



*George Kyte resided in a home on Martine Avenue where the original rooms may date to the Revolutionary War. Mr. Kyte's service to Fanwood was cut short by his untimely death while he was mayor of the borough.*

The town was originally mostly farmland. The Kyte farm, the Martine farm, and one or two others comprised the settlement. George Kyte laid out and planned the streets. Paterson Road, now one of the town's finest streets was once a footpath through the Kyte farm.

George Kyte, one of the most prominent residents of this town and often referred to as the Father of Fanwood lived on Martine Avenue on the old Kyte homestead. Born in Berlice, British Guiana, South America in 1846, Mr. Kyte served his town in many capacities. As a young man Mr. Kyte was a highly regarded merchant beloved by all who knew him. He foresaw a prosperous Fanwood and devoted almost all his spare time to the place he dearly loved. Mr. Kyte served several times as a member of the Fanwood Township Committee and was also on the Union County Board of Freeholders. He was a representative in Congress of the third district of Union County and had the unusual privilege of speaking for two cities - Rahway and Plainfield. Mr. Kyte became identified with the Central Jersey Land Improvement Company, and through his untiring efforts Fanwood became an attractive community. The company began the development with six houses along the Central Railroad tracks. Mr. Kyte was one of the prime movers in All Saints Episcopal Church, with which the family had been associated for four generations. He was mayor of the town at the time of his sudden death.

The 1890s was a busy time for the new borough. The Volunteer Fire Company was formed in 1890; the borough was incorporated in 1895; and the post office was constructed in 1897.

The first meeting of the mayor and Borough council was held in the Old Fanwood Club house, across the street from Sheelen Brothers store on South Avenue.

The new borough centered around the railroad and the Central Jersey Land Improvement Company. The Land Improvement Company donated the first hose cart to the Fire