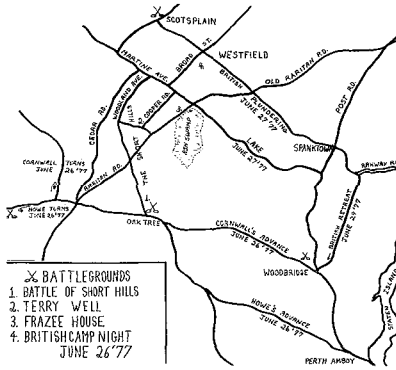


In Revolutionary times the country around Scotch Plains was the scene of numerous skirmishes. On June 26, 1777, an engagement took place in the South end of town. A soldier's letter tells of the battle:



“The fire growing hot, and our men beginning to retreat, a British officer singly rode up to a cannon that was *playing on the enemy*, and with his pistols and sword forced every man from it. Lord Stirling (William Alexander) answered him by directing the fire of four marksmen upon him, which killed the hardy fool on the spot. Our men recovered the field piece which their want of small arms obliged them to abandon.

In 1780 a cannon called “old one horn” was captured from the British by Captain Eliakim Littell, and, considered the property of Scotch Plains, it was placed on masonry and can be found this day in the Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

The tales of Terry’s Well and Aunt Betsy’s bread were oft-told favorites of the day. The well which the exhausted British drank dry can still be seen bubbling with water at Cooper and Rahway Roads. The original home of Betsy Frazee and parts of the oven used to bake the bread refused by Cornwallis are still on the site at Old Raritan and Terrill Roads.

Until 1794 Scotch Plains continued to be a part of Elizabethtown. In that year Westfield Township was created, which included this area. Everybody celebrated the event with a great feast held at the home of Captain Stanbery. The next change in government came in the year 1877 when Scotch Plains, including Fanwood, became Fanwood Township. At that time it is recorded that the township had a population of 325.

One square mile was separated out of Fanwood Township in 1895 and was called Fanwood Borough. The two Fanwoods existed side by side until March 22, 1917. On that day, through the efforts of George H. Johnston, the Legislature agreed to give our town its original Colonial name—Scotch Plains.

People, first the New Englanders and the Scots and later the Southern Europeans form the woof of our cloth of history. In 1860 the first Italian family, Joseph DelNero and his wife, settled in Scotch Plains. They emigrated from the small town of Montozzoli, about 20 miles from the Adriatic Sea, in central Italy. Josephine and Joseph SantoSalvo came over from that town in the early 1900’s. Their son, Thomas, was mayor of Scotch Plains in the 1940’s. Among the 89 veterans of World War I listed on the memorial flagpole at Park and Front there are many Italian names along with the older pioneer ones.

Since World War II, when we were a rural town of 4,500 people, approximately 14,000 new weavers of history have come to our area. Nine hundred residents served our country in World War II, 14 of whom gave their lives.

Our town seal—Scottish Thistle, some Indian arrows and feathers, an old coach and a cannon—make a tightly woven picture of our 300 years.