



Photo by A. Bruce Hall, Staff Photographer

Back Row - Mrs. C. Torbyn, Mrs. H. Stocker, Mrs. H. Kostyz, Mrs. M. Runyon, Mrs. C. Rue

3rd Row - Mrs. E. Fritz, Mrs. E. Braun, Mrs. E. McDede, Mrs. S. Beck, Mrs. A. Lavigne, Mrs. C. Emory, Mrs. F. LaFleur

2nd Row - Mrs. G. Tripet, Mrs. J. Wallace, Mrs. T. Skorge, Mrs. A. Croag, Mrs. J. Lambert

1st Row - Mrs. H. Fette, Mrs. W. Dinkle, Mrs. E. Ziesmer, Mrs. A. Vernon, Mrs. R. DiFrancesco, Mrs. L. DiFrancesco, Mrs. F. Johnston

THE STORY OF AUNT BETTY FRAZEE AND LORD CORNWALLIS.

Revolutionary times were particularly trying ones. With the British in possession of Staten Island throughout the war, the country around Scotch Plains was the scene of numerous skirmishes and frequently was subject to raids by the British and their Tory allies. The greater part of the citizenry were staunch patriots, and virtually all the men and older boys served with Washington or in the militia, many with distinction.

Late in May 1777, Washington's army went into camp on the Middlebrook Heights just north of Boundbrook. Hoping to outflank Washington and force him to fight, Howe and Cornwallis marched out of Perth Amboy with an army of 12,000 to 14,000 Red Coats. An engagement took place at Scotch Plains, the British eventually forcing the Americans under Wm. Alexander (Lord Stirling) to fall back to the Watchung hills.

In such a setting, in her home on Old Raritan Road on a sultry June day, Aunt Betty Frazee is baking bread for the American soldiers. The bread is browning nicely. A delicious odor comes from the steaming Dutch oven.

The sound of horses hoofs comes from up the roadway. The soldiers must be coming. But it is early for them for they usually come around nightfall. She goes to the side of the house and looks up the road. She can scarcely believe her eyes. Two Red Coats are emerging from the trees near the bend. They are generals!

Aunt Betty draws back abashed. But the general comes to her rescue. "Cornwallis is the name, madam", he says, "General Lord

Cornwallis. My friend, Sir William - General Howe - and I caught the odor of the bread you are baking and are tempted to ask for a loaf. A rare delicacy for soldiers, I assure you, madam".

Aunt Betty complied with his request, but, staunch patriot that she was, she would not conceal her feelings toward an enemy. Offering the loaf, she said, "I give this to you, sir, in fear not in love".

Tradition has it that the general, admiring her courage, replied: "Then, madam, neither I nor a soldier of my command shall eat it".

A mural depicting this encounter between Lord Cornwallis and the doughty Scotch Plains house wife adorns the chambers of Judge Walter Hetfield III in the tower of the County Courthouse at Elizabeth.

Aunt Betty Frazee continued to bake bread in that oven until her death at the age of eighty-two.

The old house still stands. It is located on Raritan Road just west of its junction with Terrill Road. It is now known as the Ry-no house.

If you want more of these stories of Old Scotch Plains, let us know and we'll continue to dig into the dusty records of the past.

SCOTCH PLAINS SERVICEMEN.

We have been told that the Public Relations Officer of some Army and Navy units will send news items, pictures and press releases of local service people to a publication such as The Scotch Plainsman.

Please show this copy to the Public Relations Officer of your outfit and ask him if he will include us in his mailing list to receive any news items or pictures of you which may be available.

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED ON HONOR ROLL OMISSIONS AND ADDRESS CHANGES.

We want to keep our service mailing list right up-to-the minute so as to insure the prompt arrival of your copy of The Scotch Plainsman.

This can be accomplished only if you servicemen, or your families or friends, keep us posted on your address changes.

If anyone knows of a Scotch Plains man or woman whose name has been omitted from the Honor Roll and has not been included in later supplements, please send a post-card to

The Scotch Plainsman,
Service Editor,
Box 473,

Scotch Plains, N. J.
giving name and home address, as well as the service address and serial number.

Won't you help us to do our job better?

SCOTCH PLAINS GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL MAPPED.

Leaders active in Girl Scouting in Scotch Plains will have their own council in the fall. Although plans for breaking way from the Plainfield Council have been under discussion for sometime, the final step was not taken until mid-June at a special meeting of the Girl Scout District Committee in the home of Mrs. Herman Gottwald.

Scotch Plains has been a district committee of the Plainfield council for about ten years. It was decided that with the large number of girl scouts enrolled here and with the many activities of the troops, a local council could be organized. Plans will be furthered during the summer and a Girl Scout Institute, with representatives from the National Headquarters, will be held here in September.