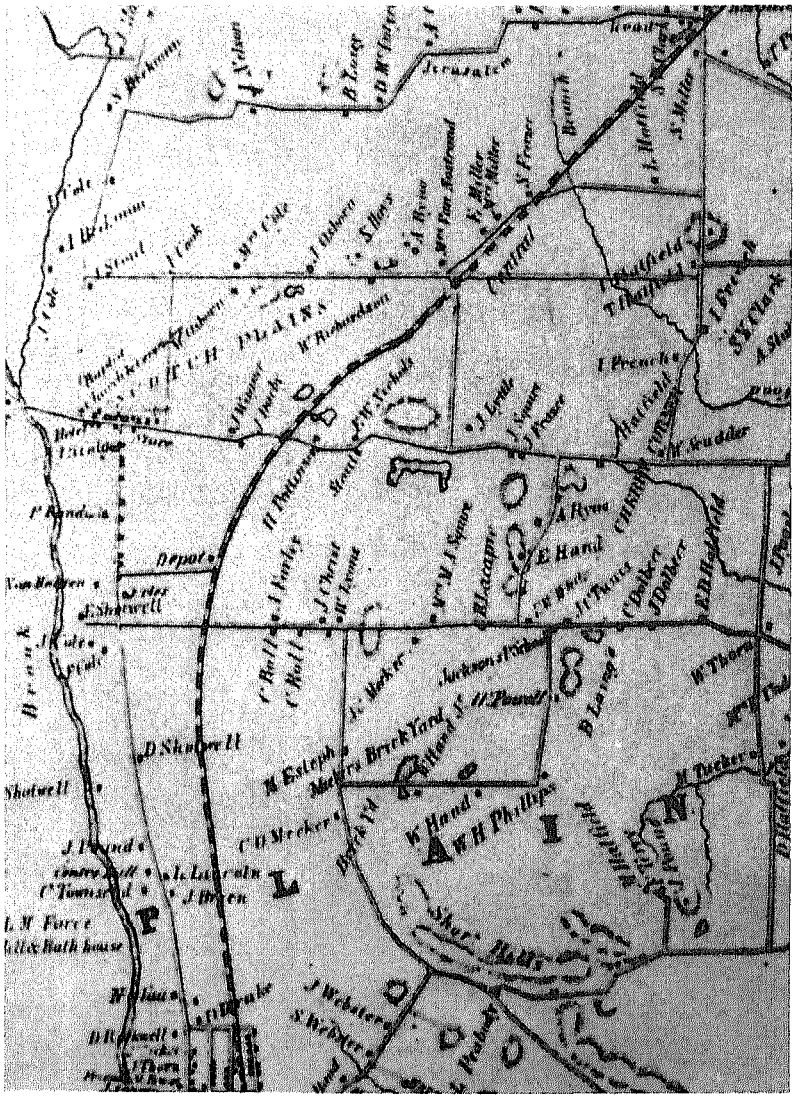
settled. Legend has it that Miss Wood was a magazine writer of reputation. She was always a welcome visitor at the Kyte homestead on Martine Avenue, which was built over one hundred years ago. She was an ardent lover of the outdoor life, and while visiting the Kytes she became fascinated with the beauty of the Fanwood countryside, the surrounding village, and the romantic Watchung Mountains. And it proved quite natural that her articles would attract the attention of the city folk, drawing many to the primitive Fanwood section in search of home sites.

Apparently among those who took notice of Fanny Wood's stories of the charming Fanwood countryside where officials of the New York and Somerville Railroad, now New Jersey Transit. As a result, it is said that many of her stories were used by the company in advertisements to draw city folks to the country, although research has failed to uncover any of them. Without doubt it was one of the first modern-style publicity stunts used by an American railroad company to increase freight and passenger traffic.

So, when the time arrived to name the area surrounding the growing settlement the president of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, Mr. John Taylor Johnson, chose Fanwood as the name for this rail stop.

Miss Wood used to seek the shade of the massive, historic oak tree, then two hundred years old, that still stands on Martine Avenue near Midway Avenue. Around the trunk of the tree was a settee for travelers, and it was there that Fanny Wood supposedly gathered inspiration for her articles, which eventually gained her an everlasting place on New Jersey Transit timetables and New Jersey maps.

The development of Fanwood was paralleled by the growth of the railroad. The Jersey Central Railroad itself started to develop Fanwood in 1867. Fanwood Borough was laid out by the Central New Jersey Land Improvement Company. The promot-



The Jersey Central Railroad was critical to the development of Fanwood and this 1850 map shows the tracks coursing Midway Avenue.