

## **DUNHAM-LAMBERT HOUSE, 2050 Raritan Road, #4\***

When David Dunham, son of Jonathan of Woodbridge, married Freelove DeCamp, he lived here with his bride in the "old" DeCamp home which some historians believe dates to the 1690s.

If the left of the house were chopped off at the center chimney, the size of the original cedar-shingled home would be exact. When the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Kaiser, remodeled the smaller right section in 1961, they retained the original shape and incorporated any usable oak beams in the new structure. At that time bricks from the old kitchen hearth were found and used in the kitchen.



Visible to the right at the top of the steps is the original fieldstone foundation with its re-inforced lime and sand mortar. The remaining historical part of the house from the front hallway, originally the formal parlor, to the dining room, the former kitchen, measures 40 feet. The attic still shows the hewn logs, right out of the forest.

The amazing part of this little home is the great number of people it has accommodated through the years. Although Freelove and David had only one known child, Deborah, born in August of 1779, subsequent families filled the house to overflowing. The home and lot of 84 acres passed on to Deborah, who married John Littell. The marriage of their daughter Freelove, born 1804, to her second cousin Simeon Lambert, clinched the uniting of two of our earliest pioneer families. Simeon's son, John, born 1824, and his bride Susan A. Hetfield moved in the homestead in 1855, and the squeals of their 13 children rang through the old rafters for 23 years. Simeon's ninth child, Isaac, moved into the house in 1881 at the division of his father's estate, receiving the 84 acres that had belonged to his mother. Isaac had had eight children by a first marriage and upon his marriage to Sarah E. Cooper in 1875, he had eleven more, seven of whom were born in this house. From Isaac the house and acreage passed to Robert McAdams, then to Herman Ritter, who subdivided the tract. The Christansen family restored the home in 1927-8. Later it was owned by H. S. Nichols, who sold it in 1957 to the present owners.

Leaving the premises be sure to look to the right to see what remains of the old mill race, which was extended from the 200 foot one built in 1737 to 700 feet in 1840.

**If you have time, stroll over to the Old Mill site at 2041 Raritan Road, directly across the street. The house is not open for the tour.**

Built by "Uncle Sim," in 1840, it is presently the home of George Joblon, his wife and children. The 1737 wind mill, later a water mill in 1772, was situated about 200 yards west of the present house, where the large Beech tree grows. When Simeon extended his expensive race way, it was walled by stone and covered by heavy flag stones, some places two feet under the ground. He built the present home for two runs of stones, one four feet, one four-and-a-half feet. Each had the necessary machinery for making flour and meal and for the storage of grain.

**Continuing around the bend in old Raritan Road, notice in passing the house at 2011, directly in the path of Lake Avenue, presently the home of A. K. Burr.** This is the home of Simeon, and was also his grandfather's, James I, where on that fateful day the British troops of General Howe's army marched by the old distillery, that was in the back of the house, and rolled out three barrels of applejack. Tradition has it that this so "enthused" them that they were easily influenced to march back to Staten Island.

Across the street at 1800 Lake Avenue is the old Benjamin Littell homestead, built in the early 1700s (see index for more information).

The chapel of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church at 1961 Raritan Road, on the right as you continue on the old Raritan Road, was built by stones given by surrounding farms. The grounds on which it stands were donated by John Lambert prior to the building's dedication in December of 1888.

Novak's Restaurant at 1900 Old Raritan Road dates back to pre-Revolutionary times when it was the home of Anthony Littell.

**Continuing down the old Raritan Road, and before passing Black Birch Road, look at the pre-Revolutionary Littell Homestead at 1851.** Captain Eliakim Littell of the Jersey Blues was related to this family. He served at the head of the State militia in this section with Maxwell. The well on the property was later called the "Half-way" well, because it was thought to be equally between Plainfield and Rahway. It was here that Gershom Littell brought his bride Phoebe Terry in 1788, and here they reared their fourteen children.

**Turning RIGHT onto BLACK BIRCH ROAD, follow the signs to the last home on the top of the hill.**