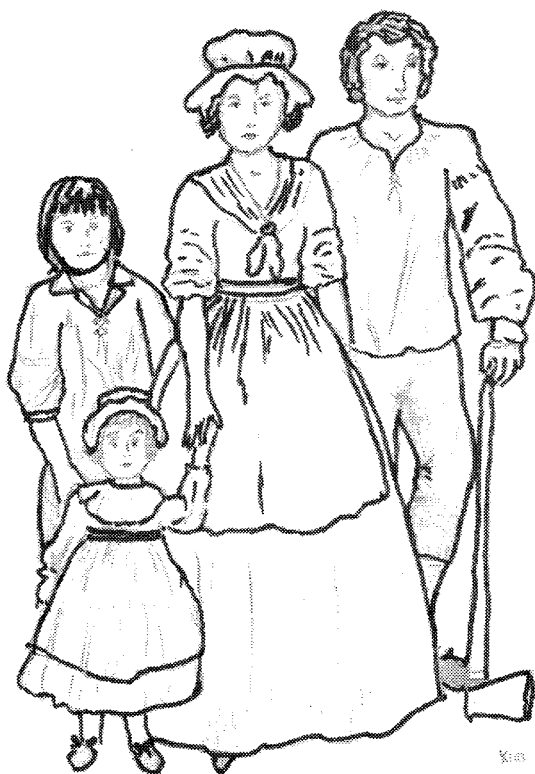


OUR HERITAGE



LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY

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OUR HERITAGE

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As we approach the Bicentennial of our nation, let us, the citizens of Livingston, pause to review the history of our town.

Small bands of Indians were the first inhabitants of the land between the Second Watchung Mountain and the Passaic River. The Indians hunted the wooded slopes, fished in the streams, gathered edible berries and wild fruit, crossed the Passaic River on submerged stones, and traveled up and down the streams in their canoes. As far as is known, the Indians never had a permanent camp or settlement in the area.

* The northern part of New Jersey had been settled by the white man and was ruled by the Dutch, under the guidance of Peter Stuyvesant. In 1664, the English capitalized on discoveries made in the fifteenth century by John and Sebastian Cabot and claimed the territory.

Attracted by the guarantee of religious freedom, a devout group of Congregationalists received a grant from the English Governor, Carteret, and settled in Newark, in 1666, under the leadership of Robert Treat. Newark was named after Newark-on-Trent, the birthplace of Abraham Pierson, the first pastor of the First Church of Newark (later the Presbyterian).

In 1700, Newark purchased 13,500 acres of land from the Indians for the equivalent of \$350.00. This was called the Horse Neck Tract because of its resemblance, on the map, to a horse's neck.

This parcel of land included all of West Essex. Soon after this acquisition, adventurous pioneers, dissatisfied with the limited allotments of property, traveled over the Watchung Mountains and entered a vast wilderness.

Gradually, the forests were cleared; the Indian trails became roads, and dwellings were erected to house the settlers' families. There is no record of discord between the settlers and the Indians.

Wood was a most essential commodity, and there was an abundance of it.

Strawberries, blackberries, black raspberries, huckleberries, elderberries, cherries and grapes grew wild. The

Passaic River, unlike the polluted stream it is today, was a clear, sparkling river abounding with fish. Wild game was plentiful and supplied the settlers with their meat. In the fall, walnuts, chestnuts and hickory nuts were gathered and stored for winter use.

The Indians taught the early settlers how to grind the bulb root of the jack-in-the-pulpit to make meal, how to distinguish the edible mushrooms from the poisonous varieties, and how to recognize the deadly nightshade.

The fuzzy leaves of the giant mullein were used by the women to rub on their cheeks and make them a delicate pink.

Saw mills soon dotted the landscape and log cabins gave way to more substantial homes.

A bitter dispute soon developed concerning the Horse Neck Tract and surrounding areas. Some settlers claimed title by deed from the Indians; others by grant from the East Jersey Proprietors; while others — squatters — by right of possession.

In 1741, King George II granted 1586 acres of land to John Stiles. Mr. Stiles sub-divided his tract in one hundred acre parcels and sold them under the name, Canoe Brook Lots; this property lay to the west of Horse Neck Tract. The East Jersey proprietors, a group who had been given a title under the previous king, Charles II, claimed ownership of all this land.

The Proprietors attempted to dispossess the settlers, and the settlers deeply resented the claims of this group.

It was a calamity for the settlers when on March 7, 1744, the 1700 deed for the purchase of Horse Neck Tract from the Indians was burned in a fire that destroyed the home of Jonathan Pierson, descendant of the first parson of the First Church of Newark.

Since the settlers were without proof of ownership, the East Jersey Proprietors proceeded to enforce their claims with renewed vigor. The Proprietors threatened to dispossess all who would not yield their rights. Immediately, the settlers of the Horse Neck Tract were confronted with demands for payment. They then moved to sell the land, and required that all persons pay "quit rent," a fixed rent paid in money. The people looked

upon the "quit rent" as an illegal tax. From this precedent the stubborn resistance against the Proprietors drew its moral support. In the words of a later historian, "of all the colonies, New Jersey was the most obstinate. In some colonies the question was fought out in the assembly, in others in the courts; in northern New Jersey in the streets."

Among the first to settle on the disputed land were Timothy Meeker, a descendant of the author of the Elizabethtown petition of 1696, and Effingham Townley, Jr. from Elizabethtown. Timothy Meeker became the principal leader of the Canoe Brook settlers, who resolved, together with the woodsmen and squatters of the First Mountain, to resist the Proprietor's demands, and if need be, to use arms. Timothy Meeker's prominence in the ensuing struggle was due not only to his candor and integrity, but to the fact that he was head of a far-flung clan. He was married three times and was the father of nine sons and four daughters. He was also related by marriage to the Baldwins, Balls, Cranes and Burnets.

In 1745, Meeker, with his relatives, armed with clubs, sticks and bats broke into the Newark jail and released Samuel Baldwin, leader of the Mountain Society. Baldwin had been made a scape goat; he had been charged with cutting logs on his property, and disregarding a court order declaring his homestead forfeited because he refused to pay the "quit rent."

The Meeker incident was known as the "Horseneck Riots," and gave the crown an indication of what was to follow when the colonists sought their independence thirty years later. Timothy Meeker, at the age of seventy, together with nine sons, three sons-in-law, and a grandson fought in the American Revolution.

Following the Revolutionary War, settlers, dissatisfied with the taxes they had to pay to Newark, decided to establish separate communities. Springfield was the first to obtain a charter in 1793. Four years later, the northern end of the tract became Caldwell Township. Livingston, not yet incorporated, lay between the two towns.

The women, in the area that would be known today as Livingston, were famous for their preparation of two beverages used throughout the country. Switchel was made of molasses, diluted with water, to which they added vinegar or ginger and occasionally some rum. Metheglin which consisted of boiled

and fermented honey, mixed with a few spices, quenched the thirst of the farmers as they worked in the fields. Wild apples grew in abundance and were used to distill the famous liquor known as "Jersey Lightning." There was a ditty that was chanted: "Oh, we can make liquor to sweeten our lips, of pumpkins and parsnips and walnut tree chips."

Women, in this period, were kept busy caring for their large families. They cooked in pots and kettles, hung on large iron cranes in open fireplaces. Bread, biscuits, and pies were baked in Dutch ovens. Cloth was made from wool and flax. The wool had to be cleaned, carded, spun and dyed. Large spinning wheels were used for wool and smaller ones for flax. The juices of sumac, beets, spinach, and walnuts were used to dye the fibers. Soap was made from rendered fat to which was added wood ashes or lye. To provide light, they molded candles and made crude night lights from cloth wrapped around copper coins and immersed in a dish of melted lard. The latter was known as the Teedtown candle.

During the Revolution, shoemaking attained such proportions as to become a small industry. Many of the soldiers in the Continental Army wore shoes made in Livingston. It is interesting to note that shoes of that era were constructed so they could be worn on either foot. It was not until after the Civil War that a right and a left shoe were made.

Although there were few families in Livingston, each family had ten to fourteen children. In 1782, the people met and decided to build a school house.

Manning, Isaac, and Thomas Force, Samuel Pierson, Henry Wade, Theophilus Ward, Benjamin Reeves, Obed Dunham, Evetts and Effingham Townley, the Meekers, Edwards, and McChesneys built a crude stone building. If it were standing today, it would be at the intersection of South Livingston Avenue and Northfield Road (Northfield Center). Livingston Avenue was then known as Dark Lane.

The early American houses in the area were built by hard working people who had neither the time nor the inclination to erect anything but a strong shelter. The architecture reflected the daily lives of the people. The builders had to fell the trees and prepare the wood themselves. The hand hewn beams were six inches thick and pegged together. The shingles were hand

made from the heart of the oak. The walls were thick and sturdy to keep out the excessive cold of the winter and the extreme heat of the summer. Iron nails, hand made and expensive, were used only on the outside finish. Every house had to have a cooking fireplace, usually found in the largest room of the house.

There was a marked tendency, probably because of the Dutch influence, to disregard the road completely and to build the houses facing south. The early architecture of the Livingston homes, mainly New England Colonial in form, was marked by other Dutch characteristics: overhanging eaves and Dutch ovens, introduced by early settlers from Manhattan and Long Island. The wide eaves served as a partial awning over the windows, which shaded them in the summer, and kept the snow and sleet off the threshold in the winter. Entrance doors faced south, as far from the fireplace as possible. This was done to spare those working around the hearth from the cold, wintery blasts of air. Many houses had "witches" doors with the raised area in the form of a cross, supposedly to keep out evil spirits.

Many of the old homes have been modernized; the lower part of the chimney, protruding from the outer wall in a large square or rectangle, has often been boarded or shingled over to match the rest of the building. In the interiors that have not been remodeled, the sign of the axe is plainly visible on the blackened hand-hewn beams. Ceilings were low, about seven to seven and one-half feet high, so that the heating of rooms would be easy. Even the secondary buildings, the large red painted barns and outbuildings were of sturdy construction.

After the Civil War, when the Southern influence was felt, people added porches and pillars to their homes. During the Victorian era, houses began to blossom with fancy scroll-saw trim gables, dormers, bay windows, etc. The houses were renovated to the point where it was difficult to find the old, original house of early America. The original house was usually started with one large room, and as the family grew in size, rooms were added.

Today, the old houses stand as a tribute to the early builder — washed by the rain, scorched by the sun and slapped by the winds for generations, but still very charming.

Roads were unnamed; therefore, as families settled in different sections, that section became known by the most promi-

nent family living there. Livingston Center was called Teedtown. The Teeds had come from the eastern slope of the Watchung Mountains and intermarried with the Collins, Cooks, Edwards, Forces, Halseys, McChesneys, Rosses, Wards and Watsons.

The Morehouse family came to Livingston in the early 1790's, and settled where the present-day traffic circle is located on Route 10 and Beaufort Avenue. This area was known as Morehousetown. The family was active in the affairs of Livingston for more than a century. David Morehouse ran a general store, where the mail for the entire region was delivered from Morristown two or three times a week. Mr. Morehouse was also a tax collector in Livingston. In 1880, the Morehouse family, and other families in the vicinity, were responsible for the building of Olivet Church. This building is located at the Circle, and is owned by the Livingston Masonic Lodge.

In 1744, Jonathan Squier purchased 782 9/10 acres from Andrew and Lewis Johnston of Perth Amboy. The Squier property started at the Passaic River, continued along Walnut Street, and covered the entire area to Hillside Avenue. Jonathan paid 391 pounds and nine shillings — eight shillings per acre. The property was called Squiertown and Squiertown School bears the family name.

Mrs. Edith Squier Muller, still living in Livingston and a direct descendent of Jonathan Squier, reminisces that her grandmother told her that refugees camped in the field in front of her ancestor's home for the duration of the Battle of Springfield, New Jersey, on June 23, 1780. This same field was used to grow flax which the family spun into thread, though they did not weave the cloth. Eisenhower Parkway now goes through this area.

The western section of Livingston Township was known as Cheapside; "chepe" is an old English word for market; therefore, Cheapside means market-side.

At the close of the eighteenth century, large flocks of sheep were brought to this section by sheepherders from Warren and Sussex Counties. They were pastured while the owners went to New York on horseback to ascertain the current market value of their stock. If the price was right, they returned to Livingston to drive their flocks into the city. If the price was below what they had anticipated, their flocks were left to graze in the fields

until profits were assured.

On February 5, 1813, the State Legislature granted a charter, and the Township of Livingston came into being.

The township took the name of Livingston to honor William Livingston, the first governor of New Jersey after the Revolution, who served as governor for fourteen consecutive terms, until his death in 1790. He was born November 20, 1723 in Albany, was graduated at the head of his class from Yale, and spent much of his life in the practice of law in New York State. He described himself as "a long-nosed, long chinned, ugly looking fellow."

As governor of a frontier state "the cockpit of the Revolution," Livingston was a busy man, always on the move. The British, who had offered a reward of two hundred pounds for his dead body, and half the amount for just his ears and nose "for they are too well known and too remarkable to be mistaken," never found him home, when they raided his house, because he was seldom there.

"The pen is mightier than the sword." Governor Livingston delighted in taunting the British with his free swinging, sarcastic writings. Hearing that the English were thinking of recalling one of their commanders in New York, he wrote:

"I should be very sorry to have Clinton recalled through any national resentment against him, because as fertile as that country is in the production of blockheads, I think they cannot easily send us a greater blunderbuss, unless . . . it should please His Majesty Himself to do us the honor of a visit."

The British were very anxious to capture "that damned old rascal," but to no avail.

During his term in office, he granted John Fitch exclusive rights to build steamboats in New Jersey waters, and he saw the state through its first depression which came, predictably, on the heels of the war.

The governor constantly beseeched his friend, Alexander Hamilton, and son-in-law, John Jay, to exert their influence to get Federal finances on a sound basis and to strengthen the union, which he thought was showing signs of strain.

His early writings indicated his abhorrence of slavery; he wrote also about the high cost of funerals, fire safety, and freedom of the press.

Livingston and his wife, Susan, whom he called Sukey, had thirteen children — “one for every state,” he was fond of saying.

In his first inaugural address, Livingston stated, “May the foundation of our infant State be laid in virtue and the fear of God, and the superstructure will rise glorious and endure for ages.”

Governor Livingston lived at Liberty Hall, Elizabeth. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and after signing the Constitution, he wrote “The Constitution surpasses my most sanguine expectations. When we consider the multiplicity of jarring interests, it really becomes a matter of astonishment that a system could have been effected in which so few imperfections are to be found.” As the first governor under freedom, he drafted many original laws, and provided the groundwork of the New Jersey system of government.

The first township committee meeting was held on Monday, April 12, 1813, at the inn of Isaac Samo. The inn had been built in 1765 by William Ely and was located across from the Livingston Baptist Church on Route Ten.

The township committee was comprised of five members, just as it is today. There was a town clerk, a tax collector, and an overseer of the poor. Joseph T. Hardy acted as moderator, as the township committee was called; he was also one of the township’s two chosen freeholders.

The moderator was the first to be elected. The law foresaw the possibility that someone might “by unnecessary noise or conversation” disrupt the proceedings and provided that “such a person shall forfeit one dollar for such offence” or be evicted from the meeting.

Many tasks faced Livingston’s citizens. There were, according to the law of 1798, regulations and bylaws to be made “relating to common lands, ponds, destruction of noxious animals, and the making of roads.”

Joseph Harrison Esq., Brainard Dickinson, and John Townley became the three commissioners of appeal. Harrison was also chosen election judge. Josiah Steele and Rufus Harrison were elected surveyors of the highway. It was the duty of these surveyors and overseers to see that the roads were kept passable, to lay out new ones if necessary and to watch that none of the inhabitants infringed on the common right of way by

moving his fences into the road. Two overseers of the poor were elected. Essex County, as a whole, was faced with hard times, and the advisability of erecting a county "poor house" had been widely discussed.

Every household was charged with a property tax of fifty-cents. Shopkeepers had to pay an additional half-dollar. Single men were assessed five cents each, but no attempt was made to tax a spinster. The possession of a spring wagon was taxed five cents. Cattle were taxed one cent a head; horses were taxed a cent and a half.

Among the early officials of the township was a hog reeve, who had to look after the fences and impound runaway pigs before they could invade fields and orchards. One candidate for the position made this appealing election speech:

"Fellow citizens: I do not come before you seeking the high and honorable office of Hog Reeve because I desire fame, but from a high desire to serve my country."

Livingston's population in 1830 had become 1,150, as compared to under 1,000 in 1813 when the township received its charter. Livingston had paid \$120.03 in state and \$314.04 in county taxes, besides spending \$525.00 for roads and \$350.00 for the poor. In 1844, the population was 1,081, with three stores, one sawmill and five schools.

The panic of 1837 brought many problems to Livingston. In 1839, \$1,000 out of a tax total of \$1,490 was made available for aid to the unemployed and needy. Care of the poor continued to be a problem.

When the Civil War began, fifty-one men from Livingston joined the Union Army. One of the men, George B. Harrison, was killed at Antietam; General Daniel Edgar Sickles, a hero of the Battle of Gettysburg, resided on Beaufort Avenue during his childhood. A plaque, honoring these men, has recently been moved from Roosevelt School to Memorial Park.

The winters in Livingston were more severe with heavier snow storms than is now experienced. There were few houses to stop the blowing snow from drifting, creating impassable roads. In the spring, when the ice and snow melted, roads were, at times, a foot deep with mud. The only time the roads were usable was in the summer when the mud had dried.

At the western end of Livingston, where the boundary of

Millburn and Livingston meet, Brainard Dickinson built a home in 1742 at the southwestern limit of Livingston, comprising three hundred acres of land, bordered by a hairpin turn of the Passaic River. His great grandson Israel, in 1803, built the structure which stands today. The Dickinson homestead is reached by a half mile lane running off Passaic Avenue. This region, now part of the East Orange Water Reserve, is known as the Black Swamp. During the spring floods, wild ducks and geese gather here annually. In the late eighteen-hundreds, David Brainard Dickinson, a taxidermist, and the son of Israel, shot and mounted all the birds and animals native to this area. He was called the John Burroughs of New Jersey.

Prominent people from all parts of the nation, including President Theodore Roosevelt, came to hunt with David Dickinson. People from foreign countries came to consult with the naturalist, and to view his remarkable collection of wild life. A good portion of this collection is housed in the Newark Museum.

Before the Commonwealth Water Company built a dam across the East Orange Golf Course, the Passaic River would overflow its banks in the fall. The water would come almost to the road, where Parsonage Hill Road and Passaic Avenue join. The water would freeze and was an excellent place to ice skate; the whole neighborhood would meet for skating parties.

On the corner of Parsonage Hill Road, stood a small, yellow frame house built in 1796. Jane Ayers, a dedicated school teacher and faithful church worker, lived there until her death in 1898. She is buried in the Baldwin cemetery on Passaic Avenue, next to the Washington Place School, the school where she devoted so much of her life-time teaching the children of yesteryear.

Most of the old homes in this section are gone now. There was the James Brown farm; Mr. Brown, like many others in the area, was a prominent citizen of another era. The Jacobus home, a large comfortable farmhouse, stood where the Warrington Nursery School now stands. Across the street, was an old farmhouse occupied by Frank Reeves and his family.

John Condit, who came to Newark from Wales in 1678, was the ancestor of all the Condits and Condicts in the United States. The Condits were among the first landholders in the Livingston territory, and by the time the township was formed, they were

particularly numerous. They could be found allied with such families as the Littells, the Dutch Cooks (Van der Cook), the Dickinsons, Forces, De Camps, Williamses and the Townleys. Ira Condit invested in real estate until his holdings in Livingston extended far enough to give rise to the saying that "Ira Condit could walk from Centerville to the Passaic River without getting off his own land." He had much pasturage and hay land and owned considerable farm acreage in Morris County. He died in 1906 at the age of ninety-seven. The Ira Condit farm is now the sprawling Livingston Mall. Peach Orchard Hill, planted with over 1000 peach trees, is the present site of the Foster Wheeler Company.

The Crane House, built in 1780, still stands today. It was moved from a site opposite the Livingston Methodist Church to Dellmead Drive. Mrs. Grace Dusenbury, granddaughter of Issac Crane, resides there. Mr. Crane was a very active member of the West Livingston community.

Livingston was a peaceful, fertile valley, suitable for dairy farming. Cows grazed in the pastures and small spring houses dotted the landscape. Milk in forty quart cans was lowered into the clear cold water of the springs to keep it fresh for transportation to the Oranges and Newark. It was transported over the mountains by horse and wagon; upon arrival, the milk was ladled out of the cans with a large milk dipper by the driver into a customer's pitcher.

Wednesday was the big day of the week — it was then that farmers made their weekly trip to Chatham to buy grain.

In the springtime, the stillness was broken by men plowing the fields, giving orders to their teams of horses, or by crows giving vent to their displeasure at the intrusion of man.

During the summer, the river meadows were mowed. This served a three fold purpose — the hay was used for bedding the livestock; the growth of grass was controlled, so that it did not become a tangled mass, perfect for mosquito breeding; and, last but not least, so that when winter came and the river overflowed its banks, men, women and children would be able to skate for miles on the smooth, clear ice. In the fall, with the help of neighbors, the corn was husked. When the snow came, the farmer was prepared for a long, cold winter. The corn cribs were bursting; the larder was full of canned foods; barrels of

apples, bins of potatoes, carrots, and cabbage had been stored. The game, which the men had hunted, was frozen; the pigs were butchered, and hams and bacon were hickory-smoked in little outbuildings, filling the air for many miles with the aroma.

The 1813 incorporation of Livingston made Teedtown, now Livingston Center, the post-town of the new township, but owners of the stage lines still considered carrying the mails as a side line. Charles Colbath, who operated the Morristown stage for many years, drove the first day of each week with passengers and mail from Morristown to Mount Freedom and back. The next day he would load up with mail for Whippany, Hanover, and Livingston, and continue with passengers for Newark.

In 1831, Frederick Chapin was named the first postmaster of Livingston. His appointment, from Washington D.C., is framed and along with the first post office desk, is on display in the Force Home on South Livingston Avenue, Livingston's historical site.

When Livingston celebrated its one hundred and twenty-fifth birthday, the population of Livingston was 4,244 with 1,400 homes.

Indian paths widened into regular trails, and later into roads, were repaired by the overseers of roads authorized by colonial law as early as 1675. Deep ruts caused by the cumbersome vehicles that used the roads prompted the New Jersey Assembly to pass a law in 1730 establishing a uniform wheel-gauge for all vehicles, and men were allowed to pay their taxes by working on the roads. Many times a stretch of marshy ground would be covered by logs and saplings, and were called corduroy roads.

Eagle Rock Avenue, now in Roseland, was named after the highest elevation of the Watchung range; legend tells us that Washington stationed his sentinels to keep a close watch on the invading British and Hessians, from this vantage point.

Swinefield Road was laid out as a highway as early as 1705. The road's name still survives in Swinefield Bridge, which spans the Passaic River in Roseland.

Northfield Road was an important highway, and was one of

the first roads to be built. Cattle and sheep plodded its course to Newark. Along its course cattle men and sheep herders would pause at the small hilltop tavern which Samuel Burnet erected beside the road in 1799. Here the men swapped crop information, market tips and stories. Teamsters carried food for themselves and their horses; a shilling was the usual charge for a night's lodging and stabling.

In 1806, the Colonial Highway became the first of the State's toll roads (Route 10). Tolls were charged every few miles. Iron from the mines of Morris County and even as far as Phillipsburg, New Jersey, was hauled over the roads until the Morris Canal was opened in 1831 and provided cheaper means of transporting iron and coal.

Toll charges ranged from two cents for a pedestrian or a head of cattle to four cents for a horse and rider; five cents for a one-horse wagon or carriage, to ten cents for a two-horse team and wagon, plus an extra four cents for each additional horse or mule. Local traffic did not have to pay going about their usual business, or going to, or coming from their place of worship. Militiamen on muster day and funeral processions could also pass free of charge.

Newest of the roads, was South Orange Avenue. It was a little cart path through the mountains as early as 1800. It never attained the importance of Mount Pleasant Avenue.

Livingston Avenue was the earliest north-south highway, but Hillside Avenue ran from West Hobart Gap Road to Mount Pleasant Avenue. This was a private lane in early days and passed through property owned by the Ward family. Each end of the road was closed by the Littell family, early settlers in Livingston. The lane became a public road in 1803, when it was spoken of as the "New Road." The present name of Hillside Avenue is of recent origin.

The De Camp Bus Line was started in 1870 by William Ward, who soon sold its good will, stage and four horses, to his brother-in-law, Benjamin De Camp. For thirty years, Benjamin De Camp continued to drive his stage across the mountains to Orange twice daily. Only during the blizzard of 1888 was the service interrupted for a few days. The black, horse-drawn vehicle was as familiar along Mount Pleasant Avenue as the yellow and blue motor coaches of today.

After Mr. De Camp's death in 1906, his son, Robert, continued to operate the stage line until his death in 1917, when his brother Ralph ran the company which expanded the bus line to West Orange, St. Cloud to Northfield. Three years later the Northfield-Orange line was extended east to Newark and west to Morristown.

Ralph De Camp, who had been a member of the State Legislature, died on May 20, 1939.

At the same time as the De Camp Bus Line was being organized, Clara Maass, who lived on Sycamore Avenue, was performing distinguished service in the Spanish-American War. Clara had trained at the old German Hospital in Newark, to become a nurse. At the outbreak of the war, Clara, then twenty-one years old, volunteered for service in Cuba. At the Havana hospitals, she saw not only the wounded and dying, but the dread disease, yellow fever. She requested inoculation with the fever germ, because immunity would make her more useful. Doctors warned her against the great risk, but she was willing to accept it. Several days after being inoculated, she developed yellow fever and died a week later. She was buried with military honors for her heroic example in assisting science to develop the antitoxin that wiped out yellow fever. Medical Director John W. Ross stated; "She showed heroism and devotion to duty equal to any soldier or sailor in battle." Her illness and death had great weight in convincing the leading medical men of Cuba and the medical profession that yellow fever was caused by the bite of mosquitoes. Clara Maass Memorial Hospital was named in her honor.

The first subscribers to the telephone were Amos W. Harrison and his brother, William, in 1905. When a fire destroyed William R. Johnson's store at Northfield Center in 1913, the only telephone in the vicinity was put out of commission.

In 1908, Roseland decided to become a separate community. At first the town was called Rose-Lyn. Whether by misspelling or by design, Roselyn became Roseland on April 10, 1908.

Electricity was available for the first time in 1914. The street lighting was slow to follow the installation of electricity in private homes. As late as 1921, the only street lighting at Northfield Center was an oil lamp on a pole maintained vol-

untarily by August W. Fund, the town's tax collector.

Water was supplied by private well until 1926 when the township signed a contract with the Commonwealth Water Company of Summit to provide water.

Gas for cooking was not available until 1929, when the Suburban Gas Company distributed bottled gas.

For many years after the town was incorporated, Livingston needed only one constable. In the 1870's a second one was appointed mainly to collect delinquent taxes. The duties of constables ranged from license fees to detecting illegal distillers of hard cider.

Livingston had always been a law abiding community. The occasional need for more protection usually arose because of some outsider. In 1929, the first Chief of Police was appointed; two patrolmen also were appointed. The police headquarters was a garage behind the chief's residence on Livingston Avenue.

In 1921, the volunteer fire department was organized. In 1923, the township appropriated \$3,500 for the erection of a fire house and the procurement of a fire truck.

A group of business men secured a charter for the Livingston National Bank which opened in 1928 with assets of \$128,000.

The first rescue squad was founded in 1933. All of the volunteer firemen took a course in first aid and a Packard automobile was converted into a rescue truck. In 1937, Livingston bought its first ambulance.

During the Depression, a far seeing Township Committee, retained the Force property on South Livingston Avenue that is now the Municipal Center. Thanks to Messrs. J.J. Spurr, Herbert Mitschele, Herman Beck, William Buerger and Herman Strahman, Livingston has one of the finest Civic Centers in the area.

When the Township of Livingston purchased the historical Force Home on two acres of land, this completed the entire farm of Thomas Force, a Revolutionary soldier and a leading citizen of another era.

Many farmers of bygone years and the two early churches had their own cemeteries. Today, the disintegrating headstones give mute evidence to the early pioneers who worked so hard to establish a township that has grown in proportion far beyond their wildest dreams.



photo by: HEIDI STERN

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