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COLONIAL WESTFIELD

Past and Present



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COLONIAL WESTFIELD

Past and Present

Being a History of the
TOWN of WESTFIELD
NEW JERSEY from
early times to the present



COMPILED AND PUBLISHED

Under the Auspices of the

WESTFIELD

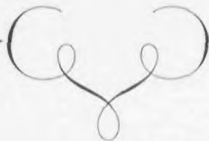
TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

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FOREWORD

COLONIAL WESTFIELD, a condensed history of the Town from earliest times to the present day, has been prepared by the Westfield Tercentenary Committee as part of the observance of the 300th anniversary of New Jersey.

It has been compiled largely from the writings of the late scholar, historian and educator, Charles A. Philhower, whose "History of Westfield," published in 1923 and now out of print, represents the most authoritative source of information on the subject.

Other sources consulted were: "History of Union County," F. W. Ricord, 1897; "History of Union and Middlesex Counties," W. Woodford Clayton, 1882; "Notes on Elizabeth Town," Nicholas Murray, 1844; "History of Union County, New Jersey," edited by A. Van Doren Honeyman, 1923; "A History of Westfield," pamphlet by J. Herbert Pearsall, 1935; "Commemorative History of the Presbyterian Church," Charles A. Philhower, William K. McKinney and Harry A. Kniffin, 1928; "The Old Towne" and "The Old Towne Scrapbook," Robert V. Hoffman, 1937. The valuable cooperation of the Memorial Library in placing material in its historical archives at the committee's disposal is gratefully acknowledged as is the advice and counsel of many friends interested in this book. We are also indebted to the Central Railroad of New Jersey for information on early rail transportation facilities.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD, the only publication of its kind in 40 years, is confined to the principal events and highlights of this community's history and is presented in chronological form to give a broad perspective of the subject in a relatively short reading time.

WESTFIELD TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE
WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY

JUNE 1964

WESTFIELD'S HERITAGE

Westfield's heritage has its beginning in Indian lore and legend. Although warlike savages no longer roam the land, they have left indelible reminders of their onetime presence in the names of streets, mountains, rivers, parks, lakes — Minisink Way, Lenape Trail, Tamaques Park and Mindowaskin (the name of an Indian chief), Wachung, "a high hill," Rahway, "a stream or marsh abounding in wild fowl eggs," Wateunk, "place to meet and talk." All these and many more are as familiar today as they were three hundred years ago.

Some of Westfield's principal thoroughfares were once Indian trails. Early Dutch explorers — the first white men to set foot in this region — reported migratory bands of Indians roaming well-worn paths which correspond roughly to present-day East Broad Street and Central, Springfield and Mountain Avenues.

One of the most notable of these trails was called the Minisink Path. It extended from the Delaware River in the northwestern part of the state to the mouth of the Shrewsbury River, north of Long Branch. Its course wound through Dover, Whippany, Millburn, Westfield, Metuchen and Sayreville.

It probably entered Westfield where East Broad Street joins Springfield Avenue. It passed back of Fairview Cemetery, across to Ripley Place and then past Willow Grove south of Shackamaxon Golf Club in the vicinity of which was an Indian settlement called Tamaques. From here it continued to Metuchen, Sayreville and the North Jersey shore area.

Another trail from the south came up Central Avenue and through Mountain Avenue where it joined a branch of the Minisink near the village of Springfield.

Along these trails has been found evidence of Indian encampments in Stanley Oval, Ripley Place, and on the grounds of the Presbyterian Church, the Echo Lake Country Club and the old Westfield Golf Club (now Shady Rest). The Miller and Pierson farms at the head of East Broad Street and the Ludlow farm in Cranford are thought to have been stopping places on the trail.

The Dutch called the Indians in these parts "Raritans" after the

Indian name of the river along which most of them lived. They were also called "Sanhicans" and were associated with the Lenni Lenape ("original people") who were part of the larger Delaware nation. The particular tribe in the vicinity of Westfield was known as the Unami, after which a county park in Garwood is named.

The influence of the Raritans extended over much of the region south of the Watchung Mountains and north of the Raritan. They were also dominant on Staten Island. It is not likely, says the late historian Charles A. Philhower, that the territory of the Raritans was thickly populated, for as early as 1642 their number was placed at less than 2,000. By 1832 only forty Delawares were left in New Jersey. There are none at the present time but a few hundred are understood to be on an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma.

What the Raritans may have lacked in numbers was more than compensated for by their belligerency which had an important effect on the colonization of the area.

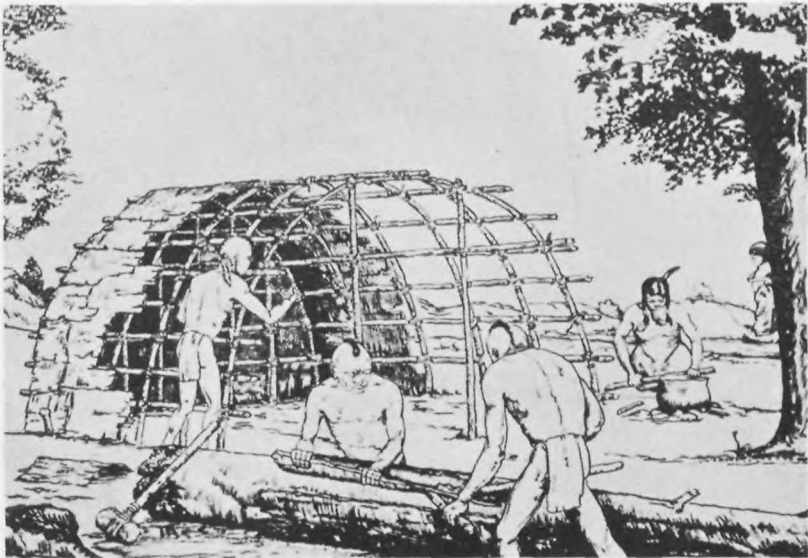
From the early Dutch explorers something of their appearance, habits and living conditions may be visualized. The men were described as "tolerably" stout with a lock of black hair down the center of the head like a coxcomb. The women were well-featured, with long countenances and loose-hanging hair, and ornamented themselves with bracelets and necklaces. It was stressed that all were "dull of comprehension, slow in speech, bold of person and red of skin." Beaver skins were used for clothing, with the fur worn inside in winter and outside in summer. Coats were often made of turkey feathers. Both men and women painted their features in bold designs of red and black.

They raised tobacco, melons, beans and squash. Their principal food consisted of maize which they ground between flat stones or pestled in hollowed-out tree stumps. Wild grapes and nuts, fish, oysters, and game shot with a long bow and stone-headed arrows, were also part of their diet. Bark canoes and dugouts were used for transportation. Their shelters, dome-shaped like Eskimo igloos, were made of boughs, thatched with grass, corn stalks and reeds.

WESTFIELD'S HERITAGE

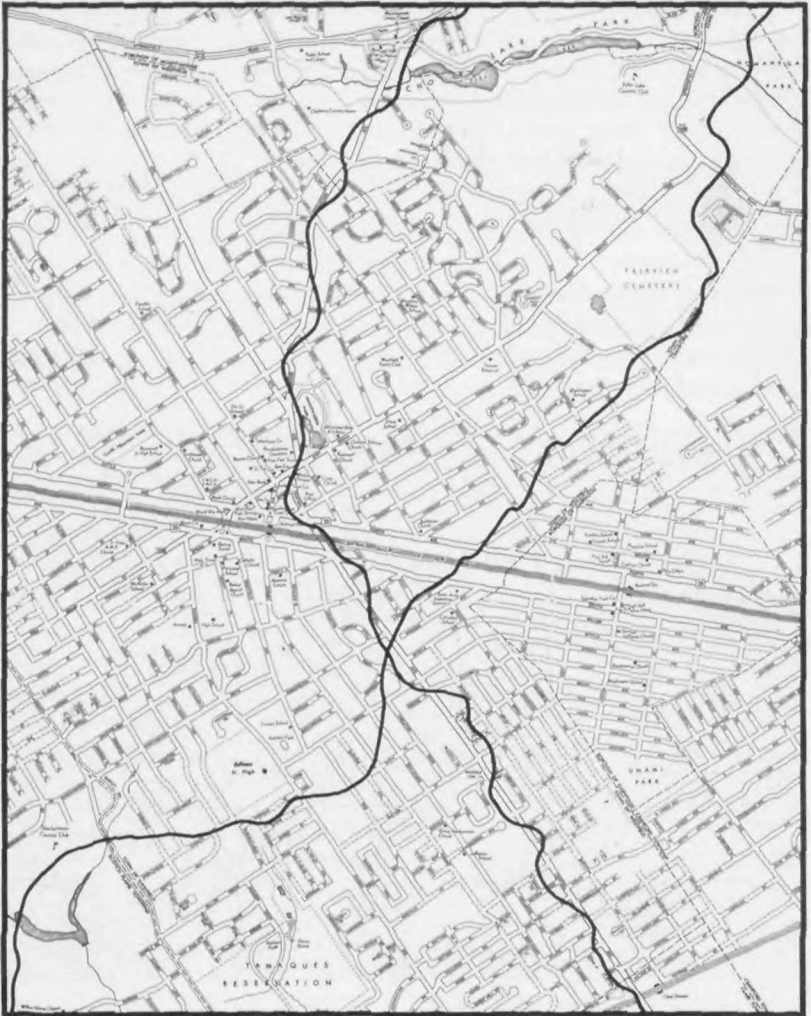
Such civic organizations as existed were made up of a head warrior or chief and a few followers in each tribe. Highly superstitious, they worshipped a great god, Manitou, and many minor spirits. It was the custom to bury the dead in an embryonic position—hands in front of the face and knees drawn up under the chin. In winter when frozen ground made burial difficult, the dead were left to freeze in an out-of-the-way place to await interment in the spring in a common grave. It is believed that an Indian burial ground was located east of Fairview Cemetery.

This was the life of our community three hundred and more years ago when campfires illuminated the Indian settlements, tom-toms broke the stillness of the night and Indian braves stalked the trails over Mountain Avenue and other paths which cobwebbed the town.



—Illustration Courtesy of The New Jersey State Museum
"Constructing a Bark-Covered Wigwam." From original painting by Kenneth Phillips.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT



Heavy lines indicate the probable routes of Indian trails through Westfield.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Hendrick Hudson's explorations in 1609 were followed by the establishment of the colony of New Amsterdam by the Dutch in 1623. This settlement encompassed Manhattan and Staten Islands. Between 1633 and 1655 a considerable trade was carried on with the Indians in the lands to the west and north of Staten Island, including what is now Westfield, Rahway, Metuchen and the Amboys.

Various attempts to establish settlements in the region, however, met with little success because of the Indians' intense hatred of the Dutch who had ruthlessly massacred their people on Staten Island and other areas. But where the Dutch failed in their colonization efforts, the English were destined to succeed.

Dutch possessions in New Amsterdam gave great offense to Charles II of England who claimed title to all of North America from Maine to Florida by virtue of the discoveries of the explorer Cabot in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. In 1664, hoping to dispossess the Dutch, Charles gave a grant to his brother James, Duke of York, for all the land between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. To effect the Duke's acquisition, a small fleet was sent to New Amsterdam under Sir Robert Carr. Since the Dutch were ignorant of his intent and unprepared to resist, Sir Robert was able to take control of New Amsterdam without incident.

On June 24, 1664, the Duke of York granted to his friends, Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, a portion of his land between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. The new proprietors named the territory "New Jersey" after the Isle of Jersey which Sir George had defended against the Long Parliament. This is the event celebrated in 1964 as New Jersey's Tercentenary.

The new owners appointed Philip Carteret, brother of Sir George, as governor of the Province, which was then called East Jersey. Philip arrived from England to assume charge and established himself in the little settlement called Elizabeth Town which became the first seat of government in the State of New Jersey.

Previous to the arrival of Philip Carteret and before the grant of the Duke of York was known, Richard Nicolls, governor of the New York

Province, had arranged to purchase from the Indians a large tract of land west of Elizabeth Town. This tract included what is now Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Rahway, Union, Springfield and Westfield.

The purchase, made for a consideration of two coats, two guns, two kettles, ten bars of lead, twenty handfuls of powder and 400 fathoms of wampum, was known as the Elizabeth Town Grant. One of the parties in the transaction was John Baker who secured that portion of the land on which Westfield stands. This was known as the Baker Tract and the Baker homestead is thought to have occupied the present site of the Municipal Building. For many years there was much conflict over land titles between the new proprietors and those who had purchased it by arrangement with Governor Nicolls.

The area immediately to the west of Elizabeth Town became known as the West Fields, and was considered the extreme frontier of civilization. Land was valued at one cent for ten acres. As land-hungry colonists arrived from New York, Connecticut and Long Island, landlords began to stake out and sell claims in this region. By 1700 the increasing demand for land caused the government to make an equitable division of the back country. Westfield, named from the larger area of the West Fields of Elizabeth Town, was established. In 1720 it was recognized as a village—an event which was celebrated in 1920 with due pomp and pageantry.

The original settlement is believed to have had but one store, a tavern and a mere handful of settlers whose principal occupation was the cultivation of grain—wheat, rye, barley and corn. As the little community grew ever so slowly, grist and flour mills appeared on the scene. Animal husbandry became popular and led to the erection of a tannery on the stream in Mindowaskin Park. Cider mills provided a beverage for which the village became well-known.

Further details of life in Westfield during these early times are given by the late Charles A. Philhower:

"During the eighteenth century, the inhabitants wore homespun. Linsey-Woolsey clothing was made in every household. They also tanned

EARLY SETTLEMENTS

their own leather with bark from oak trees. Ashes were used to remove hair from the hides. Bear and hog lard and tallow were substituted for fish oil. The plows were wooden and the rakes and harrows had wooden teeth. Indian corn was the principal food from which johnnycakes and mush were made. Hand mills and hominy blocks were found in most homes. Wolves were troublesome. About 1750 a bounty of thirty shillings was offered for every one that might be killed."

Among the early settlers of Westfield were families whose names are associated with streets and places in the town today: *Lambert's Mill Road*, *Cory Place*, *Clark Street* and *Clark Memorial Park*, *Elmer Street*, *Ripley Place*, *Baker Avenue*, *Scudder Road*, *Ludlow Place*, *Downer Street* and *Davis Court*. Cranford was originally known as *Crane's Ford*, and *Crane too* was a well-known name in the young Westfield community.

Still standing within the town of Westfield are the original homes of a number of the early settlers. At one of these, the home of Samuel Downer on the northeast corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue, Washington was entertained after the battle of Trenton in 1777. He is believed to have stopped there again in November, 1778, when traveling from his headquarters in Middlebrook to Elizabeth Town.

Mr. John L. Ludlow, himself a descendant of a Revolutionary family, has identified 21 houses remaining in 1964. Although most of these have been modernized, six still retain their original appearance. Mr. Ludlow has prepared a guidebook with a map to assist those interested in viewing these and other historic landmarks. It is available at the Westfield Memorial Library or the Westfield Board of Realtors.

The years between the earliest settlements in the West Fields of Elizabeth Town and the Revolution were days of comparative peace, except for the French and Indian Wars of 1755-63 which took a few citizens into the ranks of the Continental Army. During this period there was a considerable slave trade. In most families, negroes and a few Indians were held in servitude, but when the "Great Revival of Religion" occurred in 1740, the Quakers, who were comparatively strong, fought against the practice. After the Revolution, the movement against slavery in the North accelerated until the practice was terminated by law in 1846.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT

Among the local excitements of this period was the lottery craze which swept the region about the year 1748. It became the common method of raising money for church and other purposes. The day of the lottery, however, was short-lived, for at the end of that year the Legislature passed a stringent act against it. Opposition to this method of fund raising still remains.

Westfield grew up around its Presbyterian Church. This was originally a log structure built in 1728 on what is now Benson Place. The first preacher was the Rev. Nathaniel Hubbell. About 1735 a new frame edifice was built on land in the vicinity of the present church which dates from 1861. The dominant position of the Presbyterian Church in pre-Revolutionary days of East Jersey accounts for the fact that this was to remain the first and only church in Westfield for more than 100 years.



—Photo Courtesy of Westfield Memorial Library

On what was the northwest corner of Jerusalem Road (later Clark Street) and Broad Street was the old pre-Revolutionary general store of many Charles Clarks, which continued as such until the middle 1870's. A post office was located at this store from 1845 to 1850 and again from 1854 to 1864.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The majority of Westfield people opposed the oppressive measures instituted against the colonies by the British Crown following the French and Indian Wars and strongly supported resistance movements which sprang up in various colonies.

Ephraim Marsh of Westfield took a leading part in the organization of patriotic societies throughout the Elizabeth Town area. Among these were "The Sons of Liberty," which came into being in every village and hamlet of East Jersey. Their symbol was a Liberty Pole, and it is believed that one was erected on the green in front of the Westfield Presbyterian Church. Another of the Town's prominent citizens, Abraham Clark, became a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

During the 1770's events began to move swiftly, culminating in the battle of Lexington in 1775, the Declaration of Independence and the outbreak of formal hostilities. Washington was appointed commander-in-chief and the war began in earnest.

New Jersey has rightly been called "the pivot of the Revolution." Washington spent one-quarter of the war in New Jersey and the colonists fought three major and 90 minor engagements within the state. Though never itself the scene of a major battle, Westfield was a strategic point between the British forces and Washington's headquarters at Morristown and Middlebrook in the Watchung Mountain area.

Perhaps no part of New Jersey suffered so severely as the region around Westfield and Elizabeth Town, because of its proximity to New York and Staten Island which remained in the enemy's hands to the last. Here the Tories flourished under the protection of Lord Howe and endeavored in every possible way to harass the patriots by raids, kidnappings, arson and even murder.

While Westfield citizens were later to play an important role in defending Washington's position in the Watchungs, the most exciting news to reach the town after the declaration of war was of the capture of the British armed supply ship, "Blue Mountain Valley," by Lord Sterling off Sandy Hook. This dangerous task was accomplished by three small boats and eighty volunteers. David Ross, Ephraim Marsh, Henry Baker and Jonathan Woodruff of Westfield were among the

participants. When the vessel was taken into Elizabeth Port, there was general rejoicing throughout the town.

As a military post, Westfield had an arsenal located between Stanley Oval and Chestnut Street in the vicinity of the present Tennis Club, then the William Pierson property. A drill ground was in an adjacent area and a military hospital was located southwest of Fairview Cemetery.

From time to time various militia units were stationed in Westfield under the commands of General William Maxwell and General John Sullivan. It was reported that a brigade under Mad Anthony Wayne, famous for his exploit in capturing Stony Point, N. Y., was located here during part of the winter of 1779 and 1780.

One of the militia companies attached to the Westfield post was made up largely of volunteers from Westfield under the command of Capt. Eliakim Littell. It was named the Jersey Blues from the color of their uniforms which the women of the community made from woven tow, dyed blue and decorated with red tapes.

Among those listed on its rolls were such well-known local names as Clark, Cory, Crane, Miller, Ludlow, Pierson, Woodruff, Wade, Scudder, Marsh, Ross and Williams. Many of these names are engraved upon headstones in Westfield's Revolutionary Cemetery on Mountain Avenue.

One of the first tasks facing the local militia in the early months of the war was that of obstructing enemy raids and depredations against the civilian population which were directed from British headquarters in Elizabeth Town and Staten Island. So effective were the colonists' harassing operations that Lord Cornwallis sent an expedition from Elizabeth Town to occupy Springfield and dislodge the continentals from their positions there and in Short Hills. The brief skirmish which ensued was interrupted by nightfall. Much to the surprise of the militia, dawn disclosed that the British had evacuated Springfield and had begun a retreat to the south. The left wing of their force was pursued through Westfield on December 20, 1776, by Col. Ford, the American commander, but his men could not overtake the enemy.

The people of Westfield joyfully hailed this retreat of the British—

the first instance in the state when the enemy fled from those they called rebels. This success has been referred to as the first battle of Springfield. Small as the affair was, the colonial militia learned that the foe was not invincible.

At the time of this engagement an amusing story is told of a small band of British soldiers who sought to capture Robert French of Westfield, a continental scout, but were instead taken as prisoners. French, warned that they were approaching his home on Turkey Lane (Hillside Avenue), hid in the barn. His wife offered the intruders food but they insisted on cider. She told them there was a barrel in the cellar and the thirsty soldiers, abandoning their arms in the kitchen, rushed downstairs. Mrs. French quickly barred the cellar door and called her husband, who, joined by some friends, rounded up the enemy band and marched them off to prison at the points of their own bayonets.

The civilian inhabitants of Westfield and surrounding communities, who had been evacuated to the mountains as the British approached, returned to their homes. For the time being, the initiative passed to the defending forces. The plundering and destruction which had accompanied the British advance now ceased. The militia compelled the enemy to evacuate Newark and drove them out of Elizabeth Town. Perth Amboy and New Brunswick alone remained in possession of the English forces.

Washington noted the good work of the state militia and in a statement January 20, 1777, said: "Within a month past, in several engagements with the enemy, we have killed, wounded and taken prisoner between two and three thousand men."

Though unsuccessful in their first attempt to break through the Watchung Mountain area, the British were not content to stay in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick to which they had retired after the first "battle" of Springfield. Washington, after his victories at Trenton and Princeton, had taken his army to Morristown and in the spring of '77 had moved to Middlebrook near Somerville.

Thinking to trick Washington into leaving his mountain stronghold and thus bring on a general engagement, the British pretended to leave

their positions and return to New York, making it generally known that they would proceed to Philadelphia by water. Instead, their entire force set out to attack the mountain passes north and west of Westfield to get behind Washington's position at Middlebrook.

An anecdote of the time tells of Lord Cornwallis who was leading a British contingent from Metuchen toward Scotch Plains. He passed the farm house of Mrs. Elizabeth Frazee, better known as Aunt Betty, as she was baking bread. His Lordship caught the pleasant odor, dismounted and requested the first loaf from the oven. When the bread was ready, Aunt Betty brought it to him and said, "Your Lordship will understand that I give this bread in fear, not in love." In admiration of her courage, the General saluted and replied, "Madam, not I nor any of my command shall accept a single loaf."

The Frazee house is still standing, off Raritan Road above the two bridges and near Willow Grove and Ash Brook Reservation. It is known as the Ryno House and is now occupied by Franklyn Terry. The old oven has been removed, but its outline can still be seen at the side of the house.

As the British force neared Westfield for the second time, the bell of the Presbyterian Church is reputed to have given the alarm. The minister, Rev. Benjamin Woodruff, is said to have stood on what is now the corner of Central Avenue and Broad Street urging the inhabitants to take to the mountains. The date is recorded as June 26, 1777.

When the British reached Westfield, the town was deserted. They camped for the night below the junction of Grove Street (then called Mud Lane) and Central Avenue, according to relics found in this neighborhood. The next day, deciding that it was too dangerous to attempt an attack on Washington in the Watchungs, the army retired to Perth Amboy by way of Rahway, and proceeded to Staten Island. They were followed and harassed by units of the militia. For the time being, at least, the British had left New Jersey.

After the events of the summer of 1777, there was rejoicing in Westfield and other communities over the surrender of Burgoyne at the Battle

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

of Saratoga on October 17th. Here the great event was celebrated with blazing tar-barrel bonfires, the firing of guns and much drinking of rum.

The years 1778 and 1779 were comparatively quiet as far as actual warfare in the Westfield region. Several abortive attempts were made by the colonists to capture Staten Island to which the British had retired. In June, 1780, the enemy made another effort to penetrate the hills to Washington's camp, hoping at last to drive the continental army from New Jersey. Crossing over Newark Bay from Staten Island, a force under Sir Henry Clinton headed for Short Hills by way of Elizabeth Town and Connecticut Farms. At Springfield they were held at bay by the militia from Westfield and forced again to retreat.

In this, the second battle of Springfield, occurred the famous incident of the hymn books. Parson James Caldwell of Elizabeth Town, an army chaplain fighting with the troops, gave the defenders Watts' hymnals from the church pews to be torn up and used as wads in their muzzle-loading guns. "Give them Watts, boys," the fighting parson is reported to have said.

In the course of the British retreat from Springfield, tradition has it that a company came through Westfield and stopped at the home of Henry Baker on Benson Place, just below East Broad Street. Although outnumbered, Capt. Littell and Capt. Clark with some Westfield Minute Men engaged them in a skirmish at Stanley Oval and succeeded in capturing a cannon damaged by the loss of its right arm or horn. The captured cannon was known ever after as "Old One Horn," and stands today in Fairview Cemetery as Westfield's most famous war relic.

At the time of this incident, the bell of the church was rung continuously to warn the inhabitants of the approach of the enemy. Its incessant ringing and the opposition which it aroused, so enraged the British commander that he directed it to be thrown from the belfry. It was carried by the company back to Staten Island. With it, the British took the brothers William and Asariah Clark as captives. William Clark, it is said, while imprisoned on Staten Island, heard the sound of a bell which he thought familiar. After his release following the war, tradition says that he returned to the Island to investigate and confirmed

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT

A multitude of people witnessed the execution although the snow was deep and the weather bitter cold. Among them were Jacob Ludlow and his wife and Sarah Scudder, youngest sister of Capt. John Scudder on whose farm the written proceedings of the execution were supposed to have been hidden in a hollow tree. It is said that they were later destroyed because there were those who took the position that Morgan should have been given a military trial and execution.

Morgan's grave is unidentified but some say that it was made in the northwest corner of the old graveyard away from the other graves. It was also reported that Morgan was shown his grave by the sheriff before he was taken to Gallows Hill for execution.



—Photo Courtesy of Westfield Memorial Library

In 1894, Westfield residents gather at the corner of East Broad and Elm Streets to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Township of Westfield.

WESTFIELD BECOMES A TOWNSHIP

If the end of the war brought an unaccustomed calm to the victorious colonists, Westfield was to experience a new excitement when, on January 27, 1794, the Township of Westfield was formed. After 100 years as the "Westfield Ward" of the Township of Elizabeth, it became an entity of its own.

The creation of the township was the occasion of a great celebration in the community. As a Westfield girl wrote a friend in Staten Island: "We had a noble time on Wednesday, for you must know that Westfield is now a town. All the neighbors met at Capt. Stamburgs, and such feasting and rejoicing you never saw. Everybody brought something toward the goodwill and there was more than enough to furnish meat and drink to everyone in the new town. Ephraim Marsh furnished an ox that was roasted whole. There were stacks of pies and doughnuts by the bushel. Tables were set in the kitchen and everybody had all they could desire. And we had cider and methelgin for the entertainment of the men."

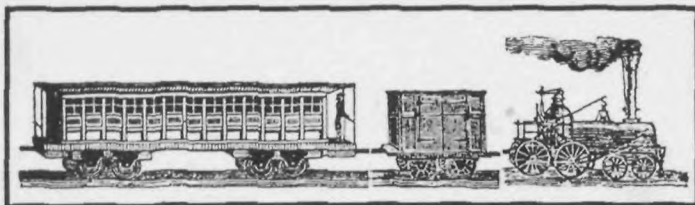
The writer continued with bits of gossip telling how the men wrestled and "shot at the mark," and how the whole company went home at sundown "perfectly happy."

The new Township of Westfield included Plainfield, Scotch Plains and Mountainside. Apparently the people were filled with public spirit, for according to the minutes of the first township meeting, \$100 was to be raised "for the Support of the Poor."

As the eighteenth century drew to a close Westfield had one church, fourteen houses, a store, a blacksmith's shop, one tavern and a single school house which had supplanted the first one built before 1750.

One hundred years after the Township of Westfield was established, the community celebrated the anniversary with an elaborate program, including a union service at the Presbyterian Church, a parade of militia, the unveiling of a public fountain and a forty-four gun salute. Abraham Cole of Scotch Plains composed a patriotic hymn for the occasion and the Rev. David Frazer of Newark gave an address.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT



The Central Railroad of New Jersey's first locomotive, placed in service in 1838.

CENTRAL RAIL ROAD OF NEW JERSEY.										
TIME-TABLE - To take effect on Monday, the 4th of July, 1853.										
No. of Train	STATION	TRAINS GOING WEST, NEW YORK TO PHILLIPSBURG								
		No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	No. 7.	No. 8.	No. 9.
		Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.
		1 New York.	8:00 A.M.	12 M.	3:45 P.M.	6:00 P.M.				
63	11:25	2 Elizabethtown.	8:26	12:56 P.M.	4:40	6:26			4:15 A.M.	
604	11:58	3 Elizabethtown.	9:05	1:06	4:49	6:55			5:18	
55	10:28	4 Cranford.	9:17	1:17	5:01	7:17			5:55	
53	10:02	5 Westfield.	9:23	1:24	5:08	7:25			5:48	
	9:40	6 Scotch Plains.	9:30	1:31	5:15	7:30			7:03	
85	9:25	7 Plainfield.	9:40	1:42	5:25	7:40			6:37	
	8:55	8 New Market.	9:46	1:49	5:31	7:46			6:53	
411	8:39	9 Rosal Brook.	9:55	1:59	5:40	7:55			7:12	
371	8:05	10 Somerville.	10:08	2:13	5:53	8:05			7:42	
	7:51	11 Raritan.	10:12	2:16	5:57				8:02	
52	6:41	12 North Branch.	10:20	2:25	6:06				8:25	
28	6:16	13 White House.	10:25	2:30	6:12				8:33	
	5:15	14 Union.	10:42	2:48	6:28				8:15	
211	4:55	15 Clinton.	10:50	2:56	6:36				8:44	
	4:17	16 High Bridge.	11:03	3:09	6:49				8:58	
15	4:02	17 New Hampton.	11:08	3:14	6:54				10:12	
	3:47	18 Albany.	11:15	3:21	7:01				10:28	
10	3:26	19 Bethelton.	11:30	3:36	7:06				10:44	
7	3:09	20 Bloomsbury.	11:25	3:35	7:14				11:08	
41	2:53	21 Livingston.	11:24	3:41	7:20				11:21	
	2:50 P.M.	22 Great Mills.	11:47	3:53	7:33				11:37	
		Phillipsburg.								
	No. 10.	No. 8.	No. 6.	No. 4.	No. 2.					
	Freight Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.	Passenger Train.					
	PHILLIPSBURG TO NEW YORK.									
	TRAINS GOING EAST.									

The Jersey Central's timetable of service in 1853.

—Drawing and Timetable Courtesy of Central Railroad of New Jersey

THE ADVENT OF THE RAILROAD

A little more than 30 years after the Revolution, the American people were plunged again into conflict with the British during the War of 1812.

As in 1776, Westfielders rallied to the defense of their country. The township appropriated money to buy "powder, ball and flints for the purpose of repelling any attempt which may be made on our Rights and Liberties by our common enemy." A thousand and three musket cartridges and one hundred flints were supplied to a local company of militia called the Jersey Greens under the command of Capt. Ezra Miller. The war, however, was largely a naval affair and was too far removed to have much effect on Westfield.

On August 22, 1812, a signal honor was conferred upon the town. The custody of the State Seal was always entrusted to a high official when the governor was absent. Gov. Joseph Bloomfield, forced to leave New Jersey on business, delivered it to the Hon. Charles Clark of Westfield, vice-president of the state. Thus Westfield became the repository of the Great Seal and was, for a day at least, the capital of New Jersey.

In 1831, the town began to show promise of future growth when the Elizabeth Town & Somerville Railroad (predecessor to the Central Railroad of New Jersey formed in 1849) was chartered with a capital of \$200,000. Prior to this time, stagecoach lines, established about 1750, had been the sole means of public transportation. New York could be reached from Elizabeth Port, or "The Point" as it was commonly called, only by rowboat or sailboat until, in 1790, a sail ferryboat began operation. This was replaced in 1808 by the steamboat "Raritan" and a few years later by the speedier 12-horsepower "Sea Horse."

After seven years of intermittent labor, the much-heralded railroad was completed. For its maiden trip (May, 1838), people drove to The Point from miles around. Many openly scoffed at "Sam's Folly," so-called because Sam Downer of Westfield had made it his pet project. David Miller bet \$5 that his team of trotting horses could beat the train to Westfield, and so it did — by ten minutes!

On January 1, 1839, the rolling stock of the company consisted of one nine-ton wood-burning engine, the "Eagle," one 8-wheel passenger car and four 4-wheel box cars. As there was but one track, only one trip

a day from The Point through Westfield to Somerville could be made in each direction, and this on wooden wheels rolling on wooden tracks topped with flat iron strips.

In 1851 a one-way passage to New York cost 37½ cents and a year's commutation ticket, \$50. The twenty-one mile trip took one hour and twenty-three minutes. This time was shortened in 1865 when the bridge over Newark Bay was built and trains could reach the Hudson River at Jersey City. Isaac Miller is said to have been the first regular commuter from Westfield.

Improved transportation stimulated commuter traffic which gradually changed Westfield from a farming to a residential community. In 1844, the town was described as a "neat village consisting of 30 or 40 buildings in the vicinity of the Presbyterian Church." By 1883, there were 1,000 homes in Westfield and a population of about 3,000, of whom 200 were daily commuters.

The coming of the railroad marked the end of the stagecoach days and, among other things, a unique system of mail delivery. As early as 1793 letters and packages had been sent from Elizabeth Port to Westfield by the stagecoach "Speedwell," whose driver for more than 50 years was George Tingley of Westfield. Mail was delivered at Samuel Downer's store. Mr. Downer often took the letters to the Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings and distributed them after the service to the addressees.

Westfield's first regular postmaster (April 1, 1805) was Smith Scudder, son of Ephraim Scudder. In 1825 Mr. Downer, once the unofficial postmaster, took over again. The annual receipts of the post office at this time were \$30 and the postmaster's salary came to \$18.80 a year. Minimum postal rates were 8 cents for delivery within 40 miles and up to 25 cents for longer distances.

In 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized — the first church to be established in Westfield since the founding of the Presbyterian Church in 1728.

In 1857 the townships of Elizabeth and Westfield were included in

ADVENT OF THE RAILROAD

a new county of Union. This political sub-division also took in Rahway, Plainfield, Union, New Providence and part of Springfield. Named but a few years before the outbreak of the Civil War, the name *Union* had a strong patriotic significance.



—Photo Courtesy of Westfield Memorial Library

Among the old houses still standing is the original Daniel Pierson house, built in 1755, on the north side of East Broad Street near Springfield Avenue.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT



—Photo Courtesy of Westfield Memorial Library

Elm Street as it looked circa 1910.



—Photo Courtesy of Westfield Studios

Elm Street as it looks in 1964.

NEW GROWTH IN WESTFIELD

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Westfield responded heartily to Lincoln's first call for volunteers, but when the second call came, the quota was not met and it was necessary to raise funds for substitutes. A loan of \$10,000 was negotiated by a committee headed by Gideon Ludlow. The committee offered \$25 to \$50 a man according to his term of enlistment.

Sixty-six Westfielders served in the war to save the Union. Among them were names associated with the town since its inception — Clark, Miller, Crane, Frazee and many others.

After the war Westfield grew steadily. New churches came into the community. Social, philanthropic, civic and cultural organizations were established in growing numbers; banks, newspapers and public services offered new conveniences. Business concerns of many types began to serve the needs of a growing population. Educational facilities were enlarged. Real estate values rose and residential building boomed.

An indication of the town's rapid progress is portrayed in this chronology of principal events:

- 1865: The First Baptist Church became the third church in Westfield.
- 1867: The Episcopal Church, first known as Grace Church, was founded. Later known as Christ Church, it became St. Paul's in 1875.
- 1868: Fairview Cemetery was organized.
- 1869: The Prospect Street School was the town's only school at this time. It supplanted the Old Brick Academy (1819-69) and an earlier school which had been built before 1750.
- 1872: Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church organized. It was a mission church attended from Cranford until 1903.
- 1873: Every Saturday Book Club, a circulating library was founded by an association of ladies. It was incorporated in 1877 as the Westfield Every Saturday Library, the forerunner of the present Westfield Memorial Library.

Westfield in 1874 was still a small village. These were the days of board sidewalks, dirt roads, oil street lamps and high bicycles.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT

On August 4 of this year a great fire swept a large part of the business section destroying much of the north side of Broad Street between Elm Street and the Plaza.

The disaster dramatically but tragically emphasized the pressing need for modern fire fighting methods. The result was the organization of a fire department the following year. It was known, says the late J. Herbert Pearsall, as Westfield Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The apparatus included a Little Giant pump and chemical engine. Fire alarm signals were first given by ringing the Prospect Street School and Presbyterian Church bells.

1880: The Congregational Church organized.

The *Westfield Monitor* began publication. It had been preceded by a short-lived newspaper, the *Westfield Townsman*. After the *Monitor* came the *Telegraph* and in 1887, the *Union County Standard*, followed by the present *Westfield Leader* in 1890.

1883: Royal Arcanum — Fireside Council #715 was formed with 56 members pledged to the "protection of the home through fraternity and insurance."

1888: Board of Trade was organized. Chartered as the Westfield Chamber of Commerce in 1954, it became the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce in 1957.

Westfield Building & Loan became the predecessor of the Westfield Federal Savings & Loan Association.

The "Great Blizzard" occurred March 11 when snow reached the second-story windows of buildings at Elm and Broad Streets and covered a street light 10 feet high. Some commuters, it was reported, spent three days getting home from New York.

1889: The Bethel Baptist Church was organized.

1890: Lincoln School was built on Temple Place.

1891: The Children's Country Home (now Children's Specialized Hospital) was formed.

NEW GROWTH IN WESTFIELD

1892: The Second Great Fire damaged or destroyed many buildings on Broad Street west of Elm.

The Westfield Club (now the Advance Club) organized October 26 "to stimulate discussion of literary, scientific, historical and cultural subjects."

The Westfield Trust Co. (now Suburban Trust Co.) became the town's first commercial bank.

1893: The first electric service was installed in Westfield by Suburban Electric Light Co. of Elizabeth.

1894: The water and sewer systems were installed during the 200th anniversary year of the town.

1895: Telephone service was established through a town switchboard in William Trench's drugstore at Prospect and Broad Streets. His daughter, Maude, was the first operator. By 1900 there were 80 subscribers.

Boro of Mountainside "set off" from Westfield.

The Woman's Club of Westfield organized as a literary club.

1898: The first trolley line operated on Grove Street, South Avenue, Broad Street and Elm Street.

1899: Westfielders donned uniforms of the 3rd New Jersey Infantry during the Spanish-American War.

Beginning of gas service by Elizabethtown Gas Co.

A MODERN MUNICIPALITY

Westfield's growth, initiated by the advent of the railroad, accelerated after 1900. Advantages of an agreeable climate, convenient and efficient transportation to trade centers and the proximity of attractive summer vacation areas along the South Jersey shore were magnets which drew more and more people to the town.

Essentially a family community, parents demanded better than average educational facilities. This resulted in the expansion of the school system from the two schools serving the 4,328 residents at the turn of the century — the Prospect Street School and the Lincoln School — to a total of five schools by 1922. The number of teachers increased from 20 to 82 within the same period and school enrollment rose from 736 to 2,144. Today (1964) there are nine elementary schools, one senior and two junior high schools, 389 teachers and an enrollment of 8,500. Three parochial schools have an additional student enrollment of 1,430.

These modern-day statistics contrast vividly with the earliest school records of 1809 when 56 children attended the town's first school, a log building located on Broad Street opposite the Presbyterian Church grounds. At this time there were only three teachers.

Highlights of events from 1900 to the beginning of World War I included the organization of the Police Department, the building of Washington School and the formation of the Westfield Band all in 1900. In 1902, the first attempt to number houses was made. The following year a terrible wreck occurred a quarter of a mile west of the railroad station when a Plainfield express ploughed into the rear of a local train which had just left Westfield, killing twenty-three persons.

On March 4, 1903, Westfield reached the maturity of a municipality, although not without strong differences of opinion between groups of citizens favoring and opposing the move.

The ten years following the organization of a town form of government were marked by physical improvements — new parks and playgrounds, an increasing number of business and financial concerns and the expansion of social and cultural organizations. In 1904 St. Luke's A. M. E. Zion Church was established.

Of special interest in 1905 was a town referendum favoring the creation of a tax-supported free public library and the erection of a building to house it on the corner of Broad and Elmer Streets. Funds were raised by public subscription, a Carnegie grant and the profits from the sale of property donated by the former Library Association. An addition was made to the building in 1908 with more Carnegie funds.

The Peoples Bank & Trust Co. (now the National State Bank) opened its doors in 1907 and the McKinley School was built in 1908. In the same year the Mutual Building & Loan Assn. (now the First Federal Savings & Loan Assn.) was formed. The National Bank of Westfield was organized in 1911, the District Nursing Association in 1912 and the Westfield Tennis Club in 1915.

In 1915, before the United States entered World War I, a Westfield resident, Charles E. Apgar, "ham" radio operator, performed a dramatic service to the government by intercepting and recording secret radio messages being sent to Germany through the radio station at Sayville, Long Island.

These messages were transferred to phonograph records and delivered to the United States Secret Service for decoding and interpretation. The disclosures later led to federal control of the Sayville station.

In 1916 the Musical Club was formed and in 1917, the College Woman's Club. The first Boy Scout troop was activated in this year.

Beginning in 1917, all energies were directed toward winning World War I. During this period some 500 Westfield boys joined the armed forces. A Westfield branch of the American Red Cross was organized . . . the Westfield Rifle Club was formed . . . a secret police organization of citizens was instituted under the direction of the Police Department to be on the alert for subversive activities . . . Home Guard units were activated . . . a great "send-off" was given in Washington Park for the town's soldiers before their embarkment . . . home garden activities were intensified to stimulate raising of food products . . . the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense was formed . . . five Liberty Loan drives were oversubscribed . . . a total of \$4,198,000 was raised by Westfielders to support the war effort.

In response to requests by state authorities, Westfield formed a Military Reserve and equipped a company which was soon called upon for special guard duty in Perth Amboy where a series of terrifying explosions took place in the Morgan plant, a government munitions factory, on the night of October 3, 1918.

This was a night to remember for all people in the town. As Mr. Philhower vividly described it: "At first it was hard to locate the source of the explosion. No information was given out and the populace were left to speculate regarding the cause. Some thought it an air raid on New York, others a bombardment by German battleships or an explosion of mines in New York Harbor, meteors bombarding the earth or a great earthquake; some even that it was the day of doom.

"All through the night waves of percussions greater than the loudest thunder rolled over the town. Each explosion as it passed would strike back like the arm of Vulcan as if to knock each house from its foundation. Before the effect of one concussion had left us, another would increase the shock, often repeated by half a dozen or more cosmic demotations. The frightful cataclysm continued throughout the next day and word came that all the people should leave their homes, for it was reported that the largest magazine of the Morgan plant was in danger and that in case it should be fired, all buildings within fifty miles would be razed to the ground. Fortunately, that explosion never came."

Refugees streamed from the scene. Roads were choked with homeless men, women and children. Carloads of household goods, hundreds of baby carriages and pushcarts lined the highways out of Perth Amboy. Many of the unfortunates were brought to Westfield and cared for in one of the school buildings and in private homes.

This was also the year of the great influenza epidemic. Under the direction of the Board of Health, the Children's Country Home was converted into a hospital. Many women of the town under the supervision of Miss Clara Cordua worked unceasingly to care for the sick. Fatalities were kept to a minimum by the excellent volunteer work and medical services. The disease struck more than 100 people and left fifteen dead.

A MODERN MUNICIPALITY

In connection with the reorganization of National Guard units after the war, two cavalry troops, many of whose members were men from Westfield, gained federal recognition which led to the erection of the Armory on Rahway Avenue. Originally the 102nd Cavalry, it remained as such during World War II but is now known as the Fifth Squadron, 117th Cavalry.

Of the 486 young men who enlisted in the armed services during the first World War, seventeen died or were killed in action. For these the following "Gold Star" streets were named:

<i>Street</i>	<i>Named for</i>
Cowperthwaite Place	Corp. Harold F. Cowperthwaite
Tice Place	Corp. Raymond S. Tice
Hort Street	Lt. Nathaniel H. Hort
Saunders Avenue	Lt. Stuart B. Saunders
Wallberg Avenue	Pvt. Martin Wallberg
Hyslip Avenue	Corp. Edward Hyslip
Hanford Place	Sgt. Robert C. Hanford
Palsted Avenue	Corp. Axel T. Palsted
Stevens Avenue	Sgt. Henry C. Stevens
Archbold Place	Pvt. Nelson S. Archbold
Brown Avenue	Pvt. George E. Brown
Cacciola Place	Pvt. Dominick Cacciola
Salter Place	Capt. Salter Storrs Clark Jr.
Dunham Avenue	Pvt. Ernest F. Dunham
Raymond Street	Sgt. John Raymond Clark
Caufield Place	Pvt. Bernard Caufield
Coleman Place	Lt. Coleman T. Clark

In the closing year of the war (1918) Mindowaskin Park was dedicated in ceremonies attended by prominent state and municipal officials. The event reminded the late historian, Robert V. Hoffman, of the time in 1860 when the area was known as Clark's Pond. One December day children coming to skate on the pond found a sign denying permission to use the lake without payment of \$5 "for the season." Tearful appeal to Mrs. Abigail Clark, who was generally known as "Aunt Abbey" and who was the owner of the property disclosed that the sign had been put there by her sons without her knowledge and resulted in its removal. Henceforth what is now Mindowaskin Lake was free to all.

COLONIAL WESTFIELD PAST AND PRESENT

Very soon after the war, the American Legion was formed in 1919 as the Martin Wallberg Post. Two years later the Clark-Hyslip Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized. Both Westfield veterans' groups named their posts after Westfield boys killed in the war. In memory of an earlier war, the Daughters of the American Revolution founded a Westfield chapter in 1920, followed in the next year by the organization of Sons of the American Revolution.

The next two decades saw a phenomenal growth in the town's population, from 9,063 in 1920 to 18,458 in 1940 with corresponding increases in the cost of services required to support this expansion. When the town became a municipality in 1903 the budget for that year was only \$5,200.25.

This postwar period, which began with a celebration in 1920 of the 200th anniversary of Westfield's emergence as a recognized village, included the building of new schools and churches and the formation of many civic, cultural and social organizations—the Christian Science Church, 1919; Rotary Club, 1921; College Men's Club, 1922; YMCA, 1923 (although the Y had been in Westfield as early as 1868); Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1925; Girl Scouts, 1928; YWCA, 1931; Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Westfield Community Center, 1937.



Westfield's modern Municipal Building, housing the Town offices and departments, police station and Westfield Memorial Library. Built in 1954.

A MODERN MUNICIPALITY

In World War II (1941), local support centered in the town's Civil Defense organization which coordinated and administered a score of functions related to the protection and welfare of the community. These included the police reserves, volunteer firemen, air raid wardens, motor corps, Red Cross child care and engineering, medical, health and refugee services. Government authorities cited Westfield as a model of home-town defense.

The Ration Board controlled tires, food and fuel, and the Draft Board administered the Selective Service law in the Westfield, Mountainside and Garwood area. It was estimated that more than 10,000 Westfield citizens took part in wartime activities, the cost of which exceeded \$50,000.

Of the 2,263 men and 19 women who entered the armed forces, 68 lost their lives. Of these 39 had been Westfield High School students.

For two years following the war, effective volunteer work was done to assist discharged servicemen in their readjustments to civilian life. This activity emanated from the Veterans Service Center which acted as a clearing house for education and training, employment, housing, legal advice, home problems, etc.

From 1950, at the beginning of the Korean War, to 1964, population has increased from 21,245 to more than 31,000, at which figure it is becoming more or less stabilized. This growth has been met with expansion of municipal services, school facilities, YMCA-YWCA and church additions, and studies geared to find solutions for problems resulting from the increase in population. This period saw the founding of Temple Emanu-el (1950) and the organization of the Westfield Rescue Squad (1951).

One of the largest public improvements was the erection of the new Municipal Center in 1954. Here, in addition to the town offices and police department, is located the Free Public Library under the new name "Memorial Library" dedicated "to the men and women of Westfield who gave their lives in the founding and preservation of our republic."

In 1964, as Westfield observes the Tercentenary of New Jersey and the 244th anniversary of its own first settlement, it can boast of 8,079 homes, 294 business concerns and a population at the 1960 census of 31,477.



"Colonial Westfield Past and Present" is being distributed to the people of this community by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce as a public service, in cooperation with the Westfield Tercentenary Committee.

Additional copies may be obtained at the Chamber office.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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