# THE BATTLE OF SPANKTOWN.

## Early History of Rahway and Its Environs.

RAHWAY, N. J., Feb. 19.—Tuesday will be the one hundred and nineteenth anniversary of the battle of Spanktown. The Rahway of to-day is what was known in the last century as Spanktown, the name having been given because an early settler publicly took his spouse across his knee and chastised her.

Lower Rahway was originally part of Woodbridge. On the 21st day of May, 1666, John Pike, Daniel Pierce, and Abraham Tappern signed articles of agreement in behalf of themselves and associates, with Gov. Carteret, whereby they were to have the right to settle one or two plantations, or townships, with 100 families, "between the Rahwack and the Raritan Rivers." The charter to the Town of Woodbridge bears date June 1, 1669. The name of Rahway was formally adopted July 29, 1822.

Rahway Port was settled in 1708. The first church (built of logs) was erected in East Rahway, back of Gibby's Woods. The first physician in Rahway was William Robinson, and his will is dated May 18, 1685.

Lower Rahway was settled by the Society of Friends, who conducted most of the business then transacted in town.

Feb. 23, 1777, the American forces, under Gen. Maxwell, were stationed at Spanktown, and a battle was fought between these troops and the Third British Brigade, stationed at Perth Amboy. The American troops were victorious, and the British retreated in disorder to Amboy, followed by the Americans, who pursued so rapidly, and fought so determinedly, that the British got no opportunity to rally their forces until farther pursuit by the Yankees became impracticable. The American loss was reported as 3 killed and 12 wounded, while the British dead numbered 500.

The New York Times
Published: February 21, 1897
Copyright © The New York Times