

ing the voyage. The name "Scots Plains" eventually became "Scotch Plains."

The English influence in Scotch Plains also was felt at the beginning of its history. A Captain John Baker of Elizabeth Town (which had been founded by the English) is recorded as having made a large purchase of land from the Indians. In these early days, by the way, Scotch Plains was a portion of West Fields (later Westfield) which in turn was part of Elizabeth Town.

For two hundred years after the white man came, Scotch Plains grew slowly, mainly as an agricultural community. The first significant building was a handsome structure erected in 1737. It is uncertain, but it probably served as an inn. It was definitely so used in 1771. This is Ye Olde Historic Inn. Mail was delivered here two or three times a week. The cannon that was used to announce arrival of the mail is still preserved.

A Baptist Church was dedicated in 1747. The present church building is the fourth on this site. It was here, in 1764, that James Manning, a native of Scotch Plains and later first president of Brown University, was ordained.

Several of Scotch Plains' Colonial roads still exist. Old Raritan Road is one of the oldest in the town and was part of a stage route leading to the Raritan River. Another stage route passed the Old Historic Inn which stood ready to refresh both the traveller and his horse.

The Revolutionary War was fought up and down in New Jersey, and while no major battles were staged in Scotch Plains, the whine of bullets often was heard in the community. With Washington wintering in Morristown in 1779-80, and the British Redcoats snug in New York, Scotch Plains found itself a "No-Man's Land."

The most famous anecdote of the Revolutionary War, as far as Scotch Plains is concerned, took place in 1777. The British sortied from New Brunswick and Perth Amboy to feel out the American defenses. And so it happened that the appetizing aroma of Aunt Betty Frazee's bread, baking in the kitchen of her home near the Ash Swamp, attracted Generals Cornwallis and Howe. They courteously requested a loaf. Aunt Betty, a staunch patriot, feared reprisal if she refused. So, handing a loaf to them, she said: "I give this to you, sirs, in fear, not in love." Cornwallis withdrew his hand and said: "Then neither I, nor a soldier of mine, shall eat it, Madam."

Scotch Plains proper consisted of eleven houses, including the inn. But from this hamlet and the farm country around it, came a fair share of men to fight for freedom.

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