller. They will also tell of Ezra Darby, born here, June 7, 1768, and who was a member of Congress from March 4, 1805 until his death on Jan. 27, 1808.

When wars came they sent their men and boys to defend the country, while those at home had to think of ways to

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"foot the bill." Taxes were high (as always), and nearly everything was taxed; even the "single men" did not escape; they paid for the privilege of being bachelors. The following list, taken from among Mr. John Z. Hatfield's interesting papers, recalls many well-known names of an earlier day:

"Single Men	1814	1815	1816	1817
Henry Biemer	"			
William Tayor	"		"	
Moses Lee	"	"	"	"
Dayton Leonard	"		"	
Samuel R. Marsh	"	"	"	"
Henry Hatfield	"	"	"	"
William Young	"	"	"	"
David M. Stanbery	"	"	"	"
Daniel Shotwell	"	"		
Barnabas Radley	"	"		
William Robinson	"	"	"	
Horace Napps	"	"	"	
Conrad Neil, Jr.	"	"	"	"
Thomas T. Little	"	"		
Job P. Ninal	"			
Ephraim Terrell	"			
S. Ryno	"			
John Darby 3rd	"	"	"	
John Hallock	"	"		
Jacob Lanzelier	"	"		
Randolph Frazee	"		"	
Simeon Gage	"			"

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Alexander Kinner	"	"
Samuel C. M. Jenkins	"	"
Nathan Marsh	"	"
John Squires, Jr.	"	"

Another paper in Mr. Hatfield's possession gives the names of those who paid taxes on slaves during the same period, and is as follows:

"Slave holders in Westfield Township, Scotch Plains taxing district.

	1814	1815	1816	1817	1718
Stephen Manning	"	"	"		
John Manning	"	"			
Melvin Parse	"	"	"	"	
Rev. Jacob Randolph	"	"	"	"	
Recompense Stanbury	"	"	"		
John Darby Jr.		"	"		
Samuel B. Miller		"	"		"
Jonathan F Randolph		"	"		
Henry Smock		"			
Gideon Wooden			"	"	"
Thomas Terry				"	"
John B. Osborn					"

Dennis Coles was the Assessor, and the rate varied from 35 cents in 1814 to 75 cents in 1818.

In connection with slave ownership, the following item may be of interest. It deals with the sale of a negro boy,

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and the bill of sale is in the possession of the family of the late Mrs. William Johnston, descendants of Joseph Line:

“Jeremiah Mills and William Mills to Joseph Line, Bill of Sale, Know all men by these presents that we Jeremiah Mills and William Mills, both of the Township of Westfield, County of Essex and State of New Jersey, Adms. to the estate of William Mills, dec., have for and in consideration of the sum of eighty-five pounds of good and lawful money of the State aforesaid,—to us in hand paid by Joseph Line of the same place aforesaid sold unto the said Joseph Line one negro boy about fourteen years old,—named Tom; which said negro boy we do bind ourselves to warrant and defend unto the sd. Joseph Line and to his heirs and assigns against the just and lawful claim and demand of all manner of persons whatsoever In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and seal this second day of May in the Year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
John Miller
Charles Clark

his
Jeremiah X Mills
mark
William Mills.”

* * *

A few slaves joined the church, and their names are to be

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found in the old register. "Seaser the Negro" and Nathaniel Drake, his Master, were received into Church membership in 1747; the latter serving as Deacon for many years before his death, in 1801, at the age of 75 years. Both master and slave are buried in the old church-yard. Over the grave of Caesar there is a stone bearing the following inscription:

"Here rest the remains of Caesar, an African, who died February 7th, 1806—Aged 104 years.—He was for more than half a century a worthy member of the church in this Place, and closed his life in the confidence of a Christian. His numerous friends have erected this stone as a tribute of respect to his numerous virtues and piety."

OLD MILL SITES

His farm and wood-lot, together with his own or his neighbor's mill, supplied most of the material needs of the early settler. There were several mill-sites along the course of Green Brook, just above Scotch Plains, and we find many familiar names listed among their owners.

William Darby's will, made February 9, 1774, directs his executors to sell his Fall Mill and the land belonging to it.

John Willcocks, making his will on November 10, 1776, bequeathed his grist-mill and his sawmill to his sons, Peter and Daniel.

The mill-site at the "Falls Mill" appears to have been desirable from a very early date. Daniel Cooper, of Morris County, owned it before 1736, according to a statement made in "The Passaic Valley Settlers" by John Littell. This reference reads as follows: "Joseph Frazee drew and owned Lots No 64 and 65 lying in the valley at and about the Falls-Mill but not including the mill-site, (the mill site at the Falls having been taken up of the Proprietors before the survey was made, to the number of 25 acres, by Daniel Cooper of Morris County." (The survey was made in 1736-37).

It is probable that William Line purchased the mill from the executors of William Darby, as we find it referred to in William Line's will, made March 1, 1779, in which he, too, directs that "my part of the grist mill and land belonging to

it to be sold. The said mill is known by the name of "Fall Mill."

On Dec. 31, 1812, Samuel Swan and Samuel B. Miller—executors of the estate of Jedidith Swan, dec.—sold to Amos Line, "one half of that commodious grist mill being in the county of Somerset in the Notch of the mountain above Browntown, etc " The price paid was \$300.00.

The habits and customs of our villagers—in the early days—were similar to those of most country places. For their pleasure they had "straw rides" after the haying season, and sleigh rides in the winter. The "donation-party" to the minister was a popular social affair, indulged in by old and young. Quilting "bees" and corn-husking "bees" were in great favor, and it would appear that even wood-chopping could be aided by this means; as recorded in the Church Minutes of March 29th 1797,—“Agreed to meet on Thursday next at the parsonage land to collect wood for Mr. Van Horne.”

In travelling, most people rode horse-back, or went a-foot, before the day of the stage-coach. A few elderly people used riding-chairs,—high, two-wheeled vehicles—the ownership of which seemed to indicate a superior social position. These riding-chairs came into use, apparently, about 1760, as they were referred to in wills after that date Dirck Middaugh, of Somerset County, provided for his widow,—“a wagon, two horses and a driver, to attend Divine Worship.” (Will dated March 1768).

SCOTCH PLAINS READING SOCIETY

It is worthy of note that when these villagers felt the urge for cultural advancement, they did not call for aid or advice from "outsiders"; it was a serious responsibility, and our substantial citizens put their shoulders to the wheel, and started the activities of that interesting organization—The Scotch Plains Reading Society. Their first meeting—of record was held January 1, 1800.

On March 1st, a set of rules—strict ones—was drawn up; officers were chosen and friends were invited to "subscribe."

The officers were: Trustees, William Van Horne, Jacob F. Randolph, Jedidiah Swan, Ezra Darby, David Osborn; Librarian, William Van Horne; Clerk of the Meeting, Ezra Darby.

From the "Rules and Regulations," I quote a few interesting items: "Each subscriber shall pay two dollars and fifty cents which shall entitle him to a share in the Library

At the expiration of each six months beginning the first day of January, 1800, the owner of each share shall pay fifty cents.

Shares in the library are transferable but cannot be divided. Persons neglecting to settle the yearly payments and all penalties incurred after the end of the year, to draw no more books till they are discharged.

SCOTCH PLAINS READING SOCIETY

Books may be presented to the Library on loan for any time for not less than two years."

The subscribers were:

James Coles	William Davidson
Recompense Stanbury	Jacob F. Randolph
James Bishop	William Manning
Joseph Cole	John High
Isaac L. Miller	Richard Cadmus
Ezra Darby	Jedidiah Swan
Samuel B. Miller	John Darby, Jr.
Samuel Shotwell	Jacob Stanbury
Dugal Ayres	William L. Miller
John B. Osborn	Robert B. Randolph
Jeremiah Oliver	Ezra Wooden
Aaron Ball	Eliphalet Miller
Jonathan H. Osborn	David Line
William Van Horne	— Squire
David Osborn	Aaron Parse
Benjamin Cory	Noah Cory

and one lady, Anna Littell.

The catalogue of books included the following:

Annual Register
Beauties of Shakespeare
Belknap's American Biography
Essay on Old Age
Edwards on Redemption
Gray Cap for a Green Head
Harvey's Dialogues

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Hart's Hymns
Gray's Fables
Moral Reflections
Zimmerman on Solitude
Dilborough Family—3 vols.
Exiles
Stage Coach
History of Pennsylvania
Young's Night Thoughts
and many others.

And they were read, too!

In connection with the rule permitting transference of share-ownership, the following item may prove interesting:

“Plainfield, January 3, 1818.

I assign all my rights and title to the Scotch Plains reading Library Com'y to the Bearer Jacob Manning for his own use and Benefit as witness my hand,

Jacob F. Randolph.

Witness present

John Manning.”

On January 1st, 1816 a meeting was held at the home of Jacob Stanbury, “of Westfield,—to assume to ourselves the corporate name of the Scotch Plains Library Company.”

Signed by

Recompense Stanbury

Isaac Miller

Joseph Cole

John Wilson

Benj. Cory, Jr.

THEIR HOMES

Not many of the old homes have survived the wear and tear of time, but we have records of a few, and so know where some of the old "First Settlers" lived.

Captain Benjamin Stites, 1724-1805, (probably a soldier in the French and Indian War), married Rachel ———, 1724-1779, and 2nd, Betsey Wilcox, 1741-1821. All are buried in the old church-yard, though Betsey, the second wife, directed in her will that she be buried "by the side of my father, Peter Wilcox." Her wishes were carried out

Captain Stites bequeathed the old home to his son, Isaiah, as the other sons had removed to Ohio, shortly after the Revolution.

Isaiah, in turn, bequeathed the old home to his son, Henry; reserving for the widow, Mary, "the use of the front room in the east corner of the house, and the west room in the back part." After many changes of ownership, the old house was last occupied by the family of the late Mr. Edward Johnston.

* * *

The Darby family, likewise, lived on the road leading through the village to the mountain. William Darby's will, made in 1775, directs his executors to sell his home plantation, as his sons William and John had homes of their own.

SCOTCH PLAINS

* * *

Recompense Stanbury, another "first citizen," left his home plantation for his wife, Margaret's use, until his children were 21 years old, then the "plantation on which I live, bought of Joseph Searing, of 85 acres," to go to his son Jacob. This is possibly the old Inn on the corner of Park Avenue and Front Street, as Jacob Stanbury owned and occupied the old tavern for many years.

* * *

William Line lived in the valley, back of the First Mountain. Many stories have been told by his descendants, of his friendship for the few Indians that still remained in the neighborhood, during and after the Revolutionary War period. His door was never locked against them, and on cold nights they would spread their blankets on the floor before the fireplace in the old farm-house kitchen. This old house was removed some years ago to make way for a modern home.

* * *

Another old family was that of Jonathan Osborn, "taylor" and inn-keeper. The Osborn homestead was on (present) Front Street. In their old age, Jonathan and Abigail, his wife, deeded their old homestead to their "dutiful" son, David, for one hundred silver dollars and other valuable considerations. Some years later David Osborn owned the house on the south corner of Front Street and Park Ave. In 1853 this old place was purchased by the late John R. Marsh, whose

Corrections.

Page 42 line I9 should read I79I not I792.

" 45 " IO " " I8I8 " I7I8.

" 78 " I9 " " cousin " niece.

" 25 " 9 is an error. Later researches

have definitely proven that the "Swift Sure

Stage Line" was not organized until I799.

Many historians state to the contrary, but they are merely repeating the wrong statements made by others.

THEIR HOMES

family occupied it for more than fifty years. It is now the home of Mr. Alexander Muir and family.

* * *

In July, 1906, a reporter from the Plainfield "Courier" told of an interesting interview he had with the late Mr. William Stanbery, a "Real Son of the Revolution." Mr. Stanbery said that his father was Recompense Stanbery; that his family always spelled their name Stanbery; that his father's brother, Jonas—a doctor—had lived in Wheatsheaf, near Rahway, but had removed to Newark, Ohio in 1814; had 9 children, one of whom—Henry—became Attorney General for Ohio. That his uncle's home was called Oakland Hall, etc.

Mr. Stanbery stated that his own home, standing at that time, on the corner of Park Avenue and Mountain Avenue, but recently removed to a location further north on Park Avenue, had been built in 1800, by his father, Recompense Stanbery, who had then moved into it. It was said that this house was built to please the Colonel's second wife, Sarah Chetwood. It was the family homestead for nearly a century and a quarter.

9dt

POSTMASTERS IN SCOTCH PLAINS

The following information was furnished by the Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.:

“Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey.
Postmaster Date Appointed

This office was established as Scotch Plains, Essex County, New Jersey, December 8, 1804.

David Osborn	December 8, 1804
Jonathan Osborn, Jr.	February 25, 1822
James Frazer	June 21, 1837
Vincent L. Frazee	July 9, 1840
Corra Drake	April 12, 1850
Joseph P. Hays	May 20, 1853

This office was changed to Union County between 1853 and 1861. The records of the Department do not show the exact date

Melvin Parse	May 8, 1861
Robert C. Ross	June 24, 1865
Melvin Parse	Sept. 27, 1865
Sarah Ann Parse	May 13, 1868
Norman Dunn	Nov. 12, 1869
James H. Baker	Dec. 23, 1873
Norman Dunn	June 21, 1875
James Ritchie	Aug. 11, 1885

POSTMASTERS IN SCOTCH PLAINS

Hezekiah Hand	May 16, 1889
James A. Baker	May 26, 1893
Frederick K. Clark	Feb. 25, 1897
Norman Dunn	Nov 3, 1897
Augusta L. Dunn	June 18, 1904
Rita S. DeMott	Mar. 15, 1915
George A. Clark	Mar. 16, 1917
Emma A. Clawson	Jan. 30, 1922
Mrs. H. Ayune Allen (Acting)	Nov. 29, 1932
Allen J. Thomas (Acting)	June 1, 1933
Allen J. Thomas	May 22, 1934."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This village was a part of the original Elizabethtown Grant, and as such was governed by the Town Fathers. On Feb. 8, 1739-40, a new charter was granted to Elizabethtown by King George the 2nd, in which the Town was to be known "by the name of the Free Borough and Town of Elizabeth." Ref. Hatfield's "History of Elizabeth," p. 320.

Scotch Plains remained within the jurisdiction of this Free Borough of the Town of Elizabeth until the year 1794, when its fortunes were joined to the newly created Township of Westfield. Everybody celebrated this event; a great feast was held at home of Captain "Stamburg," (this was probably "Stanbury" and—if so—the affair took place in our village). David Osborn was the first Township clerk. Ref. Ricord's History of Union County, p. 531.

The next change came in the year 1877 when a new Township was set off from Westfield. This was called Fanwood Township, and included Scotch Plains within its boundaries.

Since that time, Fanwood has become a separate Borough, and the Township is now called Scotch Plains Township.

The town is governed by a Committee with a chairman who is elected at the annual meeting. The present committee (1935) is comprised of the following citizens:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Alexander Campbell, Chairman,
George Keevil,
George Delatour,
Charles Roberts, Secretary and Township Clerk.

A few years ago the townspeople erected a fine Municipal Building at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollar.

EXCELSIOR HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

With the growth of the village in the years immediately following the Civil War, the need for more adequate fire protection was realized. The "bucket-brigades" of earlier years had given valiant—but often futile—service in extinguishing even small fires. Many of the old homes with priceless family relics suffered total destruction from fires resulting from upset candles, or perhaps from a spark from a chimney falling upon dry roof shingles.

On February 1, 1869 a very interesting organization came into being. It was—and is—"The Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1" Many prominent citizens were among its founders, and it is an honor to be able to record their names:

Honorary Roll

Wallace Vail	Plainfield
James C. Bolton	Westfield
William Bellamy	Scotch Plains
Joseph M. Osborn	Scotch Plains
George Miller	Plainfield
Dr. Joseph Clarke	Scotch Plains

* * *

Organizing and other early members:

EXCELSIOR HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

G. R. Nicholls
Randolph Drake
Alexander McCauley
Thomas Nicholl
H. W. Brower
Henry Fuller
Henry Wilson
Walter L. Clarke
Albert Brown
George Squier
J. C. Freeman
Thomas Harow (?)
J. A. Baker
M. Grieble
Theodore Ritter
Henry Cook
John McKeon
John Thys
J. C. Moore
J. McNair
J. H. Peck
John Flannery
W. B. Taylor
William Lake
Samuel Ball
Charles Berry
Edward Hartnagle
Henry Stites
John Moore

Loftus Hollingsworth
George Harper
Andrew Schuyler
L. H. K. Smalley
Matt. S. Dunn
O. M. Putnam
Bennet Britton
Charles Mullins
Michael Shipton
William Cooper
——— Ludlum
Joseph M. Davis
Hezekiah Hand
William D. Johnston
Thomas A. Gere
G. F. Thomae
George Vanderbilt
Charles A. Smith
Edward Devine
John Horton
F. C. Gibbs
Wm. VanValkenburgh
Stephen S. Day
F. C. Fithian
George W. Marsh
John A. F. Simpson
George Kyte
E. A. Seeley
John Hurd

SCOTCH PLAINS

Ben McGown	Henry Goodman
Frank Hossinger	Augustus Frentz
Charles Drake	John Cook
J. E. Flannery	

and many others.

Each member was to provide himself with certain equipment, described in detail in the rules and regulations—a fireman's hat bearing the name "EXCELSIOR" in large letters, a dark blue shirt with a wide black belt, also bearing the company's name, etc. etc.

A perusal of the Secretary's minutes provides many items of interest, a few of which follow: "Friday, March 17, 1874, at 2 A M.—House of Edgar S. Brokaw, occupied by Mr. Coit, on Stout Ave. between Grand St. and Mountain Ave. Building totally destroyed. Loss on house and furniture \$5,000.00; Insurance \$2,500.00 Duty 3 hours; truck rolled by Charles Berry, Thomas Nicholl and John McKeon, 22 members present, all equipped. Roll called by Thomas Nicholl. Above fire was the first to which the new truck was rolled."

"Aug. 14, 1881. Alarm of fire 10:30 A.M. Lumber yard of Chas. A. Smith, at Fanwood Station Truck rolled by Foreman J. McNair, William H. Lake and J. A. Baker. Returned to house at 9 15 P.M. 16 members present at Roll call, on duty about 11 hours; succeeding in saving main shed and office and larger portion of coal and lumber. Members behaved admirably. Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1 of Westfield came

EXCELSIOR HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

up and rendered good service with their little giant engine. Refreshments furnished visiting Co. by this Co.

Signed, Wm. D. Johnston,
Sec. Pro tem."

"Aug. 19, 1883, 2.30 P.M. William H. Dean's barn " (This fire was caused by a bolt of lightning, and the barn was completely destroyed.)

Another interesting item consists of a telegram sent via Mutual Telegraph Co. of Union and Somerset County, and reads as follows:

"Westfield, N J., April 25, 1885.

To Scotch Plains Fire Dept.

Please send all assistance as soon as possible to fire near my house.

(signed W. G. Peckham."

The new truck, used for the first time on March 17, 1874, was purchased from Edward B. Leverich, in Brooklyn, N Y., and was received in time for a gala celebration on Thanksgiving Day, 1873.

For many years the Engine House was the scene of many festivities, it being the only building in the village suitable for dances, "entertainments," etc. The upper floor has housed the Public Library, until recently, when heavy winter snows have partially destroyed its aging roof. With the demolition

SCOTCH PLAINS

of this old building, another landmark—and link with the past—will be only a memory.

For several years the town has supported a paid fire department.

PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

In recent years, several patriotic groups have been organized to commemorate the deeds of the many local men who had served in the World War. These organizations are units of National Societies, such as "Veterans of Foreign Wars," and the "American Legion."

Scotch Plains Post, 209, American Legion was organized in 1931, with Mr. Willis Varley as commander. He has been succeeded by Robert Kearney, Elliot Southwell, Robert Anson, and Edward St. George, the present Commander.

Women's Auxiliary, Unit No. 209, has been a very active and useful group under the leadership of the following ladies, who have served as presidents: first, Mrs. Willis Varely, succeeded by Mrs. Elliot Southwell, Mrs. Herbert Ulm, Mrs. Allen Mannon, and Mrs. Harry Paff, under whose capable leadership the Unit is doing fine work. Rehabilitation of wounded veterans in the Government hospital at Lyons, N.J. is one of their main objectives, at present.

The honor Roll of Scotch Plains Veterans contains eighty-nine names of men from this community, who served in the World War, three of whom died in the service. The list is as follows:

SCOTCH PLAINS

HONOR ROLL

Scotch Plains Township

Died in Service

Herbert Hodgeson James Hunter Lacy Tuck

Living to Serve

George E. Anderson	Daniel W. Johnson
Robert Anson	C. Russel Johnston
Walter Anson	Herbert Jones
Luigi Appezato	Paul Kutscha
Henry Amerding	Walter Kutscha
William Amerding	James Lambertson
Robert Barr	Frank A. Lee
Charles H. Bent, Jr.	Ludwig Lewis
James Carrona	Clive W. Lowell
John A. Carrona	Elijah McIntire
Joseph Carrona	John Morel
Moses Chandler	Christian Ornes
Clarence E. Clark	Frank S. Osmun
George F. Clark	Harry L. Paff
Lewis Clark	Chester C. Palmer
Fred Coombs	Hullett Perrine
Horace Daniels	James Perrine
Nicholas Delnero	Marcello Perrucci

PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

Thomas J. Delnero	Frank Petruccello
Philip Dinizo	John Powers
Walter DeNitizio	George N. Randolph
Angelo Diquollo	Joseph Riester
James Deramo	Samuel Robinson
Nicholas DiDonato	Giuseppe Sangiuliano
Frank Dower	Robert Sargent
Clarence J. Edwards	Eleanor D. Schenck
Clifford French	Henry F. Schwalback
Victor French	Fred Sheelen
William Gassert	John Southard
Giuseppe Giannini	Arthur L. Stretton
McKinley Glenn	Charles Taylor
Charles E. Gorton, Jr.	Clifford Terry
Eugene Grobes	Elmer Terry
Anthony Groletto	John V. Terry
Gabriel Groletto	Charles E. Trano
Frank E. Hand	Herman Tuck
J Madison Hare	Harry A. Wade
Edward R Hatfield	Allington Walker
Edward Heath	Albert Walpole
Nelson Hill	John J Ward
Robert Hodge	Harry Weiland
Wilbur Hodge	Herman Weiss, Jr
Emil Jahn	

The above list was copied from the program used at the time of the Victory Celebration at Scotch Plains, May 31, 1920.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Dr. J. Madison Hare, whose name appears in the above list, was the pastor of the Baptist Church and was given leave of absence to go overseas as chaplain with the famous 29th Division.

Scotch Plains Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution was organized November 1931, to honor the memory of the Patriots of 1776.

PIONEER FAMILIES

Darby Family

Perhaps no family has had a more honorable record for continuous service in our community, than has the Darby family. From the time when William Darby was chosen the first Ruling Elder in the Baptist Church, in 1747, to the present day, some one of the old Deacon's descendants—in every generation—has served his town-people; in affairs of church, village, county, State, or Federal Government.

The records show that Benjamin, William, and John Darby were living probably, in Essex County before 1730, at which time their names appeared in the will of John Blanchard, of Elizabeth Town

William Darby, the first, was born in 1693, died Feb. 26, 1775; married

Mary ——— who died April 13, 1761, in her 62nd year.
(Cemetery Ins.)

Their children were:

John², born January 17, 1736, died June 28, 1820.

William², died Nov. 10, 1793, in his 62nd year.

Elias², died 1770. Ref New Jersey Wills.

Samuel²,

Ephraim²,

SCOTCH PLAINS

Mary², mar. ——— Conger.

Margaret², mar. ——— Casterline. All named in their father's will.

William², son of Deacon William, married twice; his first wife was Patience Frazee, who died May 29, 1764, in her 33rd year. They had one child;

Mary³, born April 1756, and died November 16, 1848. She married John Baldwin Osborn.

William², mar. 2nd, Sarah (Sayre), wid. of John Owen, and mother of 6 children.

The children of William² and Sarah (Sayre) Darby were; Joel³, who died June 26, 1773, in his 2nd year.

Ezra³, born June 7, 1768, and died January 27, 1808. He married Phebe, daughter of Amos and Rhoda (Stanbury) Swan. Ezra Darby served as Representative to Congress from Essex County, New Jersey, from March 4, 1805 until his death in 1808.

(Reference for name of first wife, and other data concerning William² Darby's family is to be found in a manuscript in the N. J. Historical Society's rooms, at Newark, N.J.)

John², son of Deacon William Darby, born 1736, died 1820, married twice;

His first wife, to whom he was married on Feb. 15, 1759, was Rachel Squire, born Nov. 15, 1735, died May 12, 1780.

PIONEER FAMILIES

Their children were:

Margaret³, born May 5, 1760, died Nov. 14, 1797.
John³, born June 4, 1762, died Nov. 7, 1829.
William³, born Aug. 6, 1764. (Probably died young).
Levi³, born Feb. 14, 1767, died April 23, 1777.
Joanna³, born July 16, 1769.

Rachel³, born June 23, 1773, died September 19, 1865.
Abigail³, born Aug. 24, 1778, died July 8, 1779.

(Much of above data was copied from cemetery records, supplemented by Bible records, copied from Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, April 1929, page 185).

John², son of Deacon William, married 2nd, on Sept. 2, 1780, Margaret, widow of Recompense Stanbury Sr. She died June 18, 1812, in her 83rd year.

John³ Darby, Jr., son of John and Rachel (Squire) Darby, born 1762, married

Nancy, daughter of Recompense Stanbury. She was born Dec. 23, 1767, died Mar. 10, 1839.

Their children (named in a division of their father's real estate),

Levi⁴,

Recompense⁴, married Sarah ———

Catharine⁴, born Feb. 2, 1792, died May 7, 1868.

John⁴, born Jan. 17, 1795, died Dec. 24, 1855.

Aaron, married Deborah ———

Joseph Stanbury⁴, married Nancy Drake.

Margaret⁴, married William Cleaver.

Jacob⁴, died young.

SCOTCH PLAINS

John⁴, born 1795, married Hannah Hand on Sept. 11, 1816; she was born May 24, 1800.

Their children were:

Ezra⁵, born May 24, 1817, died Feb. 4, 1851, married Mary Ludlum, Jan. 18, 1837.

Catherine⁵, born October 18, 1819, died Dec. 9, 1863, married Edward Hatfield, April 26, 1839.

William⁵, born Oct. 13, 1822, died Sept. 26, 1881, mar. Abby Hatfield, Dec. 26, 1849.

Mary⁵, born Dec. 6, 1825, died Nov. 28, 1913, married John Hatfield, Dec. 28, 1848.

Sarah A.⁵, born Aug. 27, 1830, 1918, married Frazee Hetfield, Feb. 28, 1855.

John⁵, born September 8, 1833, died Jan. 13, 1895, married Susan Wright, Feb. 1859.

Margaret E.⁵, born Jan. 3, 1837, died Dec. 25, 1885, married James E. Woodruff, May 23, 1857.

Elizabeth B.⁵ born Mar. 20, 1840, died Jan. 11, 1904, married L. H. K. Smalley, Dec. 25, 1860.

Hannah⁵, born Jan. 8, 1844, died Nov. 23, 1844.

John⁵ and Mary (Darby) Hatfield had children:

Mary Ella⁶, married Augustus Brown,

John Z⁶., married Thirza Greaves.

Sarah A.⁵ Darby and Frazee Hetfield had one daughter

PIONEER FAMILIES

Elvirah^o, married Isaac Scudder, now living in Westfield,
N. J.

* * *

Recompense Stanbury

Recompense Stanbury was living in this vicinity before 1747, for at that time he became one of the organizing members of the Church.

Recompense Stanbury, 1st. 1710-1777, was called "shop-keeper" in the will of John D'Camp, dated Feb. 9, 1764. It is very probable that he was a shop-keeper, as the inventory of his estate shows many debts owing to him by his neighbors. He was, also, a noted patriot, and served his country on important committees, during the Revolutionary War.

In 1780, his widow, Margaret, married Capt. John Darby. His family record is as follows:

Recompense Stanbury, born Oct. 9, 1710; died at Scotch Plains May 20, 1777.

Married 1st, _____

Children by 1st wife:

1. Joseph, A Loyalist. Born May 31, 1738, deid in New York in 1809. Secretary of an Insurance Co.

2. Isaac, A Loyalist, born Dec. 30, 1739.

3. Jacob, born Oct. 7, 1741.

Married 2nd, Margaret _____ died June 18, 1812 in her 83rd year.

Children by 2nd wife:

Phebe, born Feb. 23, 1749, died Jan. 2, 1806, married Jedidiah Swan.

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Rhoda, born April 5, 1752, died 1831, married 1st, Amos Swan, 2nd, Thomas Nesbit.

Samuel, born June 26, 1754. A soldier in the Rev.

Sarah, born Aug. 23, 1756, married Peter Trembly.

Recompense, born Sept. 23, 1758, died Sept. 3, 1839, married 4 times;

1. Sarah Miller
2. Sarah Chetwood
3. Charity —————
4. Ann Curry.

Jonas, born Jan. 25, 1761, removed to Ohio. His son, Henry, became first Attorney General of Ohio, and was Attorney General of the U. S. during administration of Pres. Johnson.

Margaret, born April 4, 1763, died Sept. 4, 1855, married Joseph Bradford.

Anna, born Dec. 23, 1767, died March 10, 1839, married John Darby.

Jacob, born June 8, 1772, died 1821, married Elizabeth —

* * *

Recompense Stanbury, 2nd, 1758-1839

Recompense, born 1781, died Nov. 12, 1794.

John Ashton, married Sarah Roff.

Sarah C., married Silas Johnson—ch. Sarah Lewisa Johnson

James M., born April 9, 1788, d. May 14, 1815.

David, born April 9, 1793, died June 9, 1824.

PIONEER FAMILIES

William C., born June 17, 1822, died Mar. 1907; married Eliza Ann Runyon.

William, b. 1822, and Eliza Ann (Runyon) Stanbury had one child,

William Jr., who married Margaret Field. They, too, had but one child,

William 3rd, who married Mae Day.

* * *

Parse, (Pearse) Family

It is probable that the Parse Family was located in Scotch Plains before 1747, as in that year Sarah Pearce was one of the organizing members of the Baptist Church.

John Parse, whose will was made June 10, 1777, and proved August 14th of the same year, left wife, Marta; sons, Philip, Michael, Melvin and Thomas. (He also mentions his near neighbor, William Darby).

Philip and Michael removed to the West, after the Revolutionary War, and Michael, in applying for a pension, stated that he was born in Scotch Plains, Essex County, New Jersey, August 27, 1750; (family record in his possession, married Phebe Squire of same place; removed to Ohio, July 10, 1802. From a notice in the "Plainfield Union and Advertiser," June 26, 1838, we quote the following: "Died at Trenton, Butler county, Ohio on Monday, June 4, 1838, Deacon Michael

SCOTCH PLAINS

Pearce in his 89th year. He was born at Scotch Plains, Essex County, New Jersey; married Phebe Squire of the same place. He had 11 children, 34 grand-children and 15 great-grand-children."

Melvin, son of John Parse, was born April 22, 1744, and died December 10, 1827; married Hannah Badgley, born Mar. 10, 1744, died March 4, 1822.

Descendants of the Parse Family living in Scotch Plains at the present time include Mrs. William Buckley, her daughter, Mrs. Herbert Hood, and the latter's daughter, Miss Shirley Hood; also, Mrs. Glover Stevens and her niece, Miss Ruth Dunn.

* * *

William Lines Family

The family of William Lines, who died March 10, 1779, in his 63rd year, has been given in Littell's "Passaic Valley Settlers"; as this volume was published in 1851, two generations can be added to the record.

Hannah Cory, great-grand-daughter of William Line, was born July 10, 1815, and died September 15, 1898; married 1st, Benjamin Cory, and 2nd, Nathan Marsh. Their children were:

Adeline and Janette.

Adeline Marsh married William Johnston and had the following children:

Alice, married Henry Johnston.

Edward, married Ida Church.

PIONEER FAMILIES

Janette, married Arthur Atwood.

Adeline,

Briant.

With the exception of the eldest daughter, Alice, the family all live in Scotch Plains.

Other descendants of William Line, living in this vicinity, are Mrs. Dudley Green, Miss Virginia Spencer and other members of the Spencer family.

* * *

Osborn Family

Jonathan Osborn, died April 28, 1799, in his 77th year, mar. Abigail, died April 13, 1807, aged 72 years.

In his will, Jonathan Osborn calls himself "Taylor." Perhaps he combined this occupation with that of inn-keeper, in order to support his large family, which consisted of the following: Wife Abigail, daughters,

Martha Osborn,

Lutisha King,

Hannah Frazee,

sons;

John Baldwin Osborn,

Jonathan Hand Osborn,

David Osborn, to whom he had deeded his homestead.

Elias Osborn,

Henry Osborn.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Witnesses were: Isaac Miller, Susannah Hampton, William Coles.

Executors were his sons, John Baldwin Osborn, Jonathan Hand Osborn.

This will was made March 8, 1796.

John Baldwin Osborn, born June 6, 1754, died Nov. 30, 1848, married

Mary Darby, born March 31, 1756, died November 16, 1848.

In his will, John B. Osborn, names the following children: Joel, to have the father's homestead,

Patience,

William,

John,

Jonathan,

Mary,

Charles.

Descendants of the Osborn Family living in Scotch Plains, in 1935, include: Miss Gertrude Smalley, her niece, Mrs. Ayune Allen; Mr. Fred. Clark and his daughter, Miss Marian Clark.

* * *

William Miller

William Miller and family lived at Scotch Plains, before 1712, when his will was proved. He drew No. 60-62 of the

PIONEER FAMILIES

100 acre lots at the "edg or foot of ye mountain, adjoining Joseph Lyon at Scotch Plains," Hatfield's, p. 266.

His sons were: Samuel, Richard, Jonathan, William and Andrew.

Reverend Benjamin Miller, the first minister of the Baptist Church, was born in 1715 and died November 14, 1781. He married Jehannah ———, and had two sons:

1. James, of whom little is known (This may be the James Miller who removed to Redstone, Penna., in 1789.)

2. Benjamin, Jr., was born in 1739, and died Jan. 25, 1825, married Dec. 27, 1767,

Martha (Patty) Cole, daughter of Joseph, born 1740, died Sept. 17, 1825. (Ref. Cem. Rec. and Littell's Genealogy, p. 82). Ch.:

Mary, married David Cole, Ref. ch. Littell's, p. 82.

Susan, married Moses Frazee, Ref. ch. Littell's, p. 155.

Elizabeth, married William Acken, Ref. ch. Littell's, p. 217.

Elizabeth, died Dec. 12, 1835, aged 45 years, 5 months and 18 days. (Cem. Rec.)

Martha, married Ephraim Marsh.

Martha, died Sept. 27, 1823, aged 28 years and 10 months (Cem. Rec.)

Susan and Moses Frazee had a daughter, Betsey, who married Abraham Nelson, who kept the Tavern at Scotch Plains 1849-1851.

SCOTCH PLAINS

The old Miller homestead was willed to Benjamin Jr. by his father. It was located on Front Street, near the present Terrill Road.

* * *

Stites Family

Benjamin Stites, "Capt." died May 31, 1805, in his 81st year. He married 1st

Rachel ———, who died Dec. 6, 1779, aged 55 years. He married 2nd,

Elizabeth Wilcox, daughter of Peter Wilcox, Jr. She died Sept. 11, 1821, in her 81st year.

Benjamin and Rachel had children:

Hezekiah, who served in the Rev. war, and removed to Ohio.

Elijah, who served in the Rev. war, and removed to Ohio.

Henry, who died on his way to Ohio.

Benjamin, (probably a son of Benj. Sr., though not mentioned in the Father's will).

Isaiah, died March 4, 1825, in his 60th year, married

Mary Foster, who died Dec. 28, 1825, in her 61st year.

Two of the descendants of Isaiah and Mary (Foster) Stites: Miss Anna Littell and Mrs. Jennie Kirch are valued members of Scotch Plains Chapter D.A.R.

Further information concerning the Stites Family is to be found in Littell's Genealogies of Passaic Valley Settlers."

* * *

Swan Family

Shortly before 1763, a young man in his early twenties, appeared in Scotch Plains, a stranger from Stonington, Conn. This young man, Jedidah Swan found favor in the eyes of the villagers and speedily became one of them. He fell in love with one of the young girls, Phebe Stanbury, and in 1763 they were married. He was about 26 years old, while she was ten years younger. There is no record of any children born to the couple, but it is quite probable that Jedidah and Phebe (Stanbury) Swan helped with the care and education of numerous nieces and nephews.

Jedidah Swan was born in Stonington, Conn. Aug. 5, 1735.

Amos Swan was born in Stonington, Conn. June 23, 1745.

They were the sons of Nathaniel and Mehitable (Brown) Swan. Ref. R. A. Wheeler's History of Stonington, Conn., pp. 609-617.

Jedidah Swan married Phebe Stanbury, daughter of Rec. Stanbury, Oct. 6, 1763.

Amos Swan married Rhoda Stanbury, daughter of Rec. Stanbury (date not proved).

Jedidah Swan died June 16, 1812.

Amos Swan died Nov. 16, 1782.

Phebe, wife of Jedidah Swan died Jan. 2, 1806.

All buried in Baptist Cemetery at Scotch Plains.

The marriage license of Jedidah Swan and Phebe Stanbury is preserved in the office of the Secretary of State, in

SCOTCH PLAINS

Trenton, N. J. Attached to the license is a letter from Re-compense Stanbury, addressed to the Secretary of Governor Franklin, giving permission for "my daughter Phebe" to marry Jedidiah "Swem." The license states that both were of Elizabethtown. The bondsman for the groom was Abraham Clarke.

Jedidiah Swan was a good neighbor and a good citizen. He served his community in many ways; in matters concerning church and school; as a Justice of the Peace; in administering the estates of deceased friends; and in other ways proving himself worthy of the confidence of his towns-people. When trouble was brewing between Old England and her colonies, he was chosen by the Committee of Correspondence, in New Jersey to serve on a committee in this county, of Essex, to aid in the work. As Captain Swan, he was commissioned to organize a company from his district. A pass, issued to Capt. Swan, and copied by Mr. Frank Whitehead of Rahway, is of interest. "Permit Capt. Jedidiah Swan to Pass the Ferry's to the Jerseys to Recover his Health being in a Very Weak & Low Condition & return.

Philip V. Courtlandt, Coll."

(This signature is said to have been verified at Rutgers University).

A brief note on the back of the above reads as follows:

"Mount Washington 10th Sept. 1776. To all whom it concerns. I return to the Camp to the White Plains and join my Regt."

After the war he spent the rest of a long and useful life, as a busy man of affairs among his townspeople. Though he owned "a corner house and lot on the Scotch Plains," (Ref.

PIONEER FAMILIES

his will) it is probable that he lived on his farm which was situated on the road to Plainfield, on the north side of the road and about half way between the village and Terrill Road. This farm was known many years ago as the "Hunter Place" and was at one time the home of Charles Flynn, the present Chief of Police of Plainfield.

In connection with his farming operations, the following letter gives an interesting side-light on a business dispute: "South Orange, May 22, 1806. Sir: You promised to send me 50wt of good flax which 20wt of it is old years before last flax for which I would not give five cents per pound for it, as you will see You can send me good flax or the money for the same for I will not have it if I do not have anything, with great respect I remain, Yours, &c., John Lindsley."

To Jedidiah Swan, Esq.

After the death of his first wife, Phebe (Stanbury) Jan. 2, 1806, Jedidiah married 2nd, on October 30, 1806 Rachel Osborn, a widow.

Amos Swan, a brother of Jedidiah, married Rhoda Stanbury, and had the following children:

1. Samuel, b. 1771, died Aug. 24, 1844., married Aletta DeGroot. Children:

Jedidiah

Jacob

Eliza Hartwell

Phebe, wife of David M. Miller

Frances, wife of John B. Cox

Sarah, wife of Reyneer Veghte

Clarissa

SCOTCH PLAINS

2. Phebe, b. Sept. 29, 1775, died Mar. 16, 1867, married on May 3, 1795, Ezra Darby.

3. Margaret, born June 22, 1780, died February 7, 1852, married Samuel B. Miller. Children:

Mary D., wife of Samuel Perry

Hannah

Eliza, wife of Jonathan Osborn, Jr.

Jedidiah S.

(Referred to in the will of their aunt, Phebe Darby).

4. Mehitable, born ———, died ———, married Robert Oliver. Had at least 4 children.

5. Amos, Jr., born November 15, 1782, died November 17, 1789. Tombstone inscription reads:

"Be it remembered on this 17th day of November 1789 departed this life Amos, son of Amos Swan, dec'd., aged 7 years and 2 days. This stone was erected by Jedidiah Swan, Esq.—his uncle—as a small token of his regard." This child was born the day before his father's death.

Much of the above genealogical matter was found in the will of Jedidiah Swan, though he does not state that they were his kin-folks. Proof of the relationship was found in Samuel Swan's will.

Rhoda (Stanbury) Swan married, 2nd, Thomas Nesbit, and had—children:—

Four youngest children,

Hugh Nesbit

Frances Meeker

Mary DeGroot

Eliza McCarter

(Named in their mother's will.

Many changes have come with the passing years; increasing population have brought responsibilities for more schools, better roads, churches for those of different religious beliefs, and for all that seem necessary in our modern, busy life. Strangers have moved into the old houses, garages take the place of the wagon-sheds; no longer do we send to the corner store for one pound of candles "at 1:6", but the spirit of the old village hovers near; the old homes are still with us, and the worn brown stones in the old burying-ground recall many names of the earlier day.

History is still in the making, but this little record ends with the hope that it may bring happy recollections to some, and to others, a more enduring interest in those who have passed on, but who once lived and worked and played in old Scotch Plains.

"Memory has its ministry to our life. Memory kindly obscures most of the forbidding things of other days and sets into the sunlight of the present moment the sweet and lovely things that we would not forget."

—Quotation from "To-Day," May, 1932.