

process of separation. In 1895, a vote was taken in Fanwood to decide the issue. The decision to establish the borough was finally firm, and Young served as mayor during the first four years of the tiny municipality's existence.

Fanwood was actively promoted as an ideal place to live because of the purity of its air and the beauty of its surroundings. The elegant residences built near the rail station set a tone that attracted new residents. Meanwhile, the population grew with the farming of open lands and, later, accelerated with the expansion of the lumber and coal industries. Developers created other businesses and residential areas.

These changes required roads, and George Kyte, known as the "Father of Fanwood," was instrumental in the late 1880s in providing, at no cost to taxpayers, crushed stone and slag to build roads in the town and around the freight house. Such service to the community was typical of this devoted public servant, who died in 1900 while holding the office of mayor.

At first, Fanwood expanded slowly. In 1895, there were just 350 residents. It was not until 1920 that the population doubled to more than 700. During the next decade, however, the population surged. By 1930, some 1,400 people were living in Fanwood. This growth was spurred by the large influx of Western Electric employees. The Western Electric plant was located in Kearny, and a direct train ran there from the Fanwood station. Two Western Electric employees established the Cooperative Realty Corporation of America, which later developed an area called Fanwood Terrace, located near the station.

Since then, the community has come a long, long way and now has more than 7,000 residents. Despite the enormous growth, much has remained the same in Fanwood. The railroad is still the central artery of daily life and the reason for the town's being. Nearly 900 commuters and other travelers board trains every day from the station. Businesses, schools, churches, and services of local government have expanded, but the community remains a peaceful and beautiful place for residents to raise their families.

To help perpetuate its history, the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission has brought together photographs that illustrate the town, its railroad, and the people and places that have made it the vibrant and caring community that it is today.

(The contents of this introduction have been drawn from information in *Fanwood Fire Company and Borough of Fanwood*, published in 1990.)