

250th Anniversary

American Revolutionary War

★ ★ OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ★ ★

2025 - Volume III





**Welcome From
Commissioner
Robert S. Arace,
*Chairman of
Ocean County Parks & Recreation***



The Ocean County Board of Commissioners is proud to help commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in what is now Ocean County. This year we commemorate the “shot heard round the world” at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.

Like most of you, my family was not in what is now Ocean County during the American Revolution. I am a lifelong resident and my family moved to Ocean County in 1998. We are all part of the Ocean County family and we can commemorate and celebrate the proud history of our county.

Ocean County is made up of a community of individuals some of whose ancestors were here before the American Revolution and would have been Patriots, Loyalists or Quakers.

All of our residents, no matter how long they have called Ocean County home, contribute to the history and the future of this wonderful place we call Ocean County.

During the American Revolution, what is now Ocean County was made up of three municipalities: Little Egg Harbor Township (1740) in Burlington County (joins Ocean County in 1891) and in Monmouth County townships of Stafford (1749) and Dover (1767). Ocean County was created in 1850 and this year we mark the 175th anniversary of that milestone.

Please join us for our annual commemoration of the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution of Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 10 AM to 4 PM at Cedar Bridge Tavern Ocean County historic site at 200 Old Halfway Road in Barnegat, NJ 08005. We plan to have soldiers recreating the skirmish at noon and two o'clock. There will be demonstrations by a blacksmith, a tavern maker, a sutler selling period clothes, wood working, wool spinning, a period style cannon, period music, crafts and games. Call 732-929-4779 for more details.

Together, we commemorate the past, engage the present and prepare for our future. We are particularly pleased at the participation of so many young people in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Robert S. Arace *November 19, 2025*
Chairman of Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission
Division of Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation





Welcome From Mary Jane Bavais, *Director of Ocean County Parks & Recreation*

Welcome to the ongoing commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in what is now Ocean County (1775-1783). For 2025, we will focus on Lexington and Concord. In the past three years, we have highlighted the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party and the First Continental Congress. Next year, we will celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Ocean County Parks & Recreation is honored to organize this commemoration under the leadership of Commissioner Robert S. Arace.

Ocean County is proud to have commemorated our county's participation in other historic conflicts such as the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War (2011-2015), the 100th anniversary of the First World War (2017-2018) the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War (2016-2020) and now the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution (2022-2033).

For each of these commemorations, we have displayed patriotic ornamentation and conducted ceremonies at the Court House, including period music and student readings from historic documents. We also planted commemorative trees, made historic resources available to schools and the general public and paused to give thanks for those who have sacrificed for our nation.

For the Semiquincentennial, we have developed a traveling exhibit in a specially designed trailer that has participated in many local parades and events. If you would like the trailer to participate in your event, please contact Joseph at rlatshaw@co.ocean.nj.us or **732-929-4779**. Education is the key to understanding the past and gives us the knowledge to create a great future.

I am particularly grateful to the Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse, New York for funding the marking of graveyards that contain Revolutionary War Patriots in Ocean County.

As a lifelong resident of Ocean County, I am proud to be the ninth director of the Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department and look forward to serving the residents of Ocean County.

Kind Regards,

Mary Jane Bavais *November 19, 2025*
Director of Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation





Welcome From The Crossroads of the American Revolution

Crossroads of the American Revolution has claimed Ocean County as a Heritage Partner for many years. Now, as the nonprofit partner in RevolutionNJ, New Jersey's official organization charged with planning and promoting our state's commemoration, we congratulate Ocean County on becoming a Proud Partner of RevolutionNJ.

In collaboration with your esteemed colleagues, we know you will make the most of this opportunity to explore New Jersey's surprisingly numerous and significant contributions to our nation's rich and complex history. We look forward to commemorating this landmark anniversary together.



Carrie Fellows, Executive Director
Email Questions: info@revolutionarynj.org



Welcome From The New Jersey Historical Commission

The New Jersey Historical Commission is delighted to join with Ocean County in commemorating the upcoming Semiquincentennial of the founding of the United States. In partnership with Crossroads of the American Revolution, the Commission leads RevolutionNJ, our multi-faceted statewide initiative marking this anniversary.

It is our privilege to work with you and all of New Jersey's residents to highlight the rich, diverse, and impactful history of the American Revolution in our state, as well as the 250 years that followed. Preserving, understanding, and enjoying our shared history is fundamental to our future as a vibrant democracy. We are so glad to be working with Ocean County in this exciting endeavor now, and in the years to come!



Sara Cureton, Executive Director



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Sponsored By: Ocean County Board of Commissioners

Robert S. Arace, *Chairman of Parks and Recreation*

John P. Kelly, Director

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Jennifer Bacchione

Virginia E. Haines

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

A Division of the Ocean County Department of Parks & Recreation

Mary Jane Bavais, *Director*

<http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/ch/>

1198 Bandon Road

Toms River, NJ 08753

Ph. (732) 929-4779

Fax (732) 288-7871

TTY: (732) 506-5062

Email: culturalheritage@co.ocean.nj.us

Publisher: Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Contributors: Tim Hart, Samantha Stokes, Catherine McLearn, R. Joseph Latshaw, Alexandra Smith, Andria Sauchelli, Thomas Spader

Presented by the
Ocean County Board of Commissioners
Robert S. Arace, Chairman
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission



Countdown to INDEPENDENCE



Join Ocean County in commemorating the
250th anniversary of the
American Revolution!



Featuring:
Period Music
New Jersey Fife & Drums
First New Jersey Loyalist
Presentation by Toms River HS South students



WEDNESDAY
19 NOVEMBER 2025
11:00 AM

OCEAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
HISTORIC COURTROOM #1

Subject to change without notice



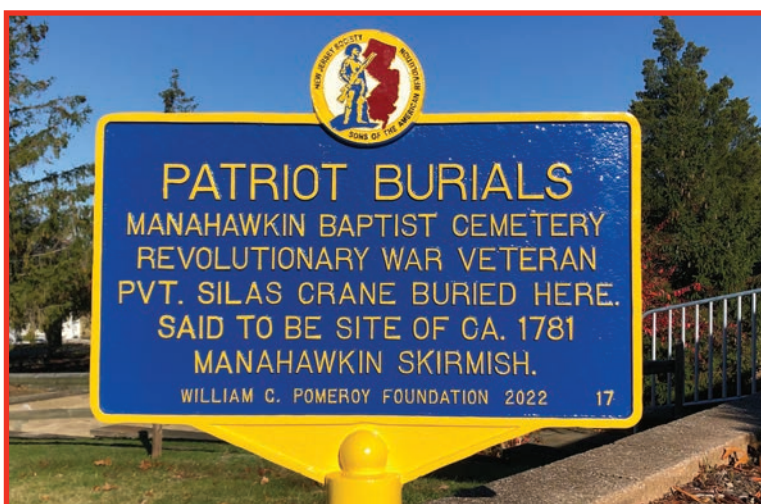
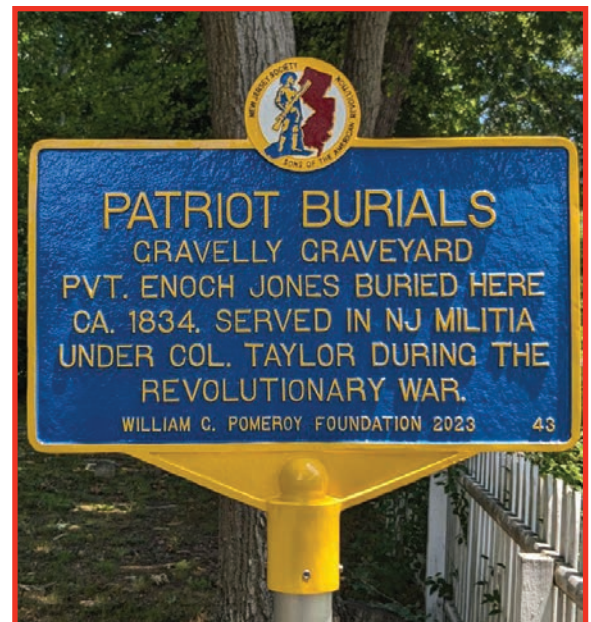
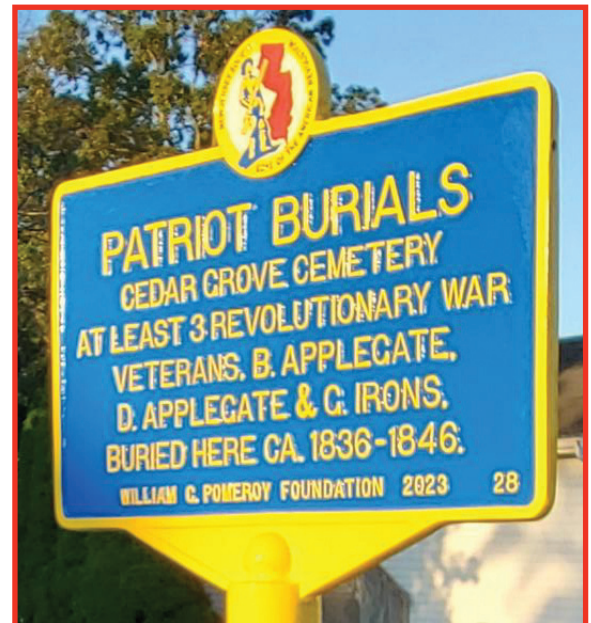
PATRIOT BURIALS IN OCEAN COUNTY

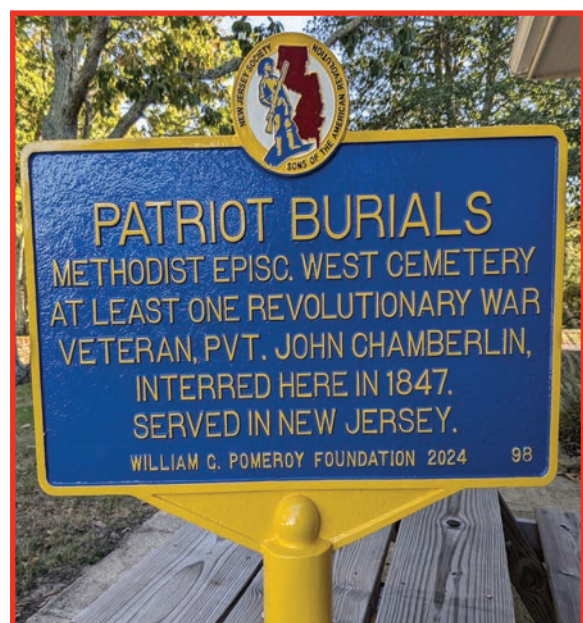
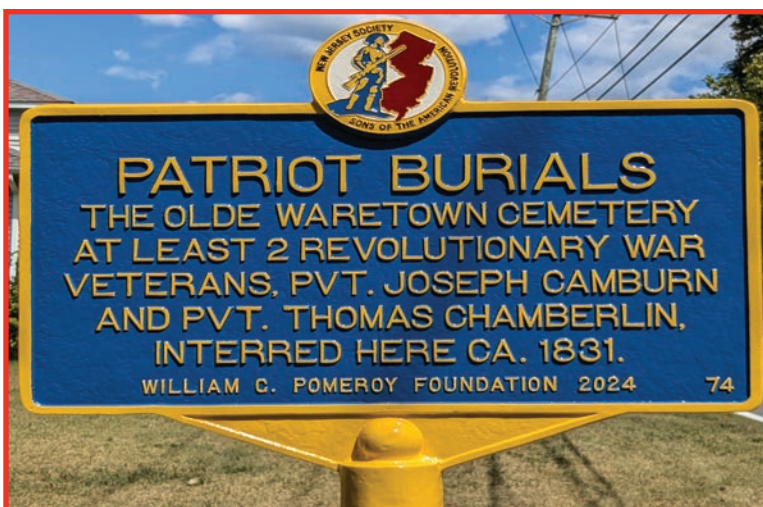
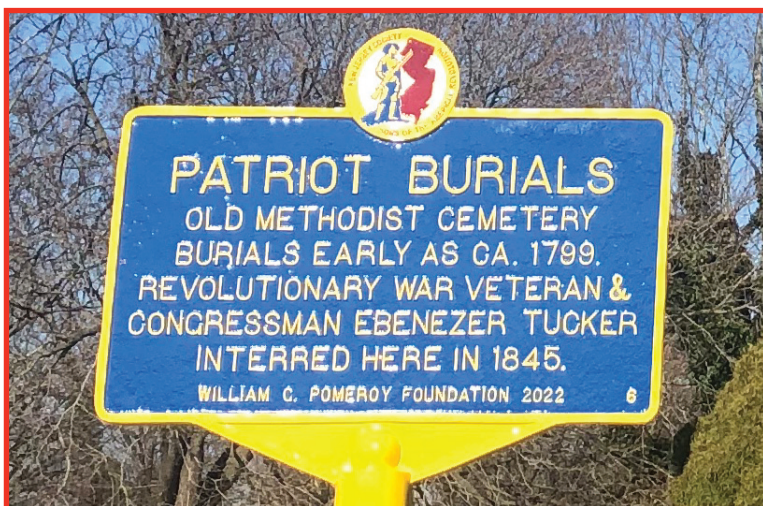
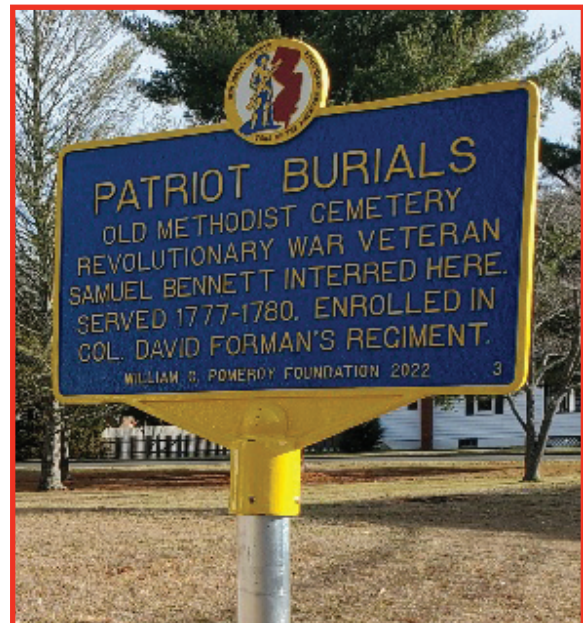
★ REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES: ★

- R1 Defense at Egg Harbor
- R2 Manahawkin Skirmish
- R3 Toms River Blockhouse
- R4 Long Beach Massacre
- R5 Affair at Cedar Bridge
- R6 Death of John Bacon



- 3) Manahawkin Old Methodist
59 Beach Ave
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
39.08153, -74.25756
- 6) Tuckerton Old Methodist
N Green St and Church St
Tuckerton, NJ 08087
39.60554, -74.34006
- 17) Manahawkin Old Baptist
120 N Main St
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
39.69878, -74.25817
- 20) Old Zion Methodist
Lakewood Rd
New Egypt, NJ 08533
40.081697, -74.490679
- 28) Cedar Grove Methodist
797 Bay Ave,
Toms River, NJ 08753
39.973126, -74.168927
- 32) Toms River Old Methodist
205 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08753
39.95208, -74.1936
- 45) Gravely Cemetery
Fairview Ave.
Brick, NJ 08724
40.061126, -74.116993
- 55) Good Luck Cemetery
57 E Haines St
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
39.85525, -74.17647
- 66) Cassville Cemetery
Cassville Rd & Rt 528,
Jackson, NJ 08527
40.1054, -74.38826
- 69) Silverton Cemetery
1919 Hooper Ave
Toms River NJ 08753
40.016888, -74.145453
- 74) Waretown Cemetery
25 Main St.
Waretown, NJ 08758
39.787135, -74.196411
- 98) Methodist Episc. West
Cemetery
2009 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
40.08385, -74.06826





War At The Shore: Neighbors In Conflict Patriots, Loyalists and Quakers

PATRIOT



Patriots made up about a third of the population of this region at the time of the American Revolution. Manahawkin, Toms River and Forked River were patriot towns in the region. People who were Baptists and Presbyterians tended to be against England.

Captain Reuben Randolph (- 1807) was a Manahawkin Patriot during the American Revolution. He led about twenty men in Company 5 of the 2nd Monmouth Militia in Stafford Township. Randolph was a prosperous Manahawkin entrepreneur. He owned a sawmill, a general store (now called the Old Stone Store), a tavern at the intersection of Old Shore Road NJ-9 and the Road to Cedar Creek Bridge (Beach Avenue) and a large farm house that is currently the Thomas Shinn Funeral Home.

The Manahawkin Militia marched about 45 miles to the Battle of Monmouth in June of 1778 but were held in reserve and never fought.

Rueben Randolph and the Manahawkin Militia were engaged in many conflicts with John Bacon and his band of Loyalists. Incidents were as petty as John Bacon and his men tying Randolph to a tree in the "Hawkin" swamp to fend for himself. Another time, two of Bacon's men attempted to steal the day's catch of fish from two of Randolph's men only for the tables to turn on them. Bacon and his men also robbed Joseph Soper, the boat builder who was once an employer of Bacon before the war. On one occasion, the Manahawkin Militia walked some eight miles to Tuckerton to confront Bacon's men at the Faulkenberg Tavern, only to have to walk the same distance back to Manahawkin in defeat. The Militia never prevailed in any battle against Bacon's Loyalists.

On December 31, 1781, the forces of Randolph and Bacon clashed between the Old Baptist Church and the Mill Creek. Bacon and his men prevailed on their path to the south, leaving Patriots Lines Pangburn dead and Sylvester Tilton seriously wounded. After the war, Tilton attempted to have revenge on Brewer, the neighbor who had wounded him.

Soper and other members of the Manahawkin Militia were victims of the Barnegat Light Massacre of October 27, 1782. Bacon and his men reportedly surprised and killed over twenty patriots unloading a prize ship near Barnegat Inlet.

War At The Shore: Neighbors In Conflict Patriots, Loyalists and Quakers

LOYALIST

Loyalists made up about a third of the population of this region at the time of the American Revolution. The town of Cedar Bridge was an example of a Loyalist community. Some were actually loyal to their King while others may have been criminals looking for a cover story. After the war, many people in the southern part of Monmouth County made a strong effort to claim how much they supported the cause of a new nation and a break from their former King George.



Captain John Bacon (– April 3, 1783) was a notorious leader of the irregular Loyalists, often called Pine Robbers, refugees, banditti and many other unflattering terms. We do not know much about Bacon's origins, but he reportedly worked as a laborer between Waretown and Manahawkin before the war. He is an example of the "bottom rung on top," a person who uses times of upheaval to elevate their status. Some debate if his title of "captain" was a royal commission or merely self-appointed. Bacon reported to New Jersey British Governor William Franklin and his Board of Associated Loyalists.

Dr. David Fowler describes Bacon as the "foremost Tory guerrilla of the seacoast and pinelands region...he far surpasses any other of them in the length of his career, the area over which he ranged...and the number of bloody incidents in which he was involved." He plied the contraband trade between Loyalist held New York City and Tuckerton and supplied charcoal and food. He was also able to return escaped British prisoners. He had several whaleboats with names such as the "Black-Joke" and "Hero's Revenge." Apparently, he lived in "caves" on nearby Jones Road. The local "Bacon's Ridge" is the name of the dramatic change in elevation on NJ Route 72.

Patriot Governor Livingston issued a reward of £50 Sterling for the capture of John Bacon dead or alive for robbing a Burlington County tax collector. Bacon and a reported 50 men were involved in the skirmish with the Burlington Militia at Cedar Creek Bridge on December 27, 1782. On January 13, 1783, the Loyalist newspaper, the New York Gazette, commended Bacon for his "victory." On April 3, 1783, Bacon was killed resisting arrest by the Burlington militia. This included Joel Cooke, whose brother died at Cedar Bridge.

Bacon appeared to have been a Quaker who was "written out" because of his participation in the war. Bacon's in-laws were Quakers who lived in Barnegat. His wife and two sons lived near Pemberton. He defeated elements of the Burlington, Gloucester and Monmouth militias.

War At The Shore: Neighbors In Conflict Patriots, Loyalists and Quakers

QUAKER



Quakers made up about a third of the population of this region at the time of the American Revolution. Both the towns of Barnegat and Tuckerton had large Quaker populations and meetinghouses (1767/1709). As a matter of faith and practice, the Quakers did not engage in violence. Those members who did participate with one side or the other (most chose to be Loyalists like John Bacon) would be “read out” of the meetinghouse. The Quakers were often successful business people and profited by being the intermediaries between the warring Patriots and Loyalists. After the war, New Jersey passed laws that penalized the Quakers for profiting from the conflict. Quakers generally leaned against the Patriots in part because Catholic France supported the revolution.

The Society of Friends emerged in England around 1650 with leaders such as George Fox. William Penn established Pennsylvania as a Quaker colony. William Fox and other Quakers purchased West Jersey and later large portions of East Jersey.

Captain George Mapps or Mapes (c. 1763 - March 6, 1838) was an African-American Quaker and a ship's captain during the American Revolution. He moved from the area of the Mullica River to Tuckerton. He was said to have transported munitions during the Revolutionary War but refused to transport arms in the War of 1812 on religious grounds of non-violence. Among the first persons of color to participate in an American integrated religious community, Captain Mapps belonged to the Society of Friends Meetinghouse at Little Egg Harbor. Mapps later lived near and witnessed the closing of Cranberry Inlet at Toms River in 1812.

Pauline S. Miller Chronology of Events in Ocean County during the American Revolution

Taken in part from the *Battles & Skirmishes of the American Revolution in New Jersey* prepared by the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1973.

Pauline S. Miller was the Distinguished Ocean County Historian until her passing in 2011. She was the chair and then director of the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from 1983-2001.

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission is in the process of gathering events, dates and locations to create the most comprehensive list possible of incidents between 1775 and 1783 in what is now Ocean County. Any such effort is by nature imperfect. Please point out omissions and inaccuracies for corrections in the next publication.

Year	Date	Location	Description
1776			
	Jun	Lower tip of Long Beach Island	June 10, 1776, privateers <i>Congress</i> and <i>Chance</i> reported at Egg Harbor with three captured ships, <i>Lady Julianna</i> , <i>Juno</i> and <i>Reynolds</i> . Date of Capture not given
	5-Jul	Naval Battles - Egg Harbor	Privateers <i>Congress</i> and <i>Chance</i> take <i>Tamarea</i> .
	15-Jul	Naval Battles - Squan Beach	Howe fleet bombards Jersey coast.
1777			
	1-Apr	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	British frigate <i>Tartar</i> destroys American vessel off coast.
	2-Jun	Egg Harbor Bay	Capt. Roberts Snell's company of Egg Harbor Guards surprise a party of Tories.
	29-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Schooner sails from Egg Harbor. Two seamen seize and take her to New York.
	Nov	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Privateers capture boatload of oysters and take to Egg Harbor
	10-Dec	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Armed sloop <i>Two Friends</i> beaches on Long Beach Island near Barnegat.
	25-Dec	Skirmishes - Toms River	Col. John Morris (Tory) threatens Toms River but inflicts little damage.
	31-Dec	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	N.J. militia takes schooner <i>Little Hope</i> above Point-no-Point.
1778			
	12-Jan	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Privateer brig <i>Active</i> has engagement with Frigate <i>Mermaid</i> .
	Mar	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Privateer takes brig off Egg harbor.
	1-Apr	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	British schooner <i>Diamond</i> captures prize and crew in Shark River district.
	5-Apr	Skirmishes - Toms River	British capture Maj. William Ellis during skirmish.
	22-May	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Captain Anderson takes British ship with sixteen men off Toms River.
	15-Jun	Barnegat Inlet	Three American galleys from New London arrive with several captured vessels.
	14-Jul	Egg Harbor (14 British Ship Destroyed)	Privateers take British transports off Egg Harbor bound from Philadelphia to New York.
	31-Jul	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Ship runs aground at Shrewsbury. Militia strips her despite being bombarded by British frigate

	6-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Ship Love & Unity (Am.) runs aground off Toms River.
	7-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	A ship of Count Charles d'Estaing's fleet captures crew of the Mermaid
	20-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	British Tryon sinks rebel Glory of America off Egg Harbor.
	28-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Engagement occurs between sloop Susannah and man-of-war tender Emerald. Emerald heavily damaged but escapes.
	5-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	Americans capture and destroy British ship.
	19-Sep	Skirmishes - Toms River	British ship retakes captured vessel off Cranberry Inlet.
	20-Sep	Barnegat Inlet	Naval engagement occurs in Toms River inlet.
	29-Sep	Little Egg Harbor	Privateer retakes sloop with tobacco and brings her to Egg Harbor.
	29-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	
	Oct	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	British capture four French ships.
	15-Oct	Osborne Island	Count Casimir Pulaski's legion "massacred" near Tuckerton.
	25-Nov	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet	American privateer captures schooner.
	9-Dec	Long Beach Island	British armed vessel runs aground near Barnegat and local militia captures crew.

1779

	Feb	Lower Part of Island	Tory John Bacon attacks guards on ship that had beached.
	Feb	Naval Battles – Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
	1-Mar	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
	3-Mar	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
	22-Mar	Lower part of Long Beach Island	British Frigate Delaware takes scow Molly 25 leagues to the north of Cape Charlie Prize crew escapes when Molly hits the beach. Horner says crew taken and cargo brought in.

	22-Mar	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
	24-Mar	Long Beach Island	Sloop Success comes ashore. Had been taken previously by the brig Diligence. Monmouth County militia takes cargo, sends crew to Princeton.
	7-May	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Diligent takes privateer off Egg Harbor.
	15-May	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Privateers and enemy pilot boats have engagement off coast.
	Jun	Lower Part of Island	Americans take British True Blue.
	5-Jun	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Brig Daphne captures American frigate Oliver Cromwell twenty leagues off Sandy Hook.
	7-Jun	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	American brig Monmouth retakes schooner off Egg Harbor.
	23-Jun	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Americans take frigate Delaware off Jersey coast. 476-477.
	28-Jun	Off Barnegat	
	6-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Americans capture brig and send it to Egg Harbor.
	14-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Small gun boat (Am.) rowing ten oars captures a fishing boat.
	18-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Schooner Mars takes the snow Falmouth and 45 prisoners. British retake prize same day.
	21-Aug	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	British frigate retakes another packet captured by Mars.
	2-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
	10-Sep	Skirmishes Little Egg Harbor	Several armed boats (Br.) destroy a number of vessels and other property in Egg Harbor.
	20-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	American privateer Pickering takes British armed sloop.

	27-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	American ship takes British transport.
	29-Sep	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	American sloop Revenge and British Vengeance engage near Sandy Hook.
	1-Oct	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	American ship takes prize off coast with 214 Hessians on board.
	14-Oct	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Americans capture and strip British ship, then lose it to the British.
	1-Nov	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Americans take British ship and send it to Egg Harbor.
	1-Dec	Naval Battles - Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	
1780			
	Jan	Naval Battles – Cranberry Inlet and Squan Beach	Americans drive 40-gun British ship ashore near Egg Harbor.
	12-Jan	Barnegat Inlet East of Egg Harbor(3 British ships wrecked)	
	18-Mar	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Capt. William Marriner (Am.) of New Brunswick has two engagements off coast and takes prizes to Egg Harbor.
	20-Apr	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Capt. William Marriner (Am.) on previously captured Blacksnake engages and captures schooner Morning Star.
	14-May	Skirmishes – Toms River	Armed Refugees at Toms River surprise Maj. John VanEmbarg (Am.) with eight or nine others.
	20-May	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	American brig Holker captures ship and sends into the Delaware.
	10-Jun	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	British and French ships engage off Jersey coast.
	15-Jun	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	American cruisers nearly tear large British ship to pieces.
	12-Aug	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	

	13-Aug	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	
	16-Aug	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Privateers Holker, Fair American and New England take British packet.
	2-Sep	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet (Two battles)	
	8-Oct	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	
	14-Oct	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	
	1-Dec	Barnegat Inlet East of Egg Harbor	Action occurs between two whaleboats inside Cranberry Inlet. John Bacon (Br.) kills Lt. Joshua Studson (Am.) during encounter.
	20-Dec	Skirmishes - Toms River	
1781			
	10-Jan	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	British take several prizes.
	17-Jan	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Brig Fame (Am.) takes privateer schooner Cock (Br.)
	20-Feb	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	
	26-Jul	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Americans take sloop off Long Beach.
	12-Aug	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Privateer brig Venus (Am.) surrenders after two hour battle with ship Swallow (Br.).
	16-Aug	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	Four privateers attack HMS Swallow off the Jersey coast.
	22-Aug	Naval Battles - Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	
	10-Oct	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	

	12-Oct	Naval Battles – Squan Beach & Cranberry Inlet	British take American prize.
	31-Dec	Skirmish - Manahawkin	Militia and Refugees under John Bacon clash. Lines Pangborn (Am.) killed during action.
1782			
	24-Mar	Skirmishes - Toms River	Refugees capture Capt. Joshua Huddy in surprise raid.
	1-Jun	Forked River	Refugees destroy Samuel Brown's salt works.
	1-Jun	Barnegat	Tory raid at FORKED RIVER results in a skirmish.
	23-Aug	Skirmishes - Toms River	Loyalists attack Blockhouse.
	1-Sep	Little Egg Harbor	Captain Douglass of the Gloucester County militia attacks Refugee boat in Egg Harbor. Fourteen Refugees are shot or drowned.
	26-Oct	Long Beach Island	Americans take beached British ship, but are killed the same night in a raid led by the Tory, John Bacon.
	27-Dec	Cedar Creek	Loyalists defeat New Jersey troops in possibly the last land action of the war. Pvt. William Cooke Jr. dies during skirmish.
1783			
	3-Mar	Naval Battle – Squan Beach and Cranberry Inlet	
	3-Apr	Skirmish - Tuckerton	



Attack at Toms River.

Painting Credit: Winifred “Wini” Smart Quackenbush. Oil on canvas.



RevolutionNJ

1776 ★ 2026 | ENGAGE THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

How Will Your Municipality Commemorate the 250th?

The 250th Anniversary of the United States is coming in 2026! This once-in-a-generation opportunity allows New Jerseyans across the State to create a lasting legacy. We are asking counties and municipalities to join us in commemorating the 250th by facilitating new partnerships, programs and events that will engage local businesses, non-profits, artists, scholars, schools, universities and colleges, libraries, civic organizations, historic sites, community members and visitors from all over.

Pass a resolution to become an official RevolutionNJ Community. Once passed, let us know by filling out the following form <https://bit.ly/revnjcommunity> so we can feature you on our growing list of RevolutionNJ Communities. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@revnj.org!

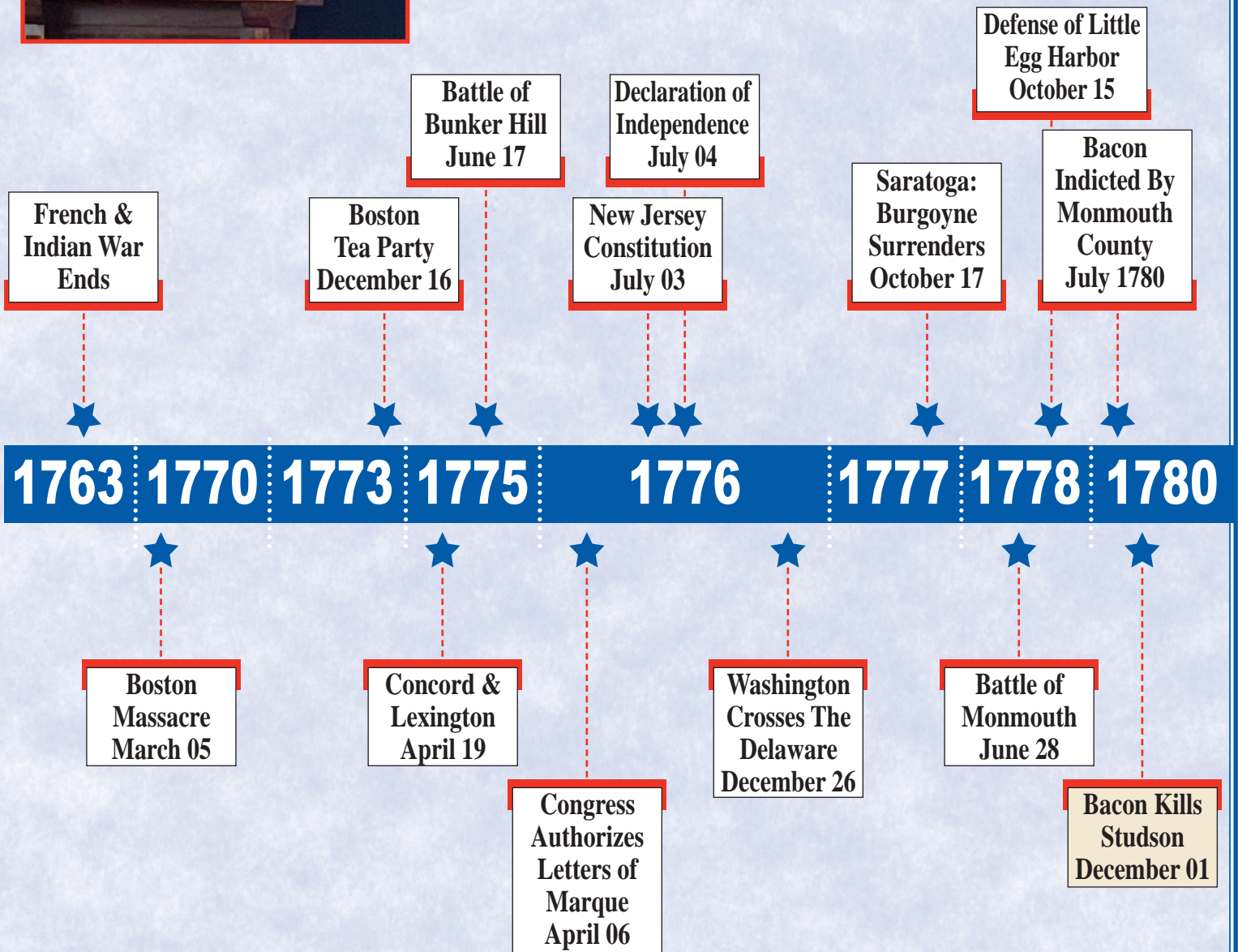


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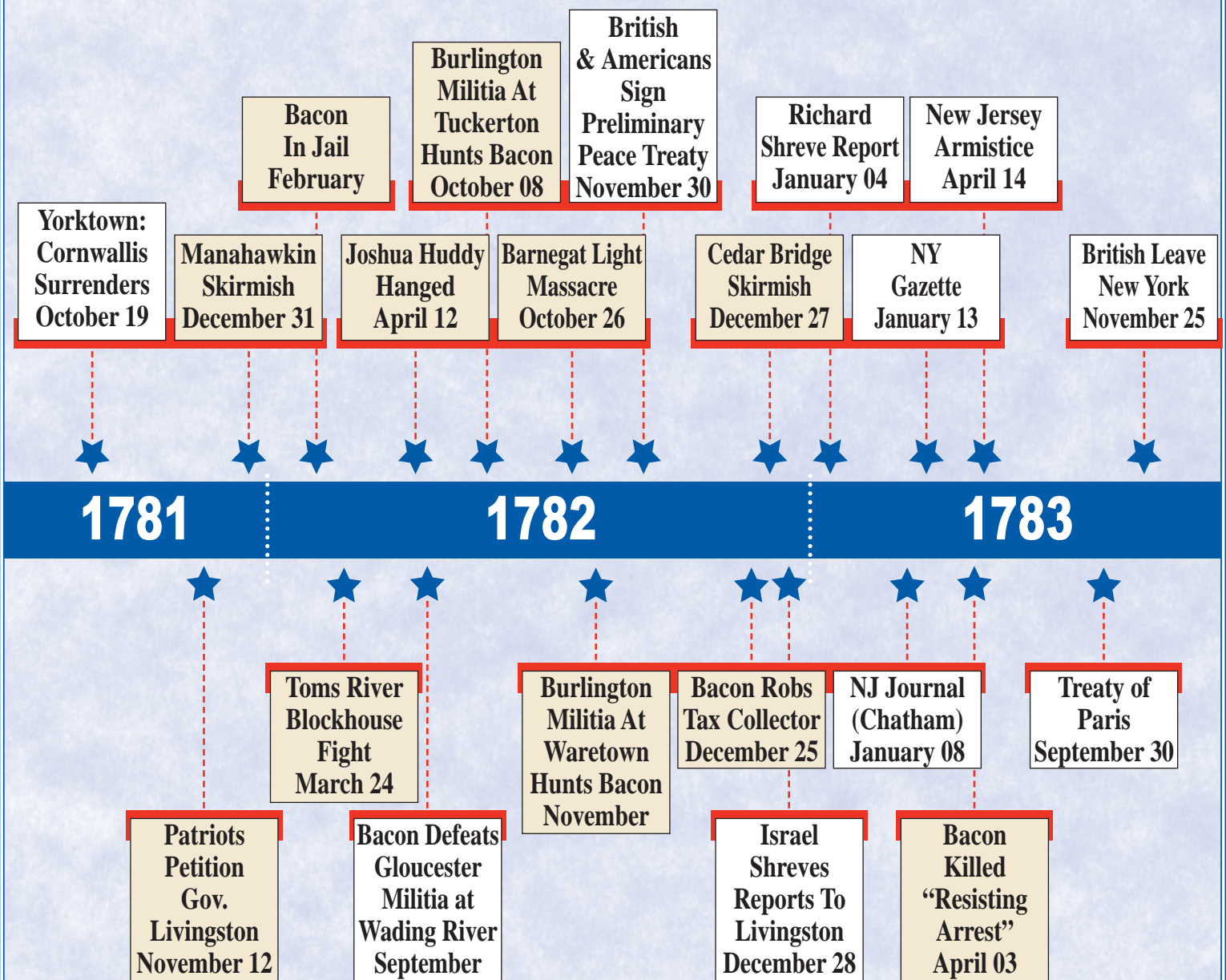
Ned Blackhawk, Ph.D.

Howard R. Lamar Professor of History and
American Studies, Yale University

Author, *Rediscovery of America* 2023.



OF OCEAN COUNTY



OCEAN COUNTY 250TH TRAVELING EXHIBIT



HAVE TRAILER - WILL TRAVEL!

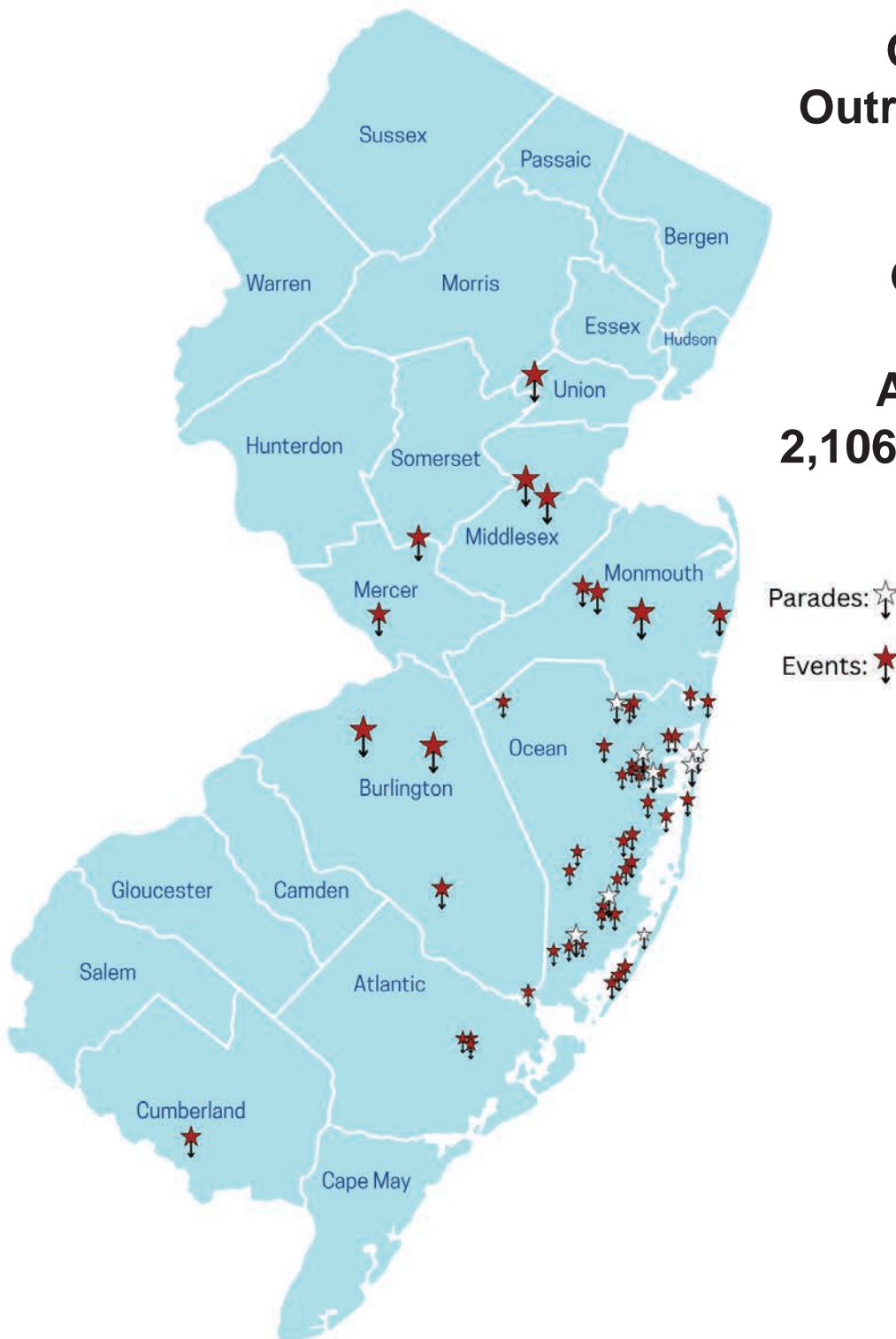
OCEAN COUNTY 250TH TRAVELING EXHIBIT



Ocean County Outreach Trailer/Table

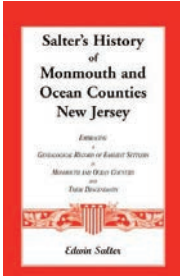
Goal: By 2033

**All 21 Counties
2,106,000 Engagements**



	2022	2023	2024	Total to date
Events participated	35	47	66	148
Parades participated	5	6	7	18
Direct engage Adults	4,560	13,466	21,523	39,549
Direct engage Children	2,718	7,434	6,115	16,268
Total Engagement	95,543	214,618	192,121	502,282

RECOMMENDED READING



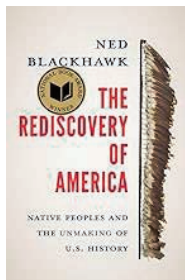
Salter, Edwin. *A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties*. Bayonne, NJ : E. Gardner & Sons, Publishers, 1890.

One of the standard historical and genealogical works on Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Contains such miscellany as a list of officers and soldiers from old Monmouth who served in the Revolutionary War. 80-page Genealogical Record section (alphabetical order by family name) of the first settlers of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Edwin Salter was a well-regarded man of his time, a member of the New Jersey state legislature and a Speaker of the House. He was appointed to a position in the U.S. Treasury Department where he served for five years. His years in D.C. were spent researching this book at the National Archives.



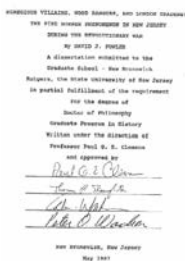
Farner, Thomas P. *New Jersey in History: Fighting To Be Heard*. Harvey Cedars, NJ: Down the Shore Publishing, 1996.

Here is New Jersey's surprising and often tumultuous history. Book includes key articles on Cedar Bridge, Barnegat Light Massacre and John Bacon from a contemporary journalist perspective. Book has been credited as starting the process that saved and restored the Cedar Bridge Tavern."



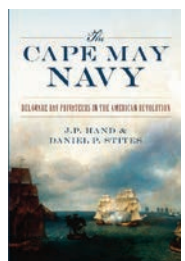
Blackhawk, Ned. *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2023.

In *The Rediscovery of America*, Western Shoshone historian Ned Blackhawk pursues a narrative to place Indigenous People at the center of United States history. Blackhawk asks how the history of "the world's most exemplary democracy" can be rooted in the dispossession of Indigenous People? And, how have historians ignored the centrality of Indigenous People in U.S. history? In order to tell a new history of the United States, Blackhawk rejects narratives of discovery and emphasizes a long history of Native-newcomer encounters in North America as well as Indigenous agency and mobility.



Fowler, David J. *"Egregious Villains, Wood Rangers, and London Traders: The Pine Robber Phenomenon In New Jersey During The Revolutionary War."* Doctoral thesis, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 1987.

This dissertation describes and analyzes the proliferation of civil violence and guerrilla warfare during the Revolutionary war in the New Jersey Pine Barrens and contiguous coastal areas. In the colonial period the sub region was a politically, economically, and culturally marginal wilderness that nonetheless was not characterized by criminality or violence. Upon the outbreak of war, however, the forest was employed for one of the ancient uses of such "waste" places when it became a refuge and a base of operations for Loyalist irregulars and others of more questionable motivation. One of these individuals was John Bacon who was active in present day Ocean County and is examined in Chapter 8 "The Infernal Gang"; John Bacon.



Hand, J.P., Stites, Daniel P. *The Cape May Navy: Delaware Bays Privateers in the American Revolution*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2018.

The Delaware Bay during the Revolutionary War was vital for trade and home to a host of armed conflicts between British vessels and American privateers. Cape May County captains in their light, fast vessels captured dozens of British merchant ships off the Atlantic coast. At the Battle of Delaware Bay, Lieutenant Joshua Barney aboard the Hyder Ally overcame massive odds and defeated the British warship General Monk. Colonel Elijah Hand, local hero of the skirmish at Quinton's Bridge, took his military talents to the seas, where he duelled with Tory privateers. Still in his twenties, Yelverton Taylor captured the Triton with hundreds of Hessian soldiers on board. Authors James P. Hand and Daniel P. Stites chart the exciting history of the Cape May Navy in the War for Independence.

DEFENSE OF EGG HARBOR - October 15, 1778



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*Lieutenant
St. Elmo*

Oil on Canvas
2010

The largest military engagement of the American Revolution in Ocean County. More patriots died from battle wounds at Egg Harbor than at Trenton. Count Casimir Pulaski's Legion prevented British Capt. Patrick Ferguson's force of 250 from carrying out a plan to attack Batsto Iron Works and stop supply shipments to General George Washington's army. The British butchered patriots before retreating and finally abandoning their efforts to remove the nest of rebel pirates.

MANAHAWKIN SKIRMISH - December 31, 1781



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*Manahawkin
Skirmish*

Oil on Canvas
2010

Less than three months after the British surrender at Yorktown, a band of pine robbers led by notorious Capt. John Bacon passed through Manahawkin in the dark hours of the night. Capt. Reuben Randolph's Company 5, 2nd Monmouth Militia fired upon them. The sentries posted at the Baptist Church are said to have dozed off. The militia was half the size of Bacon's gang, forcing a retreat. Capt. Randolph signed a petition (Nov. 12, 1781) to New Jersey Governor Livingston for protection "from the ravages" committed by these loyalist "creatures." Patriot Lines Pangburn was killed and Patriot Sylvester Tilton was seriously wounded.

TOMS RIVER BLOCK HOUSE - March 24, 1782



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*Toms River
Block House*

Oil on Canvas
2010

Approximately 200 red coats and local loyalists attacked the privateer base and salt works at Toms River. The Blockhouse force of just 25 fought back as loyalists burned the village to the ground, except for 2 loyalist homes. Patriot leader Capt. Joshua Huddy was among those captured and later hanged without a trial to avenge a loyalist death. Huddy's execution stalled the Paris Peace Treaty negotiations and is known as the Asgill Affair.

LONG BEACH MASSACRE - October 1782



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*Barnegat
Light
Massacre*

Oil on Canvas
2009

Patriot Privateer Capt. Andrew Steelman and 24 crewmen seized cargo from a sailing vessel that ran aground. Notified of their position by a loyalist spy, John Bacon's troop ambushed the sleeping crew that night, killing 21 and seizing the cargo. Governor Livingston later issued a warrant for "Bloody John Bacon" to be "captured dead or alive" for his "many atrocious and murderous acts along the shores."

AFFAIR AT CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE -

December 27, 1782



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*Last
Documented
Land
Engagement*

Oil on Canvas
2009

The last documented land engagement of the American Revolution. After searching several days for John Bacon, the Burlington Militia stopped at Cedar Bridge Tavern. Notified of the militia's position Bacon led a surprise attack and blocked their escape. A party of local townspeople came to his aid and allowed the wounded Bacon to escape. Patriot William Cook and loyalist Ichabod Johnson and John Reckless were killed. Others on both sides were injured."

DEATH OF JOHN BACON -

April 03, 1783



Louis S.
Glanzman
(1922 - 2013)

*John Bacon at
Rose's Tavern*

Oil on Canvas
2010

Likely the last recorded casualty of the American Revolution. Militiamen caught up with John Bacon at Rose's Tavern (near Tuckerton.) Bacon attempted to evade capture but, wounded and outnumbered, surrendered. Regardless, Joel Cook, the brother of the William Cook killed at Cedar Bridge, bayoneted Bacon in the back "many times." Patriots then attempted to bury Bacon under the crossroad at Arney's Mount to prevent his soul from resting for all eternity.

New Jersey - Divided Loyalties: The American Revolution in Southern New Jersey



Map of New Jersey published in 1776.
Library of Congress

Recipient: County of Ocean, New Jersey

Amount: \$148,864.00

In the saltwater ports and evergreen pinelands of southeast New Jersey, the American Revolution wasn't fought between large armies. British Loyalists and Patriot sympathizers—neighbors before the war—killed and harassed one another for seven years in a series of skirmishes that lasted until war's end in 1783. In the area of vast natural resources now known as Ocean County, residents' loyalties split on mostly economic grounds. Loosely organized gangs and irregular troops of Loyalists known as "pine robbers" engaged in guerrilla warfare from the densely forested and swampy pinelands. Patriot merchantmen formed bands of what British General Sir Henry Clinton called "rebel pirates," raiding supply bases and disrupting the flow of badly needed wood, iron, and munitions to the British forces holding New York City. Personal and brutally intimate compared to the largely anonymous combat of battlefield formations, the majority of the fighting in Ocean County occurred after 1781 Battle of Yorktown, when British and American armies became locked in strategic stalemate until the 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the war.

With support from a 2022 Preservation Planning Grant awarded by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the County of Ocean will establish a driving trail exploring the history of the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey at seven sites of armed conflict. Waysides, together with documentary videos hosted on the County's website, will share lesser-known stories of the irregular warfare and divided loyalties that tore through New Jersey during our nation's fight for independence.

[Preservation Planning Grants](#) are the [American Battlefield Protection Program's](#) broadest and most inclusive grant program, promoting the stewardship of battlefields and sites of armed conflict on American soil. In addition, the program administers three other grants: [Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants](#), the newly authorized [Battlefield Restoration](#) and [Battlefield Interpretation](#) grant programs. This financial assistance generates community-driven stewardship of historic resources at the state, tribal and local levels.



The Affair at CEDAR BRIDGE

Sunday December 7, 2025

10am - 4pm

Snow Date: January 4, 2026

200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, New Jersey



Lenapehoking

Before European contact, the lands surrounding Cedar Bridge Tavern were home to a succession of Indigenous peoples. The migration of these people along the Cedar Bridge historic travel route is confirmed by the archeological evidence of “fire-cracked” rock by the bank of the north branch of the Wading River.

The people that the Europeans encountered have been identified by several names. The British referred to them as the Delaware, named after a governor of Jamestown. The people were traditionally known as the Lenni-Lenape, literally “men of men” and translated as “Original People.” Academics generally use the term Lenape. Their surviving descendants refer to themselves as the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation. Present day Ocean County contains some of the richest Native American archeological sites in New Jersey.

Further information is provided by the Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project at LRProject.org.

At the time of the American Revolution, Lenape and free African Americans often associated and formed families. William and Amos Cuffee of Manahawkin volunteered for the Patriot cause. Their mother was Lenape and their father was African American. The names of the Cuffee brothers’ parents are unknown, but each of the two sons ethnically identified themselves differently—one based on their mother’s lineage and the other based on their father’s.

Winifred “Wini” Smart Quackenbush

The British Empire strictly regulated the production and distribution of salt, a basic and indispensable product for the preservation of food and the production of gun powder.

For economic power reasons, the British imported salt from Liverpool in England. This process is documented in the book *Salt: A World History* (2002) by Mark Kurlansky.

As part of the move to independence, a large number of salt works were developed along the New Jersey Shore. In particular, the area that is now Ocean County developed some of the most important salt works.

The British and their loyalist associates raided and destroyed many of these salt works numerous times during the Revolutionary war. The patriots rebuilt and the process repeated itself.

Please consult the monograph on the topic: *The Revolutionary Saltworks of the New Jersey Coast*, Harry B. Weiss and Grace M. Weiss, 1959.



Old Revolutionary War Cannon – Mounted by Toms River Camera Club 1908

The Toms River Court House cannon is said to have been found in the Toms River and is a relic of the 1782 Toms River Block House battle. The cannon is currently under restoration.



The Carcass

This artifact was discovered by a science field trip outside the Island Beach State Park over 30 years ago.

Preliminary investigations suggest that it is a military weapon that would be covered in flammable liquid and perhaps contain iron fragments and gun powder. The purpose of the item was to be set on fire and launched between ships at war intending to set fire to the enemy sails and rigging. Our carcass could date from the late 18th century or early 19th century.



Whale boat capturing a merchant ship off Ocean County during the American Revolution

This vivid painting depicts a scene by the Patriot privateers during the Revolution. The painting is the property of the Ocean County Historical Society.

By Ocean County artist Francis J. McGinley (1928-2017), a well know Ocean County artist who was awarded the 2013 Lifetime Achievement in Ocean County Arts.





Cedar Bridge Tavern Historic Site



Visit us at 200 Old Halfway Road, Barnegat, NJ

Open: 9 AM – 4 PM on Thursday, Friday, Monday 10 AM – 4 PM on Saturday & Sunday

Cedar Bridge Tavern is purported to be the site of the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution. The tavern is a fully restored museum and the site encompasses 291 acres with a 3.5 mile walking trail and public programming held throughout the year including an annual commemoration of the Affair at Cedar Bridge held each December. The existing tavern building dates back to c.1816 and is among the oldest standing bars in New Jersey. Cedar Bridge Tavern is a gateway to learn about the post-industrial forests of the New Jersey Pine Barrens and 19th century farmsteads, taverns, consumerism, entertainment and foodways in the region.



Annual Commemoration of the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution held on the first Sunday in December.



Programs, tours (schools, scouts, clubs, groups, service organizations), exhibits, history presentations, guided historic nature walks, 3.5 mile trail, archery, scout project opportunities, scout programs

Limited Bus Fund to pay for transportation to programs.

Contact us at (732) 929-4769 or cmclearen@co.ocean.nj.us

Check the Ocean County Parks & Recreation newsletter for upcoming programs and the Cedar Bridge Tavern at www.oceancountyparks.org



Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” . . .

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

- Last sentence of the document



Doolittle, Amos (1754-1832) Engraver
 Earl, Ralph (1751-1801) painter
 “The Battle of Lexington - April 19, 1775”

Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Concord Hymn” (1837)

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
 Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled,
 Here once the embattled farmers stood,
 And fired [the?] shot heard round the world

The foe long since in silence slept;
 Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
 And Time the ruined bridge has swept;
 Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
 We set today a votive stone;
 That memory may their deed redeem,
 When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare,
 To die, and leave their children free,
 Bid Time and Nature gently spare
 The shaft we raise to them and thee.

Paul Revere's Ride

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1861)

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch
Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light,—
One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war:
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon, like a prison-bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street
Wanders and watches with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed to the tower of the church,
Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Paul Revere's Ride

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1861)

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay,—
A line of black, that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride,
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then impetuous stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry-tower of the old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height,
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village-street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed that flies fearless and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders, that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

Paul Revere's Ride

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1861)

It was twelve by the village clock
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river-fog,
That rises when the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard-wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,—
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

DAN SOPER LIBERTY BELL

Daniel Soper (1933-2014), descendant of Revolutionary War Patriots, crafted this yoke and frame as an ode to the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Mr. Soper, of Manahawkin, was a professional cabinet maker and woodworker. He completed this project around 1994 with physical limitations as a result of a stroke. **Thomas J. Guinta (1921-2011)**, a descendant of Italian-American immigrants, repurposed the carriage and wheels. The bell came from Tuckerton, allegedly salvaged from a shipwreck off Long Beach Island.

Dan Soper was descended from American Revolutionary War Patriots who served in the Manahawkin Militia (Company 5, 2nd Monmouth). The Soper family fought in most of the local conflicts against Loyalist John Bacon and his gang. In fact, prior to the Revolution, the boatbuilding Soper family employed John Bacon at Soper's landing. Bacon became the area's most notorious Pine Robber and repeatedly harassed the Soper family.

The bell is on loan from the collection of the Stafford Township Historical Society.



