

SCOTCH PLAINS READING SOCIETY

It is worthy of note that when these villagers felt the urge for cultural advancement, they did not call for aid or advice from "outsiders"; it was a serious responsibility, and our substantial citizens put their shoulders to the wheel, and started the activities of that interesting organization—The Scotch Plains Reading Society. Their first meeting—of record was held January 1, 1800.

On March 1st, a set of rules—strict ones—was drawn up; officers were chosen and friends were invited to "subscribe."

The officers were: Trustees, William Van Horne, Jacob F. Randolph, Jedidiah Swan, Ezra Darby, David Osborn; Librarian, William Van Horne; Clerk of the Meeting, Ezra Darby.

From the "Rules and Regulations," I quote a few interesting items: "Each subscriber shall pay two dollars and fifty cents which shall entitle him to a share in the Library

At the expiration of each six months beginning the first day of January, 1800, the owner of each share shall pay fifty cents.

Shares in the library are transferable but cannot be divided. Persons neglecting to settle the yearly payments and all penalties incurred after the end of the year, to draw no more books till they are discharged.