

Union County Across the Centuries

Where New Jersey History Began

HISTORIC SITES



Parsonage of St. John's Church, Elizabeth 1696

County of Union

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Welcome to Union County

On behalf of our nearly 550,000 residents, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders welcomes you to our home. In this densely populated region, it can be challenging, to “see” our history, but it is here. This guide will help you find it, and enjoy it.

Imagine what this area was like in the past. It was home to the Lenni Lenape, who fished here and sowed the verdant land. Later, some of the earliest European colonists cleared vast woodlands for their farms. In time, this became a center of industry. Long before the use of electricity, the power of rivers and brooks was harnessed to drive mills and factories.

Union County invites you to explore our many historic sites, museums, and trails, to learn about our rich history — one that reflects the evolution of America itself, from our colonial past to the modern era. In addition to the sites which Union County maintains, most of our 21 communities have their own local historic sites. Visiting hours vary, so checking ahead is recommended.

Every year, on the third weekend in October, Union County hosts *Four Centuries in a Weekend*, when all historic sites are open for two days. All are invited to the celebration.

Bring the kids to the Deserted Village to play colonial games and drink freshly pressed cider. Or, visit the Boudinot Mansion in Elizabeth, where a young Alexander Hamilton once lived and where George Washington once dined, en route to his inauguration as the President of the United States. *Four Centuries in a Weekend* is two days of learning and fun.

This book is organized around key historic eras that define the evolution of Union County. Some sites are accessible by mass transit, and we provide directions from NJ Transit rail stations on pages 55-57 of this guide. For avid hikers, Union County has several history trails, ranging from a half-mile to 13 miles long.

Whether you begin your explorations in "Elizabethtown," New Jersey's first English-speaking settlement, founded in 1664 by Capt. Philip Carteret... or you make your way to the Merchants & Drovers Tavern in Rahway — where weary travelers of yore rested for the night and perhaps drank a pint or two... or you stroll the gardens of Summit's Reeves-Reed Arboretum... your adventure can begin just about anywhere here in Union County. Enjoy!



Let Your Tour Begin!

Hear Union County's stories of evolution and growth, as told through 34 historic structures built in the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries — restored properties that reflect the lives of former owners and residents. Whether an early mansion or a farmhouse, business establishment or historic cemetery, these sites together illustrate history — from colonial discontent and revolutionary fervor, to placid farm life, Victorian elegance, early medical care, and even an original one-stop shopping store.

Our historic sites display important collections of fine and decorative arts, furniture, farm implements, toys, and documents. These are primary sources of local history. Most sites are preserved in their original locations. A few have been moved to avoid demolition, saving them for future generations.

Thematic clusters of sites, grouped by historic era, provide the context for the presentation of four centuries of Union County history. Each cluster of sites reflects life and events during a particular era. Pages 49-54 present these thematic clusters, with an icon representing each era within this guide. Some sites appear in more than one cluster, since buildings were altered over the centuries to meet changing needs and styles.

Early Aristocracy • Farm Life

Revolutionary Front Lines • Commerce & Industry

Victorian Resorts & Suburbs

Each *Four Centuries in a Weekend* site is denoted by a number within a black circle. See the map at center for easy reference.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS



1 **DESERTED VILLAGE
OF FELTVILLE /
GLENSIDE PARK**

Cataract Hollow Road

(908) 527-4900
ucnj.org/dv

This 1845 village was the creation of New York businessman David Felt. Today, it contains ten buildings and the archaeological remains of a vibrant community once populated, in part, by European immigrants. At its height, Feltville included a school, a church/general store, and a factory on the Blue Brook, while rows of cottages housed workers and their families.

David Felt sold Feltville in 1860. After several subsequent failed enterprises, it was reborn in 1882 as Glenside Park, a summer resort. Adirondack porches transformed the workers' houses into vacation cottages enjoyed by city dwellers. Suburbanization led to the resort's closure in 1916.

Today, the Deserted Village is nestled in the Watchung Reservation, Union County's 2,142-acre nature preserve.

Featuring:

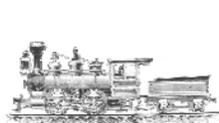
- Revolutionary War period cemetery
- Restored church/store building houses interpretive exhibits
- Restored Masker's Barn carriage house, circa 1882

Year-Round Hours:

Grounds: open daily during daylight hours

Visitor Center: Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, noon - 5:00 pm

Operated by Union County Department of Parks and Recreation
Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



BERKELEY HEIGHTS



2 **LITTELL-LORD
FARMSTEAD**

31 Horseshoe Road

(908) 219-4715

A pastoral site comprising a 19th-century Gothic cottage, stone springhouse, summer kitchen, Osage orange trees and a pond, provides the setting for the Littell-Lord House. This charming rural complex is a rare reminder of Union County's agricultural past. The property was built circa 1760 by Andrew Littell, a farmer and weaver. Later, after purchasing the site in 1867, it was home to the Lord family for more than 100 years.

The first floor features an Empire-Victorian parlor and a 19th-century kitchen. A staircase leads to an enlarged second floor, once a small loft. Upstairs is a child's room containing antique toys and a Victorian bedroom with cottage furniture.

Featuring:

- Hands-on replicas of 19th-century toys
- Last remaining stone springhouse in Union County
- Pump house
- Corncrib

Year-Round Hours:

April-December: 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00 - 4:00 pm,
or by appointment

Operated by the Historical Society of Berkeley Heights
Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



CLARK



3 DR. WILLIAM ROBINSON PLANTATION MUSEUM

593 Madison Hill Road

(732) 340-1571

www.DrRobinsonMuseum.org

A rare example of 17th-century architecture in New Jersey, this post-medieval English-style house was built circa 1690. A medicine room reflects the profession of Dr. William Robinson, one of the few physicians in East New Jersey at this time. He practiced Physick, a popular form of healing using plants and herbs, and also performed Chirurgery (surgery).

Unusual architectural features abound here, including wide floorboards and a 20-inch-wide summer beam. The hall, with its large fireplace, is complete with period furnishings. A box-like winder staircase leads to the second floor, where Dr. Robinson's maps and last will are displayed.

Featuring:

- Medicine room and related items
- Original wood-peg rafters and gunstock posts
- Indian mortar stone, corn crib and old stepping stone
- Milk wagon from 1912
- Antique hand tools and farm tools on display
- Garrison roof overhang
- Basement filled with artifacts
- Museum souvenir and gift shop

Year-Round Hours:

Open the 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:00 - 4:00 pm (except July, August, January and February), or by appointment

Operated by the Clark Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



CRANFORD



4 CRANE-PHILLIPS HOUSE MUSEUM

124 North Union Avenue

(908) 276-0082

www.cranfordhistoricalsociety.com

This American Civil War veteran's cottage stands next to the Rahway River, near the 18th-century river crossing of "Crane's Ford." The house is an outstanding example of Andrew Jackson Downing architecture, and is dressed in its original 1870s Victorian colors.

This museum offers a rare glimpse of the modest life of a veteran's family during the Victorian era of opulence. Permanent and changing exhibits display items from the Cranford Historical Society's collections of clothing, tools, and other objects of local history .

The house has been named to "Save America's Treasures" by the White House and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is among only 27 such sites in New Jersey, and is the only "American Treasure" in Union County. The library and archives of the Cranford Historical Society are located in its headquarters at Hanson House, nearby at 38 Springfield Avenue.

Featuring:

- "Cranford Chronicle: 120 years:" Displays of excerpts, stories, and local pictures from the newspaper, *The Cranford Chronicle*, which ceased publication in June 2015.

Year-Round Hours:

September– May: Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, or by appointment

Operated by the Cranford Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



ELIZABETH



5 **BOXWOOD HALL**
STATE HISTORIC SITE
Boudinot Mansion
1073 East Jersey Street

(908) 282-7617

Prominent American statesmen of the late 18th and early 19th centuries had ties to this handsome Georgian house. In 1772, it became the home of Elias Boudinot, who served as a President of the Continental Congress.

During Boudinot's residency, young Alexander Hamilton lived at Boxwood Hall for a year, while he attended school in Elizabethtown. In 1789, George Washington lunched here with Boudinot and a committee of Congressmen, while en route to his inauguration. In 1795, the house was sold to Jonathan Dayton, who was a signer of the Constitution, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the US Senate. In 1824, Dayton hosted the Marquis de Lafayette here, during his American tour.

Featuring:

- Phase II of the interior face-lift will add to Phase I, with the completion of the second-floor hallway and two additional rooms. A small exhibit illustrates the how's and why's of the interior upgrades and reconfiguration.
- Take a "trip through time" with Boxwood Hall's 250-year history

Year-Round Hours:

Usually Monday–Friday: 9:00 am – noon, and 1:00 – 5:00 pm (please call to confirm), or on weekends by appointment

Operated by Boxwood Hall State Historic Site,
New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry

*Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places,
National Historic Landmark*



ELIZABETH



6 **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**
CHURCH OF ELIZABETH
& SNYDER ACADEMY
42 Broad Street

First Presbyterian Church:
(908) 353-1518 www.fpcenj.org

Snyder Academy: (908) 353-2131
www.snyderacademy.org

"Old First" remains in the center of Elizabeth, 350 years after a small group of Associates signed a treaty for land in October 1664, establishing Elizabeth Town and the first English-speaking congregation in New Jersey. The original building was the meeting house for public affairs on weekdays, and a house of worship on Sundays. The first colonial Governor, Phillip Carteret, maintained his office there, and the first meeting of the New Jersey legislature was held there in 1668.

The British burned the early buildings in 1780, and the present-day sanctuary opened in 1790. A new steeple was installed in August 2008, replacing the spire lost to a 1946 fire.

Featuring:

- New Jersey's most historic burial ground, with more than 2,100 gravesites spanning four centuries, the final resting place of: Jonathan Dickinson, founder of Princeton University; and the "Fighting Parson," Rev. James Caldwell, and his wife Hannah (both killed during the Revolutionary War)
- At Snyder Academy, the former Parish House was fully restored in 2014 and boasts an historic event space with 27-foot ceilings, available for private parties/events. This space offers a full stage for theater or concert events, a light-suffused art studio for exhibits and art classes/programs, and a commercial kitchen.

Year-Round Hours:

Daily, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (call for campus and kitchen tours)

Operated by the Old First Historic Trust

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



ELIZABETH



7 NATHANIEL BONNELL
HOMESTEAD &
BELCHER-OGDEN
MANSION

1045 & 1046 East Jersey Street

Daytime: (908) 581-7555
Evening: (908) 591-1893
www.visithistoricalelizabeth.org

The Nathaniel Bonnell Homestead (1682) and the Belcher-Ogden Mansion (1699-1755) anchor “the corner that history made.” Both buildings are a celebration of adaptive reuse and historical ecology.

Featuring:

- Simple, New England-style design and hand-cut post-and-beam construction are maintained at Bonnell Homestead, the oldest building in Elizabeth
- Belcher-Ogden’s Georgian style and unusual Flemish bond brick style is the result of expansions made by its first three owners
- Each maintains rain barrel, compost rings, and tree nurseries

Year-Round Hours:

Open the 3rd Saturday of the month: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm,
or by appointment

Operated by Boxwood Hall State Historic Site,
New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry

*Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places,
National Historic Landmark*



ELIZABETH

ST. JOHN’S PARSONAGE
The Andrew Hampton Homestead

633 Pearl Street

(908) 558-2550
www.ucnj.org/cultural



Edwin F. Hatfield and Samuel A. Clark, traditionally recognized in the 19th century as authorities in the early history of the Elizabeth area, both credit Andrew Hampton (Hamton) as the original owner-builder of this building.

The earliest house on this site on the banks of the Elizabeth River was built in 1696 or 1697, probably by Andrew Hampton. The present-day structure of the Homestead-Parsonage is a well restored example of a Federal-style building. Portions of this house served as the parsonage to St. John’s Episcopal Church, in Elizabeth, from 1750 to 1875.

The Andrew Hampton Homestead - St. John’s Parsonage is an invaluable reminder of an earlier time. It is a significant part of the religious and secular history of Elizabeth and, indeed, in the history of Union County and New Jersey.

The St. John’s Parsonage building is now occupied by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Parks and Recreation. It is a prime example of adaptive reuse of a historic structure.

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

FANWOOD



8 HISTORIC FANWOOD TRAIN STATION

230 North Avenue

(908) 322-8236

www.fanwoodnj.org

In 1874 the right of way to the Central Railroad of New Jersey was moved from present day Midway Avenue to its current location. This Victorian Gothic structure was built and used as a railroad station until 1965. The Station is an excellent example of frame Victorian Gothic architecture. It is the oldest remaining railroad station in Union County. The museum houses artifacts documenting the Borough's historic ties to the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and its land development company that constructed some of the Victorian and Queen Anne homes in the Fanwood Park Historic District.

Featuring:

- The borough's first ballot box, area maps, and archival photographs
- Memorabilia and records from the Fanwood Volunteer Fire Company
- Historic pot-bellied stove
- Archival documents available for research including complete census data on Fanwood from 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930; plus books and magazines on historic preservation

Year-Round Hours:

October – June: the first Sunday of each month, 2:00 - 4:00 pm;
or by appointment

Operated by the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission,
Fanwood Park Historical District

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



GARWOOD



Aeolian, Weber Piano
and Pianola Company
1903

In the 1890s, John R. Maxwell, a former president of the Jersey Central Railroad, acquired large tracts of land in Cranford and Westfield, and then formed the Garwood Land and Improvement Company. Samuel Garwood was the first president of the Land Company.

Nearly 75 homes were built here. Most housed the workers of Hall Signal Company (the first factory built on Maxwell's land), and the Hercules Tube works (famous for producing bicycle tubing). By the early 20th century, Garwood was gaining its own identity as the industrial center of Union County. Hall and Hercules were joined by Aeolia Organ, Thatcher Furnace, and other large factories.

Cranford and Westfield were expected to provide services to the businesses and residents here, but the two towns argued over who was responsible for fire protection, roads and schools. Fire protection was so uncertain that the Aeolian Company organized its own department.

There was growing sentiment that the people here would fare better on their own. Citizens and the Land Company, led by Frank Morse, opted to break away from Cranford and Westfield. Secession took courage. The 400 citizens of Garwood were creating one of state's smallest municipalities, only seven-tenths of a square mile. Cranford strongly opposed the move and took its protest all the way to the state Legislature, but attempts to stop the legislation in Trenton proved fruitless. Many residents of Cranford, which itself had split off from other towns, including Westfield in 1871, sympathized with Garwood. The borough of Garwood was incorporated on February 25, 1903.

Independence for the Borough of Garwood was celebrated with bonfires and fireworks. The Aeolian band played on the schoolhouse steps. Garwood's volunteer fire department was organized in 1903, and Frank W. Morse became the first mayor.

HILLSIDE



9 **EVERGREEN CEMETERY** **1137 North Broad Street**

(908) 352-7940

In 1853, as small church graveyards became crowded, Evergreen Cemetery was created as a rural, interdenominational burial ground. Its picturesque landscape, designed to preserve the natural terrain and existing trees, reflects a romantic, Victorian view of death.

Today, the cemetery's expansive park-like grounds double as a nature preserve. Mausoleums and more than 10,000 monuments make Evergreen a virtual museum of funerary art. Special sections, such as the area devoted to Civil War soldiers, illustrate historical and social developments in American history. Drive past the Dayton Avenue entrance to see the English Tudor Chapel, designed in 1932 by Elizabeth architect, C. Godfrey Poggi.

Featuring:

- 300-year-old white oak and copper beech trees
- Graves of early Union County pioneers
- Graves of well-known writers, including Stephen Crane, Mary Mapes Dodge and Edward Stratemeyer
- Largest Civil War Veterans section in Union County, and 100-pound Parrott Guns
- Historic Hebrew burial plot, and areas devoted to ethnic groups, including a Gypsy section

Year-Round Hours:

Daily: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Operated by Evergreen Cemetery Trustees

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



HILLSIDE



10 **WOODRUFF HOUSE** **EATON STORE** **MUSEUM** **111 Conant Street**

(908) 353-8828

www.hillsidehistoricalsociety.org

The Woodruff House was built in 1735 on land granted to John Woodruff in 1666. The first floor is furnished with circa-1800 antiques, including memorabilia from the Earl and Lyon families.

The house consists of the original 1735 section, an addition from 1790, and the 1900 Eaton Store. The restored Eaton Store illustrates a vast difference between a neighborhood store of the early 1900s and a supermarket of today. The shop today houses the original counter, a coffee grinder and gas lamp. The shelves are stocked with hundreds of products from long ago.

The property, originally an apple orchard, now has a reproduction post and beam barn with various items on display; old farm equipment, a two-seater privy, water pump, well, and archival center.

The Phil Rizzuto All Sports Museum houses a collection of memorabilia from Hillside resident and Baseball Hall of Famer, the late Phil Rizzuto, along with some memorabilia from other Hillside sports figures.

Featuring:

- Phil Rizzuto Museum

Year-Round Hours:

Open by appointment

Operated by the Hillside Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



KENILWORTH



11 **OSWALD J.
NITSCHKE HOUSE**
49 South 21st Street

(908) 276-9090

www.kenilworthhistoricalsociety.org

The Nitschke House (circa 1880) is one of Kenilworth's original wood-frame, clapboard farmhouses, and represents the architectural style typical of homes built in the area during the 1800s. The house is named for one of Kenilworth's pioneers, Oswald J. Nitschke, who owned the home and resided there in the early 1900s. He advocated the 1907 incorporation of Kenilworth and was elected to the first Council, serving for more than seven years.

A three-term mayor, Nitschke was responsible for development of the unique 120-foot-wide Boulevard and its extension through the Union County Park System. The Kenilworth Historical Society has restored the house and transformed it into a "living history" museum and cultural center.

Featuring:

- Tour of recently restored Nitschke House, furnished in the late 19th-century and early 20th-century periods
- Wheelchair accessibility by elevator

Year-Round Hours:

Tours by appointment or for special occasions

Operated by the Kenilworth Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



LINDEN



During World War II, the General Motors plant was converted to an assembly line for the FM Wildcat, an improved version of the F4F Wildcat

As America was thrust into World War II, the nation's manufacturing industries faced uncertainty as the U.S. government assessed which industries would be necessary in claiming vital raw materials. Linden's General Motors plant was a facility facing a shutdown. The materials used for the automobiles it produced were needed for building machines for the U.S. military and its allies. With a large workforce in danger of being unemployed, GM paired with Grumman Aircraft Corporation in January 1942 to form Eastern Aircraft.

The Linden GM plant was retrofitted to build the Navy's F4F "Wildcat" plane; while across the street, construction began on an airport to test the aircrafts being produced. On August 31, 1942, Linden Airport hosted a first test of a "Wildcat" produced at the plant. The next day, the plane was flown in front of the entire plant's personnel.

More than 3,500 Wildcats were produced in Linden, and the Wildcat was an integral part of American WWII aerial combat in the Pacific.

MOUNTAINSIDE



12 **DEACON ANDREW
HETFIELD HOUSE**
Constitution Plaza

(908) 789-9420

www.mountainsidehistory.org

Originally constructed by Deacon Andrew Hetfield, circa 1760, this house was expanded in stages to meet the needs of the Hetfield family during their 186-year occupancy. By 1830, a simple colonial farmhouse had been transformed into a center-hall Georgian residence. Also known as the “Dutch Oven House,” this building has been moved twice, first to protect it from a Route 22 widening.

Used for a brief time as a tea room and antiques shop, the house was once rented to MacKinlay Kantor, author of the Civil War novel, *Andersonville*. The structure was saved from demolition in 1985, when it was moved a second time to another part of the original Hetfield property.

Featuring:

- 19th-century Victorian-era bay window
- Recreated colonial kitchen
- Victorian parlor furnished with antiques

Year-Round Hours:

During monthly scheduled events and by appointment

Operated by the Mountainside Restoration Committee

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



NEW PROVIDENCE



13 **SALT BOX MUSEUM**
1350 Springfield Avenue

(908) 665-6465

www.newprovidencehistorical.com

When two houses constructed at different locations during the 1840s were joined in the mid-19th century, the building, now known as the Salt Box Museum, was created. The house’s shape, with its steep, sloping rear roof, resembles the box in which salt used to be stored.

In 1967, the entire house was moved across Springfield Avenue to its present site. Today, the first floor is furnished to represent a typical New Jersey farmhouse of the mid-19th century. The Mason Room at the New Providence Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, houses the Society’s collection of rare documents, maps, photographs and oral history tapes.

Featuring:

- 1840s furnishings
- Dresses of the 1800s and 1900s
- Hand-woven coverlet
- Brewster clock
- Copper lustre tea set
- Hay wagon on lawn with farm equipment

Year-Round Hours:

March–October: on the first Sunday of the month

November–February: by appointment

Operated by the New Providence Historical Society



PLAINFIELD



14 DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM

602 West Front Street

(908) 755-5831

www.drakehouseplainfieldnj.org

The Nathaniel Drake House was built in 1746 by Isaac Drake as a home for his son, Nathaniel. Today, it is a city-owned public museum operated by the Historical Society of Plainfield.

Nestled beneath the towers and slate roof is the original farmhouse once used as George Washington's headquarters during the Battle of Short Hills, in June 1777. The Drake sons, Abraham, Cornelius, and Isaac, served in the Essex and Somerset Counties' militia. Caesar, the family's freed slave, was a wagoneer with the Continental forces.

In 1864, John S. Harberger, a New York City bank president, enlarged and embellished the house in the Victorian style, making it his summer home during Plainfield's development as a commuter suburb.

Period rooms here portray both the farm life of the Drakes and the suburban life of the Harbergers. Significant American paintings, folk art, period furniture and decorative pieces make this site a museum of both history and art.

Featuring:

- 7' x 9' Civil War painting by Julian Scott
- The opulent Harberger Library
- Exhibit Gallery
- Period rooms - Colonial and Victorian eras

Year-Round Hours:

Sundays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, or other days by appointment

Operated by the Historical Society of Plainfield

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



PLAINFIELD



15 PLAINFIELD MEETINGHOUSE

225 Watchung Avenue

(908) 757-5736

www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/rahway-and-plainfield-friends-meeting

This is the New Plainfield Meetinghouse, built in 1788. The Quaker Meeting itself dates back to 1686 at Perth Amboy, with four meetinghouses built before it as Europeans moved inland from the coast.

The forty years preceding this meetinghouse's construction had been difficult for local Friends (Quakers). The Meeting had addressed the issue of slavery, requiring members to either free their slaves with the promise of continued support, or to leave the fellowship — which some did.

Originally, the meetinghouse was set on three acres. The street in front was called "Peace Street." It was "The New Plainfield Meetinghouse," and the town that grew up around it took the name. In 1832, a portion was lost to first the railroad, and then to 3rd Street. Later, the Friends lost the northern portion to the post office.

During the racial strife of the 1970s, the Meetinghouse was a place of peace. Friends kept the meetinghouse open. When the National Guard arrived, Friends convinced soldiers not to go out on patrol, but to simply wait in case trouble arose, which it did not.

The Meetinghouse is available to community groups.



RAHWAY



16 MERCHANTS AND
DROVERS TAVERN
1632 St. Georges Avenue

(732) 381-0441
www.merchantsanddrovers.org

As a tavern and stagecoach stop, this early 19th-century hotel was the scene of auctions, public meetings, elections, business transactions, entertainment, horse breeding and a host of other activities. The handsome Federal-style inn contains a taproom, two parlors, 12 bedrooms, and a kitchen wing with a working fireplace.

Originally a house and store, the 1790s structure was adapted to tavern use in 1798. A circa-1820 addition created the imposing building that stands today, its four stories making it a rare example of an early public house.

The smaller, mid-18th-century Terrill Tavern was moved to the property in the 1970s, where it now stands as the museum shop.

Featuring:

- Restored early 19th-century hotel
- Period rooms furnished with antiques
- First-person accounts of the early 1800s
- Exhibits about tavern life and stagecoach transportation
- Tavern yard restoration

Year-Round Hours:

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays, and 2nd & 4th Sundays: 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Owned and operated by the Merchants and Drovers Tavern
Museum Association

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



RAHWAY



17 RAHWAY SCHOOL
FOR COLORED CHILDREN
AND THE AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY &
HERITAGE CENTER
261 Central Avenue

(732) 382-0541
www.ebenezeramechurch.com

Construction began on the one-room school house in 1844, on the property of Jacob R. Shotwell, a former Vice President of RSI Bank. The primary funding, support and oversight for the school came from the Society of Friends (Quakers), who had a history of supporting persons of color. The Friends paid the school's expenses and the salary of Miss Martha (Matilda) Putnam, who served as both teacher and principal.

The school had an average enrollment of 35 students, and eventually received financial support from state public education funds. In 1882, the school was integrated, and by the mid 1880s, it closed.

In the years that followed, Ms. Lucy H. Eddy, a local philanthropist from the neighborhood established the "Rahway School for Colored Children Trust Fund" that helped to preserve books and artifacts left from the school. These items are currently being stored at the Rahway Library, but will serve as the basis for the restoration and the holdings of the newly envisioned African-American History and Heritage Center of Rahway, NJ.

Currently this site is not open to the public.

This site is sponsored by the Ebenezer AME Church.



RAHWAY



18 **UNION COUNTY
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER**
1601 Irving Street

Admin Office: (732) 499-0441
Box Office: (732) 499-8226
www.ucpac.org

This classic Vaudeville house opened as the Rahway Theater on October 16, 1928 and featured a magnificent Wurlitzer pipe organ. This organ was the catalyst for the preservation effort from which the 1,300-seat Arts Center emerged. Carefully restored to its golden age of grandeur, the Arts Center is a monument to an age gone by.

The Union County Performing Arts Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation operating in the historic Rahway Theatre. Enjoying a prime location in Union County, UCPAC is dedicated to making this landmark theatre your choice for the performing arts — for education, inspiration and entertainment. This historic landmark is the cornerstone of the Rahway Arts District.

Featuring:

- Historic marquee with 2,500 lights
- Restored orchestra pit
- 9-foot chandelier with over 500 lights
- The “Biggest Little Wurlitzer” organ

Year-Round Hours:

Tours are available by appointment.

Operated by the Union County Performing Arts Center, Inc.
Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



ROSELLE



19 **ABRAHAM CLARK
MEMORIAL HOUSE**
101 West Ninth Avenue

(732) 221-7211

Abraham Clark boldly demonstrated his support of the Revolution as a New Jersey signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was born in what is now Roselle on February 15, 1726, the only child of Thomas Clark. He became a surveyor and studied common law. Clark and his wife Sarah raised ten children in their farmhouse, built in 1705.

The house burned in 1900, but a replica was constructed in 1941. The original house stood a short distance from the current site on what is now Crane Street, near Wheatsheaf Road, which was known as Springfield Road in Colonial times. The design of the house was based on old photographs and existing known facts from later owners and residents. The lot on which it stands was donated to the Abraham Clark Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) by Mr. William M. Crane, and was a part of the original Clark Farm in the 18th century.

The Office of New Jersey State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is located here.

Featuring:

- Life and times of Abraham Clark, and history of Roselle
- Archives of the NJ State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)

Year-Round Hours:

By appointment

Operated by the Sons of the American Revolution



ROSELLE PARK



20 **ROSELLE PARK
MUSEUM**
9 West Grant Avenue

(908) 245-1776
www.roselleparkhistoricalsociety.org

The Roselle Park Museum displays photographs, documents and memorabilia related to the history of Roselle Park, and offers changing exhibits of topical interest. The borough was shaped by the railroad, and by the 1860s, the station along the Central Railroad of New Jersey had become the nucleus of a small village. Farming remained prominent in the 1880s. By 1883 the Charles Stone Store on Westfield Avenue became the first store in the world lighted by Edison's incandescent lamp.

Industrial development along the railroad corridor included the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America, established in 1912, which manufactured much of the wireless equipment used in WWI. David Sarnoff worked at this facility as Commercial Manager and later became Chairman of RCA. RCA's radio station WDY, housed in Roselle Park's Marconi facility, became one of the earliest licensed broadcasting stations in the United States.

Featuring:

- The Park Theatre — art and entertainment in Roselle Park

Year-Round Hours:

Wednesdays and Saturdays: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, or by appointment

Operated by the Roselle Park Historical Society



SCOTCH PLAINS

21 **ASH BROOK
RESERVATION**
Battle of the Short Hills
1776 Raritan Road

www.ucnj.org/trails



Battle of the Short Hills Monument at the entrance to Ash Brook Golf Course

Ash Brook swamp, part of Union County's Ash Brook Reservation, was but one of many locations where British and Colonial forces fought on a brutally hot June 26, 1777. This running battle dragged on over 12 miles, stretching from Metuchen to a pass through the Watchung Mountains that came to be called "Bloody Gap."

The British hoped that if they feigned a departure from New Jersey, they would lure the Continental Forces down from the Watchung Mountains, defeat them, and finally end the Revolutionary War. The plan didn't succeed, even though Washington's troops of less than 6,000 were vastly outnumbered by a combined British and Hessian force numbering about 12,000.

After the initial confrontation in Metuchen, the Colonial militia dropped back across what is now Edison and Scotch Plains, and then retreated through the swamp in an effort to slow the British by causing their cannons to get bogged down in the soft earth. (Although portions of the swamp were drained decades ago, it is one of few locations along the battle route never fully developed.) From the swamp, the retreat continued north to the safety of the Watchung Mountains through a pass by Seeley's Pond.

Featuring:

- Nature trail leading into the swamp, for those who would like to view first-hand the conditions that troops faced. Some wet areas remain, giving visitor a sense of why American troops lured the British through this area to slow their advance.



SCOTCH PLAINS



22 **THE ELIZABETH
AND GERSHOM
FRAZEE HOUSE**
1451 Raritan Road

www.Frazeehouse.org

The Frazee House is a Revolutionary War period farmstead built in the typical and rare style of eighteenth-century Anglo-Dutch architecture. It sits in Scotch Plains at Two Bridges, near the intersection of Raritan and Terrill Roads, west of Ash Swamp. It is a Union County landmark due to its sheer survival for more than 230 years, and due to the tale of Elizabeth “Aunt Betty” Frazee’s legendary confrontation with British General Cornwallis during the Battle of the Short Hills in June of 1777.

“Aunt Betty” was baking bread for the Continental Army when the British approached from Ash Swamp, smelled the delicious aroma of baking bread and demanded the loaves. “Aunt Betty” refused, stating she would only give the bread in fear, not love. The British general and his troops marched on, leaving the bread behind.

The most modern use of the house was as the business operation of the Terry-Lou Zoo on the 6-acre property from the 1970s through 1996. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club committed to the restoration of the Historic Frazee House in 2004. The Rotary Club, along with the Township of Scotch Plains, hopes to turn the house and adjoining acres into a resource for the community, further distinguishing New Jersey as a key site in the American Revolution.

Year-Round Hours:

Not yet open to the public

Operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



SCOTCH PLAINS

23 **OSBORN
CANNONBALL HOUSE**
1840 Front Street
Weekdays
(908) 322-6700 Ext. 230
Weekends
(908) 757-1885
www.historicalsocietyspfnj.org



The white clapboard Osborn Cannonball House is a small jewel in the center of Scotch Plains. Brick walks, an arbor and formal gardens surrounded by a white board fence give this property a “Williamsburg” feel. Its location, adjacent to the town green and across from the Stage House Inn, adds to its interest.

Inside, four furnished rooms appointed with colonial and early 19th-century furnishings will delight the visitor. A parlor reflects Victorian tastes. Built in the 1700s by Jonathan and Abigail Osborn, the house takes its name from the cannonball that struck it during a Revolutionary War skirmish.

Featuring:

- Formal gardens
- Changing exhibits of period clothing

Year-Round Hours:

March–December: the 1st Sunday of each month, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, or by appointment (closed January and February)

Operated by the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood



SCOTCH PLAINS



24 **THE SHADY REST
& COUNTRY CLUB**
820 Jerusalem Road

(908) 490-1577

In the mid 1700s, Ephraim Tucker Farmhouse was built on a thirty-one-acre plot of rural landscape just outside of Westfield. In the early 1800s, John Locey purchased this property. It later became the George B. Osborn Tavern. In the late 1800s, the property was sold to the Westfield Golf Club and was converted into a 9-hole golf course, with the main farmhouse serving as the clubhouse.

During this time, a close-knit community of African Americans lived on both sides of the golf course. These residents created a path across the golf course to visit friends and relatives living in the area. During this time of segregation, African Americans were not allowed membership at this white country club.

In September 1921, a group of prominent African-American investors known as the Progressive Realty Company, Inc., purchased the former Westfield Golf Club and created the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club. This club was established to provide recreation and entertainment for all ages. Activities included golf, tennis, horseback riding, skeet shooting, and a dining room, where club members hosted famous people such as W.E.B. DuBois, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Althea Gibson and others.

The Shady Rest was the first African-American-owned golf and country club in the United States. It was the home course to the first African-American golfer professional ever to play the U.S. Open, John Matthew Shippen (1879-1968).

Year-Round Hours:

Currently the clubhouse is closed for renovations, and will reopen in the summer of 2017.



SPRINGFIELD

25 **CANNON BALL HOUSE**
126 Morris Avenue

(973) 912-4464

www.springfieldhistoricalsociety.webs.com



This mid-18th-century house is one of four buildings in Springfield to survive being burned by the retreating British Army, after the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780. This was the final major battle of the American Revolution in this area.

Seven of the eight rooms of the house are open to the public.

Featuring:

- An exhibit of furniture and artifacts including 18th- and 19th-century household items
- Relics of the Battle of Springfield including the cannonball that lodged in the wall of the house on June 23, 1780
- Special exhibit on Springfield and Baltusrol Golf Club (site of the 2016 PGA Championship)

Year-Round Hours:

Open in February, June, October and December, by appointment

Operated by the Springfield Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



SUMMIT



26 **CARTER HOUSE** **90 Butler Parkway**

(908) 277-1747
www.summitnjhistory.org

Summit's oldest house, built by Benjamin Carter in the 1740s, was moved in 1986 from its original location near the Passaic River, to its present site, part of the original Carter farm. An East Jersey cottage, it reflects a Dutch influence that is unusual in this part of New Jersey.

A 1740-1820 kitchen, 1820-1860 dining room, and late-Victorian library are interpreted with antique furnishings. The house is also the archival center of the Summit Historical Society. Collections document Summit's early development as a resort and commuter suburb, as well as the town's more recent history.

Featuring:

- Barn filled with period tools, farm implements, artifacts and more, newly-organized and electrified for the first time

Year-Round Hours:

Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; Wednesday: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Operated by the Summit Historical Society



SUMMIT

27 **REEVES-REED ARBORETUM** **165 Hobart Avenue**

(908) 273-8787
www.reeves-reedarboretum.org



Celebrating more than 40 years as a historic public garden and education resource, Reeves-Reed Arboretum (RRA) engages, educates and enriches the public through horticulture and environmental education, and the care and utilization of the gardens and estate. The only arboretum in Union County, Reeves-Reed Arboretum is listed on the National and New Jersey State Registers of Historic Places, and is a member of the American Association of Museums and the American Public Gardens Association.

RRA is a living museum which features historic Wisner House and several outbuildings on 13.5 acres of pastoral lawns, woodland trails, a glacial bowl and historic gardens. The buildings include: galleries for cultural exhibits; classroom/workshop space for children's and adult education programs in the historic carriage house; a visitors center with interactive touch-screen panels; and a library housing an extensive collection of historic documents, photos and books.

Featuring:

- Historic gardens and woodland hiking trails
- The garden library exhibits a collection of historic photos, videos and a collection of gardening books
- Art installations on the grounds and in the Wisner House Gallery
- Programs and tours for adults and children
- Newly installed Beacon Fire Station monument along a historic wildflower path

Year-Round Hours:

Open 7 days a week, dawn to dusk, free admission

Operated by the Reeves-Reed Arboretum
*Listed on the National and State Registers of
Historic Places*





28 **SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE**
10 New England Avenue

(908) 273-2192
www.summitplayhouse.org

Summit became a desirable commuter city, and grew as new residents built lavish homes after the Civil War. The Summit Library Association, incorporated in 1874, kept its books in various locations, including a doctor’s office and a store, until George Manley offered a site for the library. Residents donated \$3,720 to build the Richardsonian Romanesque structure designed by Arthur Jennings. The library opened in 1891 and moved to a more spacious building in 1911.

In 1918, the empty library building was leased for \$1/year to the Dramatic Club (later incorporated as The Playhouse Association), which was formed as a relief organization during WWI. In 1960, Playhouse co-founder and benefactor, Marjorie Cranstoun Jefferson (1887-1988), donated funds that added a 120-seat auditorium to the original building. What had been the library is now the stage. Mrs. Jefferson directed more than 130 plays during her career at the Playhouse.

Featuring:

- Jack Manley Rose mural
- Metropolitan Opera House water fountain
- Mrs. Jefferson’s portrait
- Cast photos from 1918 to present

Year-Round Hours:

At performance times during fall, winter and spring productions, or by appointment

Operated by The Playhouse Association



29 **TWIN MAPLES**
214 Springfield Avenue

(908) 273-0301

Twin Maples is a fine example of the suburban estates built in the Summit area from 1880 to 1920. This Colonial Revival–style structure built in 1908 was designed by Alfred F. Norris, a well-known New York and Montclair architect.

Erected with the finest materials and details of its time, its appearance resembles the White House in Washington, DC. The house remained privately owned until 1949, when it was purchased by a women’s club founded in 1893, the Fortnightly Club of Summit.

During 2007–2008, the house underwent significant renovations to restore, modernize and beautify the property. Eco-friendly, energy-efficient and sustainable materials and systems were utilized throughout the process.

Featuring:

- Open string staircase
- Wood-burning fireplace
- Steinway piano dating to 1907

Year-Round Hours:

Open for club events on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from October to May at 1:00 pm, as well as Summit Junior Fortnightly meetings at 7:00 p.m.

Operated by the Fortnightly Club of Summit, Inc.

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



UNION



30

CALDWELL PARSONAGE

909 Caldwell Avenue

(908) 687-7977

www.unionhistory.org

www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com

On June 7, 1780, after the Battle of Connecticut Farms, retreating British and Hessian Troops passed this parsonage. A shot was fired through a bedroom window, and Hannah Caldwell, the wife of Rev. James Caldwell, fell dead. Was it a mistake? Or, was it murder — an attempt to punish “the Fighting Parson” of the NJ militia and the Continental Army?

The British burned the parsonage, the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, and other buildings in the area. The parsonage was rebuilt two years later on its original foundation. An artist’s interpretation of Mrs. Caldwell’s death appears on the official Seal of Union County.

Today, the Parsonage displays furniture, clothing, personal belongings and other items relating to the families who established Connecticut Farms (incorporated as the Township of Union in 1808). Artifacts on display date from the 18th century to the early 20th century.

Featuring:

- Painting of the June 7, 1780 Battle of Connecticut Farms
- Personal effects of Union’s founding families

Year-Round Hours:

2:00 – 5:00 pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month in September, November, and March thru June; and the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in January and February; and on the Sunday closest to June 7 (Hannah Caldwell Day); or by appointment

Operated by the Union Township Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



UNION

31

THE CONNECTICUT FARMS CHURCH

888 Stuyvesant Avenue

(908) 688-3164

www.ctfarms.org



The First Presbyterian Congregation of Connecticut Farms was established in 1730, when the townspeople built “the little church on the hill,” and named it after the town. The original building was the weekday meeting house for public affairs, and a house of worship on Sundays. The British burned the church down in 1780, during the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

Rev. Caldwell moved his family into the Connecticut Farms manse, empty at that time, for greater safety. This is where his wife, Hannah Caldwell, was shot through a window in the manse, during the battle, in June 1780.

The rebuilding of the “Meeting House of Connecticut Farms” began in 1783. The church roof was raised on October 11, 1784. Work was completed by 1788 in the same location as the first church, with the new building built in stone. The Presbyterian Church of Connecticut Farms has been and continues to be a strong presence in the Township of Union, and is home to a vibrant congregation.

Featuring:

- Historic building dating from 1780
- Historic cemetery dating to 1732 (final resting place of Elizabeth’s first mayor and a number of Revolutionary War soldiers)

Year-Round Hours:

Office: Monday–Friday, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Worship: Sundays, 11:00 am in the sanctuary

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



UNION



32 **LIBERTY HALL
MUSEUM**
1003 Morris Avenue
(908) 527-0400
www.kean.edu/libertyhall

Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University chronicles more than 240 years of American history. The former residence of William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor and a signer of the Constitution, the house known as Liberty Hall was originally constructed as a 14-room home in the Georgian style, built in 1772 on the eve of the American Revolution.

Eventually expanded into the exquisite 50-room Victorian mansion you see today, the museum houses extensive collections of furniture, ceramics, textiles, toys and tools owned by seven generations of the Livingston and Kean families. Descendants resided here at Liberty Hall until 1995.

Featuring:

- Beautiful furnishings and fashions from nearly every period in American history
- 23 acres of formal gardens, beautiful grounds and farmland
- Fire House Museum

Year-round Hours:

Monday–Saturday: tours every hour from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm;
last tour departs at 3:00 pm

Operated by the Liberty Hall Museum, Inc.

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



WESTFIELD



33 **MILLER-CORY
HOUSE MUSEUM**
614 Mountain Avenue
(908) 232-1776
www.millercoryhouse.org

Eighteenth-century outbuildings, and the herb and kitchen gardens create Colonial atmosphere at the Miller-Cory House, where interactive tours engage the imagination of children and adults. Built circa 1740, the small, tidy and authentically furnished farmhouse stands on its original site along the “road to the mountains.”

Visitors here are introduced to colonial skills and practices, as costumed interpreters recreate the daily chores and seasonal farm work of rural life in the West Fields, circa 1740–1820. An education complex houses special exhibits.

Featuring:

- Corn crib, necessary, and well house
- Museum shop

Year-Round Hours:

September–June: every other Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00 pm;
or by appointment

Operated by the Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers
Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places
A site on the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail



WESTFIELD



34

**REEVE HISTORY
& CULTURAL
RESOURCE CENTER**
314 Mountain Avenue

(908) 654-1794
www.westfieldhistoricalsociety.org

The Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center is located at the Westfield Historical Society headquarters. The Westfield Historical Society operates the Reeve House and the Miller-Cory House Museum, located nearby (see site 33). The Reeve House is a fully restored Victorian Italianate home.

The house, originally built in 1872, was home to the Stitt family (who owned the Westfield Hotel) until 1898, and later the home of the Reeve family, from 1906 to 2001. William Reeve served Westfield through a variety of local projects, including the establishment of the YMCA and the creation of Mindowaskin Park in 1918.

This Victorian home now serves the community as a historical resource center for Westfield, as well as an exhibit center for special events throughout the year. A future educational facility, which will also house the Westfield Historical Society archives, is in the funding stage and will provide for a museum and educational facility, allowing the community to learn more about Westfield's rich historic legacy.

Featuring:

- Period Victorian antiques throughout the home, including period-appropriate fixtures and furniture
- Westfield fire department history and artifacts
- Revolving historical exhibits about life in West Fields of Elizabethtown
- The Claire Brownell Memorial Garden

Year-Round Hours:

Tours by appointment, July–September
September–June: first Sunday of the month

Operated by the Westfield Historical Society

Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places



WINFIELD PARK



Aerial View of
Winfield in 1952

The Township of Winfield, at just .17 square miles, is the smallest of Union County's municipalities. It was an experiment in town planning, a development of temporary housing created for laborers working in Federal shipyards during World War II.

In 1940, Congress passed the Lanham Act, which provided funds for construction of federal housing developments for workers employed in war-related activities. A tract of land along the Rahway River was purchased for such a development. Early residents of Winfield were families of members of Union Local No. 16 of the Kearny Shipyards.

Planning meetings were held in Newark to develop the concept of cooperative housing and the ideals of the community. With the influx of defense workers to the area, housing was at a premium, and houses were quickly erected. Construction began in June 1941. The first fifty families moved into their new homes in November 1941 followed by eight-five more families on Dec. 1, 1941, just days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Perhaps the houses were built too quickly. The first residents found themselves without water, electricity or gas. The roofs, covered in tar paper, leaked, and cellar flooding was common. Streets were unpaved and sidewalks consisted of two-by-fours laid end to end. The project soon found itself the subject of a Senate investigation led by Senator Harry Truman. The contractor for Winfield, Clifford T. McEvoy of Newark, was indicted and eventually found guilty. While some repairs were made by the government, most were accomplished by the residents.

Even before the building problems were solved, citizens petitioned the New Jersey Legislature to designate Winfield as a separate township, so that essential services could be provided. On August 1, 1941, the measure was approved over the governor's veto. The small township was named after General Winfield Scott, a prominent mid-19th century resident of Elizabeth.



William Alexander, Lord Sterling, a brother-in-law of New Jersey's first state governor, William Livingston, was placed in charge of the Elizabethtown troops. Engraving from Benson J. Lossing's *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*

Skirmishes & Raids at Elizabeth 1776 - 1782

From 1776 to 1782, Elizabethtown experienced approximately seventy-five raids, skirmishes, or battles crucial to the struggle for independence. Hessian Brigadier General Knyphausen had settled in a defensive position at Elizabethtown Point, while his advance forces carried the fight. During a raid on January 25, 1780, The First Presbyterian Church was burned. The raid was led by Cornelius Hetfield, a Staten Island Tory originally from Elizabethtown, whose father was an Elder of the church.

For two weeks, Elizabeth was a virtual no-man's-land, the scene of almost daily skirmishes. The situation was an open invitation to plunder. The British and Hessians indulged themselves in an orgy of looting. Knyphausen burned the town, withdrew to the Point, and crossed to Staten Island on a pontoon bridge.



Map drawn by a Hessian officer, showing the battle positions

Battle of the Short Hills June 26, 1777

On the plains below the Watchungs, General Washington's Continental forces of fewer than 6,000 men fought a running battle with combined British and Hessian Troops numbering nearly 12,000 on June 26, 1777. British General William Howe, feigning a retreat, sought to lure the colonial forces to the lowlands and crush them.

What started in Metuchen would soon make its way to the Ash Swamp, where delaying tactics gave Washington's troops and local militia enough time to return to the safety of the Watchungs. Ash Brook is now one of the stops along the new Battle of the Short Hills Historic Trail.

Learn more at ucnj.org/trails.



An original painting by Township of Union artist Larry Felder depicts the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

Battle of Connecticut Farms

June 7, 1780

At the Battle of Connecticut Farms, Hessian General Knyphausen's force of 5,000 landed at De Hart's Point, near Elizabethtown, and marched toward Morristown on June 7. The soldiers met resistance from regulars and militia under Colonel Elias Dayton and General Lafayette at Connecticut Farms, 2 ½ miles southeast of Springfield.

Colonel Dayton's regiments were joined by the rest of the New Jersey Brigade and General Maxwell. Behind a deep ravine, just southeast of the Presbyterian meetinghouse, Maxwell deployed his troops. As militiamen continued to pour in individually and in small groups, Maxwell assigned Brigade Major Aaron Ogden to organize them into an effective unit.

Maxwell's men, reinforced by the militia, made a stand, beating back repeated assaults. As the main body of Knyphausen's army joined the advance column, more and more men were thrown against the Americans. For nearly three hours, the men of the New Jersey Brigade stood firm against the onslaught; but finally, in danger of being outflanked, Maxwell was forced to withdraw.

During the fighting, Hannah Caldwell, wife of Reverend James Caldwell, was slain. The settlement was pillaged and burned. Dwellings, barns, and even the Presbyterian Church, were left in ashes. Knyphausen withdrew to De Hart's Point on the night of June 8–9, to entrench. American losses totaled 15 killed and 40 wounded.



Original painting, "Give 'em Watts Boys," by John Ward Dunsmore

Battle of Springfield

June 23, 1780

Fighting at the Battle of Connecticut Farms reached the edge of the Rahway River border with Springfield. Two weeks later, on June 23, the 6,000 British troops again crossed the water, marched through the ruins of Connecticut Farms, and faced the 1,500 Americans waiting on the Springfield side of the river.

Confrontations occurred along the Rahway, from the bridge at Morris Avenue to Vauxhall. During several hours of intense fighting, the British and Hessians pushed into the village of Springfield, and north into the center of Millburn, before being forced to retreat.

During the battle, the Americans were running out of wadding to load their muskets. Rev. James Caldwell distributed Watts hymnals from the First Presbyterian Church to the troops, crying, "Give 'em Watts, boys!" As the British retreated, they again burned buildings in the village, including the church. One house (now the Cannon Ball House), struck by an American cannonball, was among the few left standing.

The little-known Battle of Springfield has great significance as the final confrontation between American and Crown forces in northern colonies. Convinced the war was lost here, the British forces marched southward to Yorktown.



A section of the French map of the route to Yorktown, 1782
Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress

Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail 1781

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail was created by an act of Congress in 2009. It marks the contribution made by the French that finally enabled the Colonial Army to defeat the British and win independence for the American Colonies. The Trail runs from Rhode Island to Virginia, passing through Union County from Summit to Scotch Plains.

French General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur arrived in Narragansett Bay, off Rhode Island, in July 1780 with an army of 450 officers and 5,300 men. Their arrival was just in time. In the fall of 1780, with the war well into its fourth year, the Continental Army was running on faith, hope, and promises — short of men, weapons, food, clothing, and money. This combination of Rochambeau's and Washington's forces culminated 15 months later in the victory at Yorktown.

This historic trail marks the 680-mile route taken by Washington and Rochambeau to and from the siege of Yorktown. In New Jersey, this Historic Trail follows roads that have existed since the 18th century.

In Union County, the first NJ county to mark this trail, the route includes: Raritan Road and Lamberts Mill Road in Scotch Plains; W. Broad Street in Westfield; Mountain Avenue in Westfield, Mountainside and Springfield; Morris Avenue in Springfield; and Morris Turnpike in Summit.

Learn more at <http://www.nps.gov/waro/index.htm>.

Union County Medal of Honor Memorial

Union County Courthouse
 2 South Broad Street, Elizabeth
 (Elizabethtown Plaza and Rahway Avenue)



Civil War

William Brant, Jr., Elizabeth
 1842 - March 2, 1898

1st Lieutenant, Company B, 1st
 New Jersey Veteran Battalion

Location: Third Battle of
 Petersburg, Va - April 3, 1865

Citation: Capture of battle flag of
 46th North Carolina (C.S.A.)

James Madison Drake, Elizabeth
 March 25, 1837 - Nov. 28, 1915
 Second Lieutenant, Company D,
 9th NJ Infantry, United States Army

Location: Bermuda Hundred
 Campaign - Battle of Port
 Walthall Junction, Virginia
 May 6, 1864

Citation: Commanded the skirmish
 line in the advance and held his
 position all day and during the
 night.

Rufus King, Jr., Elizabeth
 March 21, 1838 - March 18, 1900
 1st Lieutenant, 4th US Artillery
 Regiment, United States Army

Location: Battle of White Oak
 Swamp (Seven Days Battle;
 Peninsula Campaign) *Citation:*
 This officer, when his captain was
 wounded, succeeded to the
 command of two batteries while

engaged against a superior
 force of the enemy and fought his
 guns most gallantly until compelled
 to retire.

Julian A. Scott, Plainfield
 Feb. 14, 1837 - July 4, 1901
 Drummer, Company E, 3rd
 Vermont Infantry, United States
 Army

Location: Battle of Lee's Mill
 (Battle of Yorktown),
 April 16, 1862 *Citation:* Crossed the
 creek under a terrific fire of
 musketry several times to assist in
 bringing off the wounded.

John Williams, II, Elizabethtown
 1828 - Unknown
 Boatswain's Mate, USS
 Mohican, United States Navy

Location: Battle Port Royal, South
 Carolina, November 7, 1861

Citation: Captain of an 11 inch gun
 aboard the U.S.S. Mohican during
 action of the main squadron of ships
 against the heavily defended Forts
 Beaufort and Walker on Hilton
 Head, and against ships of the
 Confederate Fleet. Cool and
 courageous at his battle station,
 Williams maintained steady fire
 against the enemy while under the
 fort batteries during a 4 hour

engagement which resulted in silencing the batteries of the forts and in the rout of the rebel steamers.

Indian Campaigns

Theodore F. Smith,
(**Theodore Schmidt**), Rahway
Sept. 6, 1852 - June 6, 1925
Private, Company G, US Calvary,
United States Army

Location: Chiricahua Mountains,
Arizona, October 20, 1869

Citation: Gallantry in action

World War I

Alan Louis Eggers, Summit
Nov. 2, 1895 - Oct. 3, 1968
Sergeant, United States Army

Thomas E. O'Shea, Summit
April 18, 1895 - Sept. 29, 1918
Corporal, US Army/Machine Gun
Company, 107th Infantry, 27th
Division

Location: Near Le Catelet, France,
September 29, 1918

Citation: Becoming separated from their platoon by a smoke barrage, Sgt. Eggers, Sgt. John C. Latham and Cpl. Thomas E. O'Shea took cover in a shell hole well within the enemy's lines. Upon hearing a call for help from an American tank, which had become disabled 30 yards from them, the 3 soldiers left their shelter and started toward the tank, under heavy fire from German machine-guns and trench mortars. In crossing the fire-swept area Cpl. O'Shea was mortally wounded, but his companions, undeterred, proceeded to the tank, rescued a wounded officer, and assisted 2 wounded soldiers to cover in a sap of a nearby trench. Sgt. Eggers and

Sgt. Latham then returned to the tank in the face of the violent fire, dismounted a Hotchkiss gun, and took it back to where the wounded men were, keeping off the enemy all day by effective use of the gun and later bringing it, with the wounded men, back to our lines under cover of darkness.

Fred W. Stockham, Union
March 16, 1881 - June 22, 1918

Gunnery Sergeant, 2nd Division,
American Expeditionary Forces,
96th Company, 2nd Battalion,
6th Regiment, United States
Marine Corp.

Location: Bois-de-Belleau, France,
June 13-14, 1918

Citation: During an intense enemy bombardment with high explosive and gas shells which wounded or killed many members of the company, G/Sgt. Stockham, upon noticing that the gas mask of a wounded comrade was shot away, without hesitation, removed his own gas mask and insisted upon giving it to the wounded man, well knowing that the effects of the gas would be fatal to himself. He continued with undaunted courage and valor to direct and assist in the evacuation of the wounded, until he himself collapsed from the effects of gas, dying as a result thereof a few days later. His courageous conduct undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his wounded comrades and his conspicuous gallantry and spirit of self-sacrifice were a source of great inspiration to all who served with him.

Vietnam War

Charles Joseph Watters, Cranford
Jan. 17, 1927 - Nov. 19, 1967
Chaplain (Major), Company A,
173rd Support Battalion, 173rd
Airborne Brigade, United States
Army

Location: Near Dak To Province,
Republic of Vietnam,
November 19, 1967

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Chaplain Watters distinguished himself during an assault in the vicinity of Dak To. Chaplain Watters was moving with one of the companies when it engaged a heavily armed enemy battalion. As the battle raged and the casualties mounted, Chaplain Watters, with complete disregard for his safety, rushed forward to the line of contact. Unarmed and completely exposed, he moved among, as well as in front of the advancing troops, giving aid to the wounded, assisting in their evacuation, giving words of encouragement, and administering the last rites to the dying. When a wounded paratrooper was standing in shock in front of the assaulting forces, Chaplain Watters ran forward, picked the man up on his shoulders and carried him to safety. As the troopers battled to the first enemy entrenchment, Chaplain Watters ran through the intense enemy fire to the front of the entrenchment to aid a fallen comrade. A short time later, the paratroopers pulled back in preparation for a second assault.

Chaplain Watters exposed himself to both friendly and enemy fire between the two forces in order to recover two wounded soldiers. Later, when the battalion was forced to pull back into a perimeter, Chaplain Watters noticed that several wounded soldiers were lying outside the newly formed perimeter. Without hesitation and ignoring attempts to restrain him, Chaplain Watters left the perimeter three times in the face of small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire to carry and to assist the injured troopers to safety. Satisfied that all of the wounded were inside the perimeter, he began aiding the medics ... applying field bandages to open wounds, obtaining and serving food and water, giving spiritual and mental strength and comfort. During his ministering, he moved out to the perimeter from position to position redistributing food and water, and tending to the needs of his men. Chaplain Watters was giving aid to the wounded when he himself was mortally wounded. Chaplain Watters's unyielding perseverance and selfless devotion to his comrades was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

Descriptions from the
Congressional Medal
of Honor Society
www.cmohs.org

Early Aristocracy

1663 - 1812



The English government encouraged settlement of the new country. Many families who had already emigrated to Long Island and Connecticut, moved to Elizabethtown. Experienced in the hard work of clearing land for houses and fields, they sought self-government and freedom in religious matters.

By the mid-1700s, Elizabethtown had grown into a prosperous community of 800 inhabitants. New houses and additions to existing ones met the demands of the growing population.

Statesmen, leaders of the emerging nation, and their families enjoyed life on estates in large homes surrounded by gardens, and apple and peach orchards. Elizabethtown was connected to larger cities by ferry service. Stagecoaches made stops in Elizabethtown during regular trips between New York and Philadelphia.

Learn about the birth of our nation, and glimpse the aristocratic way of life by visiting:

- 5 Boxwood Hall
- 6 First Presbyterian Church
- 7 Nathaniel Bonnell Homestead & Belcher-Ogden Mansion
- 15 Plainfield Meetinghouse
- 31 The Connecticut Farms Church
- 32 Liberty Hall

Farm Life

1686 - 1840



While the city life of Elizabethtown flourished, life in outlying areas was largely agricultural. More than 40,000 acres of farmland were tended by 150 families.

Life on the farms was demanding on all members of a family, with taxing work and chores for the head of the household, very young children, and everyone in between. Together with African and Indian slaves, indentured servants, and immigrants, these locals produced every necessity of life, including shelter, food, and clothing — while caring for their land, crops and livestock.

Step inside these authentic farmhouses to experience the challenges and rewards of life on an 18th-century farmstead:

- 3 Dr. William Robinson Plantation-Museum
- 7 Nathaniel Bonnell Homestead & Belcher-Ogden Mansion
- 10 Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum
- 13 Salt Box Museum
- 22 The Elizabeth and Gershom Frazee House
- 26 Carter House
- 33 Miller-Cory House Museum

Revolutionary Front Line

1763 - 1783



Everyday life was interrupted by skirmishes and battles between British and Colonial troops fighting for independence from England. New Jersey was a key battleground of the American Revolution, with more major battles fought here than in any other colony. The countryside was ravaged, as both British and Colonial troops sought food for their men and horses. The daily lives of Elizabethtown residents were filled with anguish.

The population was divided on the issues of the conflict. In some cases, men within a single family fought against each other, and neighbor fought against neighbor. Driven by a desire for freedom, many men left their farms and families to join the militia. Loyalists (“Tories”) sided with the King, and some enlisted to fight against the rebellion. Some went to live on Staten Island, a Loyalist refuge.

The battles of Connecticut Farms (now Union) and Springfield, occurring in June 1780, were a last attempt by the British to re-establish authority in New Jersey. Due to their defensive tactics, Colonial troops and local militia halted the British, making the Battle of Springfield the last major engagement fought in the northern colonies.

Learn more about this troubled time in our history by visiting:

- 14 Drake House Museum
- 19 Abraham Clark House
- 21 Ash Brook Reservation (The Battle of the Short Hills)
- 23 Osborn Cannonball House
- 25 Cannon Ball House
- 30 Caldwell Parsonage
- 31 The Connecticut Farms Church

Commerce & Industry

1820 - 1928



As city life in Elizabethtown hummed, stagecoaches made regular trips in the early 1800s along the King’s Highway (now St. Georges Ave.) and the Old York Road (Rte. 28) to outlying rural areas. The Stage House Inn in Scotch Plains (still an operating tavern) and Rahway’s Merchants & Drovers Tavern were centers for business transactions, elections, public meetings, and entertainment.

The Elizabethtown area became a major manufacturing center and transportation corridor, due to the proximity to New York and Philadelphia. Industries developed near water and rail to facilitate the movement of goods to major markets.

With the first railroad charter in 1830, the economic life of the county was greatly affected. Three major railroads ran through the county, opening farmland to development. Horse-driven wagons and stagecoaches gave way to steam locomotives, accelerating the growth of towns and cities.

The development of Hillside, Roselle Park, Kenilworth, Rahway and Linden grew in the late 1800s, as industry attracted workers. New housing was built to accommodate the growing number of new workers and their families.

Understand more about the early impact of Union County’s industry, trade and residential housing by visiting:

- 1 Deserted Village of Feltville / Glenside Park
- 8 Historic Fanwood Train Station Museum
- 10 Woodruff House/Eaton Store
- 11 Oswald J. Nitschke House
- 16 Merchants and Drovers Tavern
- 18 Union County Performing Arts Center
- 20 Roselle Park Museum

Victorian Resorts & Suburbs

1837 - 1920



Rapid industrial growth in the first half of the 19th century gave wealth and leisure time to an emerging managerial class. Victorians idealized the rural life, and city dwellers looked to the hills and farms of New Jersey for vacation accommodations.

In the 1880s, residents of New York City boarded trains to Plainfield, where they were guests at the city's five resort hotels. Executives of the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey saw the opportunity for development and promoted housing subdivisions in Plainfield, Fanwood, Westfield, Cranford, Roselle and Roselle Park. Summertime vacationers became year-round residents with 22 daily trains carrying them to and from the city.

Watchung Mountain communities, served by the Morris and Essex railroads, were especially attractive vacation destinations. Summit's lavish hotels catered to affluent visitors and, a short distance away, Glenside Park offered a rustic retreat. Eventually, many of these vacationers built substantial houses in the "Hill City," and a suburban community was born.

The long reign of Britain's Queen Victoria influenced all facets of life and culture throughout the Western world. The classical ideal gave way to the romantic. The picturesque and the complex replaced simplicity and balance. Passion, grandeur, and lack of restraint were expressed in art, architecture and landscapes.

Victorian architecture included a number of styles, each experiencing a brief period of popularity during the 44 years of Queen Victoria's reign.

Victorian Resorts & Suburbs

Garden and cemetery planning was also influenced by the Victorian aesthetic. Park-like cemeteries contained a variety of stones and monuments, often decorated with statues and other sculptural embellishments.

To learn more about the Victorian era, visit:

- ❶ Deserted Village of Feltville-Glenside Park
- ❷ Littell-Lord Farmstead
- ❹ Crane-Phillips House Museum
- ❸ Evergreen Cemetery
- ❹ Deacon Andrew Hetfield House
- ❺ Drake House Museum
- ❻ Rahway School for Colored Children /
The African-American History & Heritage Center
- ❼ The Shady Rest & Country Club
- ❼ Reeves-Reed Arboretum
- ❼ Summit Playhouse
- ❼ Twin Maples
- ❼ Reeve History & Cultural Resource Center

Visit Historic Sites via Mass Transit

In the mood for a walk or bike ride on a beautiful day? Some of Union County's historic sites are within easy walking distance of NJ Transit rail stations. The (#) below refers to site numbers in this book. For those wishing to cycle from a train station, be sure to check with NJ Transit's guidelines for bringing bikes aboard the trains. Union County Parks (ucnj.org/parks) is also rolling out routes for cyclists to visit several historic sites along a 10–12 mile ride.

Raritan Valley Line

Long before the Raritan Valley Line, there was the Central Railroad of New Jersey. From stations across Union County, from Plainfield to Elizabeth, it was possible to board a train to Chicago, or from Jersey City, to board a ferry to New York City. The CNJ is long gone, however some of the historic sites along the route remain, and you can ride the train to visit some of them.

Details about these sites are found in the front of this book, and at ucnj.org/4C. Most sites are staffed by volunteers, so it may help to call in advance to confirm that the site will be open for your visit.

From the Raritan Valley Line, train stops near sites include these:

- **Fanwood:** (8) Historic Fanwood Train Station, 230 North Ave. The Victorian Gothic train station is on the westbound side.
- **Westfield:** From the train station, walk north through downtown. Then, walk along Mountain Ave., past the iconic white Presbyterian Church to (34) Reeve House, home of the Westfield Historical Society, located at 314 Mountain Ave. Continue to (33) the Miller-Cory House Museum, at 614 Mountain Ave.
- **Cranford:** (4) Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 North Union Ave. This American Civil War veteran's cottage stands next to the Rahway River, a short walk northeast from the train station.
- **Roselle Park:** (20) Roselle Park Museum, 9 West Grant Ave. Walk south on Chestnut St. to the borough's downtown, to find the Roselle Park Museum. A little further, on Westfield Ave., was the Charles E. Stone store, the first store in the world illuminated by Edison's incandescent lamp.

- **Union:** (32) Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave. The train stops at Kean University. Walk across Morris Ave. to Liberty Hall, built on the eve of the American Revolution and home to William Livingston, a signer of the Constitution. (This site is also a 1-mile walk from North Elizabeth station on the Northeast Corridor Line. See details below.)

Morristown Line & Gladstone Branch

The Morristown Line, formerly part of the old Erie Lackawanna Railroad, intersects with NJ Transit's Gladstone Branch in Summit, where there are two sites within a half-mile of the downtown station:

- **Summit:** (28) Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Ave. Just west of the station, the Summit Library Association kept its books in various locations until residents donated \$3,720 to build the Richardsonian, a Romanesque structure designed by Arthur Jennings.
- **Summit:** (29) Twin Maples, 214 Springfield Ave. Just east of the station is Twin Maples, with a style evoking the White House. This suburban estate typifies the grand homes built in the Summit area from 1880 to 1920.

Northeast Corridor/North Jersey Coast Lines

The Northeast Corridor, once the proud domain of the Pennsylvania Railroad, is now the main line between New York City and Trenton, while the Coast Line takes travelers to the Jersey Shore. All trains stop in Elizabeth, but only some stop in North Elizabeth, so be sure to check before boarding.

From the Elizabeth station, in the heart of the city, there are three sites within a half-mile of the station:

- **Elizabeth:** (6) First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth & Snyder Academy, 42 Broad St. Exit the station onto Broad St., and walk north to 42 Broad.
- **Elizabeth:** (5) Boxwood Hall State Historic Site, 1073 East Jersey St. & (7) Nathaniel Bonnell Homestead & Belcher-Ogden Mansion, 1045 & 1046 East Jersey St. Exit First Presbyterian to left. Turn right onto E. Jersey St., and follow it to 1073 E. Jersey, then 1045 & 1046 East Jersey St.

These two significant sites are a mile-plus walk from North Elizabeth station. (Be sure to check the train schedule at njtransit.com, because not all trains stop at North Elizabeth.) Those desiring to visit both sites from this station should first stop at Evergreen Cemetery, and then proceed to Liberty Hall to avoid back-tracking:

- **North Elizabeth:** (9) Evergreen Cemetery, 1137 N. Broad St., Hillside (1853 interdenominational burial ground with mausoleums and more than 10,000 monuments — a virtual museum of funerary art). From the No. Elizabeth station, head west on North Ave. for 3/10 mile, then turn right onto Cross Ave. Head north for a half-mile, then bear left onto Lower Rd. Turn left onto North Broad St. The cemetery entrance is on your right.
- **North Elizabeth:** (32) Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union (built on the eve of the American Revolution, and former home to William Livingston, a signer of the Constitution). From the station, head west on North Ave. for 7/10 mile, then turn right onto Westminster Ave. Turn left onto Wilder St. Approaching the rear entrance to Kean University’s Nathan Weiss Graduate School, take the pedestrian bridge on the far side to cross the Elizabeth River, and arrive at Liberty Hall. (Travelers not wishing to return via North Elizabeth station can cross the avenue to the Union Station to board the Raritan Valley Line, for travel to points east or west.)

From Rahway station, there are three historic sites of note:

- **Rahway:** (18) Union County Performing Arts Center, 1601 Irving St. Turn right onto Broad St., then walk along Irving St.
- **Rahway:** (17) Rahway School For Colored Children / the African American History & Heritage Center, 261 Central Ave. Head west on West Milton Ave. Turn right on Esterbrook Ave, go 2/10-mile and turn right onto Central. Site is across the street on your left.
- **Rahway:** (16) Merchants & Drovers Tavern, 1632 St. Georges Ave., one mile from the station. Head west on West Milton to Broad St., and turn right. Then turn left onto Campbell St., and go to Central Ave. Turn right, then and go left onto Hamilton St., passing the Arts Center. Stay on Hamilton for a ½-mile, and then turn right onto St. Georges. The Tavern is two blocks ahead on your left.

Hike thru History



Looking for a new way to experience history? Hike **the Battle of the Short Hills Historic Trail**, which follows the route of the 1777 Revolutionary War battle, from Metuchen to the Deserted Village in the Watchung Reservation.

Along the way, perhaps stop at the Ash Brook Reservation, where American troops drew the British into a swamp to slow their opponents’ advance. Continue through Scotch Plains, where one can stop at the Osborn Cannonball House. Continue up into the Watchung Reservation, to the overlook at “Bloody Gap.”

This trail also leads into the **Watchung Reservation History Trail** (WRHT), a 6-mile trail that tells the history of Union County’s 2,200-acre Reservation, from pre-Revolutionary times to the present day. Maps of the WRHT are available at kiosks on the trail. For a virtual guide, visit www.ucnj.org/wrht.

For a brief, leisurely walk through history, consider **Elizabeth at the Crossroads**, a self-guided tour through midtown Elizabeth, formerly a colonial capital. Plans are underway to create a longer version of this route, including stops marking the British invasion of 1780, that culminated in the battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield.

For more information about these and other history trails in Union County, visit: www.ucnj.org/trails.