

TOWNSHIP TOPICS

ANOTHER STORY OF OLD SCOTCH PLAINS. *** HISTORIC OLD RARITAN ROAD ***

Old Raritan Road, the scene of the meeting between Aunt Betty Frazee and General Lord Cornwallis, described in the July issue, is one of several historic highways in this part of the State whose stories are connected not only with Revolutionary War activities, but also with the family histories of some of the best known names in New Jersey.

On this road were located the homes of early settlers John DeCamp, J. Littell, James Lambert, Gershom Littell, Sam Frazee, Gershom Frazee Jr. and John Acken.

It was from the Frazee-Lee house in 1776 that Phoebe Terry, then but five years old, was carried to a place of safety in Ash Swamp to escape a party of Red Coats which was reported to be raiding farms in the locality. No harm was done, however, and Phoebe survived this experience to become in her young girlhood, the wife of Gershom Littell, ancestor of the late Miss Anna Littell, a former teacher in School No. 1.

Along this road too local patriots harassed the Red Coats on predatory raids out of Perth Amboy. On one such occasion twenty three of the enemy were killed or seriously wounded.

In even earlier days, back of Old Raritan Road in Ash Swamp, lived colonies of Indians of the Unami tribe - a sub-tribe of the Lenni-Lenape nation. They were fishermen and hunters who dressed in deer skins and blankets, thrown loosely about them and wore coats made of turkey feathers. Their 'wickoms' were made of green hickory saplings bent to form an arched roof. Their totem was a turtle - Poke-Koo-Un-Go (The Crawler) - and their God was Manitou. Little is left to remind us of the Indians save the names they gave to the region - Rahway, Raritan, Watchung, Unami and Shackamaxon.

Old Raritan Road stretches westward to Alton, in Union County, then turns southwest to traverse a section of Middlesex County, reaching, finally, the Raritan River. We have been told, but cannot support it with historical references, that it formed a part of the first roadway stretching from the Hudson to the Delaware rivers and it was used by the Dutch burgomeisters of Manna-hattan to visit their Swede friends along the lower Delaware.

Somewhere near Terrill Road was one of the early schools in Scotch Plains, but we'll tell you more about that in a later issue.

Present-day settlers along Raritan Road are helping to make history just as the early settlers did. Starting at Radley Road, or Lamberts Mill Road as it is sometimes called, and traveling southwest, in the order of their appearance, we pass the homes of Lt. Robert E. Scott (USCG), Chas. Posposil (USN), Carl R. Peterson (Army Marine Transport), Bill Nichols (Marines) and Jarney Nichols (Army), Lt. Edward R. Isaacs, Lt. Edward and T/Sgt. Paul Nowak Jr. (both Marines), Pvt. Paul Offerman, Pfc. Alden L. Lambert, Pfc. Henry S. Blechar, Pvt. Wm. M. Foxx, Pvt. Edward, S I/C George and S I/C Harry Zimmerman, Pfc. Stanley F. Ed-

wards, Cpl. Edward H. Tietz, Sgt. Harry Kochut, F 2/C Stephen Jarema, Sgt. John, Cpl. Nick, SM 2/C Paul and Pfc. Peter Holowka, and MM 2/C Edward J. and Cpl. Francis T. Nowak.

One Raritan Roader - LT. ALBERT P. VON BLOCK, son of Mrs. B. H. Borman, has made the supreme sacrifice. He was killed in action in Italy on July 17th. This column is dedicated to his memory.



Miss Judson Carlton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland D. Carlton of Montgomery, Ala., and Pfc. Robert L. Scheer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Scheer of 411 Stout Avenue, were married July 8th at the South Side Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

Pvt. Scheer is an instructor in chemical warfare at Camp Claiborne, La. The couple will reside in Alexandria, La., near the camp.

Miss Adele Elsa Roeder, daughter of Police Lieut. Fred Roeder and Mrs. Roeder of Mountainside, and James J. Debbie, coxswain, U. S. Navy, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Debbie of Prospect Street, Scotch Plains, were married in the rectory of St. Bernard's Church in Plainfield on July 22nd.



HONOR ROLL

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

HONOR ROLL ADDITIONS

Besmer, Joseph L.
Ferris, Charlotte
Hartvigsen, Harmon
Jaffee, Harry
LaFleur, Frank E. Jr.
McCray, George R.
Nettingham, Arthur
Nettingham, Harvey
Nettingham, Jamew
Newman, W. F.
Preussner, Victor W.
Sabatino, C. F.
Schaffernoth, T. J.
Taylor, Charles
Stephens, Edwin D.
Voorhis, Patricia

KILLED IN FRANCE

T/Sgt. Louis E. Checchio, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Checchio of 386 Cook Ave. was killed in action in France on July 20, according to a telegram received from the War Department by his parents. He had been overseas since Dec. 4, 1943. Entering the service in 1941, he trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and Fort Jackson, N.C., where he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in June, 1942. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant before leaving the states. He was a graduate of SP High School.



Besides his parents, Sergeant Checchio is survived by his widow, the former Miss Mary Nabry of Columbia, S. C., a brother, Sgt. Sal Checchio, who is training with the AAF in Walla Walla, Wash., and five sisters, Phyllis, Christine, Marie, Dorothy and Anne.



Mr. and Mrs. Harold O. Voorhis, of Rahway Road, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Patricia to Cpl. Carroll C. Grinnell Jr. of Selkirk, N. Y.

Miss Voorhis enlisted in the WAVES recently and is receiving boot training at Hunter College, New York.

RESCUE SQUAD SPLITS DOUBLEHEADER WITH STORK

For the first time in the seven years of its existence, the Rescue Squad ambulance failed to beat the stork to Muhlenberg Hospital.

In the wee hours of a recent morning, the ambulance, with Albert Delnero driving and Fred Camp and Ralph Kehs acting as attendants, responded to a call at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Beverly at 78 Johnson Avenue.

Mrs. Beverly entered the ambulance and the stork started flapping its wings. The ambulance raced but the stork was faster. By the time they reached the hospital in Plainfield, 22-year old Mrs. Beverly was the mother of a fine baby girl. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

No sooner had the ambulance arrived back in town than they received another call from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bingley of Farley Ave. This time the ambulance won the race to Muhlenberg, where another baby girl was born.

Because they lost the first race though, Delnero, Camp and Kehs had to stand treat for a keg of beer for the rest of the Squad and automatically became members of 'The Stork Club'.

This column sponsored by

WESTFIELD TRUST CO.
Scotch Plains Branch

This column sponsored by

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO.
Garwood, N. J.