

Albert Ryno, from another pioneer family, bought the home at public auction in 1893, passing it to his son Edward T. at his death, who owned it until the present residents bought the home in March of '49. Descendants of the early families are numerous, but Mrs. Carkhuff, the wife of the Church Sexton, is a Frazee on her father's side and a Ryno on the other.

The stream that runs under the house drains into the little branch of Vine Brook that joins into one large brook on the other side of the old Raritan Road, but not before two bridges had to be built accommodating traffic in the area, and giving this section its map name.

The old Two Bridges School house built in 1816 was across the road to the left, but was moved up around the bend to become the two-family dwelling at 1370 Raritan. Just before it on the right at 1391 is the pre-Revolutionary home of Sea Captain Brown, on which some patriotic craftsman carved "13 Stars" under the eaves.

Continuing all the way down the old Raritan Road, which is the oldest highway in the old township, where more than half of the early pioneer families settled, and coming to Rahway Road intersection, turn RIGHT, stopping just past Cooper Road.

"THE WELL" at 1451 Rahway Road, #7*

Approximately fourteen rods from the corner of Cooper on the right side of Rahway Road is the famous Revolutionary Well of Jonathan Terry. The plaque on the old barrel keg bucket, presented by the Junior Woman's Club in celebration of New Jersey's Tercentenary year, reads:

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERO

'Twas the 26th of June in '77
When here, Tary's Well, the Red Coats stopped to freshen.
"They drank it dry," or so the story goes.
Drink long! Prove that for freedom only it flows.

The circumstances of the day as explained in an enemy newspaper reports: "the day proving so intensely hot that the soldiers could with difficulty continue their march thither." The skirmish that took place here and just over the hills to the southwest is known as The Battle of the Short Hills. One body of Howe's men met Lord Stirling's division of colonials, with Colonel Israel Shreve in charge of the Second Regiment of New Jersey. When General Cornwallis appeared with fresh troops, Stirling (William Alexander) was forced back with real losses, some say two hundred wounded, sixty killed, among them three captains, and three cannons were captured.

The historical significance of the battle has been underplayed. When the British tried to enter the Watchungs from the gap at Scotch Plains, later known as the Bloody Gap, where the first Betsy Ross flag was bloodied in battle, Washington watched the maneuver from what is now called Washington Rock. He was able to stop the British at the gap and force them to retreat, prompting Howe's decision to try to take Philadelphia by sea.

The enemy and Colonial troops passed the well in great numbers, and may have exhausted the water supply of the day, but didn't drink it "dry," since it has functioned for the last 200 years. The well is fed by a very deep vein of water, yet as wells are classified this is called a "shallow" well. Of the well-sweep variety, the long tapering pole is swung on a pivot attached to a high post and having the bucket suspended from one end for use in drawing water. Spring fed, the veins to the well are lined with stone, having no pipes.

Both Jonathan and his brother, Thomas, had joined the fight for freedom. Later Jonathan rejoined his Revolutionary leader Sullivan's reprisal expedition against the Indians of central New York.

It was not until after the war in August of 1790 that he and his wife, Huldah Von Sickle, had their son Lewis, who married Phebe Hedden in 1811, and had nine children to leave the present line of Terrys to make the homestead in Terry ownership for over 200 years.

William Tary, his father, had settled here after his marriage to Martha Coles, sister of James, in 1759. He brought his sons, born in River Head, Long Island, with him. Thomas, who changed his name to Terry, lived back in Clark's Lane, at the far end of the property where he outlived five wives and had numerous children. We learn from his father's intestate will of 1802 that William and Martha lived with the oldest son. Thomas' son John was still living on the estate in 1839.

