



The mill in Feltville (the Deserted Village), located about a mile north of the town of Scotch Plains in the Watchung Mountains. According to *Views of Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Feltville, New Jersey*, "It is noted for a rift in the mountainside known as the cataract from whose rocky wall gushes a spring of pure, cold water. It has long been a favorite spot for picnic and party." Legend has it that the site was discovered by Native Americans and was known for its supply of pure water. A village was developed by David Felt to house the employees of his paper mills in the 1840s. By 1845 there were thirty-five houses, a church, and a school. The business ultimately failed around the Civil War: the mills closed, and the employees abandoned the village. Later purchased by an entrepreneur from New York, the village failed again and was again deserted. Eventually, the village changed hands again; this time it was purchased by Warren Ackerman, a Scotch Plains business man, who intended to create a vacation retreat, but Feltville's destiny was the same. It has come to be called the Deserted Village and is now owned by Union County and is currently undergoing major restoration.