

# AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MONTCLAIR.

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From its Earliest Settlement to the Centennial Anniversary of National Independence.

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COMPILED BY GEN. F. H. HARRIS, AND READ AT THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, JULY 4TH, 1876, BY DR. J. J. H. LOVE.

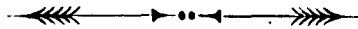
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MONTCLAIR, N. J.:  
*Montclair Times Steam Print.*

1881.



## THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.



THE question of having in Montclair, a Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of National Independence, on July 4th, 1876, was one which had occasionally been suggested as the time approached; but the general desire to celebrate throughout the country, and the demand which would consequently be made upon speakers from abroad, made it seem impracticable to secure such an orator as would meet the requirements of the occasion, so that no movement was made in this town until about the 20th of June. It having been intimated that an orator of unusual ability could be secured for the occasion, a public meeting of citizens was held at the Town Committee rooms, when Dr. J. J. H. Love was called to the chair, and Thorndike Saunders, Esq., appointed secretary, and, after sufficiently considering the matter a large committee of citizens was appointed to take charge of the celebration—provided that a speaker could be secured.

The general committee met on the 24th of June, when it was decided to have a celebration on the Fourth of July in the following manner:

First.—A sunrise, noon and sunset salute and bell ringing; raising of flags at the time of firing sunrise salute.

Second.—A public meeting during the day, with prayer, music, reading the Declaration of Independence and orations; *provided*, that one or more orators can be obtained for the occasion, who shall be acceptable to the General Committee.

Third.—Illumination of the houses of the town, of the mountain by beacon lights, and by fireworks in the evening.

The various committees were then appointed as follows:

Committee on salute, bell ringing and flag raising, (first resolution): Messrs. J. R. Rand, William Jacobus, E. J. Huestis, William A. Torrey.

Committee on public meeting and speaker, (second resolution): Gen. Frederick H. Harris, Messrs. Thomas Porter, Thorndike Saunders, Hon. Samuel Wilde, William A. Torrey, Julius H. Pratt, William H. Arnoux.

Committee on Illumination and fireworks, (third resolution): William A. Torrey, William Sigler, Thomas A. Levy, W. Irving Adams, J. R. Thompson.

The following was then unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, that a committee of ten be appointed to take charge of the collection and disbursement of the money subscribed toward the necessary expenses of this occasion.

The committee consisted of the fol-

lowing named gentlemen: William B. Holmes, chairman; P. H. Nan Riper, Henry A. Dike, Philip Doremus, W. L. Bull, A. B. Howe, Oscar S. Follett, William A. Torrey, Julius H. Pratt, J. L. Andruss, W. Irving Adams.

Mr. O. S. Follett, was appointed Treasurer.

The next meeting was held on the 27th of June, at which reports were received of favorable progress from the several committees excepting the committee on public meeting, who were compelled to report that it was impossible for them to secure the orator they had expected, although the services of Mr. G. H. Elliot, soloist, and of the Montclair Choral Union had been tendered to furnish music for the occasion. The members of the general committee were greatly disappointed, and, it was suggested that the celebration be abandoned. This was not deemed advisable in view of the public expectation on the subject and the committee were requested to make further efforts to secure an orator.

The use of the Presbyterian Church and Jacobus' Hall was offered free, and the committee passed a resolution of thanks for generous offers, but decided to hold the exercises in the Presbyterian Church, at the same time appointing J. Ogden Clark, Esq., a committee on decoration of the same.

At the meeting of the committee held on June 29th, the committee on public meeting again reported their inability to secure an orator, and on motion of Mr. J. Van Vleck, chairman of the Township Committee it was—

*Resolved*, That this committee add its request to that made by the Township Committee last year, \* that Dr J. J. H. Love and Gen Frederick H. Harris prepare for publication an historical sketch of the Township of Montclair, including such items of local interest as may seem

to them appropriate; and, that any funds that remain unexpended of the money raised for the Fourth of July celebration, be applied to the printing of this sketch.

*Resolved*, That the committee be requested to have a platform erected in the church, and that the oldest citizens of our own town be invited to seats thereon.

*Resolved*, That the ministers of the several churches be invited to make addresses on the occasion.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY.

The heat on Independence Day was intense, but the following programme was carried out:

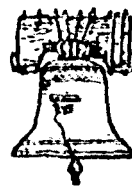
At sunrise.—Ringing of bells. Salute of 13 guns on Plymouth street and flag raising.

#### PUBLIC EXERCISES.

1776.

1876.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



MONTCLAIR, N. J.

July Fourth, 1876.

*Fac-simile of Programme Title Page (reduced).*

The exercises in the Presbyterian Church took place at 10 o'clock in the morning, the church having been tastefully decorated with flags by Mr. Clark, and, the platform being occupied by the clergymen and many older citizens (provided with badges for the occasion), among whom were Rev. Abner Brundage, Nathaniel R. Dodd, Timothy A. Crane, Zenas S. Crane, Joseph H. Baldwin, Amos Crane, William H. Harris, Charles Kingsley and others.

## PROGRAMME.

1. Voluntary on the organ, "Grand Centennial March "
2. Prayer.....Rev. A Brundage
3. National Hymn....."America," by the "Montclair Choral Union " and the Audience.
4. Reading of the Declaration...By Dr. C. A. Marvin.
5. Solo. "Viva L'America,".....By G. H. Elliot, Esq., assisted by Chorus.
6. Historical Reminiscences of Montclair.. By Dr. J. J. H. Love.
7. Whittier's Centennial Hymn..By the Choral Union.
8. Addresses.....By Rev. Dr. Berry, Rev. Mr. Bradford and others.
9. Doxology.
10. Benediction.

After the reading of the historical sketch by Dr. J. J. H. Love, Mr. Geo. S. Dwight arose and proposed, "that the hearty thanks of the meeting, on behalf of the community, be tendered to the gentlemen, namely, Dr. J. J. H. Love and Gen. F. H. Harris, who had so ably compiled, and presented, so interesting a paper upon the history and statistics of the township of Montclair."

This motion being unanimously carried, its mover, referring to an old fashioned custom therein related, suggested, "that in consideration of the long continued and tireless services of Dr. J. J. H. Love on behalf of our educational interests (not to mention other good works) it should henceforth be ordained that the old-time practice be revived, and that the children of the schools pass him or stand before him always with uncovered heads."

This suggestion met with much enthusiasm and applause.

## REVOLUTIONARY RELICS.

The following revolutionary relics were displayed at the church:

1. Genuine China tea cup and saucer formerly the property of Gen. Jonathan Trumbull, the original "Brother Jonathan."

2. Pair of shoe buckles and knee buckles, worn in mourning for the death of Gen. George Washington 1799 and 1800.

3. Two thirds of a continental dollar 1776.

4. Old family Bible 1608

5. Copy of large Catechism 1757.

6. Order of Gen. George Washington to Lieutenant William Torrey 1781.

7. A Proclamation for a day of Thanksgiving by Gen. Trumbull.

8. An old chair brought from England, and used in front of pulpit in old log church at Stratham N. H. This chair is 140 years old.

At noon.—Salute of 13 guns accompanied by ringing of bells.

At sunset.—Salute of 13 guns and bell ringing.

The canon used on the occasion was secured by Mr. W. A. Torrey, from the Navy Yard—for which a vote of thanks was passed by the committee to Secretary of the Navy, Hon. George M. Robeson.

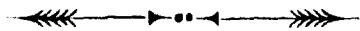
A grand pyrotechnic display was witnessed by a large multitude on Plymouth street, near Clinton avenue at 8 p. m., and at 9½ the general illumination of Montclair with several beacon fires of barrels of burning tar and petroleum on the mountain presented a most brilliant spectacle.

Thus ended a celebration which was considered by all a decided success and one of the most important that had ever taken place in Montclair.

\*We learn from the records of the Township Committee that on the 16th of June, 1875, a resolution was adopted as follows:

*Resolved*, That the committee feel a just pride in the success of our village, and believe that it will increase in attractiveness in the future as in the past—and realizing the importance of securing some accurate record of the many interesting events connected with the past history of town, as well as those now transpiring, request that a committee compile an historical sketch of its organization and a statement of its present condition, accompanied by such other facts connected therewith as may come to their knowledge.

## THE HISTORICAL SKETCH.



*Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow Citizens:*—We have undertaken to prepare and read to you, on a very short notice, and while pressed with urgent avocations, a history of Montclair for the past hundred years. Col. Harris has prepared the papers and collated the facts,\* and I will endeavor to read them. If any of you shall grow weary during their recital, we beg your kind indulgence, and would respectfully suggest that this thing has only to be gone through once in a hundred years. We have had no time to go forth into the field of oratory, and gather its flowers, to give color and fragrance to our reunion.

There is in the surrounding circumstances an inspiration, which amply atones for its absence in the elocution of the speaker. Two transcendent tributes the century brings to this National Oration the first proclaimed to the world one hundred years ago to-day, as a fundamental truth—the right of the people to a voice in the administration of their political systems. The second secured by the recent war, the assertion and ap-

plication to our system of universal emancipation.

Well may the American heart be stirred to its depths, as it is to-day by these achievements, in the cause of truth, justice and humanity.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH.

During the year 1664, King Charles the Second, of England, conveyed by patent to his son James, Duke of York, the territory extending from the Connecticut river to the Delaware river, which he again conveyed about the same time, to Lord John Berkeley, and Sir George Carteret.

In 1678, the portion of this territory known as East Jersey, was devised by Carteret, one of the proprietors, and sold by his trustees to William Penn, Robert West and others, to the number of twelve, as proprietors, who claimed as had been claimed by Berkeley and Carteret, a sort of right of "eminent domain over the whole section."

Montclair was included in this territory and is located on the easterly slope of a spur of the Highlands, a range running south-westerly from the Hudson river, and was known as the Watchung Mountain, by the Sagamore and other tribes of Indians, who owned and occupied it. It

\*NOTE—The Exordium and peroration, as well as the portions of the sketch relating to the war records and schools, were prepared by Dr. J. J. H. Love.

is a part of the first territory purchased from the Sagamore Indians in 1666—the chief negotiator on their part being one Perreo, a Sagamore chief—by the colony, which came from Milford, Branford, Guilford and New Haven, in the province of Connecticut, among whom were families of Baldwins, Cranes, Wards, Dodds and others, the first settlers of Newark, and extended from the Passaic river, to “the foot of the first great mountain called Watchung.”

The price paid was “fifty double hands of powder, one hundred bars of lead, twenty axes, twenty coats, ten guns, twenty pistols, four barrels of beer, two pairs of breeches, fifty knives, twenty hoes, eight hundred and fifty fathoms of wampum, two arkens of liquor (say thirty-two gallons,) or something equivalent, ten kettles, ten swords three coats and four blankets.

The second purchase was made from the Winocksop and Shenocor Indians, the owners of “the great Mountain Watchung,” on the 13th of March 1678, “for two guns, three coats and thirteen cans of rum, extending the limits to the top of the mountain—and including the celebrated “Eagle Rock” so named from the fact that in days of yore, eagles built their nests there, and from which, in these later days, thousands of visitors are delighted with the panorama, the counterpart of which is not to be found in the length and breadth of this country.

The original settlers of this section, as will be observed, if we consider whence they came, were of Puritan stock. Many of them had fled from England to Holland, and thence to New England to escape oppression and persecution, for conscience sake.

In New England there were three colonies—one at Plymouth Mass., one at Hartford, called the colony of Connecticut and another at New Haven.

The colonies of Connecticut, and New Haven, had just previous to that time, been erected into a single province, by a royal charter. That action had caused much dissatisfaction in the New Haven colony, as it was brought about in a very arbitrary manner and involved the abandonment of some of their favorite principles; they fled from the old world, “to establish a purer church and commonwealth,” and the Connecticut colony as then established did not meet their high ideas—they were dissatisfied with many of the things that prevailed there, especially what was known as the “half way covenant,” which permitted persons not in full communion with the church to enjoy the privileges of church membership, and allowed the baptism of infants of parents not in full communion, they also wished that no person, not in full communion with the church, should enjoy elective franchise, or be elected to any civil office; thence originated the idea of a new colony to this place.

Pioneers had visited this section and at a popular meeting held in Milford, May 24th, 1666, at which delegates were present from Branford and Guilford, to consider the subject. A resolution, “to form a new colony at Newark, on the Passaic” was adopted, their object being as they declared, “the carrying out of spiritual concerns as also of civil and town affairs, according to God and a Godly government.”

In accordance with this programme, in the latter part of the year (1666) they chartered a sail vessel, and set out for the new country, expecting to encoun-

ter the dreary wilderness, savage beasts, and more savage men, but willing to endure all *that*, to accomplish their object.

On arriving at Newark, they were met by obstacles not expected; when they commenced to unload upon the shore, they were surprised to see a company of Hackensack Indians, who ordered them off, as "encroaching upon the unoccupied territory without a previous purchase."

It was also brought to their notice that the English proprietors had enacted "that all such persons as should transport themselves into the province of New Jersey, should be entitled to grants, or patents, under the seal of the province, paying therefor the rent of half a penny sterling for every acre to be granted, and that the lands should be purchased by the English Governor and Council from the Indians, in the name of the land proprietors, and every settler was to pay his proportion of that purchase money and charges.

This unexpected announcement produced despondency, and some would have been glad to have returned to Connecticut. Others differed from them, and notwithstanding the position of the proprietors, asserted "that the heathens, as part of the descendants of Noah, had a rightful title to their lands, and that therefore they themselves had a right to negotiate with them (the Indians), and make their own purchases."

The Governor, however, reluctant to lose a colony of so much promise, made with them a compromise, which induced them to remain, and as above stated, they proceeded to make their own purchases of the Indians.

The controversies concerning the quit-

rents continued about a century; by agreement of the parties, the whole matter was finally submitted to arbitrators, whose decision confirmed the right of the proprietors, and threw the cost upon the landholders, and so things remained until the Revolutionary war put an end to the claim.

The territory thus acquired by a moral right from the Indians, who were satisfied, and seemed to have always lived in harmony with the settlers, and by a legal right from the land proprietors, embraced the present city of Newark, and the towns of Orange, Bloomfield, Montclair, Belleville and Clinton.

Their ideal of perfect civil and religious state of society could never be realized, but a bright vision of the future furnished to them a sufficient motive for making the effort.

The territory now included within the limits of the Township of Montclair, is about five miles long, and about two and a half wide—originally a part of Newark. It was settled about the middle of the seventeenth century, afterward it was set off from Newark and was a part of the Township of Bloomfield.

The Township of Montclair was set off, and incorporated, on the fifteenth of April 1868, and the first election was held April twenty-first following, for the election of town officers. This separation was caused by a decided difference of opinion as to the practicability of bonding the township in aid of the Montclair Railway Company. An act for that purpose having been introduced in the Legislature, was generally opposed by the citizens of the easterly portion of the old township, while those in the western portion favored it. The act was finally passed applying to the new town-



ship, which had been created in the mean time.

The upper or northerly portion of the town was originally settled by the Speers, Van Giesons, and others of Dutch extractions from Hackensack, and was called Speertown. The southerly portion was settled by the Cranes, Baldwins, Dodds, and others, and was called Cranetown. And notwithstanding some were of Dutch and others of English origin, they have always lived in harmony, being thoroughly united in their resistance to the quit-rents of the English proprietors and the tea-tax of the British crown, and, in these days they have become so mixed, that like the fabled good step-mother's children, we can hardly tell them apart.

The line which divides the descendants of the Dutch colony that settled at Hackensack, from the English colony that settled at Newark, extends very nearly across the northern portion of the State, each having proceeded west from the original starting point, carrying their distinctive peculiarities and ecclesiastical differences with them, as is manifest to those who have considered the matter, and this line divides our township, and others in the same manner; thus we find the Speers and Van Giesons, attendants upon the Dutch Reformed Church—and the Cranes, Baldwins and others, originally attending the Congregational, afterward Presbyterian Churches.

The southerly portion of the township continued to be called Cranetown until about the year 1831, when the post office was established by the name of West Bloomfield.

It was soon, however, found that difficulties arose in consequence of the proximity to Bloomfield, and the similarity of

names often perplexed and inconvenienced travelers on the railroad, and mail matter was often directed to the wrong place, and about the year 1865, the name of the post office and railroad station was changed to Montclair, which has been the name of the place since that time.

#### ROADS.

There were originally two principal roads running through the town—one from Paterson to Orange, nearly in the track of the present Valley and Orange roads, the other from Caldwell to Newark entering the township near the present Mountain House, and running thence to the house now occupied by Amos Crane; thence to the present public school building and past the Presbyterian Church and the store of Israel Crane to Bloomfield.

There were also three cross roads; the course of one was from Williamsville to Bloomfield, passing the property of Calvin Taylor; the second from Brower's mill to Parson's mill, and the third from Thomas Porter's property, on the corner of Orange road and Union street, to the top of the mountain, at a point west of Henry W. Nason's house, where it intersected the Eagle Rock road.

#### AN ANCIENT LANDMARK.

At the southwest corner of the Paterson road and Watchung avenue, formerly called Oak Tree road, just east of the line dividing the town of Montclair from Bloomfield, stands an old, antiquated house whose history is particularly interesting in these centennial times. It is built of stone, and is about twenty-five feet square.

Lime was not known in these parts at the time of its erection, and clay was

used as a substitute. The bricks that were used in its construction were made of clay, and are of a peculiar shape, to wit: nine inches long and but one and a half inches thick.

The house was built by one Christian Interest, who was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, and emigrated to America in 1754.

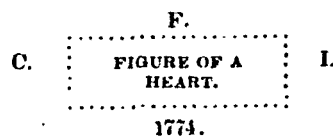
He married a daughter of Peter Garbrant, an old resident of this locality. Mr. Interest was a conscript in the reign of Queen Anne, his period of enlistment expiring subsequent to the year 1774. After his arrival in this country, he worked at the same trade which our late worthy and lamented Vice-President followed during his earlier years. He traveled, as was the custom of those days, from house to house, with his kit on his shoulder, remaining at each house long enough to make and repair the shoes for the family.

At the breaking out of our revolution, Mr. Interest being friendly to our cause, feared that the Hessians would discover who he was, and knowing the allegiance he owed to his king, that they might compel him into service again. Therefore, to insure his safety, he dug a dry well some twenty feet deep under the floor of his bed-room, where he was accustomed to secrete himself on the approach of the Hessian troops.

He would take with him into his retreat, food, bedding, etc., and fastening down the trap-door, the only entrance; he would remain there until the danger was passed. He often had occasion to resort to this place for safety. The well and trap-door are now in the same condition as when used by Interest, one hundred years ago.

In the centre of the front wall is a

freestone slab about a foot square, bearing the letters and figure following:



The "C" at the left indicates Christian; the "F" at the top Frouche, the wife of Christian; and the "I" at the right, Interest. The "F" is placed at the top of the slab to indicate that the property belonged to Frouche. If it belonged to both, according to the Dutch custom, the letters "C" and "F" would have been placed at the top of the slab. It was the custom sometimes, in place of the heart, to carve two hands joined together, or some symbol indicating affection. It was a very general custom among the old Dutch settlers of the country, to insert plates of this kind in their houses.

In the wall near this tablet, the exact spot being indicated by metes and bounds, in the old gentleman's will, is a tin box let into the freestone, which contains the family records, heirlooms consisting of shoe and belt buttons, two or three inches square, and some German and American coin.

The old gentleman is described as one of peculiar eccentric habits and ideas. He dug his own grave and made his own coffin, so as to cause as little trouble as possible to his friends.

#### HOTELS.

The first hotel was established by Stephen Fordham, in the house now occupied by Amos Crane, on Valley road, which house is said to be about 190 years old, and during the Revolutionary War, was occupied by General Washington, as his headquarters for several days.

About the year 1810, a public house was opened in the house now belonging to Mrs. Emmons Munn, by Simon Crane, opposite the present public school building, and that gave place to one on Bloomfield avenue, which was kept for several years by Capt. Joseph Munn and is now kept by Mr. E. E. Wright; they were always well kept houses of entertainment. Several others have been established within the past two or three years.

#### BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The mercantile, manufacturing and business interest during that generation (1810), were very large, and probably larger than at the present day. They embraced several boot and shoe manufactories, cotton and woolen weaving and printing establishments, as well as stores which supplied a large extent of country in the northern portion of the State. The business of manufacturing a very superior article of cider from Harrison and Canfield apples, which was known throughout the land as "Newark Cider," was largely carried on in this town; and, it is said, that at one time, about 6,000 barrels of cider were manufactured per annum. It is also stated that long after the manufacture of cider had ceased in the city of Newark, that article manufactured here, could be obtained throughout the country.

#### LAYING THE TURNPIKE.

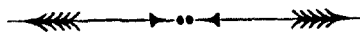
Among the first of the prominent public enterprises that have proven so beneficial to Montclair, was the building

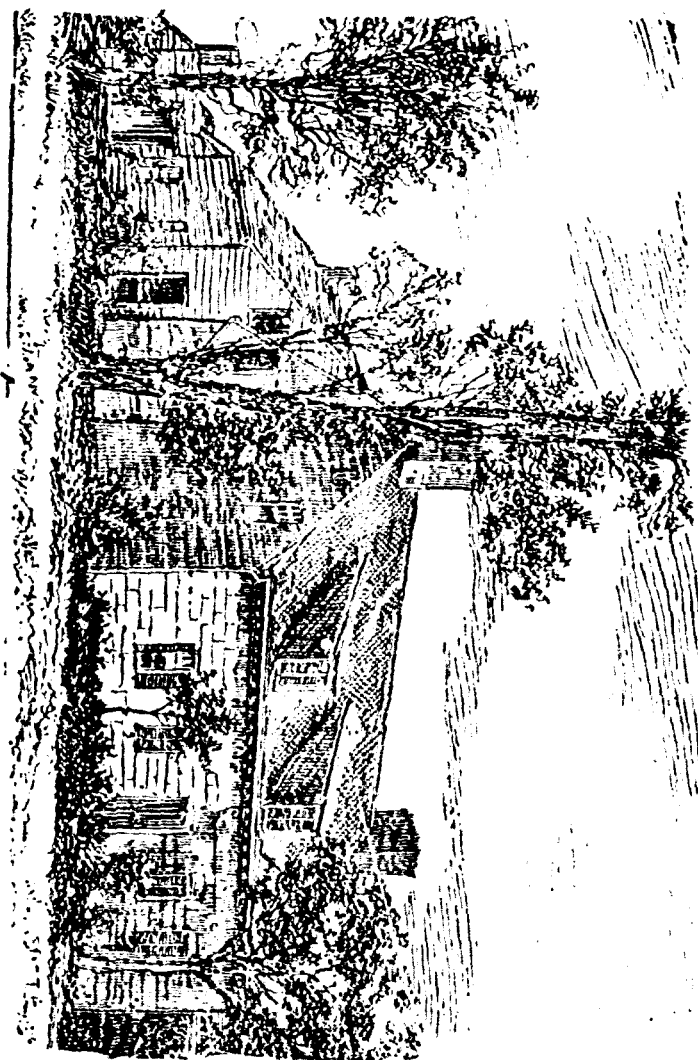
of the Newark and Pompton turnpike road. The charter was first secured from the Legislature in March, 1806, and the work of construction was commenced as soon thereafter, as a sufficient amount of the capital stock had been subscribed, a part of which stock was made payable in work.

The line of the road necessary to make a direct route to Newark, cut many tracts of land diagonally, leaving the lots in bad shape, and many gore lots; the consequence was, that much difficulty was encountered in securing the right of way, and the work progressed slowly.

Then came the old conflict between the public interests as represented by the corporation, and the personal interests as represented by the individual; it was asked by the opponents, "What right had this corporation to disarrange everything, and then compel the people to pay toll for the use of the road?" It resulted as such conflicts generally do, in the building of the road.

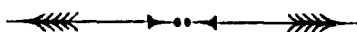
There was a great feeling of indignation among the opponents. One person is said to have shot and killed an ox at work on the road in front of his grounds. Some of the people went to other places of worship to avoid traveling on the turnpike, though free to those going to and from church; and, in cases where the old road diverged from the new, they manifested their contempt for the new road, by traveling on the old thoroughfare. This feeling has long since passed away, and the beneficial effects of that enterprise have continued to be felt and appreciated.





THE FIRST HOTEL—WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

## PROMINENT MEN.



**T**HE Baldwins of this and previous generations descended from the original John Baldwin, who located in the city of Newark, and by a succession of Johns and Josephs the line of descendants continued until we come to Capt. John Baldwin, (father of the present Joseph H. Baldwin). He was a highly respected man and bore a military title, which in those days, (the early part of this century), was deemed a matter of great honor; he was also at one time a member of the State Legislature.

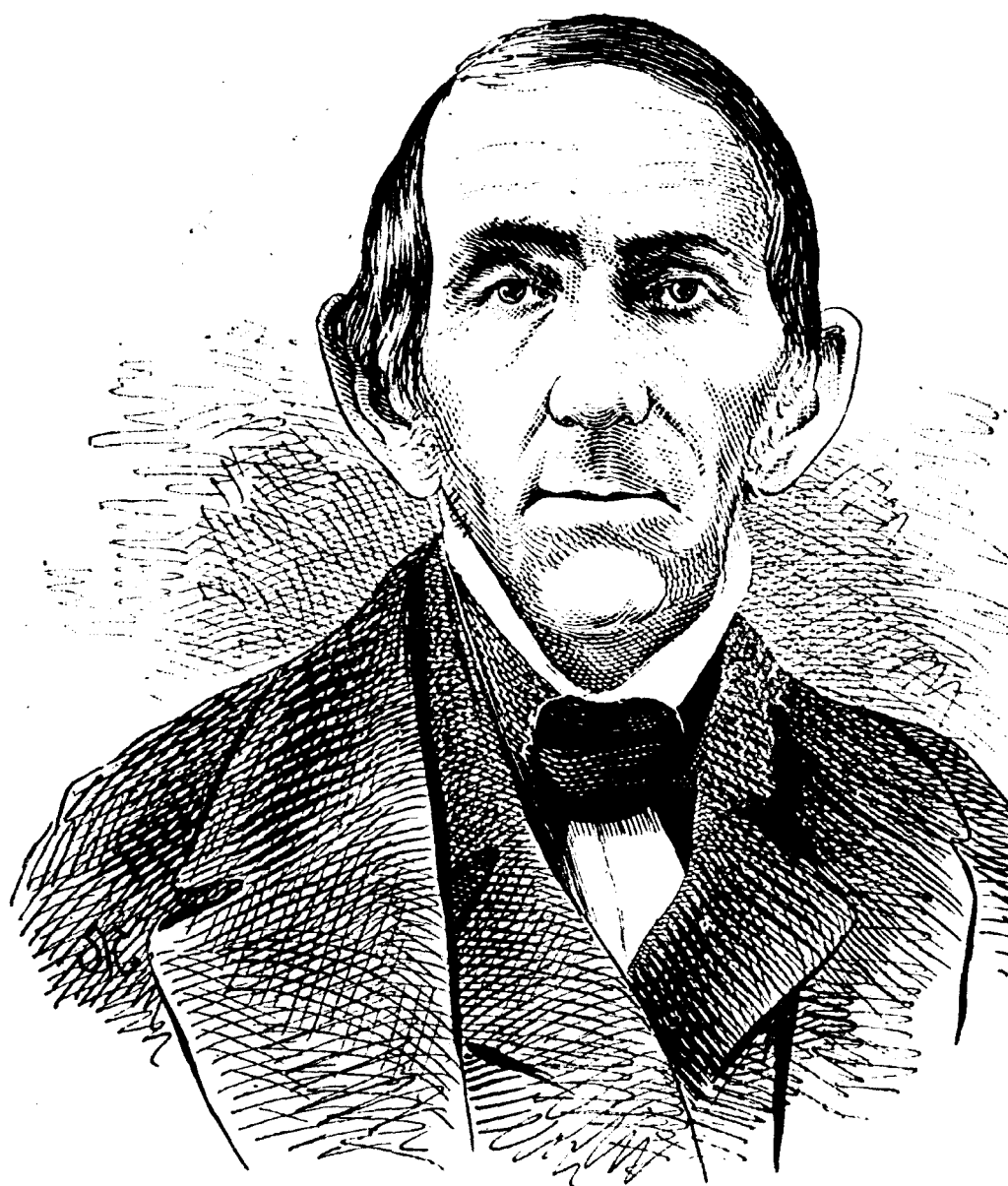
Deacon Caleb Baldwin was a man of fine abilities and extraordinary piety, and for a long time a strong pillar in the Presbyterian Church, at Bloomfield.

Nathaniel H. Baldwin, partner of Capt. Joseph Munn, was a prominent business man, the only hat manufacturer at that time, in this section of the county, and the first postmaster of West Bloomfield, which office he held until the time of his death. He was a man of great liberality, honored and respected by all, and among other things, presented to the Presbyterian Society, of this place, the valuable lot upon which the old and new parsonages now stand.

Deacon Azariah Crane and Seargent Jasper Crane, lived at the foot of the

mountain, and from them have descended our venerable fathers Timothy, Zenas, Matthias and Amos of the present day. Among the most distinguished of the members of this family was Major Nathaniel Crane, whose home was the house now occupied by Stephen A. Frost, Esq. He was a great amateur of sacred music, being for many years the leader of the choir in the First Presbyterian Church, of Orange, and was tendered the thanks of that parish for his valuable services on several occasions at their annual meeting. He gave to the Presbyterian Church their bell, and in his last will he gave the most of his estate (about \$10,000), to the use of the Bloomfield church, with the proviso that when a Presbyterian Church was formed here, the income of the property was to go to the new parish.

Among the prominent members of the Crane family we note Deacon Joseph Crane and his two sons, Daniel and Noah, who were educated for the ministry, being men of considerable talent in their profession; among others that may be mentioned are Deacon Oliver Crane and his son Stephen Fordham, who was an elder in the Montclair Presbyterian Church. Also Joshua Crane, a



ISRAEL CRANE.

deacon in the Baptist Church, at Bloomfield, and his brother Josiah, an officer in the Methodist Church.

Israel Crane, a descendant of Wm. Crane, was a man of marked abilities. In early life he proposed to enter the ministry, but after prosecuting his studies for a considerable time in the Princeton college, was obliged to relinquish that purpose, owing to the failure of his health. He then turned his attention to business pursuits and for a long period carried on in the stone house, standing on the north side of the Old road, near the present residence of his son James Crane, Esq., a more extensive and lucrative business than any other merchant in this section of the country. For years, his was the only store between Paterson and Orange, or Caldwell and Bloomfield, and notwithstanding the fact that he was one of the most prominent business men in the county, he filled his place to the end of life, as an elder in the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. He was the leading man in building the turnpike road between Pompton and Newark, now known as Bloomfield avenue, and was one of the most efficient founders of the Bloomfield Academy, which at present, is occupied as the German Theological Seminary. He died in 1858, at the age of eighty-four years.

Gideon Wheeler came to Montclair from Connecticut, about sixty years ago, and was for several years the principal of the public school in this place. He was a man of decided ability, and earned such a reputation as a teacher, that pupils, in order to be under his instruction came from other districts to attend his school. He also acted as Justice of the Peace.

Moses Harrison, a man of strong sense

and original character carried on business here for a number of years. He had an unusually keen appreciation of the ludicrous and was a man of fine social qualities and an entertaining companion beloved by all.

Deacon Matthias Smith was a man of remarkably cheerful, genial, happy temperament, whose memory will never fade from the minds of those who knew him. He was for many years an elder in the Montclair Presbyterian Church, and was thoroughly in earnest for the cause of truth and right at all times.

Deacon John Munn, also an elder in this church, has left his mark for good here; he was one of the most prominent business men of the county and represented the county of Essex in the Legislature of the State, during one term.

Captain Joseph Munn was long known as one of the leading business men and citizens of the town, and was one of the most prominent Free Masons of the State of New Jersey.

Peter Doremus was for over thirty years a merchant of much prominence; his store was built on the north side of the turnpike, 1811, and was occupied by him until near the time of his death, and since, by his son Philip. He was also for some time an extensive manufacturer of cider.

We have thus briefly sketched some of the men of the past generation who have passed away, and the ancestors of many of the older inhabitants of this town. They were industrious and frugal as is shown by the homes they built and left to their descendants.

Such a group of men, most of them remarkable for great age and piety, cannot be forgotten; their influence for good, will never be lost on this commu-

nity, and the memory of their virtues will furnish a stimulus to their descendants.

We cannot refrain from mentioning some who have more recently come among us and who benefitted our section:

Dr. Henry Lloyd came from New England during the war; his business expanded his views, as he embraced the world in it, being a manufacturer of a celebrated map, bearing his name. He always took a deep interest in educational matters here; was a trustee of the public school, and an exceedingly efficient superintendent of the Sunday school of the Presbyterian Church. He died April 1868, beloved by all.

Prof. Wm. B. Bradbury was a man of world-wide reputation. His music is sung in every land, and by all people. He was a man of extraordinary personal magnetism as a leader of music and an individual; a man of great energy and enthusiasm, and was among the most valued citizens, not only of our town but of the country. He died triumphantly, January, 1868.

Robert M. Hening, a native of the State of Ohio, came to Montclair in 1860, and manifested the utmost interest and zeal for the welfare of this town. He was a member of the Board of Freeholders, of the county; was twice a candidate for the Legislature, and in both cases was honored by receiving votes from the opposite party. He was essentially a gentleman, kind, courteous, polite; and a man of great liberality. He was instrumental in having the

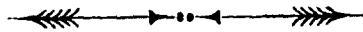
name of the town changed to Montclair, and was very active in pushing forward the new railroad enterprise. He died January 1875, at the age of fifty-nine years.

Dr. J. Henry Clark was a physician of prominence in this county of Essex. He graduated at the New York University, in 1841; practiced medicine in the city of Newark for over twenty years before he came to Montclair. He was prominently connected in that city with the organization of the Park Presbyterian Church, and exhibited much literary talent often writing articles for newspapers, on miscellaneous subjects, and was the author of several medical works among which were "A History of Cholera," "Sight and Hearing," and "The Medical Topography of Newark and Vicinity." He took a deep interest in the question of temperance (often writing on that subject); of railroads, schools, the Bible and tract societies and kindred enterprises. He was the son of Rev. Daniel A. Clark a prominent Presbyterian clergyman, and was related to Abraham Clark, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independance. He died during the early part of the year 1860, at which time he was President of the Essex County Medical Society, and was engaged in preparing for publication an Encyclopedia of diseases.

May those who two hundred years later, have followed our fathers and their fathers to this place, from New England, and elsewhere, emulate their virtues, while they stimulate our zeal for the public good.



## RAILROADS.



THE Newark & Bloomfield Railroad Company was chartered about the year 1854. The first Board of Directors consisted of Joseph A. Davis, Ira Dodd, Wright F. Conger and Jason Crane of Bloomfield, and Grant J. Wheeler, Wm. H. Harris and Jarel E. Harrison of West Bloomfield.

The comparatively small population, and limited means of the people of the township of Bloomfield, and the difference of opinion among them as to the best route and termination, made it very difficult to get the necessary subscriptions to the capital stock. Some citizens thought that the new railroad should take a route to the Morris Neighborhood, while others, in this vicinity, argued that it should be built and terminate here.

An arrangement was first made with the New Jersey Railroad Company, by which they proposed to endorse the bonds of the new road and thus help to secure its construction, and two of their representatives were elected members of the new Board of Directors. The delays on their part wearied the people, and a "railroad war" broke out about that time between the Morris & Essex Railroad Company and the New Jersey

Railroad Company. An arrangement was finally effected with the Morris & Essex Company by which they were to subscribe \$55,000 to the capital stock, to which were added the private individual subscriptions in the sum of \$50,000, making the total of \$105,000—the amount necessary to build the road from Roseville to West Bloomfield. By this arrangement, the latter company relieved itself of a valuable privilege, namely, the right of way for the Bloomfield route, which they had granted to the New Jersey Railroad Company, and which was considered to be worth as much as the amount of their subscription to the stock. The work of grading and constructing was begun in 1855, and completed in 1856.

### THE MONTCLAIR RAILROAD.

The new railroad known as the Montclair Railway, which has so favorably affected the material interests of Montclair, grew out of a desire on the part of some of the citizens, the most prominent of whom were Julius H. Pratt, Robert M. Henning, Samuel Wilde, and others, for better accommodation than had been afforded by the road then in existence.

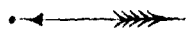
A charter was obtained from the

Legislature in 1867, authorizing the construction of a railway from Jersey City to the State line at Greenwood Lake, and after a great effort had been made to secure its construction, the road was practically completed and in operation in 1872.

The township of Montclair aided the enterprise, by the issuing of its bonds, to the amount of \$200,000.

The favorable effect of this railway has been apparent in the increased value of property, especially in the northern portion of the township, and in the healthful competition awakened in the management of the old road, which has reduced its running time between Montclair and New York twenty minutes, and has greatly improved its rolling stock and all other appointments. As the result of this competition, passengers will be carried, during the present year, from Montclair to New York by either road in from 45 to 50 minutes, or one-half hour quicker than at the time the Montclair railway was projected.

These railways have completely changed the character of our town, from a sparsely settled agricultural region to a community of elegant suburban homes.



## MONTCLAIR LIBRARY.

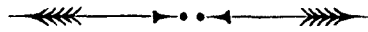
On February 23d, 1869, at a meeting called in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church, it was resolved that a Library Association be formed, and a constitution adopted. At a meeting one week later, a constitution, drawn up by a committee appointed for that purpose,

consisting of G. S. Dwight, Israel Crane, and J. W. Taylor, was submitted and approved, and a Board of Directors elected. Without funds, excepting such as were obtained from subscription, fees and public entertainments, the Library Association, had by May 1st, 1870, collected over 200 volumes, many of them being standard works, by the best authors.

During the Winter of '70 and '71 a charter, was obtained from the Legislature, under which the association was granted permission to issue stock, to an amount not exceeding \$50,000. During the Summer of 1871, Mr. N. O. Pillsbury, kindly gave the use of a lot 30 feet front on Fullerton avenue, to the Library Association, and on this ground the present buildings, containing two commodious rooms, was erected. It was occupied for the first time in December 1871.

The growth of the Library has been slow but steady, the books having in seven years increased from 60 to nearly 2,000 in number, and have been steadily growing in demand. The whole number of stockholders and subscribers last year was 144; the total number of books taken out was 4,890, an increase of 583 over the previous year. The Library is strictly a public institution, its managers have until the past Winter been able to carry it on without soliciting donations of a single dollar. In consequence of the pressure of the times, however, public entertainments have not been remunerative, and a very important source of income was thus cut off, making it necessary to solicit assistance, and \$150 has been raised by donation, a part of which money was credited to subscriptions, which are now used by persons who have not the means to subscribe.

## OUR CHURCHES.



**N**O place for religious worship was erected in the westerly section of the town, until the year 1837, previous to which time it had been the custom of the people to meet at the public school building for prayer and conference.

The inhabitants had generally attended service at the Presbyterian Churches in Newark, at the First Church in Orange, and afterward a number of them went to Bloomfield and others to Caldwell, as churches were being erected at those several places.

### PRESBYTERIAN.

A meeting was held here, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1837, "to consider the propriety of a separate organization;" and, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of the same month, it was effected by the election of trustees of the West Bloomfield Presbyterian Society.

The public school building, standing in front of the present church edifice, was purchased and enlarged; the first floor was occupied for a lecture or conference room and pastor's study, and the second floor for church services. It was dedicated, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1838, at which time the church was organized and the elders installed.

Rev. Samuel Fisher, D.D., was the first

pastor, and this church was his first charge. The Sabbath school connected with it, was established in 1816, and is believed to have been the first in the township.

The present church edifice was dedicated Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1856. The bell was a gift from Miss Mary Crane, and was rung for the first time while standing on the door-step, on the Sunday before it was raised to its place in the belfry.

The building was erected at the time when the Newark and Bloomfield Railroad was being built, and required a great effort on the part of the comparatively small number of residents connected with the parish at that time.

### EPISCOPAL.

St. Luke's Church was erected in the year 1843, by Mr. John Wilde and others, chiefly by those interested and employed in the calico print works (now Wheeler's mill) and was occupied with more or less regularity until May 23<sup>th</sup>, 1858, when it was resolved to reorganize, and a vestry was elected. There was no settled pastor from that time until about June, 1860, when Rev. George R. Davis became its pastor, and so remained until 1862; from that time until November, 1864, the

church was again without a regular pastor. Rev. Mr. Crystal then became the rector and continued until May, 1867, when Rev. J. L. Maxwell, the present rector was called in.

In the Spring of 1866, the new stone church building, on St. Luke's avenue, was commenced, and on Easter Sunday, April 17th, 1871, was first opened for worship. The ground, about two acres, upon which the church is built, was a donation from Robert M. Hening, Esq., and the cost of the church was \$35,000. In 1860, the number of communicants was thirty, and of families in the parish twelve. In 1876, the number of communicants is one hundred and twenty-five and the number of families in the parish ninety.

#### METHODIST.

About the year 1825, the ground upon which Washington schoolhouse was shortly afterward erected, was purchased for \$20. The object in view was to provide a suitable building in which to educate the children then employed in the mills of John Wilde, but as children and parents worked in the mill during the week, and as the only time for instruction was Sunday, a Sunday school was established, holding two sessions a day. The pupils studying spelling, reading, writing and other branches as well as the Bible.

The room was full from desk to door; parents sat beside their children and learned the same lessons, and also attending the preaching service every Sabbath. John Rejcliff was superintendent of the school and Gorline Doremus an active assistant.

This was the birth of Methodism in Montclair. In after years several noted ministers of that denomination spent

many of their Sabbaths in the Stone Schoolhouse. Among them were Bishop Janes, John Berkely, John K. Shaw, John Coit, Isaac N. Felch, and others.

In a few years the society needed a larger and more commodious place of worship. Mr. James Wilde donated a lot on the turnpike, a short distance east of Elm street, to the Methodist Episcopal Society, upon which were erected a church and parsonage, both of which are now standing.

The church was completed and dedicated in November, 1836, and Rev. Mr. Burrows was its first settled pastor.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC.

We have endeavored to obtain complete statistics of the Catholic Church, in this place, but have only secured the following facts:—The corner-stone of the present edifice was laid by Bishop Bailey, with appropriate services, about the year 1858, and the building was erected by Moses Cadmus, contractor, on the lot on the south side of Washington street, east of and near Elm street, and is capable of seating about five hundred persons. It is surmounted by a belfry which contains two pleasant sounding bells.

The first pastor was the Rev. Father Hogan, and the present pastor is Rev. A. M. Steetz. Its congregation is growing and the people of the parish manifest much enthusiasm in the worship.

#### CONGREGATIONAL.

A desire being felt by many citizens, who had previously been connected with the Congregational Churches in New England and elsewhere, for the formation of a Congregational Society in this place, the first meeting for that purpose was held at the residence of Mr. J.

B. Beadle, December 18th, 1869, at which meeting it was unanimously resolved, "That believing that the interests of the cause of Christ in this place demand the organization of a new church and society, we do pledge to each other our mutual and hearty support in such an enterprise."

A committee was appointed, who reported on January 17, 1870, recommending a call for a meeting for the organization of the society, in accordance with which it was effected January 29, 1870. After adopting "By-Laws for the Society," articles of faith and the covenant, the first religious service was held May 22d, 1870, at the residence of Mr. Beadle.

A public religious service was held in Pillsbury Hall, which had been fitted up as a place of worship, June 5th, 1870, and on the 28th of June of the same year, the Rev. A. H. Bradford was unanimously called to become the pastor.

Soon after, the society commenced the erection of the beautiful stone edifice, now standing on the corner of Fullerton avenue and Plymouth street, capable of seating about seven hundred persons. It was dedicated October 15th, 1873, with appropriate services.

The relations between the pastors and people of the various churches have always been of the most pleasing and friendly nature.

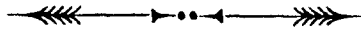
#### UNITARIAN.

"The Unitarian Society of Montclair, was organized in October, 1868. It numbered between thirty and forty members. For the first two years, the pulpit was filled by different clergymen of other Unitarian Societies.

In 1870 the Rev. J. B. Harrison became the regular pastor, and continued to serve in that capacity until 1873. Since that time, Mr. A. John Bellows has conducted the services of the society.



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



### THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING.

As nearly as can be ascertained the first schoolhouse was built, about the year 1740. It was a one-story stone building 18 by 26 feet, fronting toward the east, and stood at the junction of the Old road (now Church street), and the road leading to Orange, about 250 feet south of the present schoolhouse, on land now owned by Oliver Levi. There was a large fireplace in one corner, and flat desks or tables placed around the sides of the room, far enough from the walls, to admit of benches being placed between the desks and the walls. All the seats were slabs, bark-side down. At one end was an oval shaped, elevated platform, known as the rostrum for the teacher, with a trap door in the center, through which evil doers were occasionally sent into the cellar. Among the earlier teachers were Messrs. Watts Crane and Hugh Thompson.

Dr. Chapman, a minister of the gospel in Orange, from 1766 to 1800, came regularly every two weeks on Saturday to catechise the children in this schoolhouse. The old gentleman always rode on horseback, and when seen coming, the whole school, with the master at the head, arranged themselves in file, along

the roadside and waited with uncovered heads, until the minister passed by, dismounted and entered the building, when they all followed.

This schoolhouse, becoming old and dilapidated, was torn down during the Summer of 1812, and the stones were used in the construction of

### THE SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE

Which was built in that year, on land purchased of Parmenus Dodd, through Israel Crane, at the junction of the Old road, with the Turnpike, about 50 feet east of the present Presbyterian Church. It was of stone, two stories in height, and 22 by 40 feet in size. The second story was used for religious services. Gideon Wheeler taught school in this building for many years, where he earned considerable of a reputation as a teacher, and pupils came to his school from many of the neighboring districts.

This house and lot were sold in 1838, for \$400, to the society of West Bloomfield Presbyterian Church, and soon after,

### THE THIRD SCHOOLHOUSE

was erected on ground purchased from Ira Campbell, west of and near the Presbyterian Church. The building still

stands, and is used by that society as a lecture room. It was sold to the church in 1860, for \$800. Mr. E. C. Fuller taught school in this building very successfully for many years. In 1860,

#### THE FOURTH SCHOOLHOUSE

known as the northerly wing of the present school building, was built on land purchased of Grant J. Wheeler. It was constructed of brick, 35 by 50 feet, two stories in height, and cost including land, heating apparatus, and furniture \$6,021.34. Mr. John H. Morrow, was the first teacher in this building.

In 1866, the whole number of children of school age in the district was 315; the amount of money paid to teachers in salaries, was \$1,750, and the amount raised for special district tax \$1,800.

At the annual school meeting of the same year (*viz*, 1866), the trustees were directed to ascertain the cost of a classical teacher, and report to a special meeting.

At this special meeting the trustees were ordered to proceed immediately to establish a High school; and, in their endeavors to secure the services of a teacher competent to fill the position of principal, the trustees became acquainted with, and engaged, John W. Taylor, Sept. 1st, 1866. To this gentleman's tact, enthusiasm and ability in school work, the district is largely indebted for the success which has crowned their efforts to possess a good and popular school.

#### THE FIFTH SCHOOLHOUSE

In this district was erected in 1839, being the south wing of the present building. It was demanded because the house built in 1800 would not accommodate all the pupils. This building, including heating apparatus and furniture, cost \$11,000.

In 1870 Mr. Taylor resigned the position of principal, and Mr. John P. Gross, of Maine, was elected to fill his place.

In 1873, the building again becoming crowded, another wing was added to the eastern portion, this being

#### THE SIXTH SCHOOLHOUSE

Erected in this district. It is 36 by 55 feet, and cost, including furniture, heating apparatus, etc., \$13,000, making the total cost of the present school building, a little over \$31,000. The whole building will seat 609 children.

At the end of the school year of 1874, Mr. Gross resigned the position of principal, after having successfully conducted a class of 13 through the High school, to whom the trustees awarded the first diplomas given by them as a board of trustees. Mr. Randall Spaulding the present efficient principal was then chosen and still continues in that position.

The school census of 1875, reported 670 children of school age in the district, and 536 as attending the school.

The district raised by special tax this year, (1876), \$12,000, and Over \$10,000 are annually expended for teachers' salaries.

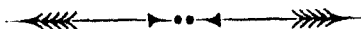
#### MOUNT HEBRON SCHOOL.

From the earliest records, a school has existed at Speertown or Upper Montclair. The first house, becoming old and worn out, was torn down, and a new one known as the Red schoolhouse was built in 1825. This was taken down to make room for a larger and better one in 1860, which is now occupied for that school purpose.

#### WASHINGTON DISTRICT SCHOOL.

The facts in reference to the erection of the Washington school house in the eastern part of the town, have already been stated.

## WAR RECORD.



THE following named citizens of this town, were enrolled and performed duty as soldiers in the Revolutionary army. There were seventeen in all, and the names sound familiar, as we have many here with us to-day of the same families, worthy grand-children of these Revolutionary sires:

Samuel C. Ward, Eliakin Crane, John Vincent, Benjamin Crane, Moses Harrison, Van Gieson, Nathaniel Dodd, Joseph Baldwin, Oliver Crane, William Crane, Joseph Crane, Major Nathaniel Crane, Aaron Crane, Amos Tompkins, Levi Vincent, John Smith, Matthias Crane.

During the occupation of New York city, by the British troops, posts of observation were maintained at several points along our mountain, the largest and most important of these was known as Rifle Camp, near the Great Notch, and traces of it could be seen only a few years ago, while it is a well authenticated fact, that General Washington made the Fordam House, (now Mr. Amos Crane's) his headquarters for a time.

### WAR OF 1812.

In the War of 1812, the only citizens of this town, who are known to have taken an active part therein, were Zenas S.

Crane, John Munn, Richard Romer, and Captain Joseph Munn.

Captain Joseph Munn was captain of a company of cavalry, raised in this locality, and went from here, with his company to Pennsylvania, to aid in the suppression of the whiskey insurrection in that State, during the second Presidency of General Washington, who called upon the militia of the various States to secure the prompt and faithful execution of the laws upon the insurgents.

We have no record of any troops having been furnished by this town, to the Mexican War.

### WAR OF THE REBELLION.

The following named citizens of this town, were enrolled in the United States service, during the recent war of the Rebellion:

Edward Moran the first man to Volunteer from this town, for the defence of the city of Washington, was enrolled and mustered in as a member of the Seventh Regiment from New York city, and was afterwards connected with the naval service.

Among those who enlisted for three years in Company B., 7th Regiment, N. J.



Vols., were John H. Jacobus, Stephen P. Williams, Albert Woodruff. (died of disease), John Dickinson. (killed); Henry B. Ball, (killed).

For three years in the 8th Regiment, N. J. Vols., John B. Ball, Charles Madison, Nicholas Bradle, John Coyne.

For three years in the 13th Regiment, N. J. Vols., Robert Madison, William J. Madison, John B. Munn, James Taylor, John Webster, James Kane, David McNamara.

Fred. H. Harris, entered the service as Captain of Company E., of the 13th Regiment, N. J. Vols., in August, 1862; was promoted to the rank of Major, August 16th, 1864; to that of Lieut. Col. March 26th, 1865, and returned home at the close of the war, June, 1865. During his service he had command of a Brigade and was twice breveted by the President of the United States, once for "gallant and meritorious service in Georgia and the Carolinas," and afterwards, for gallant service in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina.

\*John J. H. Love, served as Surgeon of the 13th Regiment, N. J. Vols., for nearly two years.

Dr. John J. H. Love, was appointed Volunteer Surgeon, by Governor Olden, of this State, in April, 1862; and, assisted in the transportation and care of the wounded, after the battle of Williamsburg, May 5th, 1862, being engaged in that service about thirty days. He was then commissioned surgeon of the 13th Regiment, N. J. Vols., July 19, 1862; mustered into the United States service, August 25th, 1862, and was assigned to

\*The gallant Doctor, in writing this sketch of the war, was too modest to give his own record, and we therefore supplement it by this statement, taken from the "Official Records."

duty, March 23d, 1863, as Surgeon-in-Chief of the 31 Brigade, 1st Division, 12th Army Corps; and, August 1st, 1863, as Surgeon in Chief of 1st Division, 12th Corps in the Army of the Potomac; he served with distinction in this position, and returned home with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

Joseph W. Nason, who after a service of nine months in the 26th Regiment, N. J. Vols., went out as 1st Lieut., Company H., 39th Regiment, N. J. Vols.

So far as we can at present recall the facts, the following named persons, served their country for nine months, in Company F., 26th Regiment, N. J. Vols.:

1st Lieut. William R. Taylor, William Egbertson, corporal; James H. Williams, corporal; John M. Corby, corporal; Edwin F. Dodd, corporal; Peter Arnold, Alfred T. H. Church, John Collins, Henry A. Corby, William H. Corby, James B. Crane, Edwin Dodd, Horace Dodd, Henry Glass, Cornelius Delhagen, Monroe Harrison, John H. Hennion, Richard Jacobus, Charles Johnson, Charles Leist, Elias W. Littell, John D. Penn, Peter King, Joseph W. Penn, George W. Post, William A. Riker, Mortimer Whitehead, Thomas Somerville, John Speller, George Ungemah, John G. Van Gieson, John M. Wheeler, Albert E. Munn, John J. Reese, Joseph W. Nason.

Of these men, Lieut. Joseph W. Nason, John M. Wheeler, Nicholas Bradle, John B. Munn, Charles Littell, James Taylor, and Peter King sleep in soldiers' graves. They went from us full of life and with light hearts, to vindicate the cause of liberty and free Government; they came not back.

Lieut. Nason was killed on the skirmish line in front of Petersburg.

Nicholas Bradle was killed at the battle of Williamsburg.

James Taylor at the battle of Antietam.

John M. Wheeler at the battle of Fredricksburg, May, 1863.

Charles Littell died from disease in front of Fredricksburg, and John B. Munn, who was orderly sergeant of Company E., 18th Regiment, N. J. Vols., was killed at Chancellorsville.

May we not hope that ere another decade has passed, a suitable monument may be erected to the memory of these dead patriots. We enjoy the privileges for which they gave their lives. It is right and proper that some suitable acknowledgement, should be made by us ere the facts have faded from the memory of this generation.

Such my friends are a few of the—

Great voices of the glorious past,  
Proud muster roll of fame,  
The festal hour fleets all too fast  
To call each honored name.

We bear them in our heart of hearts,  
And full of grief we bow  
In memory of the old time friends,  
Who are not with us now.

The battle days, the camp-fire talk,  
March, bivouac, retreat,  
All come to mind to-day, except  
The memories of defeat.

These too would come did we not feel  
That in this day's grand light,  
In that great war's supreme result  
All else passed out of sight.

We stand before the world to day, as  
the equal of any of its great powers.  
All the nations of the earth come as contributors,  
to the innumerable products  
of industry, science, art, taste and  
genius, and now have their exposition  
in a neighboring State.

This is the priceless inheritance which  
we are called upon to guard by a conscientious  
and enlightened discharge of  
our duty as good citizens. May we, by  
courage, by constancy, by unconquerable  
endurance to save, endow our country  
with new life, and give hope and confidence  
to the friends of freedom, throughout  
the civilized world.

