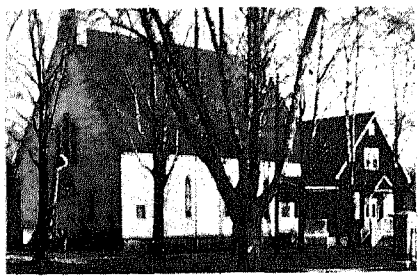




HISTORY OF OLD SCOTCH PLAINS
It's Churches



FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Seventy five years ago, on August 14, 1870, the first Methodist Episcopal service was held in the Scotch Plains Engine House with Rev. Smythe, of the Methodist Independent Church at Plainfield, preaching. Formal organization as a Methodist Episcopal Church was completed August 26, 1870, and it was served as a mission by Rev. William Day, pastor of the Plainfield Methodist Episcopal Church. The church outgrew the engine house and the following year met in the school and when the increasing congregation outgrew these facilities, the church applied for permission to hold meetings in the Baptist Church, "which application was met in a Christian spirit and cheerfully granted." Rev. John A. Kingsbury was appointed the first regular pastor on April 2, 1871.

Several months later, on July 13, 1871, the cornerstone of the new church was laid. The structure was completed by February of the following year when it was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies spanning a four day period between Thursday, February 15th and Sunday, February 18th, 1872. The dedication ceremonies commenced on Thursday morning when Rev. A. H. Wyatt, of New York City, preached the first sermon to a large congregation. Services were held again in the afternoon and again in the evening to be followed by more services Friday evening.

The formal dedication took place on Sunday morning, the 18th of February, when the Rev. Bishop James, D. D., dedicated the church to the worship of our Lord in a most impressive and solemn manner.

This church building served the needs of the congregation until 1923 when it was felt necessary to expand. At this time, under the leadership of Rev. Eugene S. Morey, the present chapel was commenced and it was dedicated the following year during the pastorate of Rev. Homer W. Henderson, the first resident pastor. The erection of the parsonage was undertaken and this was completed and first occupied by Rev. Earl L. Hampton in 1926.

During most of its history, the church was served by supply-pastors and student-pastors, fifty-six having occupied its pulpit in the seventy three years of its formal existence.

In February, 1932, during the pastorate of Rev. Ralph Godfrey Saxe, the Church celebrated its sixtieth anniversary and it was from the program of that event that much of the

substance of this article was obtained. As we scan the roster of those in the Primary Department in 1932, we spot the names of Edwin Adam, Michael DeCristofaro, Herbert Lambertsen and Eddie Sigmund in the class of Miss Florence Wade and Miss Louise Bopp; Tony De Cristofaro, Floyd Garrison, Arthur and Robert Meyer, James Muir and Roger Schwoerer in the class of Mrs. Wallace Cudlipp; Marshall De Cristofaro, Harvey Rue and Robert Wade in the Junior and Intermediate class of George W. Jaynes; Charles Adam, John Hollender, Rice Jones, David D. Kuehn and Joseph Poliseo in the class of Rev. Ralph G. Saxe and finally Carl Bopp and Christian Lambertson in the class of Samuel W. Cell. All of these boys are now in the service and receive the Scotch Plainsman each month. In addition, there appear the names of some Farwood boys who also receive this little paper regularly.

The Rev. Norman P. Champlin informs us that the service flag of the Church contains 19 stars - one of them a Gold Star to commemorate the sacrifice made by James Muir.

Rev. Champlin, who has been pastor since 1944, is a retired minister, having taken the retired relation at the 1944 session of the Conference. He purchased a home on Front Street where he resides.

The Church is an active group and while the membership is not large, it is united and works together to accomplish much for the Kingdom. Substantial repairs have been made during the past year and the Church is proud of its new Hammond Organ, the gift of Charles Ball in memory of his wife, the late Lillian Kemp Ball; and is also proud of the new gowns for the choir, the gift of the father of Mrs. Charles Bush, organist. The women's groups are particularly active in religious and cultural functions and in assisting the Church in a financial way.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

It takes a week or more from the time copy leaves our hands before the printer delivers the printed copies of The Scotch Plainsman to us for mailing. So it happens frequently that we write copy in advance of an event only to have the event a matter of history by the time our little sheet makes its appearance.

Such is the condition we face as we tell you of the plans being made for the 78th annual Memorial Day service to be held May 30th under the chairmanship of Harry L. Paff.

The program will begin at 8:30 AM with a parade and will include memorial services in the Baptist Church Cemetery and exercises at the Soldier's Monument at Park Avenue and E. Front Street. Harold O. Voorhis of Rahway Road will be the principal speaker.

THE SCOTCH PLAINSMAN is sent FREE to each Scotch Plains service man and woman as first-class mail. It is supported by HOME-FRONT contributions solely and in any amount from \$1 and up - no ceiling.

All Except 2 Defense Units
Are Disbanded

Local civilian defense forces with the exception of the Auxiliary Police and the Salvage Committee, were disbanded recently by the Scotch Plains Defense Council. The Police unit will be continued so that it may stand ready in an emergency and the Salvage Committee is continued because of the pressing need for salvage materials for the Pacific area operations.

The Committee has an unexpended balance of \$1,807.68 in the Treasurer's account and if the presence of those funds is presenting any problem to the Committee, we might point out with due respect that The Scotch Plainsman treasury is always open to receive contributions large and small. Just a thought, you know.

SCOTCH PLAINS COPS
ARE ALL DICK TRACYS NOW

Five local flat-foots - Patrolmen Preston Ehmann, Harold C. Hill, Frank Barone, Robert Jones and John Andrusky, were presented diplomas recently in Perth Amboy, signifying their successful completion of a 14-week course of instruction at the zone police school conducted in that city under the sponsorship of the N.J. State Assn. of Chiefs of Police. Guests at the graduation exercises and at a banquet that followed included Chief Harry Erholm, Township Committee Chairman George W. Jackson and Committeemen Thomas J. Santo Salvo and Edward R. Hatfield.

KEEP 'EM ROLLING

During the coming weeks you will be visited by a neighbor for the purpose of obtaining your WAR BOND subscription.

Now that Victory in Europe has been won, there must be no relaxing of responsibilities on the home front. We KNOW Scotch Plains cooperation and that no sales talk is needed to persuade its citizens to do their part in putting this Lucky 7th War Loan Drive over the TOP.

GOOD NEWS!!! JOE BLOTNER
LIBERATED FROM NAZI PRISON CAMP

A message reading, "I am well and fit and hope to see you soon. All my love, Joe," was the perfect Mother's Day greeting received by Mrs. Joseph L. Blotner Sr. Joe was confined to Stalag Luft 3, at Sagan, Germany, and is believed to have been with a group of airmen at that prison camp that was moved to Moosburg and later liberated by General Patton's Third Army.

George Hahn, Scotch Plains druggist, is sure he heard Joe's name mentioned as being among the Jersey boys who have been returned to Kilmer. We hope this radio report proves to be true.

Birthday Greetings
WESTFIELD TRUST CO.
Scotch Plains Branch