



Early Westfield Chronology

- 1664** English Long Islanders purchase Elizabethtown tract from Leni Lenape chieftains.
- 1675-1683** Essex County, including Elizabethtown and Newark tracts, loosely organized.
- 1684** West fields of Elizabethtown surveyed by John Baker and party at request of Governor Gawen Lawrie.
- 1693** Elizabethtown officially becomes Elizabeth Township.
- 1699-1700** "Clinker Lot" Division: West fields divided into 171 hundred-acre lots.
- 1720** Westfield has become a distinct settlement.
- 1727-1730** Presbyterian congregation organized; temporary log church built on Elizabethtown road (Benson Place).
- 1731** Oldest marker in Presbyterian cemetery.
- 1734** 40 acres acquired for church and parsonage land for the price of twenty pounds; church on Mountain Avenue built in 1735 or soon thereafter.
- 1740** Nathaniel Baker establishes tannery on stream presently site of Mindowaskin Pond.
- 1741** Elizabeth chartered as Borough, maintaining co-terminous township until 1855. Westfield becomes voting ward of borough.
- 1759** Benjamin Woodruff becomes pastor of church (until 1803).

1776 Livestock evacuated to mountains as British Army passes nearby in December; British attack Springfield in same month, with one column passing through Westfield.

1776-77 Westfield is a command post for much of this period; village occupied and looted by main British Army June 26-27,1777.

1780 Westfielders participate in victorious Battle of Springfield.

1782 James Morgan is tried, convicted and hung in Westfield for the murder of the Rev. James Caldwell.

1794 Westfield Township becomes separate municipality Jan. 27, including most of Clinker Lot survey area. Following municipalities separated from Township on dates noted:

- Part of Rahway, including what later became Clark (1804);
- Plainfield (1847); part of Cranford (1871);
- Fanwood Township, including Scotch Plains (1878);
- Mountainside (1895) and half of Garwood (1903).
- 1903 Westfield adopts Town form of government-March 4.

(This information has been compiled and edited by John R. Panosh from original documents supplied by Ralph H. Jones, Curator, Westfield Historical Society Museum and Archives.)