

EXCELSIOR HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY

With the growth of the village in the years immediately following the Civil War, the need for more adequate fire protection was realized. The "bucket-brigades" of earlier years had given valiant—but often futile—service in extinguishing even small fires. Many of the old homes with priceless family relics suffered total destruction from fires resulting from upset candles, or perhaps from a spark from a chimney falling upon dry roof shingles.

On February 1, 1869 a very interesting organization came into being. It was—and is—"The Excelsior Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1 " Many prominent citizens were among its founders, and it is an honor to be able to record their names:

Honorary Roll

Wallace Vail	Plainfield
James C. Bolton	Westfield
William Bellamy	Scotch Plains
Joseph M. Osborn	Scotch Plains
George Miller	Plainfield
Dr. Joseph Clarke	Scotch Plains

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Organizing and other early members: