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Contact the Commission for a free brochure listing all Commission publications with an order form or to be added to the mailing list to receive [Ocean Arts & Heritage](#) newsletter:
732-929-4779 (voice) • 732-506-5062 (TTY) • 1-800-722-0291 (toll free) • 732-288-7871 (fax) CulturalHeritage@co.ocean.nj.us (e-mail)

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REDCOATS

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Congress is a marvel of spin even for modern times, saying the British attacked, "with 400 men. . . . They seemed at first to attack our pickets of infantry with fury, who lost a few men retreating; then the enemy advanced on our infantry. The Lieut. Col. Baron De Bose, who headed his men and fought vigorously, was killed with several bayonet wounds, as well as the Lieut. de la Borderie, and a small number of soldiers and others were wounded. This slaughter would not have ceased so soon, if on the first alarm I had not hastened with my cavalry to support the infantry, which then kept a good countenance."

He continued about his victory: "The enemy soon fled in great disorder, and left behind them a great quantity of arms, accoutrements, hats, blades, &c. We took some prisoners and should have taken many, had it not been for a swamp, through which

our horses could scarcely walk; Not withstanding this, we still advanced in hopes to come up with them; but they had taken up the planks of a bridge for fear of being overtaken, which accordingly saved them. However my light infantry, and particularly the company of riflemen got over the remains of the plank, and fired some volleys [*sic*] on their rear. The fire began again on both sides. We had the advantage and made them run again, although they were more in number."

His final claim of "our loss is estimated, dead, wounded and absent about 25 or 30 men, and some horses. That of the enemy appears to be much more considerable. We had cut off the retreat of about 25 men, who retired into the country and the woods, and we cannot find them; the general opinion is, that they are concealed by the Tories in the neighbourhood of their encampment."

Today Pulaski is a hero. The battle is called a massacre, and on Radio Road south of Tuckerton, there is a monu-

ment, which, in the book, *Landmarks of the American Revolution*, Mark Boatner poses the real question, "Somewhat less than three miles from the center of Tuckerton, is the tall, lonely Pulaski Monument. Presumably it stands about where the main American camp was located. What inspired the erection of this memorial to Pulaski's humiliating defeat is hard to understand."

Next: The Joshua Huddy Affair

Mr. Farner has offered to provide any reader his entire series of articles on Tuckerton/Chestnut Neck unedited. Requests may be e-mailed to: tpfcjf@comcast.net



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REDCOATS AT TUCKERTON

by Thomas P. Farner
[second article in a series]

When we think of Ocean County in the Revolution, we think of pine robbers and privateers, a guerilla war of neighbor against neighbor. But, there was one battle fought in the county between the regular forces of both opposing armies. It has been called a massacre or an incident, but in reality, it is the "Battle of Tuckerton."

The summer of 1778 saw a shift in the British plan to win the American Revolution. Sir Henry Clinton, following his defeat at Monmouth courthouse, had his main army located in New York City. A French army and naval force was sailing toward New England to support the colonies. Privateers along the Jersey coast attacked any merchant ships head-

ing for New York. General Clinton decided it was time to strike at the Jersey Shore. In September, British forces gathered in New York harbor. An armada of 12 ships carried 300 Redcoats, along with 100 New Jersey Loyalists. It was a combined army-navy operation. Commander Henry Collins commanded the fleet; the army was led by Captain Patrick Ferguson.

This was no minor operation. To distract the Americans, Clinton planned a raid across the Hudson into North Jersey. He explained, "my Move into Jersey was partly to favour an Expedition sent to Egg Harbour..." The base

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THE ARTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEAN BUSINESS

Recent economic impact studies conducted in New Jersey reveal that the non-profit arts and historic preservation industries generate over \$1 billion in economic activity annually. Separate studies commissioned by the Task Force on New Jersey History, in conjunction with the Center for Urban Policy at Rutgers, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, in partnership with ArtPRIDE New Jersey Foundation, concluded that this economic activity has a significant statewide impact.

Nonprofit arts and historic preservation, unlike most industries, leverage significant amounts of event-related spending by their audiences. For example, participants and audiences at arts events and museums generate ancillary income for hotels/motels, restaurants, and transportation carriers. National data collected from attendees at a variety of events, reveal that on an average, each person spends nearly \$23 per event, not including the cost of admission.

In its report, *The Role of the Arts in Economic*

Development, The National Governors Association noted, "Cultural activities attract tourists and spur the creation of adjunct facilities such as restaurants, hotels, and the services needed to support them. Cultural facilities and events enhance property values, tax resources, and overall profitability for communities."

It is estimated that the arts and historic preservation generate thousands of full-time jobs including those created from the impact of ancillary spending by visitors (tourists) to non-profit cultural events and sites. As a result, the arts and historic preservation have been identified as producing millions of dollars in state tax revenues (income, and sales). This does not include the tax revenues generated by cultural tourism.

These studies illustrate that the arts and historic preservation mean more than enhancing the "quality of life." They mean business. Nonprofit cultural organizations in New Jersey support thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars in state revenue.

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You Are Invited:

OCEAN COUNTY CULTURAL SUMMIT II
Saturday, April 12, 2003
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Ocean County College,
Toms River Campus

RSVP: 732-929-4779
or
culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us

Frontline Administrator: The Cultural Funding Crisis . . .

The state's cultural organizations have been waging an intense battle for the past 2 1/2 months. Since February 4, when the governor unveiled his fiscal year 2004 budget, hundreds of arts and history-oriented organizations throughout New Jersey have been mustering their forces in a campaign to restore state funding of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA), New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), and the New Jersey Cultural Trust (NJCT).

In his annual budget message, the governor proposed eliminating funding for all grant programs (109 in total) as well as 30 staff positions (19 NJSCA, 7 NJHC, and 4 NJCT). The effect of the proposal will reduce the Department of State's budget, the department in which the NJSCA, NJHC, and NJCT operate, by 86 percent (a \$42 million cut). Not only will the state cultural grant programs be eliminated, but also more than \$3 million in federal matching grants.

The winter 2003 issue of *Ocean Arts & Heritage* included an article titled, "Funding Local Arts & Heritage" which reported that 34 local cultural organizations benefit directly from the NJSCA and NJHC funding programs this year. This amounts to \$321,230 in state funding awarded to support arts and history programming in Ocean County. Besides the obvious immediate financial benefit, organizations frequently leverage this assistance to generate additional support from patrons and foundations.

These locally-based groups provide Ocean County's residents and visitors with a vast array of programs and services, such as concerts (classical, choral, jazz, big band, opera, brass band, rock), exhibits (art and historical), plays, musicals, live dinner theatre, literary anthologies, lectures, workshops, classes, seminars, demonstrations, multi-cultural festivals, historical books, film fests, arts education, and poetry readings. Most of these programs have been offered at reasonable fees or ticket prices because of the state's funding awards.

For further information, read the related article in this newsletter, "The Arts and Historic Preservation Mean Business," and check out these websites:

www.artpridenj.com/

www.njreporter.org/

www.preservationnj.org/

. . . Cynthia Smith

REDCOATS

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was located near today's milepost 49 of the Garden State Parkway, called Chestnut Neck.

The British feint into North Jersey confused the patriots, but they soon realized the real British objective. Colonel Thomas Proctor's artillery regiment was ordered to leave Philadelphia and to go defend the shore. Polish Count Casimir Pulaski and his legion of cavalry and infantry was sent to the area of Little Egg Harbor. It was the job of the local Gloucester County militia to hold back the British until help arrived. Unfortunately, it didn't, and by dawn, October 7, 1778, the sky above the patriot privateer base at Chestnut Neck was filled with the smoke of a burning town. The British force, headed by Collins and Captain Patrick Ferguson, had routed the local militia and set fire to store houses and homes of what they called a "nest of rebel pirates."

News of the approach of Colonel Thomas Proctor's artillery regiment from Philadelphia convinced the British not to proceed up the Mullica River toward the second patriot base at the "Forks" or to the iron forge at Batsto.

The body of troops known as the Pulaski Legion arrived at Middle of

the Shore (Tuckerton) on October 8, 1778, too late to prevent the burning of Chestnut Neck. Its Commander was the 30-year-old Count Casimir Pulaski. Born in Padolia, Poland, he had served with his father, leading troops in an attempt to free Poland from Russian occupation. Branded a murderer and condemned to death, he moved to Turkey and enlisted in the Turkish army, then traveled to Paris and convinced Ben Franklin to support him in his request to receive a commission of General in the American army.

He arrived in Philadelphia, served with General Washington at Brandywine and was placed in charge of a patriot cavalry. Problems arose regarding authority, even telling Washington he reported only to Congress. In March 1778, Congress gave him permission to recruit an independent legion.

As military historian Fred Anderson Borg noted, "General Washington had allowed Pulaski to recruit up to a third of his infantry from German deserters, but Pulaski recruited anyone who came forward in the true 'freikorps' tradition. There were British deserters among the cavalry, much to Washington's displeasure."

One of those recruited by Pulaski was a sub-lieutenant, named Juliat, who would soon become a hero or vil-

lain, depending which side you are on. Juliat, one of the mercenaries hired by George III, arrived in America in 1776. These were the feared Hessians, but most did not even want to be in the colonies and many deserted. The record shows "that lieutenant Juliat of the Landgraf Regiment had deserted. . . . According to his own words, 'on August 6 or 7 (at Rhode Island) while [his] regiment was camped half an English mile from Providence Creek, [he] took a walk before the lines unarmed. . . [where] he was surprised and overwhelmed by five American sailors who took him away in a boat. The next day [he] was taken to Providence in a one-mast vessel and from there [he] traveled to Philadelphia on borrowed money. . . . At Philadelphia an American captain tried in vain to enlist [him] into the American service.' Later on, however, he enlisted as an infantry captain in the Legion of General Pulaski at Germantown near Philadelphia because he was pressed financially and wanted to return to his regiment as soon as possible."

Juliat maintained that he had not deserted at all. This would mean that in Pulaski's haste to raise his legion, he had given a commission to a man who was still loyal to the Hessian regiment

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REDCOATS

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and felt obliged to serve the British. Meanwhile, as reported by a British officer, word had reached the fleet that on Pulaski's march to the shore, "Count Pulaski had given it out in public orders to his legion, no longer to grant quarter to the British troops."

Captain Paul Bentalou of the Legion reported, "Pulaski formed his camp in front of the enemy, placing the infantry of the legion under the command of Lieut. Col. Baron De Bosen, at some distance on his right: the first troop of light dragoons of the legion with the militia, formed his left, under the command of the captain of the troop."

Ferguson had learned of this from Juliat who, along with four others, had rowed out to the anchored fleet and decided to land troops and deal one last blow at the patriots before returning to New York City. Collins reported, "Captain Ferguson being of the Opinion with myself, that a safe Attempt might be made to surprise them, . . . and a Detachment of two hundred and fifty Men were embarked with him in boats, under the Command of Captain Christian, of the *Vigilant*. They arrived at the Place of landing about four in the Morning, and got into their Quarters almost undiscovered."

Ferguson's report attests to the ferocity of the action saying that the patriots in the outpost ". . . are almost entirely cut to pieces. We numbered among their Dead about fifty and several Officers, among who, we learn, are a Lieutenant Colonel, a Captain and an Adjutant. It being a night Attack, little Quarter could, of course, be given, so that there are only five Prisoners;"

He reported his losses as saying, "I am enabled to inform you, that our Yesterday's Loss consists of two Men of the fifth, and one of the Provincials missing and two of the Fifth slightly wounded. Ensign Camp, of the Third Jersey Volunteers, has received a Stab through his Thigh."

But the patriot version is much different. Pulaski's report directly to

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Human Endeavor



Courtesy of O.C. Public Affairs Department

Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari (second on the left) is pictured with Jay and Linda Grunin (right) and sculptor Brian Hanlon marking the fifth anniversary of the completion of his work entitled *The Human Endeavor*, pictured in the background. The Grunins, wanting to stimulate the business and professional support of other works of art in

the county, have suggested that the Board of Chosen Freeholders foster the private sector's patronage of publicly displayed works of art through an annual recognition process. Freeholder Vicari presented the Grunins with a citation for their creative and financial support of the arts and agreed to work with county agencies to implement their suggestion. *The Human Endeavor* seeks to portray the words of poet Robert Browning: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" It was selected to depict the indomitable human spirit suffusing the social service agencies located within the facility at 1027 Hooper Avenue in Toms River and can be viewed by both motorists and pedestrians.

On The Road



L to R: Alison Amelchenko, Bay Head; Bahiyyah Abdullah, Barnegat; Duane Grembowicz, Pine Beach; Linda Reddington, Tuckerton; Barbara Rivolta, museum curator; Kevin Pace, Dover; and Linda Starzman, Point Pleasant.

Members of the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission toured the Ocean County museum following a recent regular monthly meeting held at the museum. Through May 24, the

museum is featuring "The Closed Sea: A History of Barnegat Bay." Using photographs, original paintings, and artifacts, the exhibit tells the stories of Barnegat Bay and the communities that border it. Among the paintings are John F. Peto's *Barnegat Bay Hay Scow*, his friend Franklin Dulles Briscoe's *The Wreck of the Mola* (which occurred off Chadwick Beach), and George Washington Nicholson's *Scavenging a Wreck*. Among the many other objects are decoy carvings and unique hand-made baskets that once trapped eels in the bay.