



# Tuckerton's Revolutionary War Patriots Honored

By: Catherine McLearn

**I**n May, the Colonel Richard Somers Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) held a Patriot grave marking ceremony to honor Reuben (1720-1810) and Ebenezer Tucker (1757-1845). The event was held at the Old Methodist Cemetery in Tuckerton where the father and son Revolutionary War veterans are laid to rest. This was the first in a series of events to be held in Ocean County to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the circumstances that led up to it. Future events hosted by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from 2021-2033 will be posted in Out & About and the Parks & Recreation newsletter.



State SAR President Charlie Morgan delivering remarks.  
Photo Credit: C&H Staff

The grave marking was attended by the NJ State Society SAR Color Guard; Captain Joshua Huddy, Great John Mathis, and General Lafayette Chapters of the DAR; Morvan Chapter Children of the American Revolution; Boy Scout Troop 117 of Eagleswood; and Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore. Keith Tice of Shamrock and Thistle played the bagpipes and Chaplain Don Higbee of the Somers Chapter SAR gave the benedictions.

Remarks were heard from Tuckerton Mayor Sue Marshall and Ocean County Commissioner Virginia Haines paid homage to Ebenezer Tucker who once held the position of Burlington County Freeholder while residing in Little Egg Harbor (Ocean County did not yet exist). Director of Ocean County Parks & Recreation and Somers Chapter Secretary Mike Mangum spoke with reverence to the Tuckers' historical impact.

Reuben Tucker likely participated in a Tea Party around the time of the Boston Tea Party (1773). According to Ebenezer Tucker's account, local patriots boarded an English ship anchored off the Absecon Island coast "in open day, scorning all disguise, in the consciousness that they were discharging a duty which they owed their country. They [...] threw the tea overboard [...] and left [the vessel] to float ashore, where she soon went to pieces." During the Revolution, Reuben fought with the New York Militia.

Ebenezer Tucker served with General Washington at the Battle of Long Island (1776) and other engagements. In 1780, he received a Letter of Marque to operate as a privateer out of Chestnut Neck. In 1791, Ebenezer was appointed Tuckerton's first Port Surveyor by President Washington. As Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and in the House of Representatives (1824-28), Ebenezer defended Revolutionary War veterans who had still not received their full pension benefits. The following is from the Remarks of Mr. Tucker of New Jersey to the House of Representatives, 7 May 1828:

“How [...] can you escape paying this balance? [...] permit me to remind the honorable gentleman of the lowering times that tried men's souls; when the States hung upon those officers for years, in awful suspense; when the fate of this empire was suspended as it were by a brittle thread; and had it been severed as was intended by the British ministry, and their hordes of mercenary troops, and subsidized Hessians which infested your shores, your fate was inevitable sealed; and you must have again returned to Colonial bondage and degradation, while your Hancock's, your Adams's, your Franklins, your Carroll's, and your Jefferson's, with your Washington and his brave compeers, according to General Gage, were destined to the cord.

But those undaunted heroes, with Washington for their leader, though menaced with the halter, laid their sabres at the root of the tree, and with a hard stroke, and a heavy stroke, and a stroke altogether, they fell the Royal Oak, and snatched from the British lion the brightest gem of his crown.”

Congress then passed the “Act of May 15, 1828” granting full-pay by rank to the veterans.



*Commissioner Virginia E. Haines, Mayor Sue Marshall and Director Mike Mangum in front of Ebenezer Tucker's obelisk.*  
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