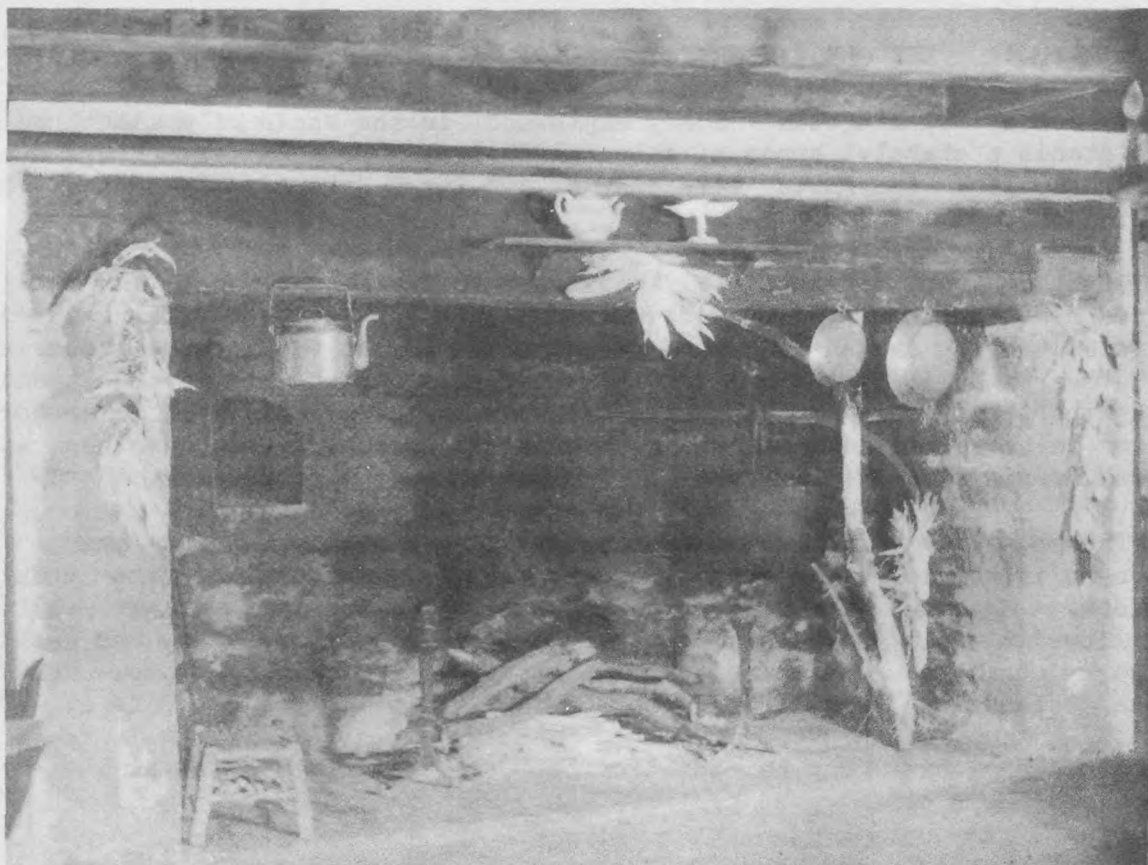


## STORIES of New Jersey

custom of the day, a stone was placed in the front chimney on which had been chiseled the initials and the date -- "T. & E. B. 1743." In front of the house they planted a walnut tree, the same tree from which hangs the sign.

There the family lived and grew year after year, working hard in the pioneer way, and worshiping faithfully at the Presbyterian Church, now the First Church of Orange, several miles distant. It is said that the walnut tree



Fireplace in the Timothy Ball house.

marked the boundary between the congregation of the two neighboring towns. Those living to the south of the tree attended church in Springfield, and those to the north, in Orange. There were 11 children born to this brave father and mother, and for their hearty appetites meals were cooked in great iron kettles hanging in the enormous fireplace. Bread was baked in the long Dutch oven built of bricks behind the hearth. So huge were the logs they burned that they were drawn through the front door by a horse. Looking at the picture of the house as it was in those days, it is easy to see how the horse could drag his burden up the slope of the yard and through the open door at the right, leave it in front of the hearth, and then go out through the door at the left.

In 1758 Timothy, builder of the house and head of the large family, died during an epidemic of smallpox, the dreadful disease that carried off so many