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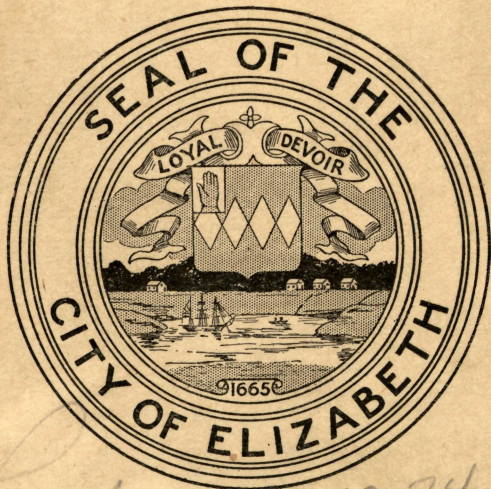
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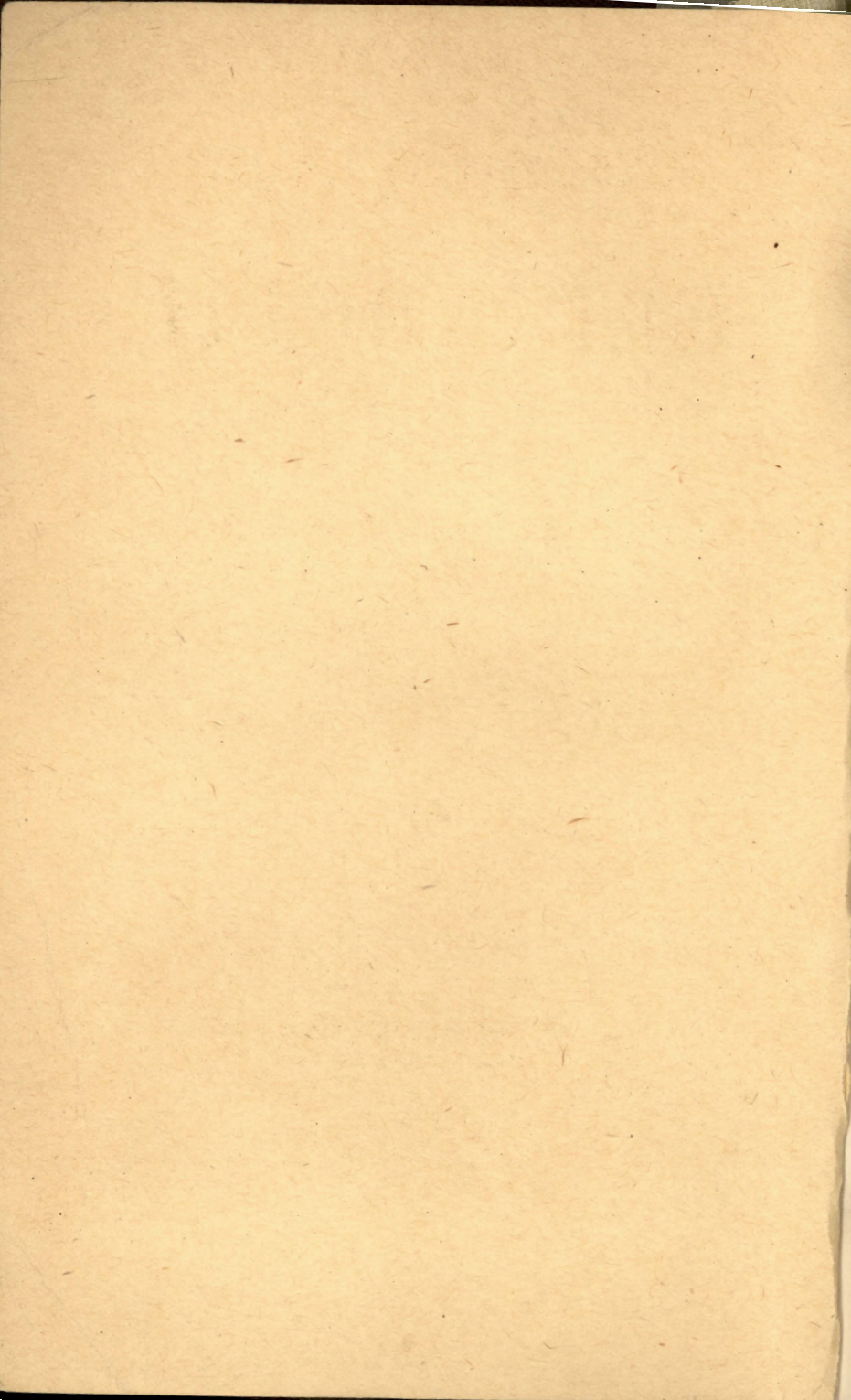
THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL  
COMMITTEE .

JULY THE FOURTH

1926



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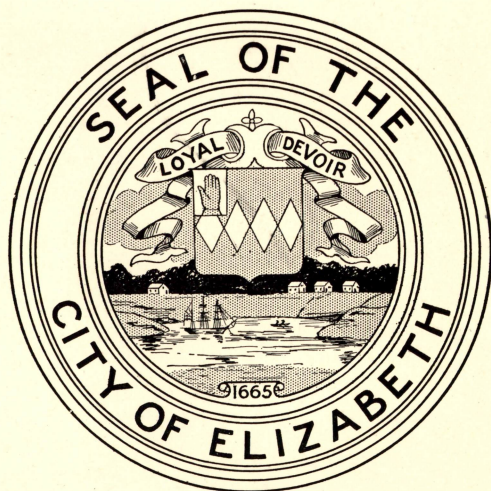
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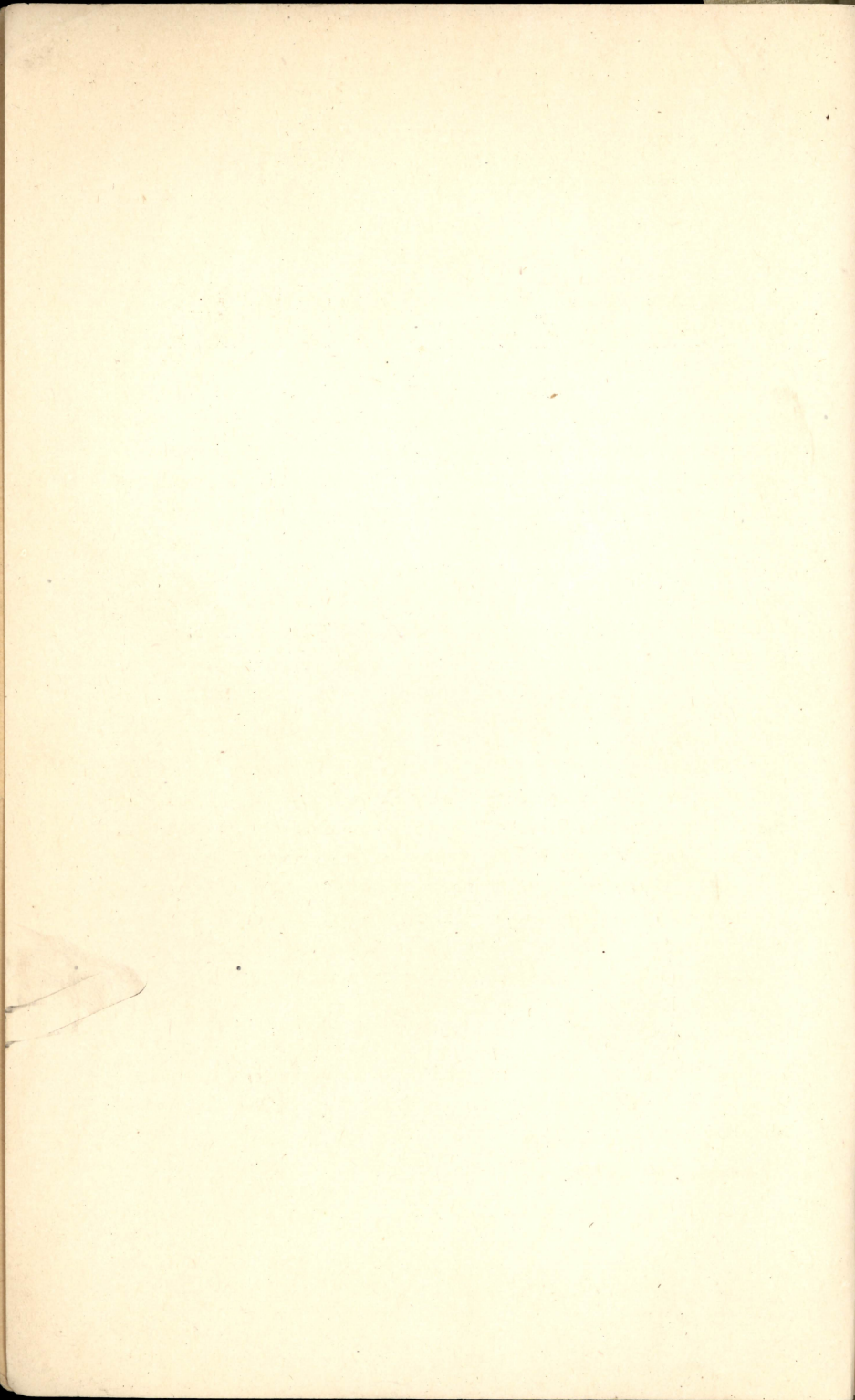
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THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL  
COMMITTEE

JULY THE FOURTH

1926





## PREFACE

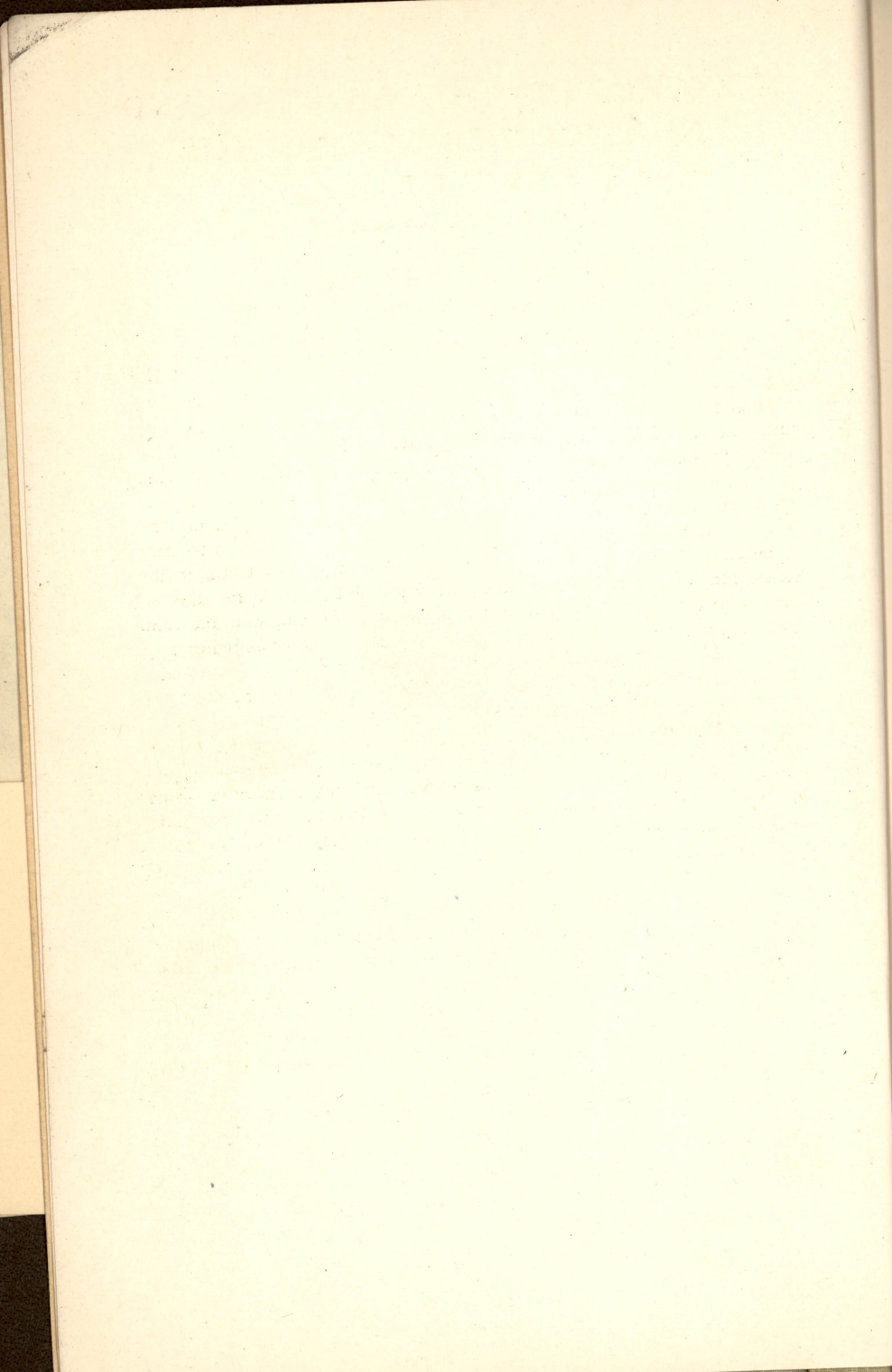
The following pages contain papers prepared under the direction of the Sesqui Centennial Committee, of the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey, appointed by Hon. John F. Kenah, Mayor of said city, and narrate the military engagements in and around the City of Elizabeth, in the War for Independence; biographical sketches of the patriotic men who participated in that great achievement; the history of the homes and residences of the revolutionary period, a sketch of the early schools, and an account of the streets and avenues then existing in the old town. Many of the articles will give renewed interest in neglected phases of our local history, and may serve to stimulate the patriotic sentiments of the rising generation in the proud heritage transmitted to them by the patriotic men and women who aided in founding our great republic.

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The articles on the Battles and Engagements fought in and around the town, have been prepared by James C. Connolly, former Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Union County; those on historic homes of the town by Warren R. Dix, former Superintendent of the Public Schools of Elizabeth; those giving biographical accounts of the men of the revolutionary period, by Dr. Arthur L. Johnson, the County Superintendent of Schools; the article on the schools of the period, by William Duncan, the principal of Alexander Hamilton Junior High School of Elizabeth, and the article on roads in the revolutionary town, by Bart J. Steib.

Mr. Dix is president, Dr. Johnson a vice-president and Judge Connolly a vice-president and secretary of the Union County Historical Society.

Dated, July 4, 1926.



# SKETCHES OF THE BATTLES AND ENGAGEMENTS DURING THE REVOLUTION

By JAMES C. CONNOLLY

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## THE BLUE MOUNTAIN VALLEY

January 22, 1776

The skirmish at Lexington and the Battle of Bunker Hill determined the fate of Britain in America. New Jersey placed herself beside Massachusetts in the contest. The militia had been organized throughout the colonies, and one of the most important steps taken by that body in New Jersey, before the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence, occurred on January 22, 1776. On that day, between 11 and 12 o'clock, Lord Stirling (William Alexander) set out for Perth Amboy on what was reported to be an important enterprise. After he left the town, and in the evening, information was sent here to be given to him, or to the chairman of the local committee, to the effect that an armed vessel had left New York the same day, to convoy to that city a ship which was arriving from England, and then lying in the lower bay. The committee was hastily called together at 6 o'clock, and it was concluded that Stirling had information of the ship arriving from England, and had its capture in view, but did not have information of the armed vessel sent to meet it. The committee thereupon determined to send 100 men by way of the Narrows to his assistance, and immediately dispatched a courier to give him the information they had received. The committee then procured three boats and filled them out with such armament as was available, and put them in charge of 80 townsmen and 30 continental soldiers, under the command of Colonel Elias Dayton. The boats sailed away, but could not reach the Narrows on account of the lowness of the tide. They made their way to Perth Amboy, however, and there informed Stirling of their purpose. Stirling set out with them, taking 40 of his regiment with him to locate the vessel and her armored protector. They saw the ship at sea, and when they met her boarded her without opposition. She was named the "Blue Mountain Valley," and had come from London with a cargo of potatoes, sauerkraut, coal, hogs, horse beans, porter and hoops, which were destined for the British troops at Boston. In a report made by the local committee to the Continental Congress, it was stated that the armored vessel with great good luck made her escape back to New York. The captured vessel was directed by Stirling to be taken here, and the people of Elizabeth, to make sure that she should not be recaptured by the enemy, sent on a reinforcement of men to board her. She was brought near the foot of Elizabeth avenue, and on March 2, 1776, the vessel and cargo were ordered to be

sold; but 34 cauldrons of coal were delivered to Moses Ogden at market price. Ogden had an iron establishment and was under contract with the government for his output. The ship and cargo were sold on March 18th. This daring feat, accomplished by the people of the town, was regarded by the patriots and by the Continental Congress as one of great importance, and Congress passed a resolution of thanks to Lord Stirling. He in turn sent a letter of thanks to the Elizabethtown Committee for their co-operation and assistance.

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## THE FIRST CONTEST AT SPRINGFIELD

December 17, 1776

In the Fall and Winter of 1776 General Howe endeavored to prevent the recruiting of men in Northern New Jersey for the patriot army and to counteract this General Washington ordered three regiments from Peekskill to Morristown, and in a letter sent by him, to Congress, dated December 20, 1776, he informed that body, that he had directed these regiments to halt at Morristown, where he understood there were about 800 militiamen. The battle at Trenton had not yet been fought, and there can be no doubt that Washington was making provision against an adverse issue, as well as making an endeavor to stimulate the recruiting of forces among the people; hence his order directing the three regiments to halt at Morristown. The three regiments, were mere skeletons in number and reached Morristown about the middle of December. General McDougall writing to Washington, gave him the following information concerning these regiments: that Gratton's (Greaton) regiment consisted of 250 men; Bond's of 100 men; and Porter's of 170 men, making in all 570 men. General McDougall being sick, General Maxwell took command of the troops. The militia at Morristown were under the command of Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr. This officer had covered the retreat of Washington across New Jersey. He was in command of the militia on the 14th of December, 1776, when General Leslie landed at the foot of Elizabeth avenue with 800 British soldiers. Leslie remained here a few days, and then marched to Springfield. Some accounts make his force much larger than here given. There can be little doubt that his objective point was Morristown, where he hoped to disperse the American troops under Maxwell. A letter from General Grant to Colonel Donop, dated at New Brunswick, December 17th, states that Leslie had marched to Springfield on that day, and would go from Springfield to Princeton by way of Bound Brook. The most direct route would have been by way of Rahway and New Brunswick. The people of Morris County responded to the call for men to repel the enemy. The contest which ensued at Springfield on the 17th was fought with ardor and was hot and decisive. The fight was sustained by the militia organized here and those from Morris County, throughout, and Major Spencer, and Captains Brookfield and Seely fought like veterans. Spencer's horse was shot under him, and with two pistols in his hands he appeared

before the Colonel of the Brigade (Ford), and smilingly called the Colonel's attention to his mishap. Night put an end to the conflict, and the militia retired back some distance, but prepared to renew the contest in the morning. General Leslie retreated during the night, taking off his dead and wounded in wagons, and we next hear of him at Princeton. An incident connected with this skirmish, and which shows the spirit that animated the people of New Jersey, is to the effect, that Samuel Beach, the teacher of the little school at Lyons Farms (now a part of Newark), on hearing that Leslie and his soldiers were marching on Springfield, dismissed his school and shouldering his gun went into the fight. After the British retreated Beach returned home, and so actively had he participated in the contest, that on arriving there he was begrimed and as black as a negro, so that he was not recognizable by his sister. The enemy having departed, Colonel Ford let his troops back to Morristown. This brave man died on the following January 11th as a result of a delirium in the head.

A writer in Harper's Magazine for 1859 leaves the impression that this action took place on December 14th, the same day that Leslie marched from the foot of Elizabeth avenue, but the actual date of the contest was December 17th.

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## THE ATTEMPTED CAPTURE OF GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON AND BATTLE OF NEWARK BAY

February 25, 1779

The hatred of the British for Governor Livingston, who was ever an ardent patriot, was intense, and rewards had been offered for his capture. A plan to capture him at his home,—Liberty Hall, was put into execution in the following manner: On February 24, 1779, the 33rd and 42nd Regiments, and a company of guards, consisting in all of about 1,000 men, under Colonel Sterling, were selected to carry out the plan. They were stationed near Red Hook on Long Island, and left there at 9 o'clock at night; then crossed over New York Bay, landing on the Jersey shore, and then marched over the peninsula, now known as the City of Bayonne, to the shore of Newark Bay. The boats which carried them from Long Island proceeded down to and through Kill von Kull, and thence up Newark Bay; the soldiers were again put on board and carried across to the Elizabeth town shore, and landed about a mile north of the present bridge of the Central Railroad Company. Cornelius Hatfield and two other refugees acted as guides. The meadows were in a frozen condition and therefore afforded footing. It was now about three o'clock in the morning of the 25th. The early hour and the place of their landing were selected, with a view of carrying out the expedition, unobserved, and under the cover of night, and thus to get access to the Governor's home, at an hour when he was likely to be found in bed. The soldiers reached high land at Woodruff's Farms, a short distance east of Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The progress of some of the troops was delayed on account of a misunderstanding of orders. The enemy knew that General Maxwell was guarding the

town, and therefore no further advance was made until the soldiers left behind were brought up. This delay was fortunate, for when a detachment, which went on ahead arrived at Liberty Hall, it was found that the Governor had left a few hours before. In the meantime, one of the Woodruffs had given the alarm to Colonel Ogden, who conveyed the information to General Maxwell. General Maxwell moved his troops so as to harass the enemy, and the people, now aroused, not knowing the numbers of the British, moved to the westerly side of the town. The Governor's house was searched and ransacked; and one of his daughters, who was left in charge, used great diplomacy with the invading soldiers and officers, and being requested to deliver over her father's correspondence, directed them to the library and to drawers which contained bundles of receipts and old papers, which were carried away, drawers and contents, but the valuable correspondence of the Governor, with Washington, Congress and State officials, contained in a small box in another room, escaped their notice, and went unobserved. Foiled in their attempt to capture the Governor, the British now made their way to the parsonage and the academy of the Presbyterian Church,—they seemed to have a loathing for everything Presbyterian—and burned them. During the burning of the academy a Mrs. Egbert and other women rolled out 26 barrels of flour, which had been stored there for the army, at the risk of their lives.

In the early morning hours General Maxwell ascertained the strength of the enemy, as well as their disposition, and marched against them, with Colonels Dayton, Ogden and Barber, and so hot was the pursuit that the British abandoned the horses and cattle they had taken earlier in the morning. The enemy hastened across the meadows, the way they came, to the place where their boats, including two gun boats, were still waiting. Another account says that the retreat was through New Point Road. One of the boats, owing to the fall of the tide, and the weight of some soldiers grounded, and those on board were captured. The Americans used two pieces of artillery and their force consisted not only of the militia of Elizabeth town, but also of some militia from Newark. Four or six of the enemy were killed, and forty of them wounded. On the American side, Colonel Ogden and Lieutenant Reucastle and four privates were wounded. One private whose name has not come down to us was killed. From the number of the contestants and the importance of the engagement over the meadows and on the boats it might be called the battle of Newark Bay.

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### BATTLE OF CONNECTICUT FARMS JUNE 7, 1780

The discontent prevailing in Washington's army in the Spring of 1780, attracted a great deal of attention; and as Marshall intimates in his excellent, "Life of Washington," the people of New Jersey suffered much from the frequent requisitions made upon them, but their complaints were exaggerated in New York, then under the control of the enemy, to such an extent as to induce the commanding officer to believe

that an expedition undertaken against Washington, who was encamped near Morristown, would prove successful. Believing that victory was awaiting them the British, under Knyphausen, made preparations on a grand scale for the invasion of New Jersey. On the night of June 6, 1780, six thousand troops landed at the foot of Elizabeth avenue and its neighborhood. The soldiers consisted of regulars, provincials, the famous Coldstream Guards, and other soldiers, including the German mercenaries. They were formed into three divisions, under Generals Sterling, Mathew and Tryon, respectively, and the entire command was under the direction of General Knyphausen. On the morning of the 7th (Wednesday), the British moved forward over Elizabeth avenue, General Sterling at their head. They made a gallant appearance. The red uniforms, which were new, and the polished helmets and glittering steel of the arms of the privates and officers, the heavy artillery and prancing horses, made them look like an invincible army. They marched through Elizabeth avenue to Third street and thence through First avenue to Union Square. At this point they were rudely shocked, for Colonel Dayton, having heard early in the morning of the landing of the British detailed twelve men, to locate themselves in the wood and brush, at the junction of First Avenue and New Point Road, and retard the enemy's advance as long as possible. These men were led by Moses Ogden. On the arrival of the British at the Square, the men under Ogden opened fire, and there was an immediate halt and preparation made for defense by the enemy; the twelve men under Ogden then withdrew. They had wounded General Sterling, a ball having fractured his thigh, and he died as a result of the wound several months after.

General Knyphausen then assumed command at the head of the troops and proceeded up Elizabeth avenue, to Broad street: they then marched through Broad street to West Jersey street, and proceeded west through West Jersey street to the Galloping Hill road, and thence on towards Connecticut Farms and Springfield, their object being to march on to Morristown, where Washington was encamped. The whole country was aroused and Colonel Dayton with his troops stationed here, with a portion of the Jersey Brigade retreated before the great forces of the enemy and joined the other portions of the Brigade under General Maxwell at Connecticut Farms. The militia joined them as they made their way to the Farms, and annoyed the British as they advanced. At a quarter of a mile southeast of the Farms Presbyterian Church, and on the west branch of the Elizabeth river sixty militia men temporarily halted the enemy, and General Maxwell, with his brigade and a part of the militia from a point north of the Farms, drove back their advance some distance; here Knyphausen remained until night. In the meantime Washington, whose entire command had been reduced to three thousand men, advanced toward Short Hills, intending to engage the enemy, notwithstanding the numerical superiority of the latter, and made arrangements for the attack on the following morning. Before night came on the Jersey militia and some of the Continental forces drove the enemy's

advance back, and the fiercest fighting that had taken place in the State up to this time, ensued; the British now being reinforced drove the Americans back and over the bridge at the Rahway river, near Springfield. The Americans then with the aid of a field piece, under the control of the militia drove the enemy back again, so that General Maxwell, writing to Governor Livingston, within a week following the battle said: "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. In the latter part of the day the militia flocked from all quarters and gave the enemy no respite till the day closed the scene."

Most of the houses in the village were filled with British wounded, and Knyphausen now being informed by some prisoners and deserters that Washington was concentrating at Short Hills, concluded to retreat, as soon as night had set in, and the Coldstream Guards under Lieutenant Matthews, retreated to what the lieutenant thought was a commanding position near the village. Colonel Dayton took a post on a narrow road with the object of preserving the village; and the British soldiers learning that the advance to Morristown was to be abandoned commenced the work of pillage and plunder, and after everything was taken from the houses, stores, and outhouses, the village, including the church, was given to flames. It was during the course of this day that the wife of Rev. James Caldwell was murdered. He was the minister of the First Church in Elizabeth, and had sometime previously removed his wife and children, for greater security, to the parsonage of the Farms Church. When he received knowledge of the advance of the British he endeavored to have his wife and children removed to some other less exposed place, but she, not anticipating any danger, decided to stay where she was. When the British arrived Mrs. Caldwell entertained the officers by giving them some refreshments. She then retired to a back room where she felt secure from any stray shot that might come in the direction of the house. Her maid accompanied her with the children. While in the room a "red coat" jumped over the fence and walked to the window. Mrs. Caldwell rose from a bed on which she was sitting and as she did so the soldier fired his musket at her through the window. Two bullets passed through her body, and she fell dead at the feet of her children. Her body was taken from the building, and some accounts say, with some opposition, by the enemy soldiers who were about to burn the house. The house was then burned. The body of the murdered woman was taken to a house nearby, and a British officer caused a cloak to be placed over the body. The bereaved husband saw his wife's body after the British departed and caused her to be buried the next day, in the churchyard, while the ruins of the church were still smouldering.

The British retreat was under way at 10 o'clock the same night, and did not stop until the Staten Island Sound was reached. During the retreat a terrific storm set in, and the rain came down in torrents, the lightning was so severe as to throw down trees and with the accom-

panying thunder frightened the enemy's horses so as to become unmanageable. As the soldiers retreated through forest and swamp the lightning flashes lit up many of the faces of those who had died in the fight. The British Lieutenant Mathews writing of the event afterwards said: "It rained, I think, harder than I ever knew, and thundered and lightened so severely as to frighten the horses, and once or twice the whole army halted, being deprived of sight for a time. General Knyphausen's horse started so as to throw the general."

During the retreat the militia and some of the regular soldiers, notwithstanding the severity of the storm, followed and harassed the retreating British. Knyphausen posted a body of yagers on Elizabeth avenue, near what is known as Reid street, and a body of Hessians, near Third street, on Rickett's Farm. Under the direction of General, Lord Stirling of the Continental Army, General Hand was directed to go down with two brigades of militia to the "Point," (foot of Elizabeth avenue), and take action against the enemy. Hand obeyed and on the morning of the 8th his divided forces joined at the corner of Broad street and Elizabeth avenue, where he captured a small number of the enemy. He marched to the eastern part of the town and found the forces of the enemy stretching from Elizabeth avenue (First avenue) northward to the New Point Road. The enemy was too strong for him to do any effective work, however, and he did not feel, under the circumstances, that he ought to sacrifice the lives of his men. The Americans continued to harass the enemy, and during the two weeks they remained at the point, several yagers were killed and an engineer named Hill and other officers were wounded.

The loss to the Continentals, was eight killed, including Moses Ogden, wounded twenty-eight, and five missing. In addition to the foregoing, several of the militia were killed and wounded. The British lost three times the number, so far as could be ascertained.

The expedition and object of the British was an utter failure, and gave the Americans renewed confidence in themselves and their leaders.

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## BATTLE OF SPRINGFIELD

June 23, 1780

The Battle of Springfield occupies a place of importance in the war of the Revolution, not so much on account of the number of those who were killed, as on account of the stout resistance shown to the British by the Continental soldiers and the militia, most of the latter being men from Elizabeth and its vicinity. The enemy numbering more than 12,000 troops were concentrated at New York, and in the vicinity, and on Staten Island. Washington's army consisted of not more than 3,700, and occupied the territory near Morristown, and some of his troops were posted at Short Hills and Springfield. On June 18, 1780, Sir Henry Clinton, who had returned from the conquest of South Carolina, decided to invade New Jersey, with the object of conquering Washington's

Army at Morristown. At the same time it was made to appear that the British intended to send part of their army to assail West Point, thereby making it necessary for Washington to divide his forces. Washington left General Greene in charge of two brigades of Continentals, and the militia, at Springfield, and proceeded with the remainder of the army toward Pompton, but keeping in touch with the movements of the British. He did not desire, however, to separate himself too far from Greene, thus exercising that discretion for which he became famous.

On the morning of June 23rd, the British forces numbering 5,000 besides dragoons, landed at the foot of Elizabeth avenue, and proceeded through that street, of which First avenue was then a part, to Broad street, and then over the same route which had been taken by Knyphausen on June 7th. They passed through Connecticut Farms, on toward Springfield. As soon as the advancing hosts had been seen from Prospect Hill the tar barrel signal was lighted and an eighteen pounder gave warning. The militia immediately went to their places of rendezvous, and all the troops were hastily called together to make resistance. Stark's brigade and Maxwell's forces were marched to the heights near the mill at the rear of the town. The Vauxhall Road was occupied by Major Lee, also known as "Light Horse Harry," and Colonel Dayton took a position on the direct road leading to Springfield. Col. Angel and Col. Dayton, who had the chief defense of the town, were now encountered by the enemy. The latter advanced to the bridge over the Rahway river, from which Colonel Dayton was causing the planking to be removed. Colonel Angel, with less than 200 Rhode Islanders, with whom were some of Colonel Dayton's 3rd New Jersey regiment, made a stubborn resistance. Cannonading commenced on both sides. Colonel Israel Shreve was stationed at a second bridge over the river, to cover the retreat of Angel, if necessary. While the battle was going on here Major Lee was defending Littell's bridge on the Vauxhall Road. Greene was, during this time, concentrating his forces on the high ground at Springfield in the rear of the town, with militia on his flanks.

The enemy now forded the river near the Vauxhall Road, and turned to assail Colonel Angel, and Colonel Dayton, who stood their ground for half an hour with great bravery. The fighting was fierce, and Angel retired in good order, bringing his wounded with him. Colonel Shreve did good work in covering the retreat. A small field piece planted on Battle Hill, so called, afterwards, annoyed the British during the whole contest, and did great execution. General Greene, following the retreat, ordered Shreve to join his brigade; this was followed by the British taking the town and reducing it to ashes, including the Presbyterian Church. Washington had sent a brigade to hang on the flank of the enemy, and returned over six miles of roads with his forces, to support Greene. During the height of the contest the wadding used for ramming the bullets ran out, and Parson Caldwell, whose wife had been so brutally murdered, on the last expedition of the enemy,

ran back to the church and taking a bundle of Watts' hymn books, returned with haste to the soldiers, and tearing out the leaves distributed them among the men shouting as he did so, "Now, boys, put Watts into them"; and they did. After Clinton entered the town the Americans kept up a constant skirmish, and seeing their determined resistance, he retreated during the night to Elizabethtown, and on the following evening crossed over to Staten Island. Considering the large force he had under his command, he might have continued on the ground, especially since his source of supplies was not far distant. Marshall in his "Life of Washington," says: "It is probable that the caution manifested during this expedition is to be ascribed to the intelligence, that a formidable fleet and army from France were daily expected on the Coast." Whatever the cause, the invasion was a miserable failure.

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### "ACTS OF THE LOYALISTS, AND THE BURNING OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE COURT HOUSE"

The American Revolution came as a result of British misrule. But the principal cause is found in the acts of parliament, under which England endeavored to subject her American colonies to taxes and duties which she imposed upon them. Massachusetts was in open revolt in 1775, and the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought on June 17th of that year. On July 4, 1776, Congress promulgated the Declaration of Independence, and from that time on the contest was persistently waged until independence was finally achieved in 1783.

There is no known record of the public reading of the Declaration of Independence in the old borough of Elizabeth. But there can be no doubt that it was read and discussed in public, for in all the States there was no greater support given to maintain its soul and spirit than in the old Borough of Elizabeth.

After the Declaration of Independence was adopted, the old town lying so near Staten Island was subjected to continual invasions, through the whole period of the war. These forays frequently resulted in the killing of its people, and the plunder of its horses, cattle, and other property, this being so particularly in the winter of 1779-80, one of the severest winters that ever came to this part of the country; the ice being so thick and solid on the North river and New York Bay that horses, cannons and regiments were sustained in crossing over it. The American troops and militia made like forays on Staten Island inflicting punishment on the Tories and Loyalists, who were under the command of Cortlandt Skinner, and frequently our information comes, even at this day, in a round about way. For instance we have recently learned that in a skirmish on June 25, 1777, Edward Dongan was killed on Staten Island. He was a Staten Islander by birth, and was no doubt of the family of Governor Dongan. He had practiced law in Elizabeth town, but became a loyalist, and was only 29 years of age at the time

of his death. On August 21, 1777, General Sullivan with Colonels Dayton, Ogden and Field of the militia, took 1,000 men to Morses Creek and crossed over to the island. Dayton's and Ogden's commands captured Colonels Lawrence and Barton and 130 privates; they also captured a scallop. Sullivan was not so fortunate. He was deceived by his guides, and lost severely. On September 12th, Clinton made an invasion at the foot of Elizabeth avenue, but it was without results. On November 18th and 21st, soldiers from Elizabethtown landed on the island and according to British accounts were beaten off. On November 27th, General Dickinson effected a landing on Staten Island with 1,400 men, going from Halstead's point. The loyalists, learning of the invasion, withdrew; five or six of the loyalists were killed and 24 were taken prisoners. Dickinson then returned but with a loss of three killed and fourteen taken prisoners.

On June 9, 1778, 150 militia from Elizabethtown landed on the island and after some skirmishing returned. On the 24th another landing was made on the island under Captain Randle. They wounded two of the enemy.

About this time General Washington ordered General Maxwell to take post at Elizabethtown, in order to prevent the foraging of the enemy, and thereby minimized the evil.

In January, 1780, General Irvine was directed to ascertain the strength of the enemy on the island, and Colonel Dayton made arrangements for an invasion. On the 14th an expedition under Lord Sterling was set in motion. It crossed over the ice, from De Hart's Point. They found the enemy entrenched behind ten feet of snow; next morning the Americans returned, with 10 prisoners and some deserters, and having also destroyed nine sailing vessels at Decker's Ferry. Many of the soldiers were frost bitten. It is also stated that Sterling under directions from General Washington caused the return of property which had been stolen by camp followers, to the extent of \$10,000.

It was on one of the forays made by the loyalists and tories that the First Church and the Court House were burned.

The Church was a wooden structure and stood on the same ground occupied by the present church. It was old and unpainted. The edifice was much smaller than the present one. Within its walls the earliest legislatures and the Supreme and County Courts held their sessions. The church did not become Presbyterian until 1717. Before that time it was Independent, the New England form of worship. Most of the early settlers were buried around it. On January 25, 1780, a force of about 400 British (loyalists), under Colonel Van Buskirk, lead by Cornelius Hetfield and two of his brothers, crossed the sound on the ice to Tremley, and from there came into the town. So stealthily did they move that they surprised 60 Continental soldiers, who at the last minute endeavored to make their escape. Among the officers captured were Colonel Belt, Major Williamson, and Captain Thomas Woodruff, and among others were Samuel Woodhouse, Isaac Scudder, Belcher Smith and one Gifford. The enemy then set fire to the church and the Court

House, the latter being nearby, as it is at present. It is said that the torch which set fire to the Church was applied by the hand of Cornelius Hetfield, a native of the town, whose family had been and were members of the church. Following the destruction of the church, Cornelius Hetfield, the elder, opened his "Red Store House," on Cherry street, on the south side of the river, to the congregation for religious services.

On hearing of the affair Washington referred to it as a "misfortune and disgrace," and appointed Major General St. Clair to investigate the causes leading to the capture of the soldiers and the burning of the church and Court House.

Notwithstanding the extra precautions now taken another raid was carried into effect on January 30 by the enemy, and nine of the militia were captured. On this occasion 10 horses and 3 sleighs were also taken. Again on February 10th, a marauding party under Skinner and the British General Sterling entered the town, robbed several houses, and made a search for Elisha Boudinot, intending to take him prisoner; they finally went away with their plunder and six prisoners.

On March 24th, Matthias Halstead was carried off, together with some of his cattle.

Further investigation would, no doubt, show other acts of the same kind, and the hardships to which the people were subjected:

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#### BATTLES AND ENGAGEMENTS IN UNION COUNTY DURING THE REVOLUTION

1. Ash Swamp.....	May, 1777
2. " " .....	June, 1779
3. Connecticut Farms.....	June 7, 1780
4. " " .....	June 23, 1780
5. Elizabethtown .....	December 17, 1776
6. " .....	January 25-30, 1780
7. " .....	June 6, 1780
8. Elizabethtown Point.....	July 21, 1778
9. " " .....	June 8, 1780
10. Rahway Creek.....	September 30, 1777
11. Rahway Meadows.....	June 26, 1781
12. Springfield .....	December 17, 1776
13. " .....	February, 1777
14. " .....	October, 1779
15. " .....	June 23, 1780
16. Spanktown (Rahway).....	1777
17. Westfield .....	March 8, 1777
18. " .....	June, 1777

# BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNTS OF ELIZABETHANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

By DR. ARTHUR L. JOHNSON

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## ELIAS BOUDINOT

The subject of this sketch was descended from a Huguenot family that came to America in 1686. He was born in Philadelphia, April 21, 1740. After being licensed to practice law, he opened an office in Elizabethtown. Here, after marriage, he purchased a house on Jersey street, from Alderman Samuel Woodruff. Mr. Boudinot became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and at the age of 25 was chosen President of the Board of Trustees.

At the outbreak of hostilities between America and England, he devoted himself to the cause of liberty. He first served on the staff of Governor Livingston and later was elected a member of Congress, serving from 1778 to 1779 and again from 1781 to 1784. Being chosen President of Congress on November 4, 1782, it became one of his duties to sign the treaty of peace with England. After the adoption of the Constitution, he again served in Congress from 1789 to 1795. He was appointed by Washington in the year 1795 as director of the mint at Philadelphia, and was continued in office until July, 1805. At the end of this period he resigned and passed the remainder of his life at Burlington, N. J.

He was a man of wealth and spent his income liberally. He was made a trustee of Princeton College, and in 1805 gave the institution a cabinet of natural history valued at \$3,000. In 1812 he was made a member of the board for foreign missions and in 1813 gave the organization substantial financial support. He was one of the founders of the American Bible Society and gave \$10,000 toward its support. Dr. Boudinot was also a philanthropist, providing help for young men entering the ministry, furnishing funds for the relief of the poor, buying spectacles for the aged poor, and making a gift of 13,000 acres of land to the mayor and corporation of Philadelphia that the poor might be supplied with wood at a low price. He also made a gift of 3,000 acres of land for the benefit of foreigners.

His later years were devoted to philanthropy and writing. Among his printed contributions are the following: *The Age of Revelation*, an oration before the Society of Cincinnati; *Second Advent of the Messiah*; and *Star in the West, or an Attempt to Discover the Long-Lost Tribes of Israel*.

After a long and useful life, he died in Burlington, New Jersey, October 24, 1821.

## FRANCIS BARBER

Colonel Francis Barber was of Irish parentage, born at Princeton in 1751. He was graduated from Princeton in 1767, and in the year 1769 became principal of the old academy in Elizabethtown, which stood at the time on the site of the present First Church Parish House on Broad street.

Among his pupils were Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr and others who distinguished themselves during the War of the Revolution. In February, 1776, he received a commission in the 3rd New Jersey Artillery, and in November of the same year he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1777 he was appointed Assistant Inspector General under Steuben. He commanded a regiment in the Battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown, and was severely wounded at the Battle of Monmouth. While he was recovering from his wound he rendered invaluable service to the Commander-in-Chief by keeping him informed of the movements of the British troops. This service was recognized by Washington in letters which are still preserved.

He was with Sullivan on his expedition against the Iroquois and was again severely wounded at Newtown. He took part in the Battles of Springfield and was given the task of enforcing a requisition of grain and cattle from the farmers of Gloucester, N. J. In 1781 when the mutiny broke out among the New Jersey and Pennsylvania troops, Washington assigned to him the delicate task of adjusting the difficulty. He was with Lafayette in his Virginia campaign in 1781 and rendered effective service at the head of a troop of light infantry. He took part in the Battle of Yorktown, and was killed February 11, 1783, while riding through the forest at Newberg, New York, just as he was about to be mustered out of service.

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## GEN. ELIAS DAYTON

The subject of this sketch was born at Elizabethtown in July, 1737. He began his career as a member of the famous "Jersey Blues" serving under Wolfe at Quebec. Later he commanded a company which took part in an expedition against the northern Indians. He was a member of the Committee of Safety at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, and in conjunction with General Lord Sterling, commanded a party which seized a British transport off Elizabethtown (January 22, 1776). In 1777 he commanded the 3rd New Jersey Regiment and assisted in quelling a mutiny in the New Jersey line in 1781. He was made Brigadier-General in 1783.

General Dayton was in active service during the whole period of the war and took part in the Battles of Springfield, Monmouth, Brandywine and Yorktown. He had three horses shot from under him, one at Germantown, one at Springfield, and one at Crosswick's Bridge.

After the war he served for some time in the legislature, as Major-General of Militia, and a member of the Continental Congress from 1787-

1788. When the Society of Cincinnati was formed, he became its first president and held this office until his death, July 17, 1807.

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### JONATHAN DAYTON

General Jonathan Dayton was a son of General Elias Dayton, and was born in Elizabethtown October 16, 1760. He was graduated at Princeton in 1776, studied law and was admitted to the bar. He joined his father's regiment in 1776 with the rank of paymaster. He held various commissions during the war and took part in many battles, serving at Yorktown under Lafayette. He served for a few years as a member of the New Jersey House of Representatives and became its Speaker in 1790. He represented New Jersey at the convention in 1787, which framed the Federal Constitution. He became a member of Congress in 1791 and served until March 3, 1799. During the last two terms of his service in Congress, he served as Speaker of the House. In 1799 he was elected United States Senator from New Jersey and served until March 3, 1805. In 1798 Princeton conferred upon him the degree of L. L. D. His death occurred October 9, 1824, at Elizabethtown.

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### WILLIAM DE HART

Colonel De Hart was born in Elizabethtown, N. J., December 7, 1746. He was a lawyer before the Revolution and at the outbreak of hostilities, he was appointed Major of the 1st New Jersey Battalion—November 7, 1775—but was given the commission of Lieutenant Colonel in 1776. Before the close of the war he resigned his commission and returned to the practice of law, opening an office at Morristown. He was chosen to act as Attorney for Morgan, who shot Parson Caldwell at Elizabethtown. Colonel De Hart was eminent as a lawyer and was famed for his wit and humor. He became president of the St. Tammany Society in 1789. His death occurred at Morristown June 16, 1801.

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### ROBERT OGDEN

He was born in Elizabethtown October 16, 1716. For some time he acted as a member of the King's Council for New Jersey and in 1751 was chosen to serve as a member of the Legislature. He served in this capacity until 1763 when he was chosen Speaker of the House. In 1765 he was sent as a delegate to the Continental Congress that convened in New York on October 25th, when a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances" was drawn up with an address to the King. In 1776 he was chairman of the Elizabethtown Committee of Safety. He died at Sparta, January 1, 1787.

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### MATTHIAS OGDEN

General Ogden, a son of Robert Ogden, was born at Elizabethtown October 22, 1754. He joined the army under Washington at Cam-

bridge and accompanied Arnold on his march through the Kennebunk Woods, during the winter of 1775, taking part in the attack on Quebec, where he was wounded. On the 7th of March, 1776, he was made Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Battalion, and later Colonel of the 1st Regiment of the New Jersey Continental line. He was taken prisoner at Elizabethtown in November, 1780, and later had charge of the attempt to capture Prince William Henry (subsequently William IV). He visited Europe in 1783 and received from Louis XVI, King of France, the honor of "ledroit du tabouret." At the close of the war, September 20, 1783, he was advanced to the rank of Brigadier-General. He became a member of the Legislative Council in 1785, and in 1789 was chosen Presidential Elector. He died March 31, 1791.

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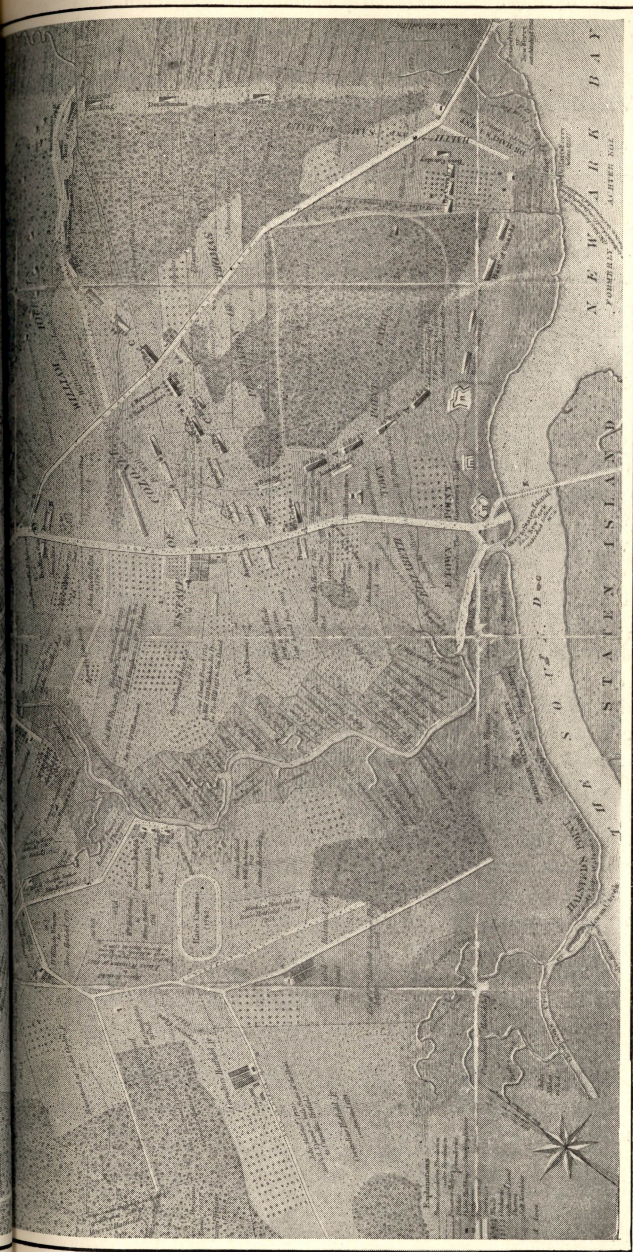
### AARON OGDEN

General Ogden was born at Elizabethtown December 3, 1756. He was graduated at Princeton in 1773 and after graduation taught school for a brief time when he cast his lot with the patriots. In the winter of 1775-76 he was one of a party that boarded and captured "Blue Mountain Valley," a British vessel lying off Sandy Hook, laden with munitions of war bound for Boston. On December 8, 1775, he became paymaster of the 1st Battalion, then of the 2nd Battalion, and later was given a commission as Captain in the 1st New Jersey Regiment, commanded by his brother Matthias Ogden. Captain Ogden was at the Battle of Brandywine and was Brigade-Major in General Charles Lee's army at Monmouth, serving also as assistant Aid-de-camp to General Sterling on the field. He was an aid to General Maxwell on the Sullivan expedition against the Iroquois and took part in the Battle of Springfield in 1780, where his horse was shot under him. He was serving under Lafayette, having been transferred from General Maxwell's division, when he was called upon to perform a delicate service. After the trial of Andre, General Washington placed in his hands the papers containing an official account of the trial, together with a letter to General Clinton, and instructed him to proceed to New York and open negotiations with the British General.

Ogden accompanied Lafayette to Virginia in 1781 and at the siege of Yorktown, gallantly led his troops on the left redoubt of the enemy, for which he was "honored with the peculiar approbation of Washington." At the close of the Revolution he studied law and became a leader in his profession.

On January 8, 1799, he was given the commission of Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the 11th U. S. Infantry, and on February 26, 1800, was made Deputy Quartermaster-General of the U. S. Army. He became U. S. Senator February 28, 1801, and on October 29, 1812, was chosen to succeed Joseph Bloomfield as Governor of New Jersey. During the war of 1812 he was Commander-in-Chief of the New Jersey Militia, and was appointed Major-General of the U. S. Army. He was a Trustee of Princeton from 1803 to 1812 and from 1817-1839. In 1816





— MAP OF —

## ELIZABETHTOWN, N. J.

AT THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1775-1783

BY ERNEST L. MEYER, G. E., MEMBER OF NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

the college conferred upon him the degree of L. L. D. In 1824 he was chosen state president of the Cincinnati and president-general from 1829 until his death, which occurred in Jersey City on April 19, 1839.

### GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Governor Livingston was born in Albany, N. Y., November 30, 1723. He was graduated from Yale in 1741 at the head of his class and after completing his college course began the study of law. In October, 1748, he was admitted to the bar and soon became a leader in his profession. He served in the New York Legislature for three years at the same time continuing his practice. In 1760 he acquired a piece of property in Elizabethtown and there erected a manor house which he named "Liberty Hall," and in May, 1772, he removed to that place with his family. It was here that John Jay married Miss Susan Livingston in 1774, and here also came Alexander Hamilton, a boy from the West Indies, with a letter from Dr. Hugh Knox. This house, still standing, had an eventful history during the Revolution, and on several occasions the British attempted to burn it. The stairs still show the cuts of the angry Hessians, who were baffled in their attempts to capture its owner. When the war was over it became the center of social festivities and it was in this house in May, 1789, that Mrs. Washington was entertained over night while on the way to meet General Washington. "The hall was decorated with flowers and a brilliant assemblage gathered to do her honor."

Two years after Livingston's coming to Elizabethtown he was elected a deputy to the First Continental Congress, and was re-elected to the Second and Third. In June, 1776, he was given the commission of Brigadier-General and made Commander-in-Chief of the New Jersey Militia. There seemed an immediate danger of an invasion of New Jersey by the British, so he entered upon his duties at once. This explains his absence from Congress and is also the reason why his signature was not attached to the Declaration of Independence. A short time after he had assumed command, he was elected Governor of the State, and believing he could render more effective service to the patriotic cause as Governor, he resigned his commission, and entered upon his duties as War Governor, a position he held until his death.

During the Revolution he filled his office with great efficiency, as is shown by Washington's letters. He has the distinction of having been given more titles by the enemy than any other patriot. He was called the "Itinerent Dey of New Jersey," "Knight of the Most Honorable Order of Starvation and Chief of the Independents," the "Don Quixote to the Jerseys" and because he was tall and thin, the "Whipping Post." In 1787 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention, was given the degree of L. L. D. by Yale in 1788, and was offered the appointment of commissioner to superintend the construction of the Federal buildings, and that of Minister to Holland, both of which he refused. President Timothy Dwight of Yale says of him: "His imagination was

brilliant, his wit sprightly and pungent, his understanding powerful, his taste refined, and his conceptions bold and masterly. His views of political subjects were clear, extensive and just. Of freedom, both civil and religious, he was a distinguished champion." He died in Elizabethtown July 25, 1790.

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### ABRAHAM CLARK

Abraham Clark was the son of Abraham Clark, Judge and Keeper of the King's Arms. He was born at the old homestead, Roselle, February 15, 1726. Mr. Clark entered into the business of surveyor and conveyancer. In order to better fit himself for his profession, he familiarized himself with the common law, and was always aiding his neighbors with legal advice which he gave gratuitously. This service caused him to be known as the "Poor Man's Counsellor."

In 1767 he was elected Sheriff of Essex County and also served as Clerk to the Colonial Assembly. He was a member of the Committee of Safety in December, 1774, and later became the secretary of that body. In September, 1775, he was chosen a member of the Provincial Congress, and was elected by this body June 22, 1776, as one of the delegates from New Jersey to the Continental Congress. While serving in this capacity he had the honor of affixing his name to the Declaration of Independence.

He served in Congress in 1776, 1777 and until April 3, 1778; again in 1780, 1781, 1782, 1786, 1787 and 1788. He was chosen a delegate to the First Constitutional Convention at Annapolis in 1786, and to the Philadelphia Convention, which drafted the United States Constitution in 1787, but was unable to attend because of ill health. He served in the Second and Third Congresses after the adoption of the Constitution, and died before the expiration of his third term.

During his long public career he proved himself a wise counsellor, an active and judicious legislator, and at all times a true friend of democracy.

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### REV. JAMES CALDWELL

Rev. James Caldwell was born in Charlotte County, Va., in April, 1734. He was graduated from Princeton in 1759 and three years later became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethtown. During the period preceding the Revolution he devoted much time to political agitation and was active in arousing a spirit of rebellion, thus incurring the bitter enmity of his loyalist neighbors. Soon after the beginning of hostilities he became Chaplain of the New Jersey troops, and because of his militant activities earned the nickname of the "soldier parson." Largely on account of his patriotic zeal he suffered from frequent attempts of British marauders and Tories, who endeavored to do him bodily harm. In one of these attempted attacks his church was burned and his family, being threatened, was obliged to find refuge

at Connecticut Farms. In 1780 a British force from Staten Island pillaged the place and during the occupancy of the village, a British soldier shot Mrs. Caldwell, while surrounded by her children in her bed room.

At the Battle of Springfield, June 23, 1780, he supplied the American troops with hymn-books which were used as wadding. He was shot by an American sentry at Elizabethtown during an altercation over a package. The soldier was delivered to the civil authorities, tried at Westfield, and executed on Gallows Hill. It was charged that the sentry had been bribed by the British to take the life of the Chaplain.

During the entire period of the Revolutionary War, up to the time of his death, Parson Caldwell rendered excellent service. While the army was encamped at Morristown he was especially helpful because of his large acquaintance, and the great respect shown him wherever he went made it possible for him to secure grain and supplies when others failed. His son, John E., was taken to France by Lafayette and there educated. He became a great philanthropist, was the editor of the "Christian Herald" and was one of the founders of the Bible Society.

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### SHEPARD KOLLOCK

Captain Kollock was born at Lewiston, Delaware, in 1750. Early in the Revolution he was given a commission as Lieutenant in Hamilton's Artillery company and served with distinction until 1779, when he resigned and established the New Jersey Journal at Chatham, New Jersey. This was done at the suggestion of General Knox, at that time in command of the Artillery division. The American army officers were very anxious to have a paper published which would check the influence of the New York papers controlled by the British, who were in possession of the city at that time.

Captain Kollock had published a paper before enlisting in the American Army and because of his previous experience, seemed best fitted to carry out the proposed plan. He had studied law and was admitted to the bar, but preferring newspaper work, had followed his natural inclinations. The "New Jersey Journal" became one of the most influential sheets edited in the interest of the American cause. He continued to edit and publish the "Journal" for a period of 31 years. He was actively interested in the religious and civic life of Elizabethtown. He was deputy-mayor of the Borough and a member of the council for years, a member of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church, served as judge of the court of common pleas for 35 years, and as postmaster for Elizabethtown from 1820-1829. He died in the City of Philadelphia July 28, 1839 and is buried in the First Church burying ground, Elizabeth.

## JOHN DE HART

John De Hart was born in Elizabethtown sometime during the year 1728 and established an eviable reputation as a lawyer before the beginning of the Revolutionary War. During the struggle for independence he used his influence in furthering the patriotic cause, serving as a member of the Continental Congress in 1775, and the Provincial Congress of New Jersey. He was also an active member of the Council of Safety, and used his utmost effort in influencing the people of New Jersey in joining the American cause. When the first Constitution was adopted in 1776, the appointment of Chief Justice of the State was offered to him, but he declined the honor.

When the Borough was reorganized in 1789, Mr. De Hart was chosen Mayor. In this position he remained until his death which occurred June 1, 1795.

An excerpt taken from an inscription placed over his grave in St. John's Churchyard reads as follows: "His worth in private life was truly great: nor will his public virtues be forgotten: his name being recorded on the list of chosen patriots who composed the memorable Congress of 1775."

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## WILLIAM CRANE

General William Crane was one of the most active patriots of the Revolution. At the outbreak of the war he was in the full vigor of his manhood, and because of his influence in local affairs and his patriotic zeal in promoting the interest of Independence, he was given a commission as Lieutenant in an Artillery company. His battery soon joined the Canada expedition, commanded by Montgomery. At the siege of Quebec in 1775, General Crane received a bomb-shell wound in the ankle, from which he suffered until his death. He served with distinction and was in command of the expedition which captured the armed ship "Eagle" and the sloop "Katy" in 1783, within pistol shot of the battery in New York. For this and other acts of bravery he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. After the close of the war he took an active interest in the civic and religious affairs of the Borough, and held many positions of responsibility and trust. He lived until near the close of the second war with Great Britain, dying on July 12, 1814.

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## OFFICERS OF THE REVOLUTION

General William Livingston	Captain Shepard Kollock
" Elias Boudinot	" Jonathan Pierson
" Matthias Williamson	" Baker Hendricks
" Elias Dayton	" Obadiah Meeker
" Jonathan Dayton	" David Woodruff
" William Crane	" Matthias Lyon
" Philemon Dickinson	" John Clawson

## OFFICERS OF THE REVOLUTION—Continued

Colonel Aaron Ogden	Captain David Lyon
“ Moses Jaques	“ Samuel Harriman
“ Matthias Ogden	“ William Britain
“ Francis Barber	“ John Richards
“ Oliver Spencer	“ Cyrus De Hart
“ William De Hart	“ Benjamin Winans
“ Edward Thomas	Lieutenant Ephraim Woodruff
Lieut.-Col. Brockholst Livingston	“ William Ramsen
Major William Shute	“ Moses Ogden
“ Ezekiel Woodruff	Lieutenant William Barton
“ Nehemiah Wade	“ Maurice De Hart
Captain Jeremiah Ballard	“ Matthias Williamson

Adjutant Luther Halsey  
 Quarter Master Matthias Halstead  
 “ “ William Woodruff  
 Ensign John Reucastle

## HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF ELIZABETH

1664 - 1800

By WILLIAM DUNCAN

In the past, just as today, the town of Elizabeth was a forerunner of modern education. It does not seem unusual that a city, which was the original seat of one of the country's famous colleges, should compare more than favorably with any city of its size in the education of its youth. The inhabitants of the town were intelligent and accomplished and were concerned over the education of the younger generation. These people helped to sustain and promote the spirit of education.

The colonists, however, contented though they were with their own scanty learning, were troubled about the training of their youth for the professions. The earliest years of a child's schooling were spent with the clergymen of the settlement, who instructed him in secular as well as religious matters.

The Reverend Jeremiah Peck, freeholder of the town in 1668, had been previously employed in New Haven, Connecticut, "to keep ye schools, to teach the schollers Latine, Greek, and Hebrew and fit them for the colledge."

His successor, Reverend Seth Fletcher, wrote from "Elizabeth Towne" March 25, 1681, addressing the noted Mr. Increase Mather of Boston. In speaking of the instructor in Elizabeth he says—"he is a Quaker, a scholler to some children in the towne, (by nationality a Scott, by name John Usquebart). A scholler he doth profess himself to be, and I find that he hath the Latine tongue."

As early as 1728 schoolhouses were built in the town. Although no

written account concerning it was found, one was located on the north-west corner of Rahway avenue and Chilton street, according to a map of Elizabethtown by Ernest L. Meyer, 1775-1783.

However, when the time came for higher training it was difficult for the Middle Colonies to send their youth to Harvard, Yale or William and Mary college. It also became a matter of local pride.

When a dispute arose in the Presbyterian Church and the synod was divided New Jersey joined the New York Synod. Since the church was stronger in the New Jersey colony, the leaders, who saw the difficulties experienced and disadvantages labored under by people entering Harvard and Yale, from New Jersey, resolved to found a college here.

The Reverend Jonathan Dickinson, who had been a leader in the old synod very naturally held the same place in the new one. He was one of a committee who applied for a charter for a college in 1739. The application was made to John Hamilton, Esquire, "president of His Majesty's Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Jersey," for "a charter to incorporate sundry persons to found a college." Hamilton became acting Governor between the death of Governor Morris and the induction of Governor Belcher.

The charter was secured in 1746 and the institution was called the College of New Jersey. In 1748 a second charter was granted by Jonathan Belcher, royal Governor of New Jersey, owing to doubts as to the validity of the first one.

Notice of the event and the intention of the trustees was duly given in the New York Weekly Post-Boy No. 211, February 2, 1747—as follows:

"Whereas, a charter with full and ample privileges has been granted by His Majesty, under the Seal of the Province of New Jersey, bearing the date 22nd October, 1746, for erecting a College within said Province, to Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton and Aaron Burr, Ministers of the Gospel and some other Gentlemen as trustees of said College; by which charter equal Liberties and Privileges are secured to every Denomination of Christians having different religious sentiments notwithstanding. The said trustees have therefore thought it proper to inform the Public, that they desire to open said College next Spring; and to notify any Person or Persons who are qualified by preparatory Learning for Admission, that some time in May next at the latest they may then be admitted to an Academic Education."

The Reverend Jonathan Dickinson was chosen as best qualified to head the new institution. Mr. Caleb Smith of Yale was employed as a tutor. Some authorities state that the college was opened at the Dickinson home which was located on the west side of Pearl and Race streets, although a tablet on the Sunday School building of the First Presbyterian Church—Broad street—marks the spot as the first site of the school. In the New York Weekly Post-Boy No. 222, April 20, 1747, notice of the opening was given:

"This is to inform the Public that the trustees of the College of New Jersey, have appointed the Reverend Jonathan Dickinson President of said College, which will be opened the fourth Week in May next, at Elizabeth Towne; at which Time and Place, all Persons suitably qualified may be admitted to an Academic Education."

The first student body consisted of twenty members. These boarded either with the president or "good families in towne." The tuition was 5£ annually and the board was 20£. Among the first students were Enos Ayres, Benjamin Chestnut, Hugh Henry, Israel Read, Richard Stockton and Daniel Thane who later became pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth.

At the death of Dickinson—in October of the same year it was established—the college was removed to Newark where it was supervised by Rev. Aaron Burr, father of the celebrated Aaron Burr of American history and at one time vice-president of the United States. It was here that the first students were graduated in 1748.

The institution flourished in Newark for several years and was then transferred to Princeton, New Jersey. There it was housed in Nassau Hall, one of the largest and finest pieces of architecture in the colonies at that time.

We are indebted to Miss Rose Dickinson for some of our information. Miss Dickinson, whose home is in Newark, is a direct descendant of the first president of the college.

The first mention of a place especially designed for school purposes appears on August 22, 1753. Governor Jonathan Belcher granted a charter of incorporation to the First Presbyterian Church "to erect and repair Public Buildings for the worship of God . . . and as School Houses and Alms Houses . . ."

In 1766 a grammar school was established here by Tapping Reeve, a graduate of Princeton. Reeve had at first been employed as tutor to Aaron Burr and his sisters who were then living with their uncle, Timothy Edwards. Ebenezer Pemberton, a classmate of Reeve's and a direct descendant of one of the first trustees of Princeton, was the only other instructor. In 1767 Reeve and Pemberton "—inform the public that they continue to teach the Greek and Latin Languages." A large house in the center of the town was to be used to house the youthful aspirants. They further stated "—that Gentlemen of education in the town will visit the school." The terms were 5£ 20s. per year and board could be had in "good families" for 20£ annually.

The public-spirited citizens of the town subscribed 70£ in order to continue the school and it was ordered "—that a proper House be erected on the uppermost end of the Burial Yard Lot" (of the Presbyterian Church). The trustees of the Church were placed in charge. Any deficiencies in the building fund were to be paid out of the legacy of Mr. Joseph Ogden. The schoolhouse was built on the corner of Broad Street and Caldwell Place.

The school had various tutors up to 1771, none seeming to be satisfied or satisfactory to the good citizens. In that year Francis Barber was

employed. It was at this time that Alexander Hamilton, a boy of 14 years and just out from the West Indies, was a student. It was strange indeed, that these two men, Hamilton and Burr, whose lives were so closely linked in later years, received their early instruction at the same school.

Barber remained as the instructor until the outbreak of the Revolution when he joined the colonial cause. He distinguished himself and became a Colonel in the Continental Army.

Before 1780 a schoolhouse was located on the northwest corner of South and Williamson Streets, almost opposite the present Battin High School. No records could be found pertaining to it.

During the Revolution there was little or no progress in the town along educational lines. The inhabitants, located as they were in the path of both armies, devoted themselves to the cause. In 1780 a group of British regulars and sympathizers crossed over on the ice from Staten Island and burned the Presbyterian Church and with it the schoolhouse which was only a frame structure and which was then being used as a storehouse for military supplies.

In 1787 a lottery was authorized, the funds of which were to be used to rebuild the school. Although the accounts of the lottery were not settled until twelve years later the schoolhouse was rebuilt in 1787.

There appeared on Monday, July 30, 1787, the following account in the New Jersey Journal: "An handsome edifice was reared in this town to be devoted to the cultivation of pure science. It is to be denominated 'The Elizabeth Town Academy.'" The "handsome edifice" was a frame structure of two stories with two rooms on each floor.

Mr. Patrick Murdock, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh was given charge of the Latin Department. Mr. Luther Halsey was employed as the English instructor. As was the custom in those days, the Latin teacher was placed in charge of the school. The trustees of the Academy were, Rev. David Austin, President; Governor William Livingston, Judge John Chetwood, Hon. Jonathan Dayton, John De Hart, Aaron Ogden, Matthias Williamson and George Ross. The tuition was the same as before.

The Academy progressed for many years but due to quarreling among the trustees it was dissolved in 1834.

A schoolhouse was established on a triangular piece of ground at the junction of North Broad Street and Salem Avenue. In 1773, Edward Thomas, the owner, deeded the property and the schoolhouse to three men living in that neighborhood in trust, "—for the use of the inhabitants of Elizabethtown dwelling in that part of the town called North End, for a schoolhouse for the education of their children forever." It passed under the control of the trustees of the Public Schools in 1848 and became known as District No. 3. The building was a one-story frame structure surmounted by a cupola within which was a bell. The building became unsafe and it was razed in 1861. The bell is preserved at the State House in Trenton.

There is an old tradition concerning this school. One day, late in the afternoon, two young men were returning from an unsuccessful hunt-

ing trip and passed the schoolhouse. They decided to use the door of the building as a target and improve their marksmanship. This they did for several minutes until they heard groans of deep distress from the interior. Upon investigation they discovered that the tutor had remained to work and their shots had penetrated the door and entered his body. He died from his wounds. No record of the names of the participants of the tragedy has been preserved.

Private schools for young ladies were far more numerous in the early history of the town than they are today.

In 1789 a Young Ladies' Seminary was opened by Anne Williams in the house opposite John Blanchard's. A similar school was opened in 1791 by Madame Capron of French origin. This was the period of the French Revolution and the sympathy of the new Republic for their fellow-men across the sea made itself felt in every part of their life. This was particularly true of education. At both these schools were taught the French language, French manners and French dancing. Monsieur St. Aine was the dancing master, under whose auspices a ball was given at Wales' Tavern, September 7, 1791. In March, 1795, Madame Capron was succeeded by Madame Tapray.

In 1790, Dr. Paul Micheau, of Port Richmond, Staten Island, opened a medical school at which lectures were given at 4 P. M. The tuition from May 10th to July 25th was 5*l*. It was at his suggestion and through his agency that "a Medical Society for the Eastern District of the State of New Jersey" was formed in 1790, of which Dr. Isaac More of Elizabeth was secretary.

In the following years numerous boarding schools were established, most of them for young women. It was found that the principal of the Academy in 1794 conducted a school for "Misses and Young Women." In 1804, Mrs. Mervin—"has opened a Boarding School for Young Ladies in the house next door to the Episcopal Church." In 1806, Charles Rudd opened a seminary for girls in the third story of the Court House. William Belden in 1812, opened a morning school for girls at which instruction began at 6 A. M. and closed at 8 A. M.

The first Library Association was formed in 1792 for the purpose of placing cultural books in the hands of the people. It was dissolved some years later due to the failure to carry out its purpose.

Thus, soon after the Revolution, the town became known as a seat of learning. The majority of the instructors employed were men of distinction and excellent training. Most of them had been graduated from Princeton, Harvard or Yale. Some of them became very famous in their profession. Others gained honor and fame in other lines.

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## OLD HOUSES AND HISTORIC SITES

WARREN R. DIX

At the time of the "Old Home Week" celebration in 1907, the writer was chairman of a committee on Historical Sites, and at that time there were over forty houses built prior to the Revolutionary War. Some of these have made way for modern structures and others will soon disappear. This paper contains an account of some of the existing buildings and also mentions the sites of some of the notable buildings no longer standing.

### (1) Hetfield House—Foot of Pearl Street, near the Elizabeth River.

Supposed to have been built in 1667 and undoubtedly the oldest house in the city. The property was conveyed by Abraham Lubberson to Matthias Heathfield, December 5, 1673. His descendants still own it, though the family name is now spelled Hetfield. The house has been remodeled in recent years, a new gable being built over the original first story, but no change has been made in the arrangement of the interior, still in the old Dutch style. The early councils between the whites and the Indians are said to have been held here. The variation in floor levels, old-fashioned staircase, china closet decorated with a rising sun, and other curious features are worthy of note.

An effort is being made to preserve this building as an historical monument.

### (2) St. John's Parsonage—No. 633 Pearl Street.

Andrew Hemton or Hampton is said by a carefully preserved family tradition to have eloped from Scotland with a "Lady Margaret Cumins or Comyns." He settled in Elizabethtown and built this house. Although enlarged in 1765, and largely rebuilt in 1817, a portion of the old structure is still there and on the corner stone is the inscription "A. H. M., 1696," and elsewhere "1697 Andrew Hamton and Margaret." In 1749 it was purchased for £162 by trustees, for St. John's Church, for use as a parsonage and glebe, and in 1765 it was conveyed to the Church Corporation. There were about four acres of land fronting on Pearl Street and extending along the river from Broad Street to the Pruden property, including the site of the present St. James' M. E. Church. The house with its present lot was sold by St. John's Vestry in 1902, other portions of the land having been previously disposed of from time to time.

(3) **Williamson House—Corner of Pearl  
and Williamson Streets.**

It is said to have been built in 1776 but has been greatly changed in recent years. It is now used by St. Elizabeth Hospital. General Matthias Williamson who built it was an officer in the Revolutionary War. He was the father of Gov. Isaac H. Williamson and grandfather of Chancellor Benjamin Williamson. He died aged 91 in 1807.

(4) **Mary Allison House—Northeast Corner of  
Washington Avenue and Pearl Street.**

Now greatly changed; owned by Mary Allison in 1771, and by John La Grange in 1779.

(5) **Chetwood House—Southeast Corner of  
Washington Avenue and Pearl Street.**

This house, which is of brick, was built for Judge John Chetwood by Benjamin Cleveland in 1770, as shown by a receipt dated May 28th, of that year. In 1815 Caleb Halsted, Jr., bought the property for \$4,750.

(6) **Jelf House—807 Pearl Street.**

A portion of the former residence of Joseph Jelf, the western half of which was built before 1772 by him. He did a large mercantile business in his store adjoining, importing goods from the West Indies in his own vessels, which were unladed at the wharf near the Stone Bridge. The house was long occupied by the Oliver and Price families. The ground in this locality, in Revolutionary times, was much higher than now, having been known as Jelf's Hill.

(7) **The Old Chateau—408 Rahway Avenue.**

The estate once belonged to Cavalier Jouet, grandfather of the late Chancellor Williamson and a descendant of Daniel Jouet, Mayor of Angers, France, and Marie Cavalier, a sister of Jean Cavalier, the famous "Camisard," the hero of the wars of the Cevennes in France during the reign of Louis XIV. Cavalier Jouet was a Tory at the time of the Revolution and his property was confiscated. The house was later occupied by Oliver H. Spencer, son-in-law of General Jonathan Dayton. Mr. Julius A. Fay purchased the property in 1845 and conducted a famous school there for many years. The house was built in 1760.

(8) **De Hart House—101 Rahway Avenue,  
corner of Cherry Street.**

It was built as early as 1766 and it is claimed that the date of erection was about 1745. John De Hart was a member of the Continental Congress, Mayor of the Borough of Elizabeth Town, and was chosen first Chief Justice of New Jersey, but declined. The last of the name to occupy the house was the widow of the second John De Hart, son of the above. She was a daughter of the famous Chevalier d'Anterrockes and died here in 1862. It is said that the house was occupied by the British

soldiers during the Revolution. The English barracks were in Cherry Street near the old house.

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- (9) **Site of Red Lion Inn. Corner of Broad Street and Rahway Avenue, now occupied by the Public Library; also Mill and Bridge.**

This noted tavern was owned by William Williamson and after his death in 1734 by his widow, Margaret, who married William Chetwood. In 1764 it was called "The Marquis of Granby." Samuel Smith owned it as early as 1771 when it was called "The Red Lion." General Washington when on his way to New York to be inaugurated as our first president was escorted to this inn by a procession commanded by General Matthias Ogden. Here he held a reception, later going to the Boudinot House for luncheon. After the Revolution it was called the "Indian Queen," but again later on "The Red Lion."

South of this, about where Woodruff's Store House stands, is the site of the Old Mill. There was one there as early as 1669 when it was mortgaged by John Ogden, and it is mentioned from time to time until as late as 1846 and as recently as 1864 some of the timbers were visible.

Old Stone Bridge: A small bridge crossed the River in a south-westerly direction, connecting Broad Street with Washington Avenue, or old Broad Street, since straightened, as houses show.

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- (10) **Carteret Arms, 16 South Broad Street.**

On the site of a long, low, one-and-a-half-story building used as a tavern before 1728, when the property was conveyed by John Morris, yeoman, to John Dennis, innholder. The latter conveyed it to Edward Thomas in 1730, and it was inherited in 1795 by Robinson Thomas, who soon afterward constructed the present building. The old inn was the resort of British officers of the garrison and gay young men about town. Tradition states that Lafayette once danced on the lawn that stretched down to the River. The present building was for some years occupied by the Elizabeth Orphan Asylum; much later and until October, 1912, by the Public Library. In 1913 it was bought by the Elizabeth Historic and Civic Association, incorporated to preserve historic sites and buildings, and to maintain a building to be used as a centre for historic and patriotic societies, also for civic and other organizations. The building was remodeled in 1913. It is now occupied by the Woman's Club.

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- (11) **Union County Court House, corner of Broad Street and Rahway Avenue.**

The old borough Court House stood on the northerly part of the present site. It was burned by the British in 1780. The next Court House was erected in 1797 and burned in 1808. Another building was soon after erected and in 1857 was enlarged and reconstructed. On the south side of the present site, on the corner of Rahway Avenue, stood the "Mansion House," built between 1761 and 1766 by Barnaby Shute. In 1869 it was sold by J. Augustus Dix to Patrick Sheridan, who incorporated it into the hotel long known as the Sheridan House. The old

Court House and the Sheridan House were both pulled down to make way for the present Court House erected in 1903. See old cannon on the lawn.

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### (12) First Presbyterian Church—Broad Street.

This church was the first organized in the State in the English language. The first edifice was on this site, and was the public "meeting house," the place of worship, the meeting place for business, the seat of justice. Here, in May, 1668, the first General Assembly of the State was convened. It was the "Cradle of Liberty" for New Jersey. John Ogden, in the days of Carteret, and Abraham Clark, in the years of the Revolutionary War, called brave men to rally here. In 1717 the pastor joined the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Since then the church has been wholly Presbyterian.

Of the first building there is no description. It was of wood, and rude. It gave place to the second structure in 1724. This was burned on the night of January 25, 1780, by a party of British soldiers and sympathizers, numbering four hundred, who crossed on the ice from Staten Island to Trembley's Point. It had been used by the colonists as a hospital.

The present edifice was reared in 1784-6, dedicated in the latter year, finished in 1789. The spire was added in 1792. This was destroyed by a tornado in August, 1899, and replaced in 1901, after the ancient model. It is 227 feet high.

The building of 1786 has been enlarged thrice by additions at the rear. The first covered several of the early graves. The headstones were carefully moved, and some were set in the walls for better preservation.

In the Church yard lie the forefathers of Elizabeth. Here are the graves of sires known throughout the State. Many lack stones, but there are more than 2,000 stones bearing inscriptions. In 1766 the sexton was directed "to keep the bodies of the respective particular families" together as far as possible. This rule has been followed generally.

See bronze tablet on church, and in "Historic Elizabeth" list of notable persons buried here. The bronze tablet on the Parish House, corner of Broad Street and Caldwell Place, claims the spot as the first site of Princeton University, but this is disputed, the old parsonage at Pearl Street and Race Street being claimed as the site, as elsewhere stated in this book.

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### (13) St. John's Church, Broad Street.

The first recorded Episcopal services in Elizabethtown were held November 3, 1703, by the Rev. George Keith, a missionary of the Church of England Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Rev. John Brooke, who soon followed, organized St. John's Church, laying the corner stone of a brick church on St. John Baptist Day, June 24, 1706. The ground was given by Col. Richard Townley,

and the title confirmed in 1711 by his widow and Effingham Townley, his heir. St. John's was incorporated by royal charter in 1762. The original church building was several times enlarged and remained until 1859, when it was pulled down to make way for the present fine specimen of Fourteenth Century Gothic architecture. The tower is considered one of the most beautiful in the country. The old font, brought from England by Cavalier Jouet, is supposed to be a holy-water vessel of Italian origin.

For many years the First Church and St. John's were the only religious organizations in the town. During over two hundred years St. John's has had but fifteen rectors, including the present incumbent. The most famous was Rev. Dr. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, rector, 1751-1790. He fled to England and remained there during the Revolutionary War. He was very prominent in the Colonial Church.

The old church was used by the British as a stable during the Revolution, and attempts were made to burn it. There are some beautiful memorial windows in the present church; see also memorial tablets in the vestibule, and model of old church in Warden's room, also portraits of former rectors and others. In the Public Library and in the library of the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark will be found a copy of the earliest known record book of the church, a parish register beginning 1750.

In 1859, when the present church was erected, many of the grave-stones were moved, and again in 1895, when the rectory was built, the stones on the south side of the church were removed to the north side, so that few, if any, stones now indicate the location of the graves, some of which are under the present church. The yard, as it was in 1892, was mapped, and inscriptions on the stones copied. (See "Inscriptions on Tombstones and Monuments in the Burying Grounds of the First Presbyterian Church and St. John's Church," by Wheeler and Halsey.) It is said that in the cholera season of 1832 a great trench was dug in which many bodies were placed. There is a tradition that part of the yard was consecrated by a Roman Catholic Bishop.

For list of notable persons buried in the grave yard see "Historic Elizabeth."

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#### (14) Graham's Tavern.

Much altered today; stood on the northeast corner of Broad and Jersey Streets. A ledger which runs from 1770 to 1796 has been preserved, containing the names of many prominent men and their scores for wine, rum, punch, etc., among them Dr. Barnet, Col. Francis Barber, Isaac Arnett, Lord Stirling, Judge John Chetwood, Edward Thomas, James Ricketts, Matthias Ogden, Robert Ogden, Matthias Williamson, all of whom seem to have paid promptly. It was later known as the "City Tavern."

**(15) General Scott House, 1105 East Jersey Street.**

Dr. William Barnet, the Revolutionary army surgeon, lived here from 1763 until his death in 1790. The house was plundered by the British in 1781, Dr. Barnet saying, "They emptied my feather beds in the streets, broke in windows, smashed my mirrors and left our pantry and store-room department bare. I could forgive them all that, but the rascals stole from my kitchen wall the finest string of red peppers in all Elizabethtown." Later it was owned by Col. John Mayo, of Richmond, Va., whose daughter, Maria, became the wife of Lieut.-Gen. Winfield Scott, who long made his home here. The grounds extended to Jefferson Avenue and were crossed by the stream that formerly ran down through Scott Park. The stream was divided, surrounding an island shaped like Great Britain, the location of important cities being indicated by trees. This was of course all artificial. See "Historical Houses of New Jersey," Lippincott, 1902.

Scott Park, formerly "Horse Hollow." The stream that flowed through the Park is now cared for by a sewer. The land was originally much higher on the west side, but the street was cut down to make easier grades. The cannon at the north end of the park is of the time of the Mexican War.

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**(16) Nathan Woodruff House, 145 Madison Avenue.**

Was built before 1765 and this property and the adjoining property have been secured as the site of a new building for the Young Men's Christian Association.

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**(17) Boudinot Mansion, or Boxwood Hall,  
1073 East Jersey Street.**

Owned and probably built by Mayor Samuel Woodruff before 1763, some claim 1750. During the Revolution it was the home of Hon. Elias Boudinot, member of the Continental Congress, who as its President, signed the treaty of peace with Great Britain. On the stone steps at the front of the house, in 1781, was placed the murdered body of the Rev. James Caldwell, chaplain in the army, that it might be viewed by the people; over it Boudinot made a powerful address. In 1789 Washington, on his way to his inauguration, was met here by a Committee of Congress, and an elaborate luncheon, lasting two hours, was served, the most eminent men in the land being present. The house was later owned by Hon. Jonathan Dayton, successively member of New Jersey Legislature, speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, and United States Senator, and for whom Dayton, Ohio, was named. In 1824 he entertained Lafayette here over night. Miss Spaulding kept a famous young ladies' school here in the middle of the Nineteenth Century. It is now the Home for Aged Women. See "Historic Houses of New Jersey," Lippincott, 1902. See bronze tablet placed on the front by Boudinot Chapter, D. A. R., in 1899.

**(18) Governor Belcher Mansion,  
1046 East Jersey Street.**

It is on the original house lot of John Ogden, Jr., one of the first settlers. It is apparently mentioned in 1722 in an Ogden will as "where my son John now dwells." An iron plate, originally a fireback, set in the east wall of the house in 1899, bears the date 1742. Jonathan Belcher, royal governor of the province, lived here from 1751 until his death in 1757, entertaining many eminent men, including Whitefield, the evangelist, and Jonathan Edwards, the famous divine. Gov. Belcher was the patron of the College of New Jersey, and the house has been called "the cradle of Princeton University." It was later the residence of William Peartree Smith, Revolutionary patriot, and in 1778 his daughter "Caty," was married here to Elisha Boudinot (brother of Elias). Washington and Lafayette were guests and Alexander Hamilton master of ceremonies. Shortly after it was raided by the British. It was later the residence of Gov. Aaron Ogden, who entertained Lafayette here in 1824; in 1901 his great grandson, Count de Lafayette, was entertained here by the present owner, Warren R. Dix, who in 1899 restored and beautified the house. See "Historic Houses of New Jersey," Lippincott, 1902; *The Delineator*, September, 1903, and an article on the house in the Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society for July, 1923, and in the Proceedings of the Union County Historical Society, 1923. A bronze tablet was placed on the house in 1925 by the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America.

**(19) Nathaniel Bonnell's House,  
1045 East Jersey Street.**

It was built before 1682, as it is mentioned in a deed of that date, and is probably the second oldest house in the city. It is now the home of a descendant of Col. Francis Barber, of the Revolution.

**(20) Boundary Stone.**

On the grounds of the Branch Library building on Elizabeth Avenue at Florida Street, is probably the oldest landmark in the city. Enclosed by an iron railing bearing a suitable inscription by the Sons of the American Revolution, is the boundary stone marking the lands of Richard Townley and Benjamin Price. The initials "R. T." and "B. P." appear on either side, and the date, 1694, is plainly chiseled on the top. The land to the right, extending to the river, was known as the Rising Sun Farm.

**(21) The Minute Man.**

Was erected at Union Square, on the site of the Continental Outpost during the invasion of Elizabethtown, June 8, 1780. This fine monument, standing at the intersection of the Old Road (now First Avenue) and the New Point Road, which bears away sharply to the left, and gave access to Crane's Ferry (now included in the extensive grounds of the Singer Manufacturing Co.) marks the site of the attack on the outposts of the patriot army, June 8, 1780, by General Knyphausen's column of

about 6,000 English and Hessians, in which engagement General Stirling, leading the advance, was seriously wounded. See inscription on monument. A little further below, at the intersection of Third Street, Elizabeth Avenue, laid out in 1835, in a straight line from Union Square, rejoins the old King's Highway and continues as part of it to the water's edge.

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(22) **Hezekian Hibbins' House,**  
1027 Elizabeth Avenue.

It was the residence of Hezekian Hibbins in 1766, and of Elias Woodruff in 1771; in the last century it was occupied by Captain McGowan, who was sent, in 1861, in command of the Star of the West to relieve Fort Sumter.

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(23) **Old Fort, Thompson's Lane,**  
near Bridge Street.

See on the front of the house the date 1734; it probably was built by Captain John Hunloke, who died in 1745. Cortlandt Van Ansdol owned and occupied it 1785-1788; later it belonged to William Shute. *Note*—The date seems to be 1774 but the third figure has apparently been changed.

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(24) **Site of first Government House, a little west**  
**of Bridge Street, near the creek, once called**  
**Mill River.**

In 1691 Col. Richard Townley, who had married Governor Carteret's widow, sold to John Harriman a mansion house and storehouse near the present Bridge Street.

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(25) **Andrew Joline's House,**  
rear of 1110 Elizabeth Avenue.

Near the river, is the double, two-story frame building erected by Andrew Joline in 1735, the date and his initials appearing on a foundation stone. Jonathan Morrell and his son Thomas, the noted Methodist minister, lived here between 1780 and 1808.

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(26) **Site of Gracie House,**  
1123 Elizabeth Avenue.

This large and once elegant house was bought in 1764 by Captain Isaac Lawrence, a mariner, from Jonathan Hampton and Elias Dayton. It afterwards passed to Capt. Jonathan Dayton, who resided there until 1795, when it was sold to Elias Boudinot, who conveyed to Dr. Abraham Clark, a son of the signer of the Declaration of Independence. Later it belonged to Mrs. Susan Kean, and later still was known successively as the Salter and Gracie House. It stood where the Fox Liberty Theatre now is, the garden extending to Scott Place and Washington Street, and was not demolished until 1913.

**(27) Site of Second Government House, built in 1680  
by Governor Carteret.**

It stood across the alley west of Pinal's store, at 1150 Elizabeth Avenue, half-way between the avenue and the creek. It was sold in 1721 to Arent Schuyler, who devised it to his son Peter. It was converted into a tavern known as "White House." In 1735 it was kept by Benjamin Hill, under the name of the "Ship," and in 1763 it was called the "Nag's Head Tavern," and kept by Margaret Johnston, a daughter of Captain Matthias De Hart, widow of William Williamson and of William Chetwood. In 1784 it was advertised for sale as "That large, commodious, famous brick house, known by the name of White House, built in the strongest and best manner by a former Governor of New Jersey, for the seat of Government, situated on the river running through the Town, on which is a very good wharf." The old wharf, at the foot of the alley, was there until a few years ago.

**(28) Site of Old Tavern.**

On the northeast corner of Broad Street and Elizabeth Avenue and burned in 1867. It was known as Union Hotel and American Hotel and kept for many years by Col. David Sanderson. It was the headquarters of the stage coach line between New York and Philadelphia. In the rear on Broad Street were extensive livery stables, and here were kept the horses which drew the first horse cars operated in the town, and said to be the first in the country. They went down Water Street (now Elizabeth Avenue) to Jefferson Street. The horse cars continued thence to the Central Railroad of New Jersey and along its lines to Elizabethtown, where passengers took the steamer for New York City. This was long before the modern horse cars began operation. General Matthias Williamson owned the corner, and his brother William the next house east, inheriting the property from their father, William, in 1734.

**(29) Liberty Hall—Morris Avenue.**

Built by William Livingston in 1772. He was Governor of New Jersey during the Revolutionary period, a patriot of such fearless spirit that many attempts were made to assassinate him and burn his mansion. Indeed so many raiding parties invaded its precinct while Elizabethtown was manoeuvring ground for both armies that its preservation seems nothing short of marvelous. As it was, much of the original interior woodwork was removed by marauders. In April, 1774, the governor's daughter, Sarah, was married in this house to John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, one of the most eminent men of his day. After the death of Governor Livingston the property was sold to Lord Bolingbroke, who later sold it to a niece of Governor Livingston, Susan Livingston Kean, great grandmother of the late U. S. Senator Kean. See "Historic Houses of New Jersey," Lippincott, 1902, and "Two Old Jersey Weddings," Leslie's Popular Monthly, August, 1893.

**(30) Crane House, 556 Morris Avenue.**

Part of this house was built before the Revolution. The house is distinguished by the fact that from its first building it has been resided in by the builder and his lineal descendants to this day.

## ROADS THRU ELIZABETH

By B. J. STEIB

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During the Revolutionary War period, years 1775 to 1783, we had several roads running through our city, namely:

Road to Williams' Farm, which in part is now called Colonia Road; Magie Road, which still holds its name; Road to Trotter's Mill, now called Elmora Avenue to Chilton Street and North Avenue from Chilton Street to City Line. Road from the Barracks to Springfield is now Cherry Street. Road from Stone Bridge to Newark is now called Broad Street to railroad junction and North Broad Street to City Line. A road running from North Broad Street called Road to Jewell's Mills is now called Salem Avenue. Road running from Stone Bridge Road called Road to Woodruff's Farms, is now called Mary Street.

The street now known as West Jersey Street was in part the road to Williams' Farm and ran to Galloping Hill Road. East Jersey Street ran from Broad Street to Spring Street and had an outlet through Spring Street to Elizabeth Avenue; East Jersey Street did not continue beyond Spring Street.

There was one other road running to Woodruff's Farms which is now called Madison Avenue to Magnolia Avenue and Meadows Street from there on. Woodruff's Farms were situated on Meadow Street and Neck Lane. The road running from Broad Street to Staten Island Sound was called "Road from Court House to Elizabethtown Point." This road is now covered by Elizabeth Avenue from Broad to High Streets; First Avenue from High to Third Streets, and Elizabeth Avenue from Third Street to Water Front. Another road running from Elizabeth Avenue and High Street called Road to Crane's Ferry is now called New Point Road.

There were other outstanding roads during this period of warfare, namely:

The road to Halsted's Point which ran from Pearl Street to Halsted's Point. Halsted's Point was formerly called Luke Watson's Point, and is now the point where Thompson's or Morse's Creek empties into the Staten Island Sound.

The Upper Road or Country Road to Rahway, which ran from the Barrack's Road (Cherry Street), is now called Rahway Avenue.

The Lower Road to Rahway ran from Pearl Street to Routing-house Lane. This lane ran between the upper and lower roads to Rahway.