



**Sloterdam®**  
**Regular &**  
**Extra Bold**

The text in this specimen was taken from the book **Fair Lawn: Know Your Town** as published by the League of Women Voters.

**IN THE BEGINNING:** No historic account of Fair Lawn would be complete without recognition of the **LENNI-LENAPI (ORIGINAL PEOPLE)**, native tribes of northern New Jersey. Their trails, campsites, rock shelters and hunting grounds became the roads and towns we use today. When the first Dutch settlers made their way up to what we know as the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers, it was to establish fur trading posts with the **HACKINGHAESAKY INDIANS**, one of the tribes of the Lenni-Lenapi. The great chief of the tribes was **Oratam**. As settlements grew, the Lenni-Lenapi were forced further west to unsettled land. They left behind place names of Indian origin. Few of us realize how many such names are still with us, for example: **PASSAIC** (EITHER WHERE THE RIVER GOES OVER THE FALLS OR VALLEY),

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**ERB POSTING**

**PARAMUS (FINE STREAM OR PLACE OF WILD TURKEYS), WAQARAW (CROOKED PLACE OR RIVER BEND).** Typically, River Road, one of the oldest roads in the eastern part of our country, was once an Indian trail, leading to the “Great Rock” tribal council site in Glen Rock. The most interesting Indian relic in Fair Lawn is the fish trap (weir) in

the Passaic River (Native American Fishing Weir Web Site). It can be seen during low water 200 yard upstream from the Fair Lawn Avenue bridge. The trap consists of two rows of stones forming a **V-SHAPED** dam into which the Indians drove the fish during migration, closing the opening at the point of the V with

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weighted nets. The Dutch called  
 this the **sloterdam** or **sloterdam**  
 from the verb sluiten, **shut**. This  
 gave rise to the name of Slooter-  
 dam (also spelled Sloterdam)  
 which was used to describe the  
 surrounding area. Fair Lawn was  
 known as Slooterdam as late as  
 1791, and River Road was called the  
**Slauderdam Road** until after the

was originally a huge  
 plantation stretching  
 between the Passaic  
 and Saddle Rivers. The  
 Garreston household  
 had as many as 18 slaves.  
 Another structure,  
 almost as old, was built  
 by Jacob Vanderbeck. It  
 is located off Fair Lawn  
 Avenue (formerly  
 Dunkerhook Road) east  
 of Saddle River Road.  
 The west wing, the origi-  
 nal structure, had five  
 rooms and the unfin-  
 ished second floor was  
 used for the children  
 and slaves' quarters.  
 General Lafayette is  
 said to have visited the

local militia headquarters  
 here during the Revolu-  
 tion. The east wing of the  
 house was built in the  
 20th century. Nearby, on  
 Dunkerhook Road  
 (**DONCKERHOEK** or **DARK**  
**CORNER IN OLD DUTCH**) is  
 the Naugle House, built in  
 the 18th century by Jacob  
 Vanderbeck's son-in-law,  
 a paymaster to General  
 Lafayette's troops. Lafay-  
 ette stayed in this house  
 for several days in 1824  
 when he returned to this  
 country after the Revolu-  
 tionary War. Another old  
 structure is on Fair Lawn  
 Avenue, east of Plaza  
 Road. It is known as the

Civil War. Life in the area was rig-  
 orous but settlers prospered.  
 Farms were fruitful; fish and  
 game were abundant. Suprisingly,  
 slavery was encouraged by the  
 early proprietors. A bonus of land  
 was granted the freeholders for  
 every slave brought into the  
 colony. Slaves worked the farms  
 and cut the sandstone that went

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into building the farmhouses. By 1790,  
**BERGEN COUNTY** has approximately 2,300  
 slaves. Early Houses: Probably the oldest  
 structure standing in Fair Lawn is the Gar-  
 reston-rocker home, now known as the  
**GARRESTON FORGE AND FARM RESTORA-**  
**TION**, on River Road, south of Morlot Avenue.  
 The west wing, the kitchen, was the original  
 building built some time between 1708-1730.  
 The main wing was built before 1800 but the  
**GAMBREL ROOF, DORMER AND PORCH WERE**  
**ADDED IN 1903.** The property, known at  
 its purchase in 1719 as the Slooterdam Patent,