



The New Township of Cranford

The following is an article from predecessor of the Elizabeth Daily Journal a reporting on the creation of the "New Township of Cranford" in 1871 Cranford Township will celebrate its 140th anniversary on March 27,2011.

The event of the passage of the bill creating the township of Cranford was celebrated by an entertainment given to the Legislature on Wednesday evening last.

The friends of the measure feel justly elated over the passage of the bill and look forward to a period of a more rapid growth of the place than it has heretofore experienced.

The township takes from Westfield a large slice of territory. The village is distant from that of the former about three miles as the traveled road is laid out. It was originally called Craneville but was changed to its present name about two years ago—some time after the post office was established.

It has two churches—a Presbyterian and a Methodist; the former is quite an imposing edifice for a country village, being copied after the one in Westfield; its graceful spire is seen a long distance off. An Episcopal church is also to be built.

Cranford has the usual properties of a ___[words are not legible] of Temperance, stores, blacksmith shops, etc; it has been built up mostly by New York people coming here. There are thirty houses to be erected this spring, a number of them have already been begun. Streets have been laid out each side of the railroad and others are projected, one of which to be called Walnut Avenue, will extend to near the residence of Mr. A.P. Scudder—a distance of nearly two miles, with the intention of eventually extending it to Rahway. The land around the village is well situated for building purposes and the location is one of the finest on the line of the road.

In consequence of these improvements land has very much increased in value.

Another characteristic of Cranford is the cleverness of the people; they seem to belong to the middle class without having any of the extremes of poverty and riches among them; worth makes the man and not blood in their estimation and yet they are enterprising as was shown last week when the subject of removing the capital from Trenton was before the Legislature—they offered twenty acres of land and \$200,000—far in excess of any other bid. It would be a joke should lawmakers at Trenton—who have an eye to trade—decide to accept the offer.

As will be seen elsewhere the citizens hold their first meeting on Monday evening, March 27th, to prepare for the election. We congratulate our neighbors on their bright prospects and especially on the success of their bill, in spite of the large sum of money spent to oppose it.