

whose heroism and devotion only made victory possible for the army of Washington? A writer says: "These patriotic females furnished tow frocks and pantaloons dyed with blue, of their own spinning and manufacture. Many of them were trimmed with colored tapes, giving the company a singular appearance. They were known as the "Jersey Blues," and many of their company followed Washington and the regular army to Morristown."

It is a common tradition among the early Westfield residents that on the eventful day when the British passed by Ash swamp to Scotch Plains, and thence to Westfield, "Aunt Betty" Frazee had been baking bread all day for our hungry soldiers. When the British drove them back Lord Cornwallis rode up, dismounted and said to her: "I want the first loaf of bread that next comes from that oven." He then retired to the shade of a tree, and when the bread was done Aunt Betty came out and said to him: "Sir, I give you this bread through fear, not in love." Lord Cornwallis leaped to his feet, admiring her spirit and courage, and said to his men: "Not a man of my command shall touch a single loaf." Lord Cornwallis was but another Stonewall Jackson, and Aunt Betty Frazee was Westfield's Barbara Fretchie,—made famous by the poet Whittier. Among the officers and men who took active part in the capture of the British ship, "Blue Mountain Valley," January 22, 1776, are the names of many Westfield families: Baker, Clark, Craig, Hetfield, Marsh, Meeker, Pierson, Ross, Miller, Hendrix, Hinds, Woodruff, etc.

GENERAL WASHINGTON IN WESTFIELD.

There are many traditions that the "Father of our Country" was often in Westfield,—in fact that it was his favorite stopping place on his way from Morristown to Philadelphia. It is positively certain that sections of both armies often stopped at the living spring back of the Presbyterian church, on the present Stitt place. Benjamin Downer, in his biography of Rev. Edwin Downer, who died in the pulpit of the above church, says: "The house now occupied by Dr. Frederick Kinch, in Westfield, is the old Downer homestead. Samuel Downer entertained General Washington there for a few days at the time of the battle of Trenton, and several of the service dishes are still in possession of various members of the family." *

Aunt Nancy (Mills) Baker, often called "Aunt Granny Baker," who died a few years since (1894,) at the age of one hundred and four, often told the writer that she remembered having seen General Washington in Westfield. Granny Baker was strong and sprightly for her age, and often walked the two miles to town after she had passed the century mark. One day she had engaged a man to mow some grass

* Some members of the present Downer family have reason to believe that this entertainment took place in another house, across the street, where Samuel Downer lived at that time.