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Westfield: from Settlement to Suburb

by James P. Johnson

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WESTFIELD BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



This history of Westfield is one of a series of publications produced as a part of Westfield's comprehensive program to celebrate our nation's bicentennial.

Begun in the spring of 1973 and continuing well beyond 1977, Westfield's celebration of the bicentennial included more than one hundred and fifty official events: ten publications, and 25 permanent projects.

The broad-based participation in formulating and carrying out this program is something in which all Westfielders can take pride.

On behalf of the Mayor and Town Council, the Mayor's Committee on Culture and Beautification, and the Westfield Bicentennial Steering, we wish express our appreciation to all our residents for their cooperation and support.

Don C. Snyder
1971-1974
Mayor

William Thomas
Chairman, Mayor's Committee on
Culture and Beautification

Richard Sullivan
1975-
Mayor

Elizabeth A. Pate
Chairman, Westfield
Bicentennial Committee



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*The Westfield Bicentennial Committee
presents*

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by James P. Johnson

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In the early days of our developing nation we were a diverse people, aware of our differences, but bound together by a commonality of purpose and a knowledge that to survive and progress, we must cooperate. It is that continuing reality which has made us a free people.

In Westfield the celebration of our nation's bicentennial was truly a restatement of these inalienable truths. We have emerged from this four-year effort a community with a greater unity, a rebirth of our cultural awareness and a sense of place in the past and in the future.

Literally thousands of Westfielders participated in the many projects and programs which were developed from the culling of ideas of any of our citizens who wished to propose and support them. There are many tangible lasting reminders in our town which will commemorate this very special time, but it is the spirit in which the bicentennial celebration was carried forward which will remain a unique part of our tradition.

E.A.P.

Table of Contents

1. Beginnings	2
2. An Outpost During the Revolution	6
3. Commerce: From Trappers to Tradesmen	14
4. Government: From Township to Municipality	24
5. Transportation: From Wagon Station to Station Wagon	34
6. Education: From Calvinism to Computers	38
7. Organizations: From Apple Bees to Jaycees.	42
8. Bibliographical Essay	48

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Many persons contributed to the writing of this history. Under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Pate, the Westfield Bicentennial Committee launched the project. Gordon Allen chaired the heritage subcommittee, which set the scope and direction of the volume. Without Gordon's persistence and encouragement, the job would never have been completed.

Committee members Byron D. Stuart, Jessie Brown, Gary Heard, Joe Bjerklie, Helen Snevily, and Louis J. Arculi each contributed research essays on various aspects of the town's past. Elizabeth Pate, Richard F. Veit, Alfred H. Linden, John A. Carter, Jr., Charles Aquilina, Susan Youdovin, Pat Kennedy, Gail Trimble, mayors Emerson Thomas, Robert H. Mulreany, and Alexander S. Williams, and many heritage subcommittee members read and criticized drafts of the manuscript. Their suggestions greatly improved the result. Alfred H. Linden handled the graphics and logistics of printing. I want to thank Erna Hoffman, who helped with the typing. I, of course, accept full responsibility for any factual errors or stylistic inadequacies that remain.

I would also like to thank Donald A. Sinclair, curator of special collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, for his bibliographical assistance. Miss Jeanne M. Desrosiers, library director of the Westfield Memorial Library, and the other librarians there went out of their way to facilitate my research.

J.P.J.

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1481 East Broad Street



Prospect Street

Pre-Revolutionary homes extant in 1976, as they appeared about 1900

231 Benson Place



Post card view of Lambert's Mill Road showing the Revolutionary home of John Radley



Beginnings



Though the art of Indian beading (right) was lost to our area long ago: Indian influence lives on in the seal of Berkeley and Carteret



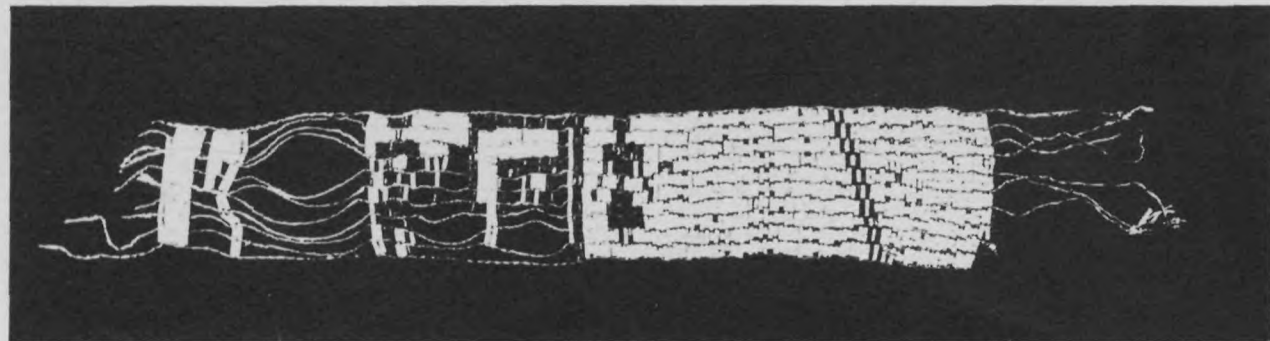
Visit Westfield, New Jersey, some late afternoon. Note the crush of cars and people at the intersections of Broad Street and Mountain and Central avenues. Watch mothers hassled by children strain to maneuver station wagons through the crowded corner. Observe tired New York executives, home late from the city because the Jersey Central's 5:34 left Newark at 6:10. They trudge along Broad Street — raincoats slung over their shoulder, briefcases in hand. Heed the local teachers, dentists, lawyers, shop owners, clerks and bankers as they hurry downtown to do one more errand before night. Caught up in the repetitive pattern of what they are doing, most of these people have forgotten — if they ever knew — that this suburban intersection once formed the center of a colonial settlement.

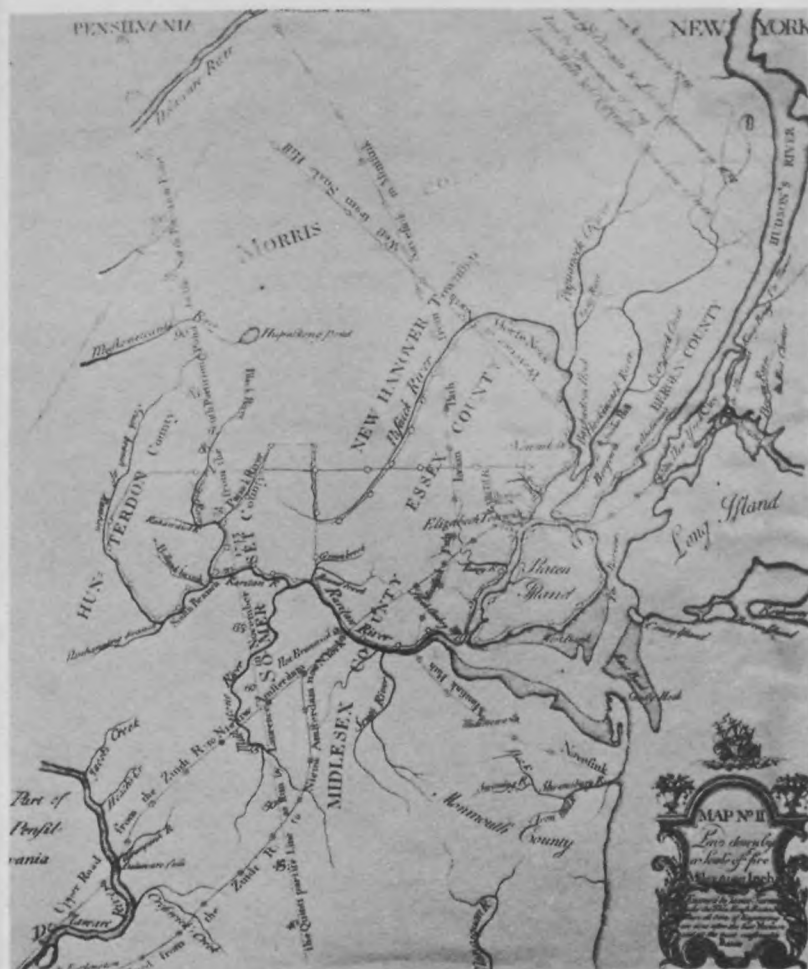
Stop there some day and listen. Can you hear echoes of a colonial stage coach clattering down Broad Street on its way to Philadelphia? Look up at the First Presbyterian Church. Can you picture in your mind's eye His Majesty's redcoats slaughtering cattle in the church meeting house in 1777? Walk up Mountain Avenue to the old cemetery. Read the inscription on Benjamin Scudder's eighteenth-century headstone: "Remember me as you pass by, As you am Now, so once was I . . ."

In the distance rise the Watchung Mountains, produced by volcanic activity some 200 million years ago. Beneath your feet is a geologic structure known as the Brunswick Formation, itself 225 million years old.

The land about you has been shaped between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago by the removal, transportation, and redistribution of materials by the agents of water and ice through glacial action. Two of the three ice advances affecting New Jersey at that time reached the Westfield area. The first, the Kansan, because of erosion and later glaciation has left no recognizable impact. But the later Wisconsin glacial advance significantly affected Westfield's topography. You can see the retreat of its ice advance and terminal moraine in the low, irregular hills of boulders, gravel, and sand in the Brightwood, Indian Forest, Wychwood, Fairview Cemetery, and Gallows Hill Road areas.

The remaining parts of the town laying south and east of the terminal moraine are covered with ground moraine soils, composed of unstratified glacial material. This region has an almost flat to gently rolling surface.





18th-Century map shows transportation routes established on indian paths

The Lenni Lenape Indians, the region's earliest human inhabitants, passed near this intersection several hundred years before Europeans colonized America. Forced by war and famine from their homes in what they called the "north country," the Lenape migrated into the Piedmont.

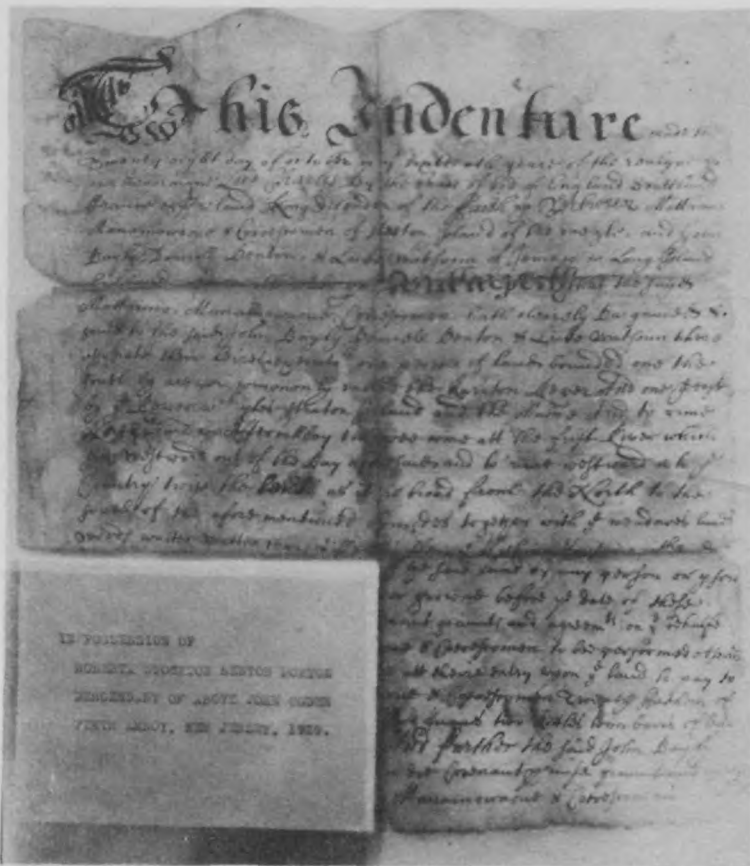
These "original people" or "men among men," as the Lenape styled themselves, ranged through majestic forests. Living primarily from their hunting, fishing, and farming skills, and without the use of the wheel or beasts of burden, the Lenape fared well in a territory abundant with small game. Lenape women grew corn, beans, and squash on small plots. Their children gathered grapes, plums, crabapples, huckleberries, nuts and herbs.

Like modern Jerseymen, the Lenni Lenape trekked to the shore in summer. Large numbers of the Minsi sub-tribe from the northwestern part of the state traveled down the Minisink Trail. They entered Westfield at the junction of what is now Springfield Avenue and East Broad Street, crossed through town near the corner of Fourth and North avenues, passed near Edison Junior High School and the Tamaques Park area, and went on to Metuchen, Matawan, and the Shrewsbury Inlet.

While in Westfield at various times during their travels, the Lenni Lenape encamped at old Branch Mills (near Echo Lake), in the Fairview Cemetery area, and by Tamaques Park. They added their summer's accumulation of smoked oysters, clams, mussels, and a variety of fish to their diet of wild game and crops. When you next pass the old encampments, listen for the Lenape dinner-time shout of *pachgandhatteu*, our equivalent of "come and get it."

Living in *wickoms* of arched saplings covered with mats of corn husks, bark, or coarse grasses and dressed in deer, elk, bear, beaver, fox or racoon skins, the "original people" led an uncomplicated existence. They entertained themselves by throwing spears through moving hoops and by shooting dice, using bones painted on one side. By hiding an object beneath one of several mocassins, the Lenape also developed a variation of the shell game.

The Lenape worshipped the god *Manito*, and his lesser *Manitowuk*. They personified plants, animals, and heavenly bodies with forms of address: "Grandfather," "Grandmother," "Mother Corn." They offered sacrifice to "Snow Boy," who brought the snow and ice and to



Deed for Elizabethtown Purchase dated October 28, 1664



1742 map of Elizabethtown area in attempt to justify claims to disputed land. The map shows the Baker Tract and the Minisink Trail.

the "Great Horned Serpent," the *Manitowuk* of rain. The Unami sub-tribe believed that its totem "Grandfather Turtle," called *Pkounko*, carried the earth on his back.

The life of these primitive people with their shamans and totems, their myths, and home remedies of rattlesnake skin and sassafras roots, could not endure the collision with the Europeans that began in the seventeenth century.

In search of the elusive "northwest passage" in his eighty-ton ship, the *Half Moon*, Henry Hudson, an Englishman in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, dropped anchor off Sandy Hook on September 4, 1609. He and his crew gloried in the landscape "pleasant with Grasse and Flowers, and goodly Trees." The Lenape who came aboard the *Half Moon* later that week were, wrote the mate, "seemingly very glad of our coming and brought greene Tobacco, and gave us of it for Knives and Beads."

But friendship soon gave way to enmity. Indians in two canoes attacked John Coleman's small-boat excursion around Staten Island. Coleman dies from an arrow wound, and the crew of the *Half Moon* kept to the main vessel when Hudson explored the river which bears his name.

Following Hudson's return to Europe, enterprising Dutchmen chartered the Dutch West India Company, which assumed control of the Dutch outpost on Manhattan Island. By granting patroons extensive plots of land, the West India Company tried to encourage settlement west of the Hudson River. They succeeded in 1655 in forcing the Swedes to relinquish their claims in the Delaware Valley. But down to 1664, the Dutch development of New Jersey was limited to two small villages, the Town of Bergen (Jersey City) and *Hobocan*.

In March, 1664, Charles II, King of England, granted his brother James the land which stretched from the Connecticut to the Delaware rivers. In late June, 1664, James conveyed to his associates Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley title to the section now called New Jersey. They named the territory between the Hudson and the Delaware for the Isle of Jersey, Carteret's home and one of the last bastions of Royalist strength during the English Civil War.

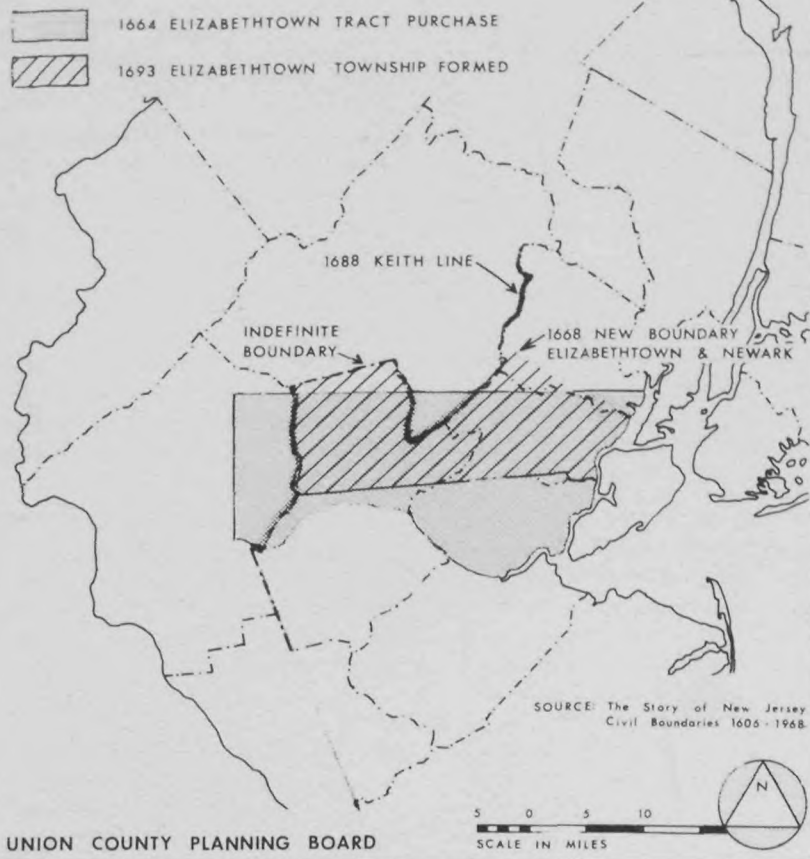
In April, before he made his grant to the two proprietors, James dispatched Colonel Richard Nicolls, his Deputy Governor, to the New World to seize his territory from the Dutch in New Amsterdam. Without firing a shot, Nichols took New Amsterdam — which he renamed New York — on September 7, 1664. That same month, he accepted a petition from a group of English settlers from Long Island to grant them permission to purchase from the Indians lands on the western shores of Newark Bay.



Indian mortar on grounds of Miller-Cory Museum

ELIZABETHTOWN BOUNDARY FORMATION

1664 - 1693



From the Indians, who in 1664 undoubtedly believed they were selling the use of land and not giving full ownership, Daniel Denton, John Bayly, and Luke Watson for the Long Islanders purchased a five-hundred-thousand-acre tract extending from the Raritan to the Passaic rivers and thirty miles into the wilds. They gave the Indians two coats, two guns, ten bars of lead, twenty handfuls of powder, four hundred fathoms* of white wampum, and twenty fathoms of trading cloth — a rate of ten acres for a penny. John Baker, the interpreter who aided in striking the original bargain with the Indians, gained putative possession of the Baker Tract, the lands west of the Minisink Trail, which included part of present-day Westfield and adjacent municipalities.

Settlement came slowly in the West Fields of Elizabethtown, as the area incorporating the present municipalities of Plainfield, Fanwood, New Providence, Mountainside, Scotch Plains, Garwood, Cranford, Clark, part of Rahway, part of Piscataway, and Westfield was then known. In 1699 the West Fields were laid out in 171 farm plots of 100 acres each. Thereafter, the majority of the newcomers hailed from Calvinist Connecticut and Long Island. Some located near the present intersection of Broad Street and Central and Mountain avenues in a tiny community which soon became known as the village of Westfield.

The settlers advanced, and the Lenni Lenape slowly retreated. They had given the whites furs in trade, agricultural techniques, a multitude of words: *Wateunk*, "place to meet and talk," *Watchung*, "high hill," and *chipmunk*, *tobacco*, *canoe*, *Mindowaskin*, *Raritan*, *Hoboken*, *Matawan*, and hundreds more, in addition to a group of classic American foods: steamed lobster, clambake, succotash, corn bread and cranberry sauce.

The settlers gave in return: factory-produced "wampum," smallpox, tuberculosis, whiskey, and bullets. Sweat baths and shamans could not drive away these enemies. The Indians now had a new word, *achguichsowagan*, meaning drunkenness. Following resettlement in the Brotherton reservation in Burlington County, the Lenni Lenape migrated to upper New York State, thence to Canada, Wisconsin, Texas, and eventually to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

Following the French and Indian War, the settlers in the village of Westfield faced little serious trouble from the Indians. But they soon found that British soldiers could wreak more destruction on their tiny settlement than had the "uncivilized" Lenni Lenape.

* A fathom equalled the distance from a man's elbow to his little finger tip.

An Outpost During The Revolution

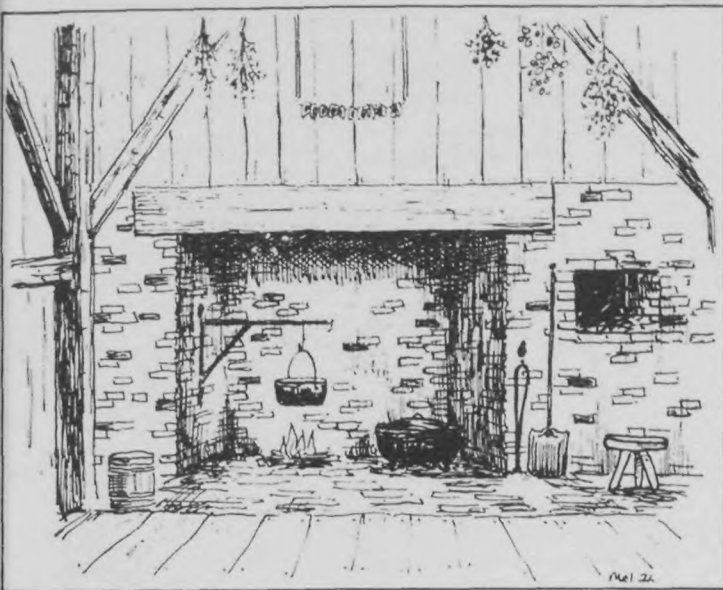


Tombstone of Benjamin Scudder, Revolutionary Cemetary. Mountain Ave.

The opening guns of the American Revolution at Lexington and Concord in 1775 brought those in the village of Westfield to a crossroads. When British General William Howe arrived on Staten Island in July, 1776, with a huge fleet and some thirty-two thousand soldiers, New Jersey itself seemed defenseless. Following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, all Jerseymen had to make a choice: stay loyal to the crown, stand and possibly fight with Washington's forces, or stay neutral. Westfielders Samuel Downer, Jonathan Baker, Edward Clark, Charles Marsh, and Joshua Marsh enlisted with Washington.

Essex County, of which the village of Westfield was then a part, however, was a notorious home for Tories. Yet most Westfielders — save for at least Samuel Smith, a local Tory — sided with the revolutionary cause, no doubt influenced by their New England heritage and Scotch-Irish Presbyterianism. Patriot Ephraim Marsh served on the "Association" created by the First Continental Congress to enforce the boycott of British goods. Westfield innkeeper Azariah Clark apprehended a number of persons in this area involved in the illegal "London trading."

Even before the Declaration of Independence, Westfield village militiamen David Ross, Henry Baker, Ephraim Marsh, William Meeker, and Benjamin and John Woodruff became recognized patriots. The British supply sloop *Blue Mountain Valley*, its cargo of coal, potatoes, hogs, porter, and horsebeans destined for the King's troops in Boston, lay unguarded off Sandy Hook the night of January 22-23, 1776. A British warship from New York was on the way to protect her. Spurred by the promise of sharing in the booty, nearly one hundred patriots from the Elizabethtown area worked through that cold night to outfit three boats and assist General William Alexander of Basking Ridge in boarding the vessel and bringing it to Elizabethtown Point. Some days later the Continental Congress passed a resolution praising the "forwardness and spirit" of the militiamen for their "laudable and exemplary" heroism.



Sketch of cooking fireplace and oven at Miller-Cory Museum



Chair made by Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence

Although General George Washington despaired of "the irregular and disjointed state" of the New Jersey Militia in early 1777, the "Jersey Blues" would later distinguish themselves. Fifty-eight Westfielders, some dressed by local women in blue coats with red trim, but many without uniform, served in Captain Eliakim Littell's unit, which maintained a defensive line along the Watchung Mountains to protect Washington's encampments in Middlebrook (above current Bound Brook) and Morristown.

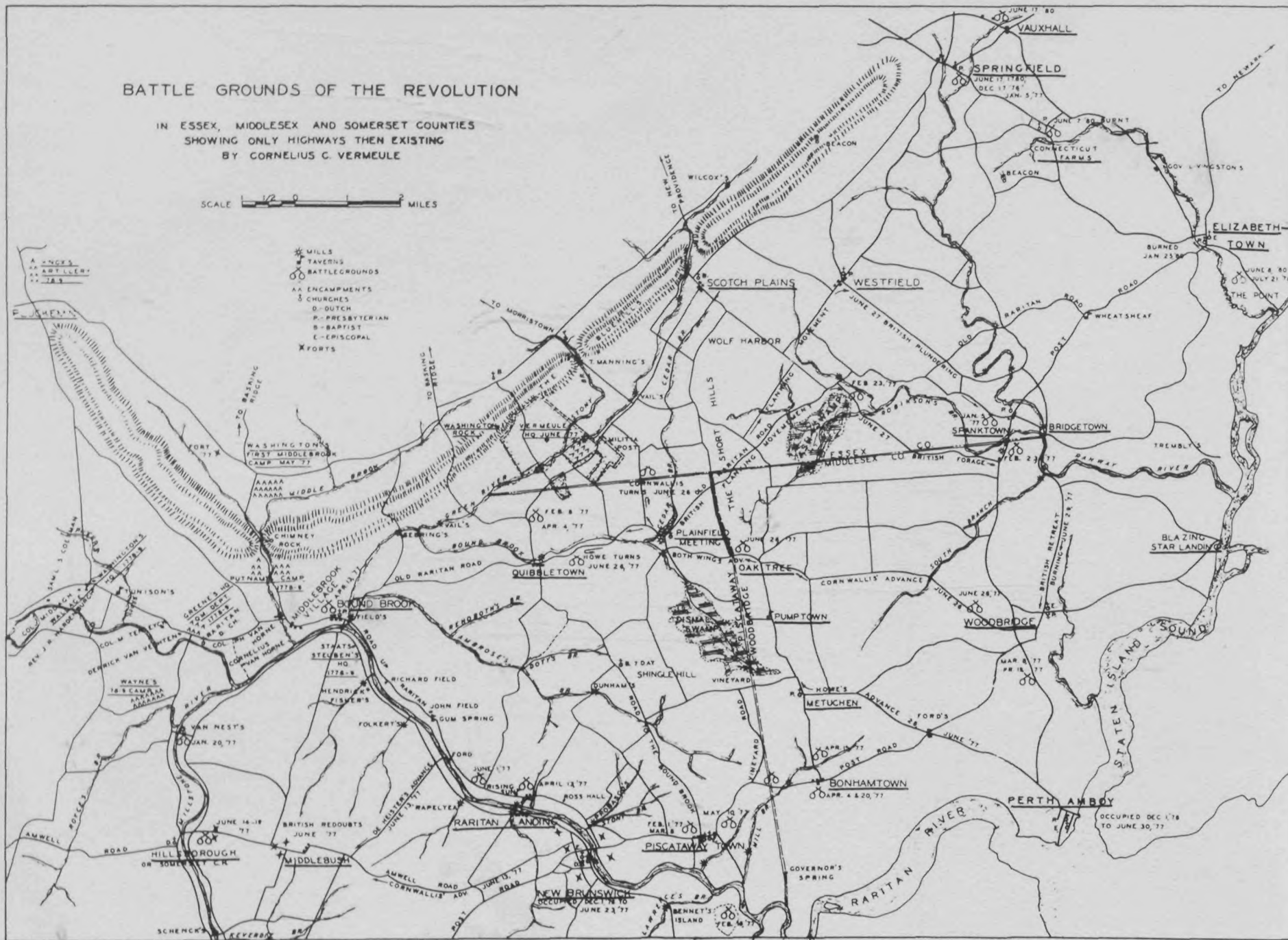
Following his 1776 retreat through New Jersey, Washington won decisive victories at Trenton and Princeton and then went into winter quarters in Morristown. His adversaries, Generals William Howe and Charles Cornwallis, garrisoned some 14,000 troops in the area between New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, close by loyalist Staten Island. In May, 1777, Washington moved his army down from Morristown and encamped in the Watchung Mountains at Middlebrook. Howe sought to draw Washington out of the mountains and into an open battle in the lowlands which separated the two armies. The feints and counter-moves of these two generals would eventually pull the village of Westfield into the maelstrom of war.

Howe initially tried to provoke Washington into battle on June 14, 1777, with an aggressive move westward to a position between Millstone and Middlebush, where two British divisions encamped and built redoubts. From this position Howe might possibly have outflanked Washington's right by circling westward around the First Watchung Mountain, but — pressured by militia attacks on his supply lines — he elected not to move so far from his base in New Brunswick.

Believing Howe to be "perfectly safe from any attack of ours," Washington kept his mountain position. Howe, similarly deciding that Washington was in a spot "which it would have not been prudent to attack," withdrew towards New Brunswick. Although Howe broke his camp so early on the morning of June 19th that the Continentals could not marshal much of a following force, the patriots viewed the British withdrawal to New Brunswick as a humiliating retreat.

IN ESSEX, MIDDLESEX AND SOMERSET COUNTIES
SHOWING ONLY HIGHWAYS THEN EXISTING
BY CORNELIUS C. VERMEULE

SCALE  MILES



From the LONDON GAZETTE.

Whitehall, Aug. 22, 1777.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain.

New-York, July 5, 1777.

His lordship had 5 men killed and 30 wounded. Captain Finch, of the light company of the guards, was the only officer who suffered, and to my great concern the wound he received proving mortal, he died the 29th of June at Amboy.

The troops engaged in this action were the 1st light infantry, 1st British grenadiers, 1st, 2d and 3d Hessian grenadiers, 1st battalion of guards, Hessian chaffeurs, and the queen's rangers. I take the liberty of particularising these corps, as Lord Cornwallis, in his report to me, so highly extols their merit and ardour upon this attack. One piece of cannon was taken by the guards the other two by col. Mingerode's battalion of Hessian grenadiers.

The enemy was pursued as far as Westfield with little effect, the day proving so intensely hot, that the soldiers could with difficulty continue their march thither; in the mean time it gave opportunity for those flying to escape by skulking in the thick woods, until night favoured their retreat to the mountain.

The army lay that night at Westfield, returned the next day to Raway, and the day following to Amboy. On the 30th at ten o'clock in the forenoon the troops began to cross over to Staten-Island, and the rear guard, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, passed at two in the afternoon, without the least appearance of an enemy.

The embarkation of the troops is proceeding with the utmost dispatch, and I shall have the honour of sending your Lordship further information as soon as the troops are landed at the place of their destination,

With the most perfect respect I have the honour to be your lordship's most faithful and most obedient servant,

W. HOWE.

Account of the action in the Westfield area in the summer of 1777.

On the 22nd, the main body of the British forces left New Brunswick and slogged through the summer rain to Perth Amboy. According to Washington, three brigades of Continentals "gave them a good peppering." But Washington bemoaned the "robbing, plundering, and burning" the British inflicted as they moved to Amboy. A patriot observer wrote that the British "have left Brunswick, and all the road from thence to Amboy is covered with smoke from the houses the soldiers fired as they passed." Would Westfield village suffer a similar fate if involved?

Howe at the time seemed intent on withdrawing his forces to Staten Island, preliminary to a voyage from there to the Delaware River and Philadelphia. The British general ordered the tents struck. A Hessian brigade put to sea. Troops constructed a pontoon bridge across to Staten Island in apparent preparation for the retreat of the full British army. On the 23rd one British soldier wrote that "Lord Howe embarks tomorrow on board the Eagle . . . The retreat of our troops from Jersey will give the rebels great encouragement, and strengthen their cause much . . ."

An emboldened Washington ordered pursuing forces to New Brunswick and marched a sizeable force to Quibbletown (current New Market). He sent General William Alexander, called Lord Stirling because of his insecure claim to a Scottish earldom, ahead to the short hills of Metuchen with a strong detachment.

After receiving intelligence reports of Washington's movement out of his mountain stronghold, Howe secretly ordered his troops back to Amboy on the 25th. But because of bad weather, it was nearly midnight before the last of the Hessians disembarked on the New Jersey shore. The British troops could easily overwhelm Stirling's 3,000 men and eight cannon.

Before dawn on June 26th, 1777, Cornwallis marched out from Amboy to Woodbridge destined ultimately perhaps for the mountain pass near present Scotch Plains and the opportunity it provided to drive Washington out of Middlebrook for good. Another column commanded by Major General John Vaughan, also headed for Scotch Plains via Bonhamp-town. Cornwallis's force formed the right arm and Vaughan's the left arm of a pincer which could surround Stirling's force at Metuchen.

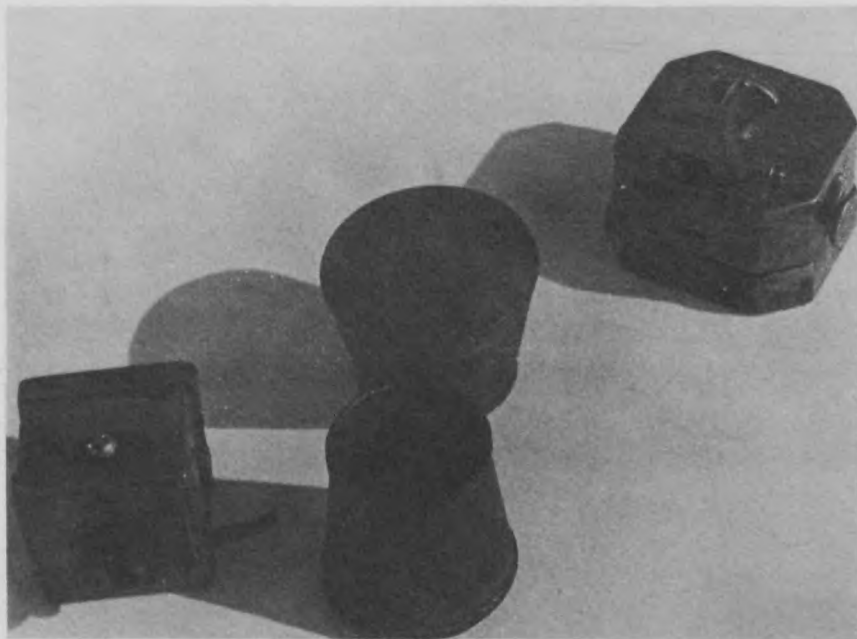
Once in Woodbridge, Cornwallis's line turned on Green Road to Scotch Plains and there accidentally confronted part of Stirling's outlying force. Unable to resist the British advance, these men delayed the British movement by harrassing them from the thickets along the route. Stirling then deployed his men on a rise in the wooded area near Ash Swamp (in the vicinity of present Terrill and Raritan Roads). They dug in to meet the British advance.

The troops of Cornwallis and Stirling met at midday and fought what Washington described as a "pretty smart" skirmish. In the bloody hour-and-a-half struggle in the blistering June heat, Stirling bombarded the advancing British lines with six to eight one-pound cannon. The Hessians replied with their three pounders. As the British lines vied with each other in the assault, some British soldiers — unable to see in the smoke — allegedly fired into their own flanks. Overwhelmingly outnumbered, out-gunned, and in danger of being flanked, Stirling's men began a retreat toward Westfield village.

In losing, Stirling's force suffered between fifteen and thirty killed and some fifty missing. But they killed five and wounded thirty of the enemy. The British took sixty-four prisoners and captured three French-made cannon. Although some have written that the British "routed" Stirling or cut his brigade "to pieces with Highland Broad Swords," Stirling in fact conducted an orderly retreat to Westfield village and occupied the mountain passes behind the town. Washington moved the main American force to their original camp in Middlebrook.



Saddle bags used during Revolutionary War
Miller-Cory collection



Early revolutionary war medical instruments
Frazee Collection - Miller-Cory house

Pursuing Stirling, the British force marched along current Cooper and Raritan roads in the Westfield area. There they found that most townsmen — save for the old and infirm — had fled into the mountains. Exhausted perhaps by the march which had begun before sunrise and beaten down by the heat, the King's troops camped on Mud Land (Gro Street) the night of June 26-27, 1777. The British converted the Presbyterian meeting house into a slaughter house for some cattle they had confiscated.

They plundered the Gershom Frazee home among others. Local residents filed over a hundred claims for British depredations. An account written shortly afterward noted that the British army "burnt, stripped, and destroyed all as they went along." The British officer Major John Andre, wrote that the "spirit of depredation was but too prevalent on the marches." Heeding Westfield's plight, Washington dispatched three hundred barrels of flour for residents of this area.

Later generations have relished colorful, heroic legends about the British stay in the Westfield area on that sweltering June day and night in 1777, but the village in fact suffered great damage in the invasion. Sick lay in a make-shift military hospital off Gallows Hill Road near current Fairview Cemetery. Residents lost their livestock and grain. Homes and property were plundered. Some may have despaired for the patriot cause. Washington himself was saddened that he could give only "the shadow (for it is no more) of security, to particular neighbourhoods." Realizing that they could not pursue Washington into the mountains and having failed to draw him into a direct encounter, the British marched off on the 27th to Rahway and Amboy and then to their transport ships.

Two days following the battle of the short hills of Metuchen and encampment in the Westfield area, Alexander Hamilton wrote to Governor Robert Livingston that Washington's tactics of retreat "undoubtedly will be imputed either to cowardice or to weakness." The more discerning American, he judged, however, would understand that Washington was following "the truest policy" of avoiding a general engagement with the British forces which he might lose. "The liberties of America are an infinite stake. We should not play a desperate game for it or put it upon the issue of a single cast of the die."

Hamilton attempted to place the devastation of the region around the village of Westfield in perspective. He explained to Livingston that the European powers were eager for a British defeat. Lacking outside support, the English would in the long run have difficulty maintaining their forces in this hemisphere. "Our own army is continually growing stronger in men, arms, and discipline." French aid was coming. Delay would aid the American and hurt the British cause. He concluded:

Our business then is to avoid a general engagement and waste the enemy away by constantly goading their sides, in a desultory teasing way.

In the meantime, it is painful to leave a part of the inhabitants a prey to their depredations; and it is wounding to the feelings of a soldier to see an enemy parading before him and daring him to fight which he is obliged to decline. But a part must be sacrificed to the whole, and passion must give way to reason.

Viewing their war-ravaged farms, Westfielders must have struggled hard to suppress passion with reason.



The uniform of the "Jersey Blues"

From 1777 to 1780 the village of Westfield served as a military outpost. The Jersey Blues maintained an arsenal on East Broad Street near the site of the Westfield Tennis Club. Continental Brigadier General William Maxwell, known as "Scotch Willie" because of his fondness for whiskey and his Scottish brogue, stationed his brigade in the village for a time in 1779 to protect Westfield's storehouse of forage for the Continental Army. In November, 1779, Washington directed Lieutenant Colonel William Washington to join Maxwell in the village of Westfield to help secure the forage, which General Nathanael Greene believed to be of "vast importance."

In the summer of 1780 the Westfield militiamen assumed greater responsibilities than merely guarding forage. On June 6, 1780, Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen, a silent and aloof Hessian who was disgusted with the unwillingness of the British high command to order attacks, crossed from Staten Island to Elizabethtown Point with some 5,000 British forces. Expecting perhaps to find support from Tories in the Elizabethtown vicinity, Knyphausen — derisively dubbed the "hireling of Hesse" — met resistance instead.

From his camp in Morristown, George Washington, uncertain whether Knyphausen was seeking to attack Morristown or merely off on a "sweep of forage cattle," ordered Lord Stirling to "collect the militia to give them all the opposition in our power . . . We shall as quickly as possible move forward with the Army."

Scotch Willie Maxwell dispatched a rider to Hobart Mountain (in present-day Summit), where a huge signal fire stood ready to call the militia to arms. Beside it sat a squat mortar known as "old sow."

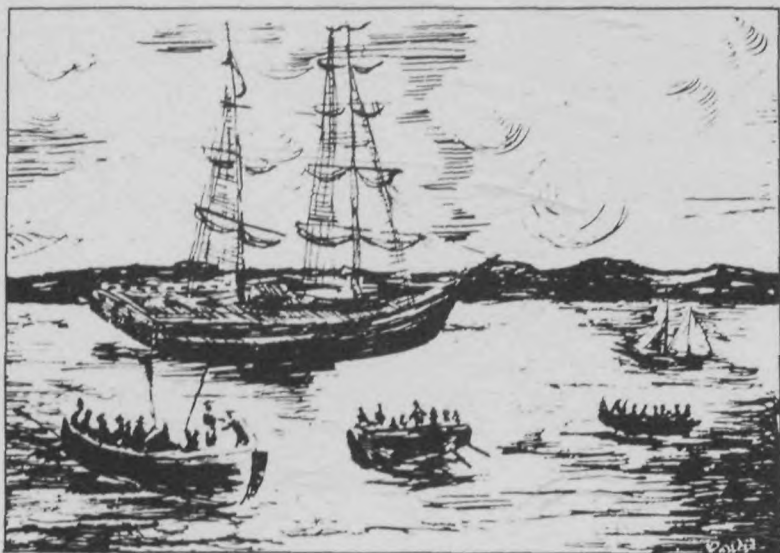
Sam Downer, Jr., Moses McMannis, Capt. John Scudder, Charles Marsh, Morris Frazee and other Westfielders in the Jersey Blues may have awakened that June 7 to the booming of old sow. They and militiamen from the surrounding area scurried to meet the British.

As the four divisions of British and Hessian troops moved toward Connecticut Farms (Union), the militia fired upon them from behind barns and houses. Harrassed by swarming militiamen, who he wrote "congregated from everywhere," Knyphausen moved into Connecticut Farms. The militia, described by a British officer as of "a thin, long-legged make; most of them without coats," fled before the superior forces, but not without inflicting significant casualties and giving "Old Knyph" reason to reconsider his attempt to press to Springfield and on toward Hobart Gap and Morristown. The main rebel army under Washington was pressing down from Morristown. Following a tenacious and bloody "fire fight" at the Rahway River bridge on the road to Springfield, Knyphausen's forces halted.

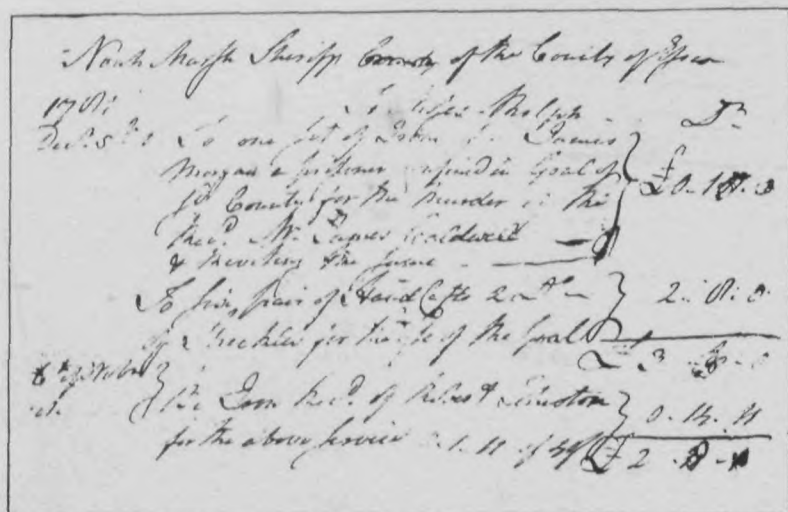
Unable to take Hobart Gap without serious losses, and undoubtedly angered by the vengeance of the militia, Knyphausen's men set to burning the houses, barns, shops, school house, and meeting house in Connecticut Farms. One home in particular seemed to have been marked for destruction. In it lived a stocky, intense clergyman named James Caldwell, previously pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown and since 1776 a minister in Connecticut Farms and a chaplain in Colonel Elias Dayton's third regiment of the rebel army. Caldwell, it was said, fought the British seven days a week: six days with a musket and one with the Bible. On June 7 Caldwell was using his musket, and his wife Hannah and two children were in the parsonage.



961 RAHWAY AVENUE



Capture of the Blue Mountain Valley, January 23, 1776



Bill for irons and handcuffs for James Morgan

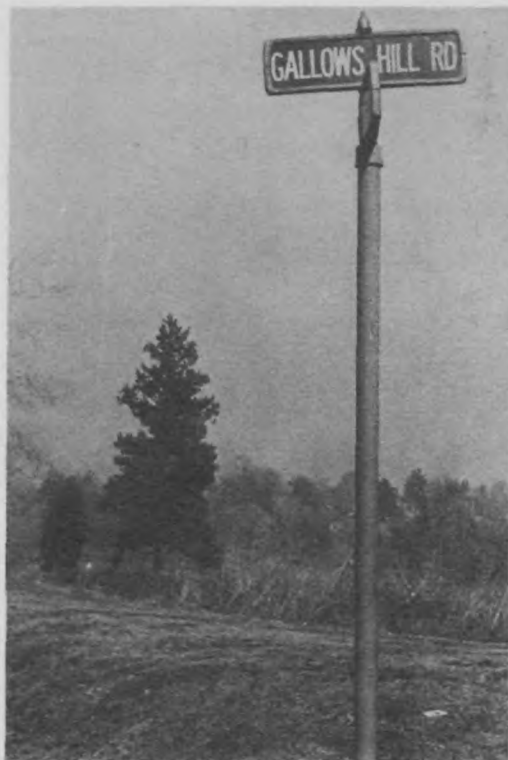
While Hannah sat in a back room where she had retreated with her two children and two other women, a British infantryman fired a double shot through a window. The two bullets ripped into Hannah's breast and abdomen, killing her. The British squad carried the body outside the building and set the house ablaze.

Aroused militiamen were now reinforced by some of the Continental Army, including Westfield's Sam Downer, who had been in Morristown with Washington. Amid a downpour Knyphausen's men withdrew to Elizabethtown Point that night, not beaten, but not victorious. They then retired to Staten Island. Washington wrote that "the behavior of the Militia has been such as to do them signal Honor . . ." Maxwell said later that "never did troops, either Continental or militia behave better than ours did. Everyone that had an opportunity (which they mostly all had) vied with each other who could serve the country most."

On June 21, fearing a move by British General Henry Clinton — fresh from a spring victory in Charlestown — up the Hudson to West Point, Washington left part of his army in Springfield and marched toward the Hudson River fortress. Clinton and Knyphausen decided that Knyphausen would again strike at Morristown through Springfield. If Washington attempted to march back to defend Hobart Gap or attack Knyphausen from the north, Clinton's Carolina Army of 4,000 could engage Washington from their Hudson River position. Without Washington behind them, the remainder of the Continental Army and militia could not conceivably defend Springfield or Hobart Gap. Washington's headquarters in Morristown once more seemed vulnerable.

On June 23, 1780, the British advanced on Hobart Gap in two movements, one under Major General Edward Matthew up the Vauxhall Road from Elizabethtown, the other under Old Knyp through Connecticut Farms. A toughened and incensed militia from Westfield and environs reinforced the Continental Army. Although Knyphausen took Springfield by noon in strenuous fighting, he decided — after his lunch there — that he could not push through Hobart Gap. The British burned Springfield, but retreated to Elizabethtown Point and thence across a pontoon bridge to Staten Island, evacuating New Jersey for good.

At day's end, much of what had been Connecticut Farms lay in ashes, including Caldwell's church. A Continental officer wrote soon after: "If there is justice to be dispensed in this world from above, it must surely visit these sons of cruelty ere long, whose scarlet crimes are daily filling up the measure of their iniquities. I never saw soldiers pant for revenge more than ours do . . ."



Gallows Hill today



Artist's conception of the hanging of James Morgan on Gallows Hill

Washington viewed this second encounter in Springfield as a most significant struggle. Before the British marched out from Elizabethtown, he informed the Continental Committee of Cooperation that if the young nation "means to be free this is the Moment for America to exert herself." After the British troops withdrew, he wrote: "The Militia deserve every thing that can be said on both occasions. They flew to arms universally and acted with a spirit equal to anything I have seen in the course of the War."

Westfield members of the Jersey Blues could be proud indeed. Littell's men, including Westfielders Captain John Scudder, Captain Matthias Clark, Sam Downer, and Moses McMannis among others, served their town and nation well. John Davis, age twenty-two, who died defending Springfield village, is buried in the Revolutionary Cemetery.

A tragic epilogue concluded the village of Westfield's part in the American Revolution. In November, 1781, American sentry James Morgan shot and killed Reverend James Caldwell in Elizabeth Port over a dispute involving alleged contraband goods. Morgan claimed his musket fired accidentally. Although no substantial evidence of Morgan's connections with the British forces has ever been uncovered, the "fighting parson's" reputation led to colonial feelings that "the wretch [Morgan] had been bribed to commit this abominable deed."

Despite argument that Morgan should be tried in a military court, he received a civil trial in Westfield's Presbyterian Church. The jury — including Westfielders Ephraim Scudder, Benjamin Meeker, David Ross, and Aaron Woodruff — said to have been "of one mind," found that Morgan "feloniously killed and murdered the said James Caldwell, against the Peace of the State, the Government and Dignity of the same." The bill for Morgan's handcuffs lies among the town's early records in the town trunk. A large crowd followed the condemned man through the deep January snow to the gallows, which stood off Gallows Hill Road opposite the residence of John Scudder. Although perhaps unfairly tried, Morgan is reported to have expressed ironic sympathy for those watching him stand upon the cart, hangman's noose about his neck. "Do your duty quickly," he allegedly said, "The people are suffering from the cold." The cart was pulled away. Morgan hanged. He lies in an unmarked grave.

In the Revolutionary Cemetery across Mountain Avenue from the Presbyterian Church rest some fifty-one Revolutionary War soldiers, many from Westfield: Joseph Acken, who fought in the battle of Trenton, Henry Baker, Ephraim Marsh, Jr., David Ross, and Jonathan Woodruff, who brought the *Blue Mountain Valley* into Elizabeth Port; John Davis, who gave his life at Springfield, plus scores of militia officers and regular members of the Jersey Blues. Westfielders suffered more than they succeeded during the war. But the town supplied militia and served as a defensive outpost in the Revolutionary War.



Commerce:

From Trappers To Tradesmen



Presbyterian Church building, 1803-1861

Long before the American Revolution, the first white settlers in the vicinity of current Westfield came to hunt and trap. Some of them blended the two skills that have shaped the region's development: they knew how to barter, and they knew the value of land.

The settlers from Connecticut and New York who moved here after the Elizabethtown Purchase of 1664 laid out their town near the crossroads of two Indian trails. Samuel Downer, John Scudder, Nathaniel Baker, William Pierson, Joshua Marsh, Elias Mills, and Samuel Ross built variations of the New England "saltbox" house along the "broad" street, a street wide enough to serve as a threshing area. Joseph Cory and Aaron Miller located their homes along the Indian trail later called Mountain Avenue.* James Badgley and Peter Wilcox built farther up on the mountain. Charles Marsh and William Pierson, Jr. built on the Elizabethtown Road (Benson Place), off Broad Street. John C. Clark, Warner Tucker and Ichabod Ross settled on the way to Scotch Plains on the Jerusalem Road (Clark Street).

Others settled farther south. In the 1740s Squire John Ross built his majestic homestead on the road to Elizabeth (Elizabeth Avenue). John B. Clark, William Clark, Cornelius Ludlum, Ephraim Scudder, David Ross, and John Robertson built on the old Rahway Road (Central Avenue). Roger Lambert, a blacksmith from Wiltshire, England, and one of the principals in the Elizabethtown Purchase, built his farm and mill in the area once known as Willow Grove (Old Raritan Road). Part of the road now bears his name, which because of his Norman ancestry, he signed Lambard.



Miller-Cory Museum, opened November 1972

* The Miller-Cory House on Mountain Avenue near Alden Avenue, originally the home of Samuel Miller but owned by the Cory family from 1780 to 1923, has been restored and is open as a living museum of eighteenth century life. One of the National Register's Historic Places and on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places it is worth visiting.



Early collection basket from Presbyterian Church

The first village centered about the intersections of Mountain Avenue and Broad Street and the Old Rahway Road. Sam Downer ran a blacksmith shop. Nathaniel Baker built a tanyard where Mindowaskin stream crossed Broad Street near the site of the present Municipal Building. Charles Clark opened a store in his home on the corner of Broad Street and Jerusalem Road. Where old Rahway Road joined Broad Street, Thomas Baker kept an Inn and Tavern. A meeting house sat across Broad Street on the corner of Mountain Avenue; behind it lay the burial ground. Dr. Philemon Elmer, the town physician, lived on Broad Street facing Mountain Avenue at the village green. Although the original log Presbyterian Church stood on somewhat distant Elizabethtown Road, a finer structure was erected slightly west of the site of the present church in the 1730s. It then took up a position of prominence on the rise overlooking Broad Street.

The church dominated the landscape in the early village of Westfield, but the tavern may have dominated town life. By the end of the eighteenth century, Westfield supported both Azariah Clark's Westfield Tavern and Thomas Baker's Inn and Tavern. The early Inn and Tavern, a stop on the Old York Road, which ran from New York to Philadelphia probably entering the village from the East via Benson Place and passing down Broad Street where it turned up Jerusalem Road and thence to Scotch Plains, provided a haven for refreshment and rest for travelers. It also offered a place to get news, transact legal and other business, and view traveling shows replete with "Monstrous Sights" and wild animals. Men played a game called "fives" resembling modern handball, so named because one hit a small ball against the tavern wall with five fingers. The game became so disruptive in Jersey taverns that the legislature banned it.



"The Driftway," a colonial road still visible in today's Westfield, viewed from Mountain Avenue.



The Westfield Inn can be seen above the store fronts on East Broad Street because it was raised one story and placed on a brick foundation.

The Westfield Tavern became famous for its "flip," a blend of rum and beer. Innkeeper Clark would thrust a red-hot poker into a quart of malt-beer, add half a pint of rum, and sprinkle the foam with grated nutmeg. This drink, whose name may have derived from its impact on the purchaser, cost three pence.

Although austere in religious doctrine, eighteenth-century Presbyterians enjoyed strong drink — and often imbibed before attending long services in an unheated building. When the legislature prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages during actual services, a wag noted that "the townmen were frozen out of the taverns to be frozen in the meeting-houses."

Aside from the taverns, general store, blacksmith shop, and tannery, there were other business enterprises in the 18th-century village of Westfield. Ephraim Marsh developed quite a line of fine horses which he sold. Lambert's grist mill, established in the early 1730s, and powered by a wind mill, ground grain and made cider and liquor. Lambert sold flour and other items in his roadside store. His son James improved the mill by damming the stream which flows into Robinson's Branch to develop water power.

WELCH BROS.,
Dealers in
Painters Supplies, Window Shades, Paper
Hangings, Glass,
Lubricating Oils, &c.
Broad Street, near Elm. Westfield, N. J.

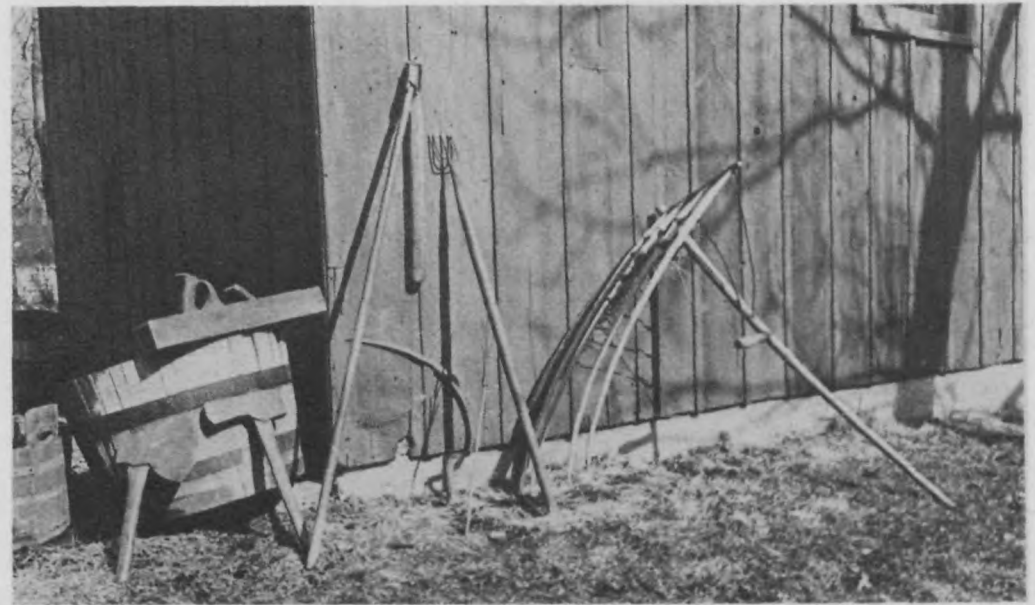
Mme. ANDREWS,
ARTISTE DE LA MODES.
Importer and Manufacturer of
FINE MILLINERY.
BROAD STREET. WESTFIELD, N. J.
Residence cor Orchard street and Mountain avenue.



Simeon Lambert Home, 1847-1879
John Lambert Home, 1879-1900
Store and Living Quarters attached at left.

Henry Baker built another grist mill on Nomahegan Brook at the current entrance to Echo Lake Park, an area once known as Branch Mills. William Darby and then Ezra Parkhurst took over the enterprise during the 19th century. Parkhurst built a larger dam and increased the water power enough to roll pasteboard. With the death of Parkhurst's sons at the turn of the 20th century, a speculator purchased the property but failed to develop it and finally sold it in 1924 to the Union County Park Commission.

Back in the eighteenth century, inhabitants of Westfield village had little time to enjoy parks. Residents wore their own homespun wool, drank cider made from their own apples, made their own johnny-cake, and generally lived off the produce they grew in their gardens. Farming went forward under techniques little advanced beyond those of Biblical times. Most settlers made their own wooden plows, hand scythes, and furniture. Social life was confined to the church, the tavern, or "bees" held during harvests or barn-raising. Youngsters particularly relished the corn roasts. As Governor Belcher noted: "Take this Province in the lump, it is the best country I have seen for men of middling fortunes, and for people who have to live by the sweat of their brows."



Parkhurst Mill (Mill Lane, Mountainside)

Part of the early farm tools at the Miller-Cory Museum



The home of Aunt Phoebe Ross was located on Broad St. This was one of Westfield's oldest homes. In 1882 Aunt Phoebe died, at the age of 95. She was one of the community's most beloved citizens.



First Telephone exchange, Trenchard's store, Broad and Prospect Streets

The village proved to be a fine place to raise sheep. Town records show, however, that this enterprise entailed serious risks, since local dogs preyed upon the many flocks. The town taxed dog owners to pay sheep raisers for the animals killed by dogs.

Still, New Jersey was seen by many as a delightful colony, a particularly healthful place. A settler wrote that "the Air of this Province is very Serene, Sweet, and Wholesome . . ." One Charles Gordon of Woodbridge tried to dissuade his brother from beginning a medical practice in New Jersey, "for I hear of no diseases here to cure but some Agues, and some cutted legs and fingers . . ."

One hopes that neither of these writers ever became sick, for eighteenth-century medical practice in this region was hopelessly backward. Dr. Moses G. Elmer of Turkey (New Providence) treated Ephraim Miller for an unknown disease for two months with powders of sal ammoniac, cream of tartar, plus cathartic, emetic, purging, and anodyne pills, fourteen blood-lettings, elixirs, blistering plasters on his head and shoulders, and insertion of a thread under the skin at the nape of the neck to create a drainage. Fortunately, Miller survived to pay Dr. Elmer.

In those early days, many ordinary men did not rely on or trust professionals. Moses Elmer's brother Philemon, who cared for the ill in Westfield, had some lively competition from Indian medicine men who sold cure-alls here until the colonial legislature passed a law in 1772, stating that any such mountebank who "erected a stage for the sale of drugs or medicines of any kind shall, for every such offense, forfeit the sum of twenty pounds." Despite this law, such shows were staged in town at the corner of Broad and Elm streets until 1893. There were no lawyers in the early village of Westfield. Elsewhere in the state they were thought to be a "numerous breed" and were much criticized for their high fees. Of physicians and lawyers one Jerseyman wrote that he hoped his state would "never have occasion for the tongue of one and the pen of the other, both equally destructive to man's estate and lives; forsooth they hang men, have a license to murder, and make mischief."



214 East Broad Street



Elm Street, circa 1900

P. TRAYNOR,

DEALER IN

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS,

Flour, Feed, Grain, Baled Hay, Straw, &c

ELM STREET, COR. BROAD,

WESTFIELD, N. J.

Westfield had few professionals, but some eighteenth-century residents owned and traded slaves. Save for New York, New Jersey had more slaves at the end of the century than any other colony north of Maryland. Following a slave revolt in 1741 in New York City, fears of a "Negro conspiracy" in Elizabethtown led to brutal repression throughout the region. Elizabethtown Freeholders honored two bills from Daniel Harrison for "wood Carted for Burning two Negroes." Some fourteen slaves were burned at the stake and another eighteen were hanged out of fear of "the conspiracy." In 1780, Pastor Benjamin Woodruff of the Presbyterian Church baptized the offspring of his slaves and married "my Negro Frank to Dr. Elmer's Negro woman Flora."

Although slavery diminished during the early 19th century, the economic development of the Westfield area during that time came slowly. The Panics of 1819 and 1837 retarded economic development throughout New Jersey. Population growth approached zero. Although the beginnings of the industrial revolution sparked development of steam-powered mills and brought the end of household manufacturing in this region, Westfielders — cut off from New York by the lack of direct rail connection, lacking water power, and located outside the main manufacturing area — did not participate to a significant degree. An historian in 1882 recounted that "for nearly a century" preceeding, there was "absolutely no growth" in Westfield. Only when the Central Railroad of New Jersey built its bridge across Newark Bay in 1864 and newcomers settled here did Westfield begin to experience some minor commercial development.



Elm Street stores and post office, circa 1900



North Avenue Hotel, circa 1900



Westfield's first monthly journal, "The Townsman," began publication in 1875.

GILBY & DRAKE,
SUCCESSORS TO JAMES T. PIERSON.

Dry-Goods and Groceries,
OIL CLOTH, MATTING,
CROCKERY, BALED HAY, STRAW, &c.

ALSO AGENTS FOR
Martinez & Longman's Paints.
Domestic, Sewing Machines.
Try our extra mixed Coffee.
Butter and Cheese a specialty.

W. W. Gilby. Van P. Drake.



The Wittke Drugstore, Broad and Elm Street, circa 1900



Quimby Street, circa 1912

The Panic of 1873, however, hit Westfield hard and knocked the bottom out of the developing real estate market. Following several years of recession, business growth began anew. Gilbey and Drake succeeded to James T. Pierson's grocery business, expanded the store, and improved it noticeably. Cash & Collins built a major printing establishment in 1886. John Ingram's Hardware, Stoves and Plumbing grew when he bought out Kuck's plumbing and tinning store in 1877. After leaving Pierson's grocery business, L. M. Whitaker founded his own real estate and insurance firm which quickly became the major real estate office in town. C. A. Smith opened his coal yard in 1876. The best grocery of the 1870s was Patrick Traynor's Centennial Grocery — named in honor of the centennial of the American Revolution. B. H. Woodruff ran a quality meat market from 1872 on.

Westfield's first financial institution, the Union Dime Savings Bank, opened in 1870 in the Robert French home on the east side of Elm Street at North Avenue. It advertised that "Deposits made by **MARRIED WOMEN**, of their own money and in their own names, cannot be drawn out by their **HUSBANDS**."

During the 1880s real estate boomed. Approximately two hundred new residents arrived each year from 1882 onward. The first monthly journal in town, the *Townsman*, begun in 1875, carried an account of "a much needed improvement" made by shopkeepers Gale, Townley, Clark, Bayard, and Darsh: they had installed sidewalks. Sidney Genung published the first weekly newspaper, the *Westfield Monitor*, on December 23, 1880. It attempted to "speak with fairness, applauding virtue and condemning vice in public places, whenever and wherever found . . ." The Westfield Board of Trade and the Westfield Building and Loan both began in 1888.

DEPOSIT BOOK
No. 1,529.

DIME SAVINGS INSTITUTION,
Plainfield, N. J.

Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Evenings from 6 to 8

Deposits made by **MARRIED WOMEN**, of their own money, and in their own names, cannot be drawn out by their **HUSBANDS**.

WILLIAMS & PLUM,
BANK AND MERCANTILE PROPERTY AND STATIONERS,
NEWARK, N. J.



National Bank of New Jersey, Broad and Elm Street, circa 1900

At the end of the century, Westfield was on its way to becoming a thriving town. It boasted three hotels, a watchmaker, a carriage and wagon builder, J. S. Irving's Coal, Lumber and Building Materials, R. M. French's furniture store, plumbers, tinsmiths, a cigar emporium, Claude Vialon's Stained Glass Works, a "surgeon dentist," and a variety of other establishments. The *Westfield Leader* began publishing in 1890.

The town's major bank, First National Bank of Westfield (now the National Bank of New Jersey) displaced the circus grounds when it was constructed in 1893 on the pie-shaped lot on the corner of Elm and Broad streets. During its early decades, flooding from an underground stream which flowed beneath Broad Street plagued the bank. Other banks began in 1907 and 1912. The National Bank of Westfield, opened in 1912, shared the Post Office Building on Elm Street north of Broad Street with the postal workers.

In the 1890s the town needed services. Telephones were installed in 1895 when Westfield was connected with Plainfield. A small switchboard at the rear of Trenchard's Drug Store had eighteen subscribers. When Trenchard closed his store in the evening, he ended telephone service. In the 1890s trolleys of the Elizabeth-Plainfield Street Railway served the town. The Elizabethtown Gas Company piped gas to residents in 1899. The twelve earliest electric street lamps in town, however, were privately owned. Water from the Union Water Company flowed to Westfield hydrants in 1893.

Westfield's allure brought movie makers here in 1910 and 1911. Biograph film company shot seven Mary Pickford films in Westfield during those years, including *A Plain Song*, *A Lucky Toothache*, *A Child's Impulse*, *When a Man Loves*, and *Muggsy's First Sweetheart*. Sharp-eyed viewers of these films can still make out some of the old stores, farms, houses, and the tracks near the railroad station.



A float from an early July 4th Parade entered by the French family furniture store



Elm Street and North Avenue, circa 1912



J. S. Irving Coal & Lumber Yard before the Central Avenue underpass was built

Some years later, convinced that the town would grow if New Yorkers were informed of its charms, Westfield ran a full page advertisement in the Sunday *New York Herald*. According to one of the residents, however, the advertisement benefitted the *Herald* more than the town. The Board of Trade then adopted a scheme to advertise Westfield by sponsoring a "Know Your Town" exhibit in May, 1914. Boosters gave school children and commuters "Know Your Town" buttons and made a model of the proposed Mindowaskin Park to display in old Washington School. The exhibit showed over one hundred facets of town life — from an organization chart of town government to a "Sand Table, exhibiting phases of school work."

Governor James F. Fielder attended the opening of the four-day exhibit. The (*Westfield Standard* noted that "no pains or expense have been spared" in developing the displays. Nay-sayers were ridiculed. Each visitor to the exhibit was given a small hammer, which was later substituted for a tiny horn. Told to toot the horn, the visitors soon realized that Westfielders should "quit knocking and start boosting." Thus was the "Westfield Spirit" born in 1914. Soon after the exhibit, Royden P. Whitcomb edited a sophisticated illustrated monthly magazine, *Westfield Life*, which carried short stories, local history, and society news. War inflation, however, forced Whitcomb to cease publication in July, 1918.

Since the turn of the century, thanks in large part to former Town Engineer John Hopkins, real estate has been wisely developed. Indeed, the town has emerged as a community of fine homes. Herbert R. Welch developed the Westfield Gardens area during the two decades before the First World War to house some of the five thousand persons who moved into town at that time. His success was followed by Arthur R. Rule's planning of Wychwood during the 1920s. In connection with John Wanamaker, Rule had the "Wonder House" that Wanamaker displayed in his New York store built for occupancy in Wychwood. During 1927, housing construction in town reached a high point when 265 homes were built. Despite the Great Depression, Colonel Leigh M. Pearsall in 1934 opened the Indian Forest section where streets bear Indian names.



A 1920's view of Westfield Gardens showing Mountain Avenue at the right and Highland Avenue houses in the upper left portion of the picture.



East Broad Street, circa 1900

Westfield Hotel,

BROAD STREET,

WESTFIELD, N. J.

FRED K COOMBS, Proprietor.

JOHN INGRAM,
Hardware, Plumbing, Tin and Slate Roofing,
STEAM and HOT-AIR HEATING.



FLUID SECTIONAL STEAM AND
HOT-WATER HEATER OVER
3,000 LBS.

GROTON, WROUGHT IRON
TUBULAR BOILER
FOR THE MERITS OF BOTH STYLES CALL ON JOHN INGRAM
Estimates free of charge.
WESTFIELD, N. J.

Since World War II, Westfield has become a mecca for professionals. As early as 1911, town spokesmen boasted that "the best physicians in the country reside in and around Westfield . . ." In 1929 twenty-nine dentists were employed here; by 1975 there were fifty-two. During the same time the number of physicians went from fifty to seventy-five. The number in the legal profession in town during those years has remained level at about twenty-five.

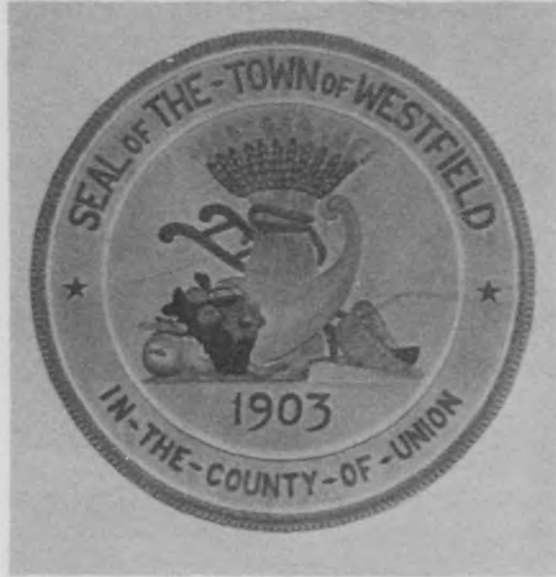
Good residential housing and far-sighted zoning, of course, drew prosperous residents and stimulated business. During the twentieth century, industry was restricted to a small district, and Westfield attracted fine stores instead. The Town Council developed parking behind Broad Street in the 1950s and spurred economic development. The apprehension during those years surrounding the "mystery building" on Elm Street, which became the Finast supermarket, proved unfounded. Despite initial fears in the early 1960s that the construction of Hahne's Department Store on its present site might pull shoppers out of the center of town, its presence since has enhanced the business community and attracted consumers from other communities. As the town grew, the live poultry market and the pool parlor disappeared. Specialty shops catering to the affluent multiplied.

As business developed following World War II, so did business organizations. The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, begun in 1956, has served the town well through its committees on retail promotion, parking and traffic and through its support of the Miller-Cory House. The Westfield Board of Realtors, organized in 1923, began its multiple listing system in 1949. It now includes some sixty-two firms. Real estate and business remain central to Westfield's economic health. Although much has changed since the days of the original Indian traders, Westfielders still know the value of land and how to barter.



Intersection of Broad and Elm Street, circa 1910

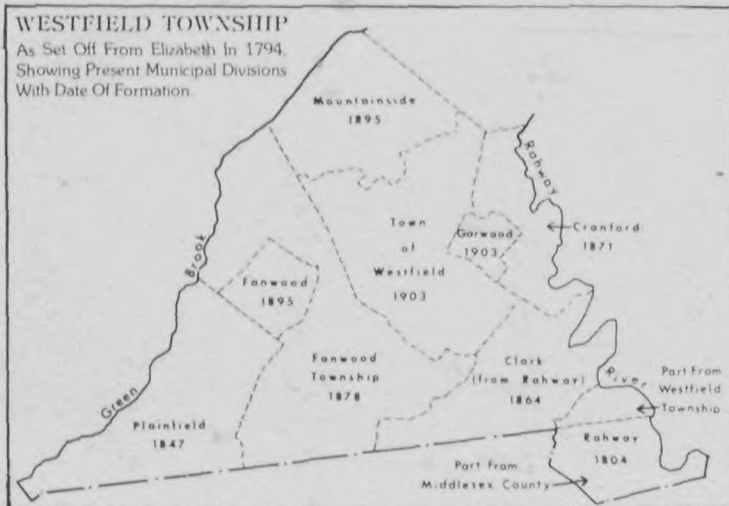
Government: From Township To Municipality



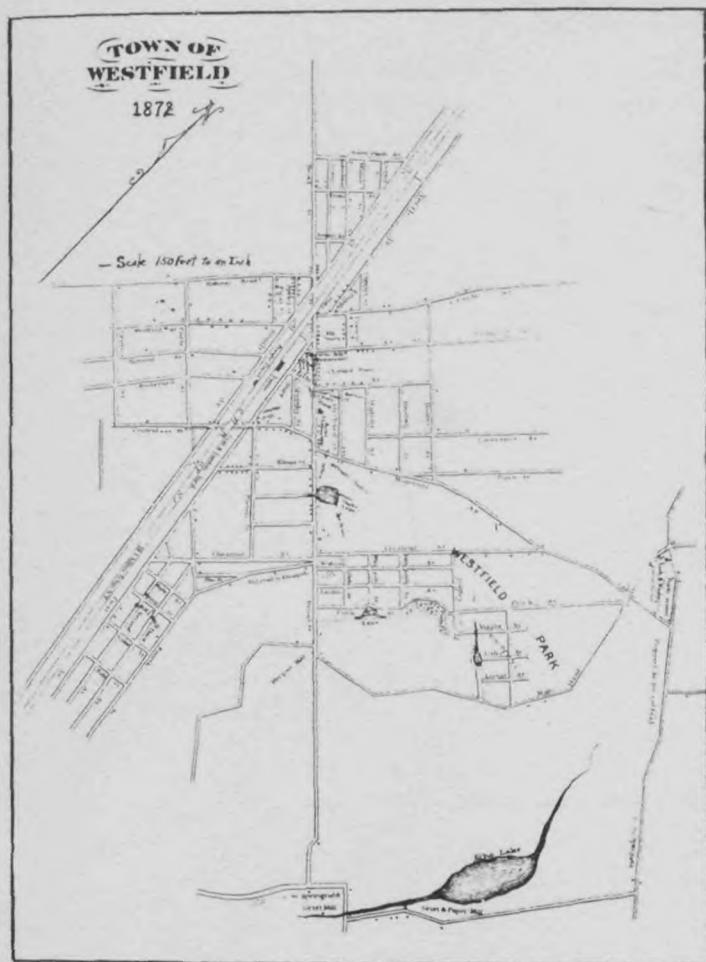
Before the American Revolution, the West Fields were part of Elizabethtown. Shortly after the colonies separated from the Mother Country, Westfield villagers grew weary of traveling to Elizabethtown for their municipal services. As part of the movement toward independence and local control of that time, Westfield detached herself from Elizabethtown. The state legislature passed a resolution creating the Township of Westfield on January 27, 1794. The new Township of Westfield encompassed Scotch Plains, Plainfield, Fanwood, Clark, Garwood, Mountainside, and portions of Cranford and Rahway.

At Westfield's first township meeting in April, 1794, held in the schoolhouse opposite the town green, the eligible voters elected Daniel Marsh first moderator, Ephraim Marsh and Benjamin Laing freeholders, and David Osborn town clerk. Daniel Marsh also became Justice of Peace. The meeting placed nearly every prominent citizen on the committee to oversee the roads, made a pledge of \$100 "to support the Poor," and named the assessors and collectors of the taxes. Men and women by the statutes of 1790 and 1797 "who are worth \$50 proclamation money" could vote. By 1807, however, women lost the franchise by a state law justified as being "highly necessary to the safety, quiet, good order and dignity of the State." Its proponents argued that in some elections women had voted early and often.

Judging from the faded letter of a resident of that time, Westfielders greeted the birth of the new township with an enthusiasm perhaps greater than that with which they celebrated the end of the Revolutionary War. For the party in Captain Stamburg's home, Sheriff Marsh supplied an ox which was roasted whole. Others brought pies, doughnuts, and various other items, including "cider and metheglin for the entertainment of the men." "Such feasting and rejoicing," the letter noted, "you never saw."



"The Little Giant," Westfield's first fire engine, 1875



Government of the small village in the early nineteenth century did not demand much time, except for those responsible for the condition of the roads. Mail brought to town on the stage was originally handed out at Sam Downer's store. When Downer became an official postmaster, he took the letters to church services in his hat and either handed them out to the recipients or had others take them to their neighbors. A letter to New York or Philadelphia cost twenty-five cents, a sizeable amount at that time.

Government for the first half of the century kept track of stray cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses that wandered off the farms. The town kept a "Book of Strays" in which such entries are listed: stray sheep "there is seven, a Black one with a Hapny [ha'penny] of each Ear. Ones whit one with a Hapny of the upper side of the rite ear and a swoller [swallow] fork of on each ear, one with a slit and Hapny of on the rite ear." Other town business included paying bounties on crows, foxes, and wolves and collecting taxes on dogs and for the poor. Charles Clark reported that by 1812, the town treasury had a balance of \$38.40. "Also we report that there is \$41.39 on hand raised by the Dog Tax, all of which money we have deposited in the Town Trunk for safe keeping."

Township officials, particularly the Overseers of the Poor, had an organized system for maintaining the indigent. Townsmen who wished to have the poor as laborers on their farms, bid to become "farmers of the poor." The lowest bidder received the persons involved and a certain stipend per week from the town to care and feed them. In return, the farmer "... is to take them from where they are at the beginning of the year, and provide Food, Rainment, Washing, Lodging, Medisin, Medicle attention, Tobacco & Snuff, fitting and sufficient for performs in their situation" He was also to "... School & educate such as shall stand in need thereof at the direction of the Overseers of the poor, and the Farmer is to return the poor in as good Wearing Apparel at the years end as they were when he takes them"

Rec^d Apt. 27th 1815, of Dennis Cole, one of the committee
appointed to sell the ammunition belonging to the town
of Westfield Two Dollars twenty-five cents, in full for
buying the value of a^d ammunition at Westfield, North Plain
and Westfield
\$2.25/100
David M. Hubbard

An early "War Surplus" sale of ammunition "belonging to the Town of Westfield" and no longer needed after the War of 1812.

1794 1894

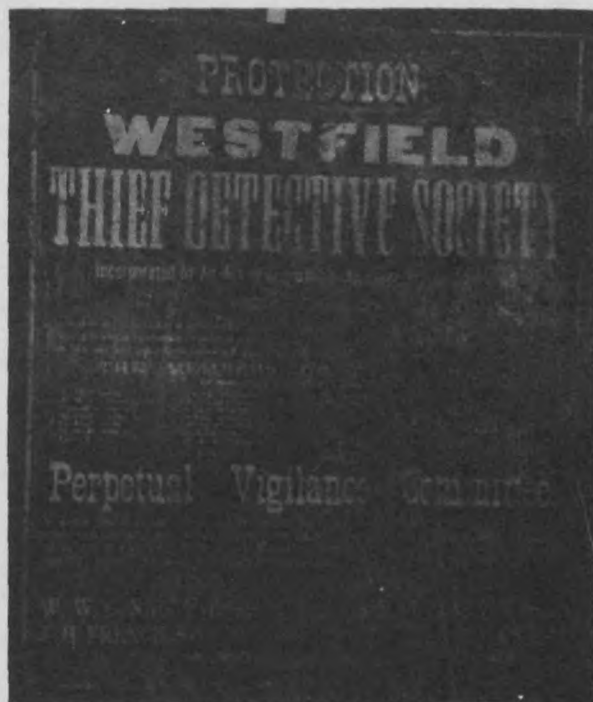
The People of Westfield, New Jersey

*invite you to the Celebration of the
Centennial of the Founding of the Township.*

Religious Exercises, Sunday, July First

Children's Exercises, Tuesday, July Third

General Celebration, Wednesday, July Fourth



Neighboring communities guarded vigilantly against becoming the wards of Westfield's poor. John Brown, Overseer of the Poor in Elizabeth wrote in 1855 in a poignant letter found in the town trunk, that the Westfield Overseers should "take notice" that an indigent Westfield woman visiting in Elizabeth had taken sick, "so that she cannot be conveniently removed back to the said township of Westfield . . ." Westfield Overseers were "hereby requested to take care of, relieve and maintain the said Mary Stanley during her illness, and also provide for her funeral if she shall die here."

Although Westfield remained relatively isolated from the world during the first part of the nineteenth century, Lieutenant Samuel Y. Clark rallied townsmen to the colors in the war of 1812 against England, "the same blood thirsty nation [which] has attempted to rob us of our freedom, plunder our property on the high seas, and drag our citizens, without judge and jury, on board of their floating dungeons, to be whipped, starved, or killed in battle far from their native shore." Perhaps out of cowardice, or because the war seemed remote, townsmen did not enlist as they had in the first war against the Mother Country. Three Westfielders who did now rest in the old burial ground. The town also purchased ammunition and flints, but for its own — as it turned out, unnecessary — defense.

After the scare of the War of 1812, township government settled back into its routines. The town meeting voted in 1835 to raise \$20.00 in order to offer a bounty of six cents for each crow scalp presented to the township committee. In 1840, the committee offered twelve and a half cents for each mink scalp.

Government then had a continuity. Town Clerk David Osborn served twenty-nine years from 1794 to 1822. Charles Clark was a member of the town committee for twenty-one years. Recompense Stanberry occupied almost every office in the township from 1794 until he retired as Moderator in 1838.

Isolation from the rest of the state ended in part with the advent of the railroad and the Civil War. Although volunteers, including William Clark, Jr. and John Pierson, met the first quota of the war, the town had to resort to bounties to fill the second. Because Westfield had no banks during the war, Simeon Lambert, whose family's mill had made him wealthy, agreed to stand behind a loan of \$10,000 to the draft committee from a Rahway bank. With this bounty money and the work of Isaac Scudder in recruiting, the town filled its second quota. Indeed, many Westfielders fought. Sixty Civil War veterans lie in Fairview Cemetery, eight in "God Acre."



WESTFIELD'S FINEST OF THE 1890s
SEATED: JOHN KNAPP JAMES HARRISON
STANDING: THOMAS O'NEILL, RIMMER WOODRUFF, GYRUS WILCOX
CAPTAIN

Westfield's finest of the 1890's



President Taft addressing Westfielders in 1912

Although the Civil War did not touch Westfield directly, the social dislocation which came in its wake brought out numbers of petty thieves, particularly "horse stealers." A Vigilance Committee quickly found that to be effective it needed the power of arrest. Chartered by the state legislature as the Westfield Thief Detective Society in 1869, the members were pledged "to be always on the alert, ever in readiness, to go at a moment's warning in all directions in the pursuit, and will spare no pains to recover the property of its members, and to arrest and inflict upon the guilty, summary and condign punishment." An early historian recounted that "the association did some good work, and many evil-doers were brought to their just deserts." During the latter part of the century, Constable "Jonnie" Marsh, the town's leading citizen, policed Westfield. Also the surveyor, the notary public, the auctioneer, and the tax assessor, "for a dollar he would draw your will or the deed to your home or your burial plot." The Police Department was finally established in 1903.

As Westfield moved toward its one hundredth birthday as a political unit at the end of the nineteenth century, the population was approximately three thousand. Officials held the centennial banquet at the Westfield Club on Elm Street and included women and banned liquor — despite a movement among some men to include the liquor and ban the ladies. The diners feasted:

THE BANQUET MENU AND TOASTS

Blue Points

Mock Turtle
Kennebec Salmon
Parisienne Potatoes

Consomme Royal Printannier
Sauce Crevettes
Cucumber Salad

Vol au Vent Aux Truffles

Flageolets
Filet de Boeuf Aux Champignons
Sorbet Westfield
Cotelettes d'Agneau

Pomme Duchesse

Cigarettes

Roast Quail
Bisque d'Orleans
Sweat Bread Croquettes

Current Jelly
Jardiniers

Green Peas a la Francois

Dressed Celery
Panier en Bellevue

Petit Fours

Gateaux

Cafe

Cheese

Cigars



Westfield Club House, Elm Street



East Broad Street business section, before the fire of 1874



The same area, after the fire



Teddy Roosevelt brought his campaign to town on May 25, 1912

The event, wrote the author of a history of the county, was celebrated in a "right royal manner." The *Union County Standard* noted that "an orchestra discoursed high-class music at intervals" and "venerable Squire Pearsall" sang "The Sword of Bunker Hill." Guests examined a collection of Revolutionary War relics. The banqueters' group singing, wrote the *Standard*, "was hearty in the extreme." The Fourth-of-July celebration that year began at dawn and included a thirty-two-gun salute, a forty-four-gun salute, literary exercises, boys' races, and a "splendid civic, industrial and military parade."

The great industrial upsurge in America during the latter part of the nineteenth century touched off a reform drive called the progressive movement. In Westfield, progressives formed a Good Government Club. Under the township system the school district got its share of state aid, and a group of merchants formed the Westfield Fire Department Association and created a fire department in 1875 following the fire of 1874 that destroyed a large section of the area on the north side of Broad Street and west of Elm Street. In addition, new board sidewalks and sewers had been installed since the 1890s. Yet the men of the Good Government Club wanted to replace the township government — primarily intended for rural communities — with a city government.

The proponents struggled in vain to get the voters to approve the change. Westfielders, although willing to support some alteration in their system, believed that making Westfield a city would place the school system under the management of city officials and would lead to graft, "bosses," and mismanagement. Following many lengthy public discussions and debates, and despite a recommendation of a committee headed by William Tuttle favoring city government, the voters opted to become an incorporated town as defined by the Town Act of 1895. A delegation from the township went to Trenton where the governor signed a bill incorporating Westfield on March 4, 1903.

Following incorporation, Westfield witnessed the growth of civil pride under the leadership of its first mayor Martin Welles. Miss Emma Bridges and Mrs. Eliza K. Delameter donated the land to create the triangular park at Mountain and Lawrence avenues in 1906. The initial improvement of the old grade crossing at Broad Street and Clark Street began. The town council undertook to print its minutes.

The progressive movement culminated nationally in 1912 when Theodore Roosevelt launched his own Progressive Party in a split with the regular Republicans under President William Howard Taft. T. R. brought his campaign to town on May 25, 1912. The former president noted that he "had a kindly feeling" for Taft, but that Taft "ought to take the lead



In 1906 the triangle of land at Mountain and Lawrence Avenue became Westfield's first park.

THE BOYS of '17

FROM WESTFIELD NEW JERSEY

TO THE CENSORS
This little bulletin is sent for the sole purpose of keeping those in the government service from Westfield, New Jersey, in touch with each other during the war. We shall strive at all times to have it contain nothing deleterious.

Issued every little while with the compliments and best wishes of Leigh M. Pearsall to Uncle Sam's Soldiers and Sailors from good old Westfield.

No. 8. MAY. 10. 1918



TWO REASONS WHY THE KAISER IS DOOMED



A journal published to keep Westfield servicemen in touch during World War I

for betterment." Taft, in town the day before, reminded residents that Roosevelt had earlier supported him as President and brought laughs from the crowd by comparing T. R.'s earlier and later comments. Westfield's presidential voters that year evenly divided their choices between Taft, Roosevelt, and the chief beneficiary of the Republican split, Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

Wilson's call to war in 1917 brought out sustained patriotic effort among Westfielders. Some residents cared for those injured in the powerful explosion at the Morgan munitions plant in Perth Amboy of that year. The town oversubscribed all the Liberty Loan drives. Seven thousand young men registered for the draft, and many of those 486 selected by the local committee left for the front after a dinner in the parish house of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a patriotic ceremony on the "campus" of the high school. Townsmen observed "heatless Mondays," "gasolineless Saturdays," and grew their own vegetables to restore supplies drained off for shipment to the war zone. Residents sold vegetables in a temporary commercial market. Clubs and service organizations mushroomed: a Westfield Rifle Club, a local branch of the American Red Cross, and most important, a Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense led a food card canvas, taught home economics at the high school, and supplied four-minute women speakers. At Red Cross headquarters the women reportedly encouraged others to "reduce the eat in meat, and toot the tute in substitute."

To keep Westfield's servicemen in touch with each other during the war, Col. Leigh M. Pearsall, editor of the *Union County Standard*, published a journal, *The Boys of '17*, which townsmen mailed to the men in uniform. In it Alfred E. Pearsall noted that "no place in all the United States, big or little, that I've heard of, has shown greater patriotism in men, mind and money than our own bully Westfield . . ." Medic John K. Clark wrote his thanks for the magazine and the American flag that went out with the first issue. At Fort Slocum Clark joked that he "was given a pair of trousers that were big enough to fit Fire Chief Decker, up in Westfield. I used a shoe horn to get into the coat they gave me. I was a sure enough sight." Patriotism ran high in the pages of the *Boys of '17*. Coleman T. Clark, who had enlisted in the French Ambulance Corps after failing to get into the U. S. Army in France, wrote, "The one thing above all others that I want to do, is to march as a soldier against the Kaiser." In so doing, he lost his life in France.

As in the War of 1812, Westfield prepared for a possible invasion. Police Commissioner J. J. Thomas created a fifty-five-man secret Police Reserve to ferret out enemy sympathizers. The *Boys of '17* reported that the reserves' "fire arms are concealed, and they have mingled among their fellow townsmen without it being evident that they were 'doing their stunt.'"



Early municipal building on Prospect Street

WESTFIELD LADS PUTTING THEIR ALL INTO LICKING THE HUN

On the Job Morning to Night and Night to Morning Here and
Abroad, Getting Ready For the Big Push

NOT A GROUCH IN THE LOT

A World War I headline

The town developed a plan to defend itself; catalogued town automobiles; recorded newcomer's nationalities; and placed an alarm whistle atop Tuttle Bros. Coal and Lumber Yard near the railroad at Westfield Avenue. Mayor Henry W. Evans banned the sale of German language periodicals in town. The Free Public Library cancelled its subscription to the *New Republic* because it was of "the slacker variety." Westfield prepared so extensively that she became a model for other communities. Youngsters unable to fight read that era's propaganda stories: *Hunting the Hun*, *Out of the Jaws of Hunland*, and the classic *From Base Ball to Boches*. Moving picture theaters in the region played *Wolves of Kultur*, the *Hounds of Hunland*, and *The Kaiser — Beast of Berlin*, a film shot in Ft. Lee.

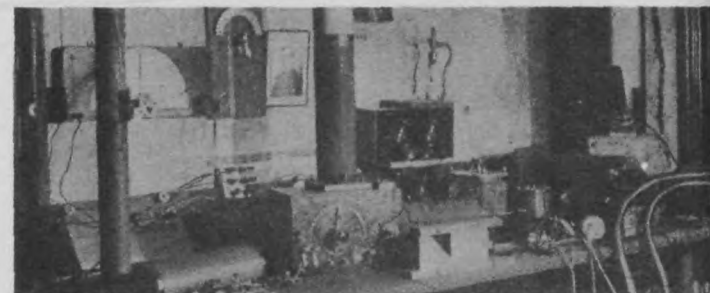
Undoubtedly influenced by the fierce propaganda about the struggle against the "Huns," one Westfielder wrote his sister about how he and his fellows in the American Expeditionary Force came upon three Germans. "I took the one nearest me for mine and believe me I gave him hell. I caught him right in the throat with my 'Bolo' and almost separated his head from his shoulders. He was dead in two minutes." He noted that "it does a fellow's heart good to get one of those woman killers to his credit. I want to get one for each of my people before I quit."

Doughboy Salter Storrs Clark, who would give his life in the war, wrote home to describe a region which had been the scene of a major battle. "The only shelter I could see would be in that succession of villages. Without exception, every one was shot to pieces; you could see a hole in every wall . . ." Clark saw "trees cut off half way by shells," "a dead horse or mule in mid-stream," "Hun helmets here and there." He found one poetic sight: "squarely on top of the Bosch hill was still standing a monument closely resembling the Statue of Liberty, the figure facing toward France."

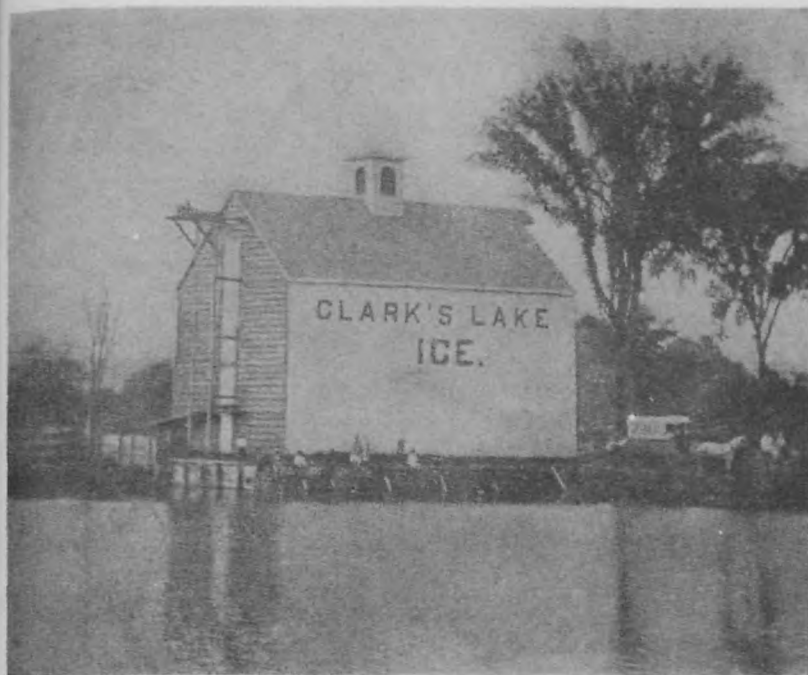
Back in Westfield, the exceptionally cold winter of 1917-18 brought a fuel crisis. Mobilization had produced such a glut of railroad cars moving to the eastern seacoast that railroads became snarled at the ports. Coal from the Appalachian range could not move into eastern cities. Cold froze Raritan Bay and the Arthur Kill. Coal shipment into New York by water became impossible. Lacking coal to heat their homes, Westfielders opened their water taps to keep pipes from freezing. This drain deprived the town of its water supply for some twenty-four hours and led to the danger of fire. Police enforced a closing of water spigots. Only after massive federal intervention were railroad arteries opened and coal shipments resumed.



Tuttle Brothers Lumber Co., west of the present circle, circa 1905



The Wireless Wizard built an apparatus at his place on Carleton Road that was as powerful as any in the world. He was the first to use a phonograph to record messages. That's how he caught the German spies sending code messages to U-boats from Sayville, L. I.



Ice house at Clark's Lake, now Mindowaskin Pond



1923 ceremony dedicating monument at Plaza to the World War I dead.

Patriotism, prosperity, and the progressive impulses of those times, however, joined to bring to fruition two major improvements: Mindowaskin Park and the Plaza, both sparked by Mayor Evans. The land east of the Presbyterian Church had been improved during the 19th century by the Thomas Clark family, who dammed the stream at Broad Street and transformed the stream and marsh into what became known as Clark's Lake. This small lake provided Westfield with its ice during the post Civil War era. An ice house stood on the northeast side of the lake until 1888, when it burned. Behind the lake at Mountain Avenue, though, sat Peckham's dump.

Despite strenuous opposition from a group known as the "clinks," whom Park Commissioner James E. Grape called "calamity howlers and fault-finders," a citizens committee purchased the lake tract in 1907 and turned it over to the town as a park site. Arthur N. Pierson, chairman of the committee, planned the park, had the swamp dredged, the road built, and converted Peckham's dump into a beautiful Mountain Avenue entrance. The park — named by Charles Philhower — was dedicated in 1918.

Pierson also led the struggle to create the Plaza and underpass at Broad Street and North and South avenues. The site was a "junkman's paradise" of dilapidated shacks, outhouses, shanties, and Tuttle Brothers Coal and Lumber Yard. The Broad Street grade crossing was dangerous, despite flagman Billy Applegate, who often entertained bystanders with his banjo. Westfield Avenue at that time ran underneath the tracks to North Avenue through a narrow and dangerous underpass.

Pierson negotiated an agreement with the Central Jersey Railroad by which the town paid only 10 percent of the cost of shifting the underpass westward and widening it to three times its size. The excellent contract meant that the town contributed only \$46,500 to a project which eventually skyrocketed to \$773,000. Workers moved Tuttle's mill, tore down the buildings opposite the Methodist Church, and demolished some shacks on Clark Street. Workmen completed the park, underpass, and Plaza in 1919.

Townsmen, however, had mixed feelings in 1923 when the Plaza became a memorial to those who died in the First World War. News of the deaths of Coleman Clark and Martin Wallberg came just following a gala 1918 Fourth-of-July celebration. Eventually the number of Westfield dead climbed to eighteen. To honor them, the town erected in 1923 a granite shaft topped by a bronze monument to the goddess Clio, the muse of history, at the Plaza and named "Gold Star" streets for those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.



The last trolley comes thru the underpass near the Plaza on its way to the "barn" on Grove Street.



Festival of Dedication

...of...

The Public Park

Westfield, New Jersey

Saturday, June 1, 1918

The epidemic of influenza which spread through the town in November, 1918, marred the celebration of the armistice with Germany. Already short of doctors and nurses due to the war, the townspeople rallied to a call for volunteers and turned the Children's Country Home into an emergency hospital under the direction of the Board of Health. Miss Clara Cordua, school nurse, directed the volunteers. Despite their efforts, nearly one fourth of the one hundred stricken with the disease died, making influenza as deadly to our population as the fighting in Europe had been.

During the "Roaring Twenties" Westfield grew and suffered a few new ailments. More residents owned motor cars than ever before. A wave of automobile hold-ups occupied police from December, 1920 to March, 1921. Within one week the highwaymen stopped twelve autos by blockading the roads and even highjacked the trolley. The Harding-Coolidge-Hoover years were, however, mostly pleasant ones for Westfield. Newcomers flocked to town, raising the population from 9,063 in 1920 to 15,801 in 1930.

The Great Depression hit Westfield with weaker force than it rocked less fortunate communities, but hard times came with the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing economic decline. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt closed the nation's banks on March 5, 1933, William Beard, president of the Westfield Trust Company, stood outside his institution to comfort a crowd of depositors.

As part of the National Recovery Act's program of business-government cooperation, Westfield's Alan Bruce Conlin became local NRA administrator. Conlin got support from Westfield businessmen for the NRA drive to increase prices and wages and re-employ those out of work. In October, 1933, he and other officials organized a gala NRA parade through town. Practically every town organization participated, some with floats. Five thousand persons marched, causing the *Westfield Leader* to write that it was "the most colorful and inspiring demonstration ever held here."

New Deal agencies helped Westfield. A 1934 Public Works Administration grant of \$275,000 led to the building of Woodrow Wilson School. The Works Progress Administration built the Field House on Rahway Avenue. The National Youth Administration helped organize the Westfield Community Center. Westfield was one of the first towns in this area to employ workers from the Civil Works Administration in street repair and flood damage during February, 1934. The Westfield Trust Company received cash for its bonds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and aided home owners in refinancing mortgages through the Home Owners Loan Corporation. The New Dealers erected the



Mindowaskin Park, created in 1918, on town land purchased in 1907



The Rahway Avenue Field House was built in 1934 by the Works Progress Administration.

present post office. But Westfield's traditionally conservative residents never became too enamored with the New Deal. In 1936, when Roosevelt was carrying every state but Maine and Vermont, voters here backed his opponent Alfred Landon three-to-one.

For those Westfielders with sons stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 — and there were some — the outbreak of World War II hit home like a thunderbolt. No Westfield men were killed in the Japanese attack, but panic seized some local officials. A Civil Defense Council informed citizens "to make certain that no whistles, bells or other normal signaling devices be used during the upcoming New Year's Eve celebration, . . . to avoid any confusion with actual air raid stations."

As in the first war, however, more sensible heads eventually brought about an orderly mobilization. Ten thousand Westfielders donated blood — over one hundred became members of the "gallon club." A Ration Board controlled fuel, food, and tires. The Civil Defense Council coordinated a multitude of agencies, from the Red Cross child care to air raid wardens. Three thousand Red Cross workers knitted for servicemen. Over two thousand young men and women entered the military service. Sixty-eight were killed during the war.

The postwar economic boom again fueled new housing and community development. Between 1940 and 1960, the population shot from 18,458 to 31,447. In 1948 voters approved a \$2.7 million bond issue to build the Westfield High School on Dorian Road. Under Mayor Charles P. Bailey, who served on the Town Council during the war and as mayor from 1947 to 1954, and through the initiative of the Elk's Centennial Lodge No. 400, workmen cleared the unsightly Spring Street buildings and constructed the new houses on Windsor Avenue.

Mayor Bailey also brought to reality the plan for a new Municipal Building and Memorial Library. The structure opened in October, 1954. Paid for with cash from surplus, the new colonial-style structure captivated the citizens. "Could it be," wrote one man to the *Westfield Leader*, "that Westfield will slowly emerge as another but workaday Williamsburg?"

From the 1950s to the 1970s, perhaps inspired by the style of the new municipal building, the town's leaders, — notably Mayor Emerson Thomas — began to focus attention among merchants and builders on keeping a "colonial" atmosphere in the town. In the 1964 celebration of the tercentenary of the Duke of York's grant of land to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, a committee brought out a booklet entitled *Colonial Westfield*. But Westfield had by then emerged as a large suburban community facing increasing complicated governmental tasks. In 1967 Mayor Robert H. Mulreany's administration got the town to ratify and the state to grant a new charter that kept legislative authority in the town council but gave new administrative responsibilities to a professional town administrator. Thus Westfield both adapted to meet changing conditions and retained its respect for its colonial heritage.



The architecture of the 1954 Municipal Building emphasizes the colonial heritage of the town.

Transportation: From Wagon Station To Station Wagon

CHEAP TRAVELLING.



FARE, through, \$4.25.

**FOR
PHILADELPHIA,
By Day-Light.**

SWIFT-SURE MAIL COACH REVISED.
Between NEW-YORK & PHILADELPHIA, by Steam-Boat
and Splendid Stage Coaches.

Passengers by this line, start from N. York, every
Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning, at **TEN** o'clock, from Pier
No. 1, Washington-st., corner of Battery, N. York, in the Steam-Boat
John Marshall, for Elizabethtown-Point, there take Post-Coaches,
via Elizabethtown, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Plainfield, Bound Brook,
Somerville, Centreville, and lodge at Flemington. Start next morning
via Ringoes, Lambertville, New Hope, Basking' am, Willow Grove,
and Jenkintown, and arrive at Philadelphia dine. This line travels
through a pleasant part of the country, on a good road, and travelling
by day-light, will afford a pleasant mode of conveyance for ladies and
gentlemen wishing to avoid night travelling between the two cities.

For Seats, apply to **T. WHITEFIELD**, at the U.S. Mail Coach
Office, Old No. 1, Chestnut-street, second office from Broadway.

Extra Passage, Water and Packages, as far as the Company's business extends.

**T. WHITEFIELD
JAMES C. HILL
J. WHITE
J. WHITE
J. WHITE**

New York January 1882



An early trolley car at East Broad and Prospect Street

Two early New York “commuters,” Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, arrived in Elizabethtown Point in 1679. “Nowhere in the country,” they wrote, “had we been so pestered with mosquitoes . . .” A year later, forced to sleep on “a little hay before the fire,” they complained of the service at the Elizabethtown tavern: “there was nothing to be had except to warm us.”

Their criticism had merit. In 1683 a commission was appointed to “lay out and appoint all necessary highways, bridges, passages, landings, and ferries, fit and apt for traveling,” but the Jerseys lacked any semblance of travel conveniences during the 17th century. Construction of the King’s Highway and the Old York Road did not begin until the early 18th century. The Old York Road, completed in 1765, ran from Elizabethtown through the village of Westfield to Scotch Plains, Bound Brook, Three Bridges, Larison’s Corner, Coryell’s Ferry (Lambertville), and then to Philadelphia.

As Dankers and Sluyter knew, travel in colonial America could be brutal. Farmers in incorporated townships worked off taxes by maintaining the roads next to their properties, but they often neglected the job and seldom graded more than a vehicle width, if that. Spring rains made the Old York Road impassable. The rest of the year stumps, ruts, streams, and swarms of mosquitoes disrupted travel. The long-bodied stage wagons had no springs, windows, or doors. Travellers sat upon backless benches, squeezed together with their fellows. One wrote that the wagons “came near shaking the liver and lungs out of you.”

The Swift-Sure Stage Line — known also as the “Slow-Dangerous” Stage — which advertised that “our route over the Old York Road is through the finest, most pleasant and best inhabited part of the state,” serviced Westfield village. The drivers “were as skillful in handling their horses as their liquor, which many consumed at every tavern stop.” George Tingley from Westfield, who drove the route in the “Speedwell” and other coaches for over fifty years, regaled townsmen with travel stories of the old days. One stage driver’s tale testified to the road conditions of the time. A stage driver spotted a hat lying in a forbidding mud hole in the road. When the driver shouted out to see who had left it, a voice beneath the hat said, “It’s me. I think that I can climb out, but I am worried about the man beneath me. He is on horseback.”

In 1800 a wag published a sarcastic set of “Rules for Travelling in a Stage Coach”:

1. Let every man get in first, with all his baggage and sit there firmly, let who will get in, and if any other complains that the trunk is too large for the inside, let him declare that it contains great value — that he has the promise of an inside passage, and that it shall not go out.

2. At every town, let every man light his segar, and continue smoaking in the face of his fellow-travellers, and cursing the driver, during each stage; then let him light his segar again.
3. If anything is said about the general government, let every man take his segar from his mouth, blow out a volume of smoke, and then curse the President whether Adams or Jefferson.
4. If ladies are present double entendres are very convenient.

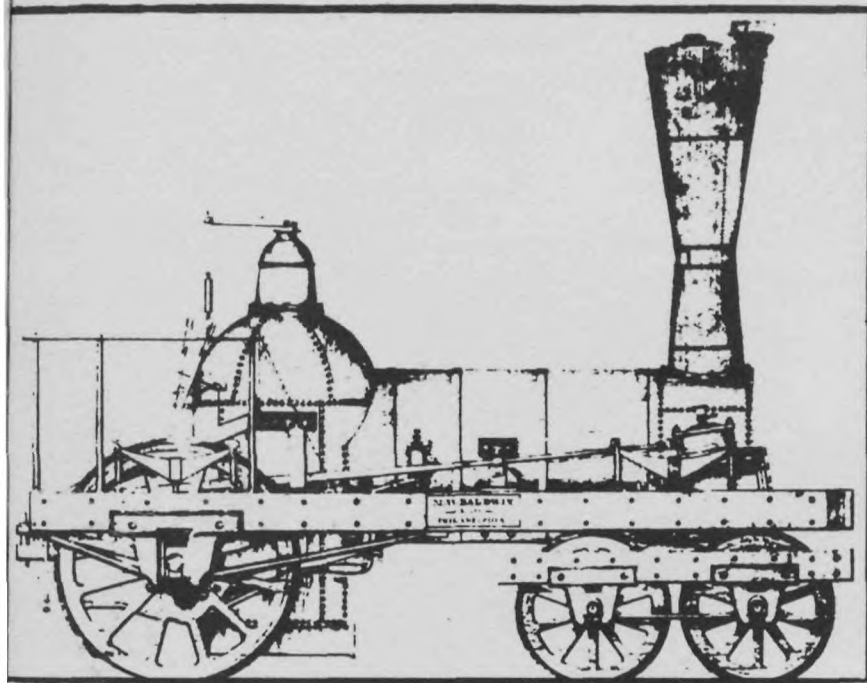
Such as it was, the Old York Road brought commerce and travelers to the village. Sheep farmers herded their flocks to market in Elizabethtown on the old road, leading tavern owners to post notices that herders should "remove their boots before climbing into bed." Washington and Lafayette traveled the road. The stage brought the village of Westfield's news, mail, and commodities, and visitors. The Westfield Tavern innkeeper, Charles Gilman, dressed in a blue coat with brass buttons, welcomed travelers to his board of bacon, beans, cabbage, and cornbread. Later the wagons became sprung carriages, and the competition among lines led to padded seats. In the early 19th century, the Swift-Sure made the trip between New York and Philadelphia in thirty hours with only one night's rest.

The railroad soon challenged the stage. Managers of the Elizabethtown and Somerville Railroad Company got a charter in 1831 and by 1838 laid track from Elizabethtown to Plainfield. Samuel Downer, Jr., a leading proponent and large investor in the railroad, proudly sat in the lead car of the first train that pulled into Westfield in May, 1838.

But the railroad faced problems. The early rails — thin iron strips — often sprang loose and made "snake heads" which delayed trains or caused accidents. The stage drivers and other horsemen refused to concede victory to the machine. Westfield's David Miller raced the train from Elizabethtown to Westfield on horseback and won. Stage drivers had a song:

Oh, it's once I made money by driving a team
 But now all is hauled on the railroad by steam,
 May the Devil catch the man that invented the plan
 For it's ruined us poor wagoners, and every other man.
 Now all you Jolly wagoners, who have got good wives,
 Go home to your farms and spend your lives.
 When your corn is all cribbed and your small grain is sowed,
 You will have nothing to do but curse the railroad.

Unprofitable operations in the 1840s forced the Elizabethtown and Somerville Railroad to sell to a group of New York entrepreneurs who reorganized the road as the Central Railroad



"The Eagle," Jersey Central's first engine, made in Philadelphia by Baldwin.



The second north side station

of New Jersey. In 1864 they built a bridge across Newark Bay to link Westfield with Jersey City. Travelers rode a ferry from there to the foot of Liberty Street in New York.

Over the years the Westfield station has moved from Mechanic Street (Central Avenue), to the area near Broad and Clark streets, to its present site. The second station building is currently on Elm Street near Quimby Street, where, remodeled, it houses the *Westfield Leader*. The Central built the northside station in 1892, the southside station after the turn of the century. The move to the present location encouraged expanded use of Elm Street between North Avenue and East Broad Street, shifted the center of town east, and set the stage for growth.

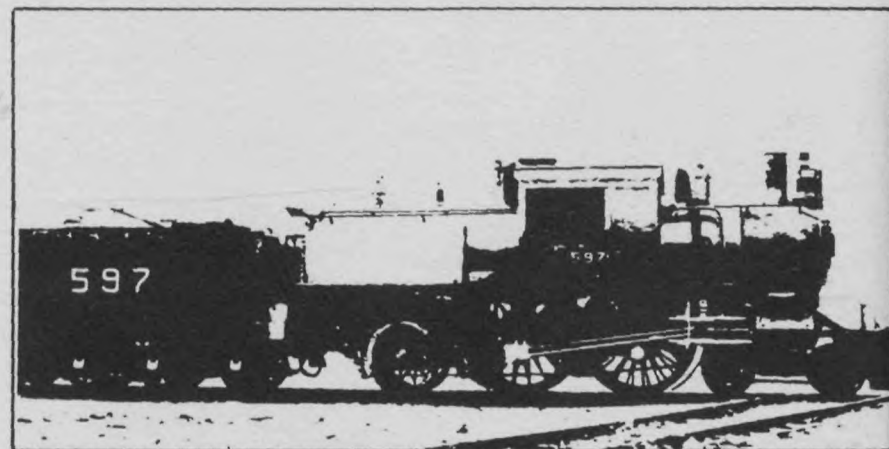
In the 1870s, once the Central provided direct rail service to Jersey City with water connection to New York, the railroad launched a publicity drive to lure New Yorkers to Westfield. Prospective home owners would travel to Westfield "with the speed of the wind" in "luxurious palace coaches." There would be, "no dust, no crowding, no accidents." Passengers would pass Elizabeth, "the whole country showing a degree of culture and improvement, hardly noticeable elsewhere." Westfield had just built a "tasty and commodious" school; its residents were noted for their longevity and were "entirely free from all inflammatory or chronic diseases." The publicists listed other advantages: cheap commutation at ten and a half cents a trip; "fine scenery"; "no importation of roughs, and no excursion trains on Sunday."

A similar brochure of 1894 asserted that "Westfield, indeed, hath charms. Where in the wide, wide world, is the grass greener, the sky bluer, or the air purer? Why, the very exhilaration of such an atmosphere sets every nerve a tingle, and the whole world aglow."

Transportation improvements had indeed changed the face of Victorian Westfield. In 1899 trolley cars of the Westfield and Elizabeth Street Railway, drawing power from overhead wires, clanged down Elm Street to Broad Street, turned right on Broad, left on South Avenue, right on Summit Avenue to Grove Street. In 1903 another trolley ran to Rahway via Boynton Avenue. Its barn, remodeled, still stands at the corner of Boynton



Jersey Central's New York piers, in days when it advertized itself as the "Allentown Route to the west."



One of the long line of "Mother Hubbards" built for the Jersey Central Railroad.



North side station, circa 1900 (note position of newstand at left of station)

Avenue and Grove Street. Cabmen driving "hacks" met commuters at the new station. In 1880 there were some two thousand persons in Westfield; in 1900 there were over four thousand. Of these, five hundred commuted to New York.

In 1903 fortunate Westfielders disembarked from the westbound local just before the "Blue Flyer" Philadelphia Express rammed the local from behind, killing twenty-three Plainfield and Dunellen commuters. In 1912 the *Westfield Leader* carried an item with a distinctly modern note: a Commuters League of Westfield, under its "energetic president," Leonard G. Venn, "intends to get better railroad service."

Commuters were emerging as a powerful force in town. *Westfield Life* proclaimed in 1918:

Do you see him entering the Westfield Station: Well-dressed, well-groomed, alert, decisive in step and movement. He is the Westfield commuter . . . With an intelligence rubbed daily on the strop of human experience, his wits have taken on a razor-like keenness . . . He is the man to be depended upon in every great crisis. He is, to a great extent, the Atlas on whose shoulders rests the burden of the community.

Changing methods of transportation continued to shape the town. Easy rail commutation to Westfield attracted new residents during the 1920s' population surge. Direct bus service to New York City after the Second World War aided commuters. But trucks and automobiles began to push aside the railroad, bus, and the trolley. Automobiles helped develop the outskirts of town and aided the doubling of the population between 1930 and 1970. Automobiles encouraged the growth of shopping malls and made Westfielders less dependent on New York. Today, less than three thousand of the town's thirty thousand residents commute regularly to New York by train. From observing traffic in town, one might believe that Westfield has gone from being a eighteenth-century wagon station to becoming a twentieth-century haven for station wagons.

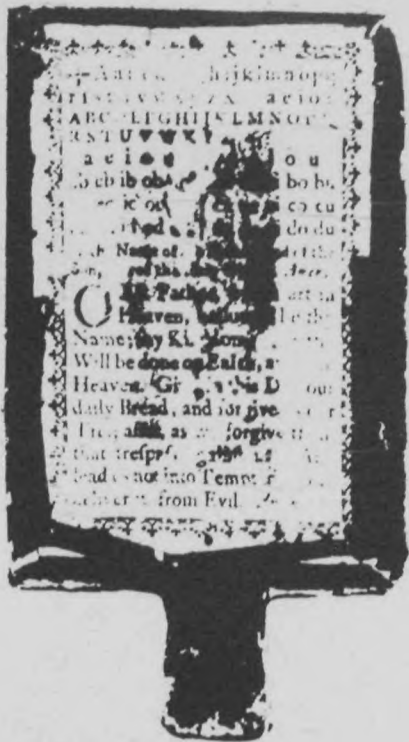


Trolley car barn, Grove Street and Boynton Avenue, circa 1905



South side station, circa 1905

Education: From Calvinism To Computers



18th-Century Hornbook

The 18th-century Presbyterian settlers of the West Fields believed with John Calvin that learning was a path to salvation. They built a log school house on the Coe farm south of East Broad Street and east of Central Avenue sometime before the Revolution. Former school master Andrew H. Clark said that it was square, had windows on each side, and was "strong enough to resist attack from the Indians."

Teachers drilled the few students who left the farms to attend class in religiously oriented works. Although we have no precise records for our particular school, eighteenth-century schools in this region commonly used a hornbook as the major teaching tool. This "book" was really only a board with a handle. A paper containing the alphabet, basic spelling, and some religious messages was held to the board beneath a thin, transparent piece of horn.

To learn the ABC's and grammar, students probably read Watt's *Hymns* and *The New England Primer's* rhymed couplets: "In Adam's fall/We sinned all." After 1783, Noah Webster's famous blue-backed speller may have instructed Westfield village students in grammar, morals, and conservative politics. Perhaps the youths struggled with *The Fortune Teller*: or an *Alphabet without Tears* or the *Instructive Alphabet*, which taught both letters and temperance.

Like other public schools in those days, the township school was neither free nor idyllic. Tuition per quarter was \$2.25. One New Jersey student recalled his experience in a system probably much like that in the village of Westfield. He recalled that the "crevices in the floor served to let the slate pencils out and the cold air in, enough to keep our feet apparently in the regions of perpetual snow, . . ." His colleagues, "the little martyrs of science" had to "sit eight mortal hours a day, while in loud and rapid whisper they conned the column of words in Webster's spelling book from 'Baker' to 'Zany' inclusive." During reading instruction, any pupil who discovered a flaw in the work of the student reading aloud could cry, "Challenge!" If correct, the challenger became the reader. Thus could an eight-year-old triumph over someone twice his age.



Artist's conception of the Brick Academy located at Mountain Avenue and Broad Street.



Lincoln School on Temple Place



Washington School on Elm Street

Annual Meeting 1882

The Annual Meeting of voters of School District No. 10, was held at the School House, on Tuesday evening, March 20, 1882, at 8 o'clock, pursuant to the following call:

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10.

NOTICE is hereby given to the legal voters of School District No. 10, in the County of Union, that the annual School Meeting will be held at the School House, on the Tuesday of the week following Town Meeting, being the 20th day of March, 1882, at 8 o'clock P.M. for the election of a School Board in place of the old Board whose term of office then expires. At the same meeting will be submitted the question of taking a lot to maintain a free school for the coming year. The amount thought to be necessary for this purpose is as follows:

For ordinary expenses (same as last year)	\$1800
For Teachers (if the people want them), or for purchasing the School House if desired	\$800
Total	\$2600

Attest Ed. Halsey
District Clerk

WESTFIELD, N. J. March 10, 1882

The District Clerk reported that he had received \$57.00 for the Library Fund, viz., from Mr. Blazier \$42.00, & from Mr. Mapes \$15.00 bal. of F. S. Baker's account. Also, that he had received from Mr. Mapes \$11.95, balance of F. S. Baker's general accounts, also, from Mr. Blazier \$7.00 for Montgomery Clark's tuition for quarter ending Dec. 24, 1879.

The following bills were ordered paid:

Mr. J. M. Blazier, Deccuter salary	\$100.00
Miss Lizzie Stuyker	50.
Mrs. M. E. Goddick	40.
Miss Phoebe Cory	35.
Miss Sarah Spicer	25.
Miss Anna Decker	20.
John Pierson, repairing walk	2.
E. S. Welch Sons, glazing	6.60
Jas. W. Cox, carpenter work	9.

Excerpt from 19th-century minutes of the Westfield Board of Education.

Life in the first school house, however, may not have been totally stifling. For, then as now, an interesting teacher could brighten the classroom. An early "star" in the Westfield village educational system, legend holds, was Daniel Halsey, also the bookkeeper at Sam Downer's store.

Like some of his twentieth-century replacements, schoolteacher Halsey generated some heated controversy among the townspeople, although in truth his only glaring fault was his irrespressible desire to sing. Not all appreciated his vocal gifts. Downer once fled a church service because the pastor requested Halsey to offer a solo. Rumor held that the "singing schoolteacher" could be heard at great distances from either church or school. Yet we are told that his singing classes so gripped his young pupils that he was forced to adopt split sessions. He taught his charges in three groups, according to vocal range.

A frame building on Mountain Avenue near the site of the telephone company office replaced the log school, but it burned to the ground in 1816. Townsmen soon built a new two-story brick academy — a combination prayer meeting, town hall, and school — on the same location. Teachers there instructed over one hundred pupils in varied subjects. Religious texts gave way in the early years of the Republic to more practical ones. *Young Man's Best Companion* incorporated surveying, navigation, bookkeeping, medical suggestions and "Prudent Advice to Young Tradesmen and Dealers." In 1826 Susan Aymar founded Willow Grove Sabbath School near the corner of Lamberts Mill Road and West Broad Street. Yet even the sabbath school and the academy apparently failed to meet the town's educational needs.

In 1839 Rev. Hunting of the First Presbyterian Church bemoaned the weakness of Westfield education:

This parish has been more deficient in good schools for the education of children than in almost anything else of equal importance. No classical school has ever



Parts of the old Scudder School House, wooden pegs and lock mounted on original clapboard

Miller-Cory collection

PART OF THE OLD SCUDDER SCHOOL HOUSE.

FLOOR BOARD AND WOODED PINS.

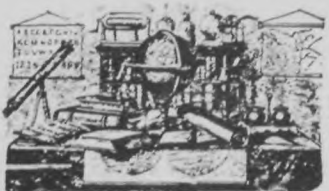
THIS BUILDING WAS THE ORIGINAL SCHOOL FOR

THIS SECTION OF THE COUNTRY.

SCHOOL TAUGHT BY MISS. RACHEL AND JOSEPHINE
JOLSEN IN LATER YEARS

John Henry Frazee's descriptive note about the Scudder School House

PUBLIC SCHOOL, No. 10,
WESTFIELD, N. J.



RECORD

Of Scholarship and Attendance of
Mary E. Cooper
for the school month ending March 24 1871
H. E. Harris
Principal.

Department.....	100	Composition.....	
Orthography.....	100	Physiology.....	
Reading.....	90	Philosophy.....	
Writing.....	100	Algebra.....	
Arithmetic.....	100	Punctuality.....	100
Geography.....	100	Monthly Aggregate.....	790
Grammar.....	100	Monthly Average.....	99 3/4
History.....			

Stephen S. Cooper Parent. *L. F. Hillmer* Teacher.

Early report card



Prospect Street School

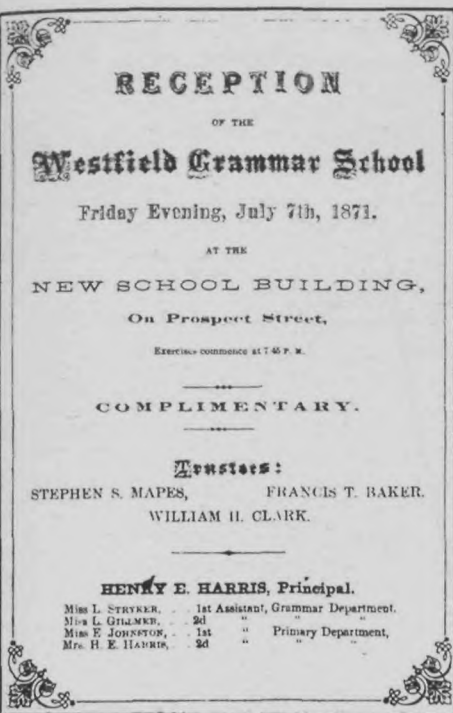
been established here, and the consequence is that with all the mind and means which have existed here, very few have been graduated in any college or entered any of the learned professions.

Soon after Hunting spoke, statewide changes altered nineteenth-century education in the village of Westfield. In 1844, a new state constitution required the state to aid public schools. In one of the early years under this law, Westfield received \$89.84 and raised \$150 through local taxation. Yet only the poor attended school without paying, until the legislature declared in 1871 that all public schools be free. The state constitution was amended in 1876 to read: "The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free schools for the instruction of all children in this State between ages of five and eighteen years."

Educators in Westfield during those days were strict. The 1872 board voted to notify the parent of one student that he could return to school only if "he would apologise for his past misconduct, and promise to comply with the rules, and regulations, of the school in future." The 1893 Board of Education, which educated 551 pupils for ten thousand dollars, resolved that "the Roll of Scholars" be called each day at the close of school and that students answer to describe their deportment for the day "by use of the following words, Perfect, Good, Imperfect, Faulty, Bad, as their behavior during school hours may warrant [sic]." But the system did not stifle the children. One board had to reject a formal "petition from the pupils of our school asking that the holiday vacation be extended to January 10, 1893."

Miss Elizabeth Striker, a remarkable Westfield educator in the post-Civil War era, was definitely "thorough and efficient," even on her salary of \$50 a month. In a forty-seven year career this epitome of the "old fashioned school marm" taught her first student's grandchildren. Comfort, not style dictated her dress. She made McGuffey readers the backbone in her curriculum. Blizzard or illness could not keep her from her work, and indolence on the students' part was not treated kindly. She rigorously employed the technique of drill and did not hesitate to continue sessions after hours for laggards. When she resigned in 1916, she seemed to many to be quite unchanged from when she began in 1869.

Miss Striker taught primarily in the Prospect Street School (now gone), which was opened in 1876. To train students for college admission the board constructed Lincoln School (now gone) in 1890 on Boulevard and Academy Place (Temple Place). Ten years later an early Washington School stood on the land on Elm Street between Orchard and Walnut streets and served as the high school. By 1916 the board had built McKinley School, Grant School,



Reception celebrating the opening of the Prospect Street School

OFFICE OF
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

Elizabeth, N. J., May 26 1884

To *Jos. B. Harrison, Clerk,*
School District No. 10, Union County.

Dear Sir:

You are hereby notified that
the amount of school money due your
District for the year 1884 is as fol-
lows.

State Appropriation	- - -	157	05
State Tax	- - -	2166	52
Special District Tax	- - -	2600	
Total	- - -	4923	57
Number of Children	552		

N. W. Pease
County Superintendent.

Statement of aid for the school district, 1884

and Elm Street School (the high school until 1951). During the 1920s they were joined by Lincoln, Roosevelt Junior High, Columbus, and Franklin schools. Wilson School was built during the Great Depression, and Washington, Tamaques, Jefferson, and Edison Junior High between 1954 and 1962.

Between 1901 and 1917 "J. J." Savitz, an educator who later became county superintendent and head of teacher development for the southern half of the state, directed Westfield's schools. His philosophy of education had a modern ring: "We are teaching," he noted, "not subjects, but boys and girls." "J. J." deplored what he called the "jug-filling" theory of teaching.

Savitz's successor, Charles A. Philhower, continued "J. J.'s" concern with teacher education. For teachers of particular grades or departments Philhower instituted model classroom demonstrations. He encouraged discussion of the techniques presented and supported his staff. Philhower's leadership brought Westfield statewide recognition.

Parochial education developed after World War I. Rev. Henry Watterson, a tall, long-boned monsignor at Holy Trinity Church had long dreamed of a Roman Catholic school for his parish. By 1919 the grammar school had graduated its first pupils. Starting with a two-year commercial program in 1923, the monsignor eventually developed a full four-year program in Holy Trinity High School. At its peak, enrollment reached over four hundred. Watterson had a love affair with the school. Most former students may recall the Friday afternoon sermons which took precedence over all other matters — including bus schedules, to some students' dismay.

The Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church opened Luther Hall Nursery School in 1953 and soon expanded their Christian education program to grades nursery through eight. Although falling enrollment later led to a decision to eliminate grades seven and eight, Redeemer Lutheran School enrolled as many as 173 pupils in 1973.

Has education in Westfield changed much since its Calvinist origins? Students now consult computers to help them select a college or vocation. The School Board, Superintendent Dr. Laurence Greene, and thirty-four administrators now manage the education of over seven thousand young people, who are taught by some four hundred and fifty teachers. The system includes nine nurses, sixteen guidance specialists, fifty-three secretaries, nine maintenance workers, and other custodial staff in each school. But declining enrollment has brought "cluster" classes — a move which again brings students of different ages into the same "one room school."

Organizations: From Apple Bees To Jaycees



1906 Westfield Library, East Broad and Elmer Street



Masonic Temple on Temple Place, razed in the 1970's, was one of the few examples of Egyptian Revival Architecture in the county

Residents of the 18th-century village of Westfield had to cooperate and organize. Farmers for the most part, they raised barns and harvested together. While the men worked for up to twelve or more hours, the women cooked gargantuan group meals. The community capped the work day with some fiddling and home-made hard cider.

Farmers in this area also held frolics and apple bees. In reply to an invitation to an apple bee delivered to one family by the slave Cuff, came this reply:

Cuff arrived, and wife first reckoned how she could not come no way; cause she had the candles to run, the sassiges to make, the carpet-rags to color and a chunk of cloth to set in Bige's trousers. And the old mare has got a chestnut in one of her ears and is lame a little, but we are coming if we have to walk. Perkins' oldest boy is coming over to milk and feed the chickens, so that we can get away early. Wife is all in a pucker about how to get herself up, — whether to wear her plain Linsey Woolsey and calash, or her new speckled chints and bunnit. Unless you send word by Hatfield's boy when he comes over to Lambert's Mills in the morning, we shall come just as we are.

Like their work and play, early settlers took their religion seriously. Life in the village of Westfield centered around its religious institutions. Rev. Jonathan Dickinson preached to the early Presbyterians as part of his ministry to the Elizabethtown parish. The Woodruff, Scudder, Marsh, Clark, Hetfield, and Crane families organized the First Presbyterian Church in the village of Westfield in 1727. Called to meeting in the old log church on Elizabethtown Road (Benson Place) by the sound of a drum, the early Presbyterians listened to the preaching of Rev. Nathaniel Hubbell — perhaps reluctantly — for a later minister noted that he “had discovered nothing grateful or savory about his memory.” In 1734 John Robinson and William Miller sold the congregation forty acres of land incorporating the present site. A year later the congregation erected the first frame church building, which stood in front and



Library float in an early parade

Westfield Life

NOVEMBER, 1916

TEN CENTS



GRACE HARDEN, Contributor

THE WESTFIELD RIFLE CLUB By Leigh M. Pearall
HISTORICAL SKETCH, FIRST METHODIST CHURCH By Howard C. Wick
SOCIETY • CLUBS • MUSICALS

west of the current building. A variety of civic organizations met in the parish house on the green. Nineteenth-century Presbyterians built the present church in 1861. "God's Acre," the old burial ground across Mountain Avenue, contains the graves of many of the town's founding fathers.

Although the Presbyterians have remained the largest religious organization in town, others have taken root. Conservative Presbyterians worship in Grace Presbyterian Church on Boulevard. The Methodists originally met in a private home in the 1850s, then constructed their own frame building in 1853 on land donated by Matthias Clark and James R. Ferris. The laymen hewed the timbers and Rev. T. T. Campfield helped dig the post holes. After several intervening buildings, the Wesleyans erected their gothic stone edifice in 1911. Black Methodists worshipped in St. Luke's Mission on West Broad Street until they organized the A.M.E. Zion Church on Downer Street in 1909. Rev. William Robeson, the father of the internationally famous actor, athlete and opera star Paul Robeson, preached to the Zion congregation in its early years. Paul attended Westfield schools until his father was called to a Somerville Church.

The Baptists began here in 1865, worshipping in private homes and in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church until they built their first church building. The present First Baptist Church dates from 1922. Black Baptists organized the Bethel Baptist Church in 1889.

Rev. Philemon E. Coe, an Episcopalian clergyman and grandson of Squire Philemon Elmer — the owner of all the land on the south side of East Broad Street from Central Avenue to Benson Place — held services in his home beginning shortly after the Civil War. Some schismatic Episcopalians met elsewhere for a time until the Bishop of the Diocese intervened. The original group then built the First Grace Episcopal Church in 1874 on land Rev. Coe bequeathed. The current St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a reorganized parish which succeeded after the first congregation had failed to finance its building in the 1890s, built the present edifice in 1953.



Coddington baseball team of the early 1900's played in Westfield Park, near present day Westfield High School Field.



The reading room of one of the early Westfield Library facilities

BENEFIT OF WESTFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY		
A HOT SUPPER		
WILL BE SERVED AT THE		
NEW ENGLAND KITCHEN,		
IN LYCEUM HALL,		
On Thursday, December 11th, 1879		
FROM 5 TO 8 P.M.		
BILL OF FARE		
ROAST PIG	ROAST BEEF	POTATOES
ROAST TURKEY	CHICKEN PIE	ONIONS
ROAST GOOSE	PUMPKIN BEANS	CELERY
ROAST DUCK	TURKISH	APPLE SAUCE
ROAST CHICKEN		CRANBERRY SAUCE
MISLE PIE	BROWN BREAD	
APPLE PIE	WHEAT BREAD	
PUMPKIN PIE	RYE BREAD	
RIKE PUDDING	TEA	
INDIAN PUDDING	COFFEE	
ELECTION CAKE		
BULLED CORN AND MILK	POPPED CORN	
SUPPER.		
CHOICE OF MEAT WITH VEGETABLES		
PORK AND BEANS	PIE OR PUDDING	
TEA OR COFFEE		
ADULTS	30 CENTS	
CHILDREN, under 12	15 CENTS	
EXTRA PLATE OF MEAT	10c	EXTRA DOUGHNUTS 5c
PIE	5c	TEA OR COFFEE 5c
EXTRA ELECTION CART	10c	

A reprint of the menu of the first supper to benefit the Westfield Library in 1879

The Roman Catholic parish began as a mission in 1872. Early communicants met in stores, in houses and even in the Central Jersey Railroad's freight house, where they sat on nail kegs. Assisted by contributions from leading citizens, particularly grocer Patrick A. Traynor, the mission grew to include the Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, an elementary school, and a high school. The first church building stood on New York Avenue (Trinity Place).

The Congregationalists split off from the First Presbyterians in 1880 and built their own church in 1882. Some Westfield Christian Scientists who were members of the Cranford church held their first local services in the post office just after World War I. Led by a Plainfield pastor, the Lutherans organized in 1925. They built the current Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1937.

Jews came to town in growing numbers after World War II and in 1950 founded Temple Emanu-El, where some 600 students now attend religious classes. The Rabbinic Center Synagogue on Dudley Avenue began in 1972.

Four other religious congregations made Westfield their home following World War II. The Echo Lake Church of Christ organized here in 1951; the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church conducted its first services in 1966; both the Church of Saint Helen and the Echo Lake Christadelphian Chapel opened in 1968.

Those who wanted to build a library started nearly a century earlier. In 1873 twenty-six Westfielders collected 126 volumes and a treasury of \$16.21 to create the Every Saturday Book Club. By 1878 they had thirty more books and incorporated as the Westfield Public Library. Shunted between school buildings, public meeting rooms, and churches, the library nearly foundered. Fund-raising efforts failed. A special smoking area did not attract the men. Neither installation of a new piano in the reading room nor introduction of "the most modern system — that of the card catalogue," increased interest. Then Andrew Carnegie, who believed that "amassing of wealth" was one "of the worst species of idolitry" (sic), offered in 1905 to underwrite the construction of a permanent building, if the town would increase and maintain the collection. Completed in 1906, the first library building, since then significantly remodeled, stands on East Broad Street at the foot of Mountain Avenue. The library moved into its present home in 1954.

Competition with the Westfield Club for the townsmen's time and attention may have slowed the library's early progress. Athletic and club life in Victorian Westfield centered in the 1892 Westfield Club building on Elm Street north of Broad Street near where the First Federal Savings Bank once stood. In addition to smoking, pool, billiard, and card rooms, the club had a tennis court, bowling alley, shooting gallery, and rooms for dances and public meetings. It opened with a Columbus Day fair. According to the *Union County Standard*, "a bevy of the handsomest women in town, handsomely costumed, smiling and altogether bewitching," ran the booths.

The club's football team, led by "Scissors" Carberry, went undefeated in 1897 and won the *Elizabeth Daily Journal's* Junior Football Trophy. The baseball team in the Central New Jersey Baseball League did so well that on a memorable Saturday the New York Giants played an exhibition game against the homefolks — and defeated them.

After the Civil War organizations in town burgeoned. Completion of Aeolian Hall at Broad and Prospect streets in the 1870s provided many of them with meeting rooms until it was destroyed by fire. In 1883 the Fireside Council No. 715 of Royal Arcanum built a hall at



The Children's Specialized Hospital was formerly the Children's Country Home in Westfield. The main building had been the summer residence of the Barrymore family of theatrical fame.



The Royal Arcanum Building, a landmark since 1892. The Westfield Theater to the left now houses business and office space.



The Westfield Club afire in 1911

the same corner. The Independent Order of Foresters, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Improved Order of Heptasophs, and the Loyal Association all met in Arcanum Hall in the early 1890s. Then in 1892, in the words of the *Westfield Leader*, "The Fire King, With a Force Resistless, Wrap [ed] His Arms Around the Arcanum Building . . ." Even a downtown fire had a Victorian quality: "A million Glowing Sparks Shoot Upward Through the Chill Night Air, As If in Puny Rivalry Against the Stars That Look Unpitied Down Upon a Scene of Fiery Carnage." Royal Arcanum rebuilt on the corner of Broad and Elm streets shortly after.

But even before the fire, Arcanum Hall could not house the growing number of organizations. Westfield's Masons, chartered in 1872 as Atlas Lodge No. 125, met in Ferris Hall, southeast corner of Broad and Prospect streets. The Willard Woman's Christian Temperance Union of 1884 had its own building on Prospect Street. The Westfield Club, now called the Advance Club, began in 1892 to "stimulate discussion of literary, scientific, historical and cultural subjects." To aid children of the poor recovering from hospital operations, humanitarians organized the Children's Country Home in 1891 and took over the Thomas Drew residence on New Providence Road in 1896. The Independent Order of the Stars attracted young men of the 1890s who wanted to debate, play chess, or read Shakespeare.

Ladies with cultural interests joined the Woman's Club. In 1895 forty women banded together and adopted a motto: "From each as she has the power to give, to each as she shall need." * Members responded to the roll call with literary quotations and savored each other's papers on literature, music, history and drama and the refreshment committee's "dainty viands." Soon, however, the club thrust itself into social action, and since its beginning has launched, or assisted in starting, the following groups: District Nursing Association, Adult School, Red Cross Chapter and the Citizens Relief Committee. High school girls who want to become teachers or nurses are eligible for Woman's Club scholarships. In 1955, the club first occupied the Towle mansion on South Euclid, known as the "little White House" because it was the home of two mayors.

Until a bank was built on the site in 1893, youngsters created their own fun at the triangular lot on the southeast corner of Broad and Elm streets. They fungoed baseballs and watched the young blades in town "score" their horses on Broad Street. An earlier historian noted, "of course, this was only the gentlemanly pastime of scoring the horses and not horse-racing." On this lot youths played the famous Fourth-of-July games — including three-legged races, catch the greased pig, and climb the greased pole. Teenagers of that era finally won a protracted struggle for the "right" to ring the church and school bells at midnight on the Fourth of July. Torchlight parades in presidential election years, the annual Sunday town excursion to Asbury Park, and baseball in Orren Pierson's cow pasture at South Euclid, Lenox and St. Marks avenues filled out young people's summers.

The 1911 destruction by fire of the Westfield Casino, which occupied the old Westfield Club building, saddened turn-of-the-century older sportsmen. But tennis enthusiasts — described as "tennis fiends" by a former club president — soon created the Westfield Tennis Club and built courts on the old William Pierson farm on Chestnut Street. A converted barn, moved from Broad Street, became a club house. By 1916 the membership was already "oversubscribed."

* Despite the similarity between this motto and Karl Marx's exhortation that society "inscribe on its banners: 'From everyone according to his faculties, to everyone according to his needs,'" I have it on good authority that the Woman's Club has always been a non-Marxist organization.



1924 Championship Girls Basketball Team



The late Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, Director of the Division of Negro Affairs under President F. D. Roosevelt, dedicates the Westfield Community Center in 1937.

the finals against a Westfield quintet. Coached by Miss Martha Wheelock, the Westfield team played Guthrie three times in the packed Roselle High School gym. Westfield's young ladies missed being national champs by one game.

Westfield organizations continue to thrive. There are now some two hundred groups, ranging from the United Fund which supports many of the other organizations to the African Violet Society of America and the Taxpayers Association which represent particular interests. Some groups fill the same needs as those of colonial times. The Jaycees, the Y's Men, the Volunteer Fire Company, and the Rescue Squad in a way replicate the men and women of the 1700s joining in common labor. As at the old barn raisings, women prepare meals for the benefit of the community through the Visiting Homemaker Service and the Mobile Meals of Westfield. The Embroidery Guild and the Weavers Guild carry on where the sewing bee left off. Our ancestors had apple bees; modern residents have duplicate bridge, paddle ball, square dance group and chess club.

Although some groups, like Single Parents, turn from the past to face the future, many groups remind townsmen that "what is past is prologue." Westfield has both a Historical Society and a Negro History Club. The Questers study antiquing and restoration. Miller-Cory Volunteers demonstrate — among other things — colonial cooking, baking, candle-making, and weaving at the Miller-Cory House and in the public schools. Their revival of colonial crafts has won state-wide acclaim. Westfielders belong to the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

As the bicentennial of the American Revolution approached, another historically minded organization emerged: the Westfield Bicentennial Committee. The committee launched a host of projects, including a bicentennial center in the northside railroad station. More than any other group, perhaps, the bicentennial committee wanted Westfielders to tune their ears to the bygone rumblings of colonial stages, to call up the memory of the 1777 British encampment in town, and to read some of the headstones in "God's Acre." The next time you pass by Mountain Avenue and Broad Street recall, if you will, the rich and varied people and events that have shaped Westfield as it grew from settlement to suburb.



Westfield's shore excursion to Asbury Park

Bibliographic Essay

General



Original sources on the general history of Westfield are in the Westfield Historic Manuscripts Collection, Westfield Public Library (henceforth WHMC), a separate collection of town records dating from the 18th century in the Town Trunk, Westfield Municipal Building, and the microfilm of the *Westfield Leader*.

Secondary accounts of the history of Westfield are Edwin F. Hatfield, *History of Elizabeth, New Jersey* (New York: Carleton and Lanahan, 1868); W. Woodford Clayton, *History of Union and Middlesex Counties* (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1882); Robert V. Hoffman's *The Olde Town: 1700-1894*, *The Old Towne Scrapbook*, and *Another Olde Towne Scrapbook* (Westfield: by the author, 1937, 1945 and 1947); Westfield Tercentenary Committee, *Colonial Westfield: Past and Present* (n.p., 1964); A. Van Doren Honeyman, ed., *History of Union County: 1664-1923*, 2 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. 1923), which contains a long account of Westfield by Charles E. Philhower; and F. W. Ricord, ed., *History of Union County, New Jersey* (Newark: East Jersey History Company, 1897). Philhower also published his contribution to the *History of Union County* separately as *History of the Town of Westfield* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1923). The above sources provided material for all the preceding chapters. Hoffman and Philhower must be used with care since both relish a good story and draw heavily on reminiscences and oral tradition. See also the general accounts, Francis Bazley Lee, *New Jersey as a Colony and as a State*, 4 vols. (New York: The Publishing Society of New Jersey, 1902); Irving S. Kull, ed., *New Jersey: A History* (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930); and Works Progress Administration, Federal Writers' Project, *New Jersey: A Guide to Its Present and Past* (New York: The Viking Press, 1939).

1. Beginnings

A fine, readable account of the settlement of New Jersey is Richard P. McCormick, *New Jersey from Colony to State, 1609-1789*, New Jersey Historical Series, eds. Richard M. Huber and Wheaton J. Lane (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1964) henceforth NJHS. More detailed is John E. Pomfret, *Colonial New Jersey: A History* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973). Also see his *New Jersey Proprietors and Their Lands* and Adrian C. Leiby, *The Early Dutch and Swedish Settlers of New Jersey*, both NJHS.

On the Indians, Donald William Becker, *Indian Place-Names in New Jersey* (Cedar Grove, New Jersey: Phillips-Campbell Publishing Co., Inc., 1964); Dorothy Cross, *New Jersey's Indians* (Trenton: Department of Education of New Jersey, 1965); New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, *Tales of New Jersey* (n.p., 1963); and New Jersey Tercentenary Commission, *The New Jersey Tercentenary, 1864-1964* (Trenton, 1966) are good sources.

Byron D. Stuart provided excellent information on the Lenni Lenape, and Alfred H. Linden greatly clarified the town's geology. Deborah Davidson, et al., *Salt Box to Split Level: An*



Arrow head and ax head found in the Westfield area



Wooden dough bowl, trencher, butter paddle and iron trammel marked 1757, all of which belonged to Aunt Betty Frazee

Miller-Cory collection



John Henry Frazee's Collection of antique powder horns
Miller-Cory Museum

Illustrated Guide to Westfield's Architectural Heritage (Westfield: Miller-Cory House Association, 1975) is helpful on home construction in the early days. Arthur N. Pierson's "History of Mindowaskin Park and the Town Hall Site," WHMC, explained early land transactions. The Union County Planning Board's *Union County Landmark Inventory* (Elizabeth, 1976) is superb on geographic boundaries and county development.

2. An Outpost During the American Revolution

Original Sources

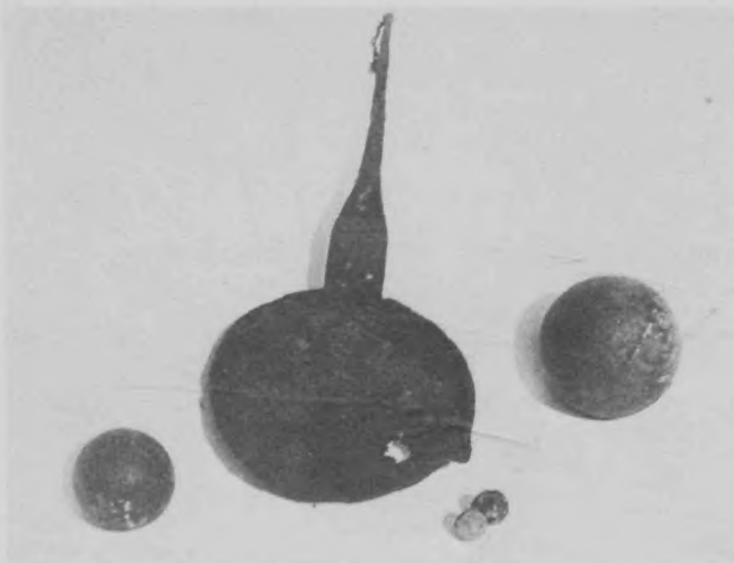
Documentation for those Westfielders who actually fought in the Revolution can be found in the catalogue of headstones in Henry C. Hamilton, *The Revolutionary Cemetery in Westfield, New Jersey* (n.p.: by the author, 1975) and in the various letters from the Adjutant General of New Jersey is the WHMC. The First Continental Congress's memorial to the militiamen is reprinted in Charles L. Aquilina, *The Capture of His Majesty's Sloop "Blue-Mountain-Valley"* (n.p.: Elizabeth Bicentennial Committee, 1976). On the activity to end the "London Trading" see New Jersey, Council of Safety, *Minutes of the Council of Safety* (Jersey City: John H. Lyon, 1872). Washington's correspondence on the low state of the early militia is in Theodore Sedgwick, Jr., *A Memoir of the Life of William Livingston* (New York: J. & J. Harper, 1833), pp. 224-25; Washington's other correspondence is in *The Writings of George Washington*, 28 vols., ed. John C. Fitzpatrick (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933).

Various original accounts of the battle of the short hills of Metuchen, including Cornwallis's letter to Lord Germaine are in the *New Jersey Archives*, 2nd Series, Part 1, a valuable collection of letters and newspaper clippings on the Revolution in New Jersey. The best original sources on the fighting around Springfield and Hannah Caldwell's murder are the reports and letters in the *New Jersey Gazette* for 1780. Other original documents expressing the British viewpoint on the battles are the *Journal of John Charles Philip von Krafft*, ed. Thomas H. Edsall (New York: Printed for Private Distribution Only, 1888); *Major Andre's Journal*, ed. C. De Wilcox (Tarrytown: William Abbatt, 1930); and Stephen Kemble, *Journal*, in *Collections of the New York Historical Society* (New York: New York Historical Society, 1883).

Hamilton's letter to Livingston is in *The Papers of Alexander Hamilton*, ed. Harold C. Syrett (New York: Columbia University Press, 1961-), 1:274-77.

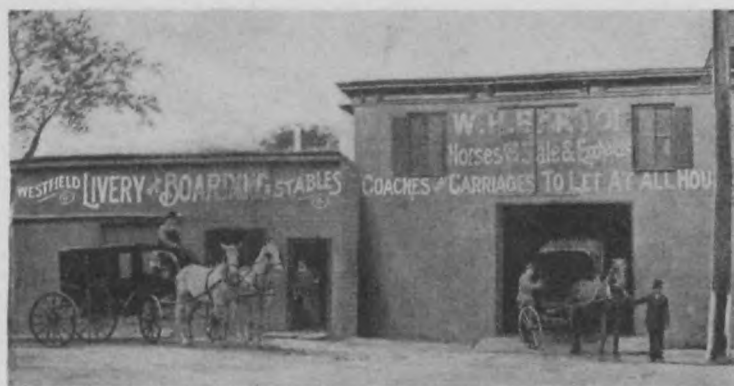
Secondary Sources

The standard work on military maneuvering in New Jersey is Leonard Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1940). Thomas Fleming, *The Forgotten Victory* (New York: Reader's Digest Press, 1973), although romanticized, gives interesting detail on the battles in Springfield. Indispensable on Washington is Douglas Southall Freeman, *George Washington, a Biography* (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1951-52), vols.



Reminders of American Revolution Action in Westfield, Left to Right: a 2½ lb. cannonball found on Tanglewood Lane, bullet, ladle, shot and 5 lb. cannonball found at 231 Elizabeth Avenue.

Miller-Cory Collection



Livery Stable
North Avenue between Prospect and Elm Streets

4 & 5. Also see William C. Wright, *New Jersey in the American Revolution: Political and Social Conflict* (Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, rev. ed., 1974) and Alfred Hoyt Bill, *New Jersey and the Revolutionary War*, (Princeton: D. Van Nostrand, 1964).

On William Alexander, see Alan Valentine, *Lord Stirling* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969) which supercedes the dated William Alexander Duer, *The Life of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling* (New York: Wiley and Putnam, 1847). Also see George Henry Danforth, "The Rebel Earl" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Columbia University, 1955). Theodore Thayer, *Nathanael Greene: Strategist of the American Revolution* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1960) and Ester Frances Royster, "Loyalism in New Jersey during the American Revolution" (unpublished M.A. essay, Rutgers University, 1928) are helpful sources. The Nathanael Greene Papers, Library of the American Philosophical Society, New York City, describe his efforts at protecting the forage around Westfield. Frederic Detwiller's detailed lecture, "Lost History Rediscovered: The Battle of Short Hills and Encampment at Westfield, June 26-27, 1777," "First Presbyterian Church, Westfield, April 27, 1976, broke new ground. Sol Stember, *The Bicentennial Guide to the American Revolution*, vol. 2: *The Middle Colonies* (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1974) is a valuable guide to the local historic sites.

In my treatment of Westfield during the Revolution, I have departed from Philhower's account in two ways. I have omitted — among others — the colorful legends of "Aunt Betty" Frazee and "Old One Horn" as unreliable history. Second, I am convinced that Philhower was mistaken in describing a British foray into town on June 23, 1780, during the battle of Springfield. All other accounts insist that the British forces marched directly to Springfield from Elizabethtown, fought at Springfield and returned to Staten Island on the same day.

3. Commerce: From Trappers to Tradesmen

There are scores of good histories of businesses, business organizations and the business district, along with supporting documents, including copies of deeds, in the WHMC. Other original sources are James M. Hunting, *Sermon, Containing a General History of the Parish of Westfield, N.J.* (Elizabeth-Town: M. H. Hassey, 1840); Ralph Moreton Hooker, *Westfield, New Jersey — Illustrated* (Westfield: Union County Standard, 1893); *Westfield, New Jersey, Business Directory* (Westfield: E. R. Collins, 1889); and R. L. Polk's *City Directory* (Pittsburgh: R. L. Polk & Co., various years). Col. Homer French loaned me documents relating to the Union Dime Savings Bank.

Secondary accounts of commerce are in the *Union County Standard*, September 17, 1909, the *Westfield Leader*, November 28, 1923, John Henry Frazee, *Memories of Old Westfield* (Rahway: Daily Press, Inc., 1971); and *Westfield Board of Trade, Westfield, New Jersey* (Westfield: The Standard Press, n.d.).

Other general sources for this chapter are John E. Brush, *Population of New Jersey* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1956); Harry B. and Grace M. Weiss, *Early Sports and Pastimes in New Jersey* (Trenton: The Past Times Press, 1960); Harry B. Weiss, *Life in Early New Jersey*; David L. Cowen, *Medicine and Health in New Jersey: A History*, both NJHS; Raymond Lee, *The Films of Mary Pickford* (New York: Castle Books, 1970); and Eric Vondra, "The Movies and New Jersey," unpublished manuscript.

1794

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

1894

Revolutionary Relics, Odd Souvenirs, and Valuable Curios,

At the PRESBYTERIAN LECTURE ROOM, July 4th, 1894.

An Interesting Feature of Westfield's Centennial. An Exhibition held on Historic Ground.

PARISH SETTLED 1720.

Old "One Horn" Cannon, captured from the British in the Westfield skirmish 1788.

Rained, Drag Rope and Tackler of old "One Horn."

Guns, Swords, Spurs, &c., &c., carried during or found after above skirmish here and at Ash Swamp, near Westfield.

Old Arm Chair made by Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and formerly a resident of Westfield. (Loaned by Frederick Addison S. Clark.)

Famous Zeller collection of Foreign Swords and Daggers.

Bronze Bust of Benjamin Franklin, by Houdon, 1778; very valuable. (Loaned by Dr. Coles, Scotch Plains.)

Beautiful Centre Table, once owned by Mary, Queen of Scots.

Old Martha Washington Trunk—*genuine*.

Old-fashioned "Print" Dress, over 200 years old.

FLAX SPINNING, by Mrs. TOWNLEY, 88 years old.

Old Foot Stoves, Warming Pans, Tin Lanterns, and hundreds of articles actually used here by our ancestors.



Paul Robeson - Westfield High School, 1910

4. Government: From Township to Municipality

All the documents relating to the early town government are in the Town Trunk; in the WHMC are excellent histories, particularly Linda Walsh, "A Summary of Suburban Trust Company History," and other documents, including the charter of the Westfield Thief Detective Society, copies of deeds relating to Mindowaskin Park, correspondence of past mayors, councilmen and commissioners, the files of *Westfield Life* and *The Boys of '17*, the program for the One Hundredth Anniversary Reception, clippings from the *Westfield Leader*, and the *100 Annual Report* of the township.

On the drive to become a city see *The Westfield Manual for 1903-1904*, eds. Lloyd Thompson and Frederick S. Taggart (Westfield, 1903). On the establishment of the Fire Department see Alfred H. Linden, comp. and ed. *Westfield Fire Department 1875-1975* (Westfield: Westfield Exempt Fireman's Association, 1975). On the fuel crisis of World War I see my article in the December 1976 issue of *Smithsonian*.

5. Transportation: From Wagon Station to Station Wagon

Valuable documents relating to transportation in the WHMC are correspondence between Arthur N. Pierson and the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the Public Service Electric and Gas Co., and the Somerset Bus Company; the *Map and Manual of the Town of Westfield* (New York: Hosford & Sons, 1972), copies of *Westfield Life*, and miscellaneous materials, clippings, posters and schedules relating to railroads and buses.

Other sources of help were Weiss, *Life in Early New Jersey*; Wheaton J. Lane, *From Indian Trail to Iron Horse: Travel and Transportation in New Jersey, 1620-1860* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1939); *Westfield Life* for 1918, Mary Musser, "To Grandmother's house? No Way!," *Smithsonian*, Nov., 1975, pp. 62-67; Central Railroad Company of New Jersey, *Historical Highlights* (n.p.: Central Jersey Lines, 1949); and Oral S. Coad, *New Jersey Travelers' Accounts, 1524-1971* (Metuchen: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1972).

6. Education: From Calvinism to Computers

The best original sources on Westfield education are the Westfield Board of Education, *Minutes*, Westfield Board of Education safe, Administrative Offices, Maggie Cimei, coordinator of school-community affairs for the Westfield Board of Education provided me with current school population figures. Documents relating to parochial education are in WHMC. See also Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, *50th Anniversary, 1925-1975* (n.p.: 1975); Nelson R. Burr, *Education in New Jersey, 1630-1871* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1942); Monica Kiefer, *American Children Through Their Books, 1700-1835* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1948); and Russel Blaine Nye, *The Cultural Life of the New Nation, 1776-1830* (New York: Harper & Row, 1960).

Col. Geo. Starr,

OF WESTFIELD,

Will give an account of his escape from

LIBBY PRISON,

And subsequent re-capture by the Confederate Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion, at the

**Presbyterian
Church,**

Friday, Dec. 18,

AT 8 O'CLOCK P. M.

Admission 25 Cts.

RESERVED SEATS 35 CTS.

Tickets for Sale at Gale's Pharmacy.

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 O'CLOCK.



Lincoln Road area — looking east from Webster Place off of Clark Street.

7. Organizations: From Apple Bees to Jaycees

WHMC contains documents and typescript histories for many of the organizations in this chapter. See particularly Mary Virginia Gale and Shirley Louise Wright, "History of the Westfield Public Library" and Arthur N. Pierson, "Pastime and Sports, Westfield 1870's and 1880's." The collection also has old church directories, anniversary programs and sermons. See E. B. Edgar, *The Last Sermon Preached in the Old Presbyterian Church, Westfield, New Jersey, January 26, 1862* (New York: Steam Printing House, 1862). WHMC also holds *Westfield Life*, which published a series of histories of churches.

Wallace N. Jamison, *Religion in New Jersey: A Brief History*, NJHS; and William K. McKinney, Charles A. Philhower, and Harry A. Kniffin, *Commemorative History of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield New Jersey, 1728-1928* (n.p., n.d.) are helpful. Billie Powell and Judy Harvin shared documents and information about the town's black churches.



"Rail Sitters"
Fair Acres Track, in the 1900's

WESTFIELD BICENTENNIAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Joseph H. Pate, Chairman
 Mrs. Clara C. Bolger
 Mrs. Patrick Brennan
 Mrs. Jessie P. Brown
 Miss Carol Brinser
 Mr. Douglas J. Campbell
 Mr. John A. Carter, Jr.
 Mr. A. Bruce Conlin, Jr.
 Mrs. Edward Dropkin
 Dr. Henry Hamilton
 Mrs. Esther Hardy
 Mrs. Lorraine Heneghan
 Mr. Morris Kamler
 Mrs. Chris Patterson
 Mrs. Holly Tighe

Mrs. Gail Trimble
 Miss Melissa Fouratte
 Mrs. Barbara Davidson
 Mrs. Helen Wolf
 Councilman Frank A. MacPherson
 Mr. Donn A. Snyder
 Mrs. Robert Wallace
 Mr. Warren T. Vliet
 Mr. Robert Cook
 Mr. Charles Shaunesey
 Mr. James Tate
 Mr. Frank Garvin
 Mrs. Fran Gold
 Mr. Robert Barnes



Dedication of News Stand Plaque, November 1976. Left to Right: A. Bruce Conlin, Jr., Barbara Lewis, Charles P. Bailey, Gerry Jones, H. Emerson Thomas, Harry Devlin, James Kane, Barbara Davidson, Elizabeth A. Pate.



PICTURE AND MEMORABILA CREDITS:



EXHIBITION
Portrait of a County: Westfield



TOWN TRUNK
Purchased 1797, Contains Township Records

Lt. Col. Homer M. French
Westfield Memorial Library Manuscripts Collection
New Jersey Historical Society
Miller Cory House Association
Westfield Historical Society
Mr. Ted Coddington
Mrs. Elizabeth Pate
Westfield Chapter DAR
Catalogue N.J. State Museum - April 1971
Union County Planning Board - Report #9
Memories of Old Westfield - John Frazee
Railroading in N.J. - John Cunningham
Abner Jackson
Presbyterian Church of Westfield
Edward W. Wittke
Tables of Old Towne - Robert Hoffman
Old Towne Scrapbook
Brochure of Westfield Gardens
Westfield Fire Department
Mr. Giles Atwood
Mr. John Yohannan
Pearsall & Frankenbach
First Baptist Church, Westfield
Mr. Robert Scully
Westfield Community Center
Mrs. Charleston H. F. Smith
Centennial Celebration - Souvenir Program 1894
Elbert Woodruff
Jersey as a Colony and as a State - Francis Bagley Lee



Drawings: UNION COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
AND VOCATIONAL CENTER
COMMERCIAL ART DEPARTMENT


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