

ARCHIVES
OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

SECOND SERIES.

Vol. I.

1776-9221

DOCUMENTS
RELATING TO THE
REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY
OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

VOLUME I.

EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.
VOL. I. 1776-1777.

EDITED BY
WILLIAM S. STRYKER, A.M., LL.D.,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY.

TRENTON, N. J.:
THE JOHN L. MURPHY PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS.
1901.

This volume was prepared and edited by authority of the State of New Jersey, at the request of the New Jersey Historical Society, and under the direction of the following Committee of the Society:

- WILLIAM NELSON,
- GARRET D. W. VROOM,
- WILLIAM S. STRYKER,
- AUSTIN SCOTT,
- EDMUND D. HALSEY,
- FRANCIS B. LEE,
- ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

Easy Scan and Print

NOV 29 1902

PREFACE.

Without waiting for the completion of the First Series of the New Jersey Archives, it was concluded some years ago to begin the publication of a Second Series to extend through the Revolutionary period, and to include extracts from American newspapers and several volumes of unpublished manuscript material. The newspaper extracts were secured by diligent gleaning among the files in the principal libraries of the country, and with an impartial disregard of the sentiments of the papers. It is believed they will prove of most fascinating interest, for the vivid pictures they present of contemporary events, and not the less so because of the often distorted views obtained from the want of that perspective to be had only by the lapse of time.

Very considerable progress was made by the late General William S. Stryker in preparing this material for the press, and about half of the present volume was printed under his supervision, when he was compelled by ill-health to lay it aside several years ago. When his death occurred, October 29, 1900, the Committee of the New Jersey Historical Society, having charge of this department of its work, felt that it would be a fitting memorial to their beloved associate if this volume were completed and published with his name on the title page, where it most properly belongs. The Legislature of 1901 generously appropriated the funds for the purpose, and the Committee proceeded with the work. The principal

labor of seeing the volume through the press was cheerfully assumed by Mr. Francis B. Lee, a member of the Committee, whose numerous valuable and most interesting notes attest the painstaking zeal with which he has discharged this voluntary task.

The authorship of notes contributed by other members of the Committee than General Stryker is indicated by their initials.

W. N.

October 29, 1901.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS.

Burlington, December 22, 1775.

DISSENTED from the Second Battalion of the Continental Army, raised in New Jersey, commanded by Col. William Maxwell, and Captain William Falkner's company, now lying in Burlington Barrack's.—Christopher Howard, Zebediah Martin, Henry Mires, Isaac Butterworth, Samuel Ward, John Turner, William Watson, Elisha Stout, Thomas Holland, and William Biggins. This is to desire them, and all others who have absented themselves from the three companies now lying in said Barracks, to repair to said place on or before the tenth day of January, and they may depend upon forgiveness for this first offence, but on failure may depend upon the punishment inflicted by a Court Martial, according to the nature of the offence.

WILLIAM MAXWELL,¹ Colonel.

¹ William Maxwell was a native of Greenwich township, Sussex county. At a meeting of the people of that county, July 16th, 1774, he was appointed on a committee to co-operate with the other counties, and subsequently was elected a Deputy to the Provincial Congress which met at Trenton, in May, June and August, 1775.—*Minutes of Provincial Congress*, 19, 169, 184. On October 28th, 1775, the Provincial Congress recommended him for appointment as Colonel of the Western Battalion of New Jersey, and on November 7th the Continental Congress appointed him, accordingly, Colonel of the Second Battalion, First Establishment.—*Ib.*, 245; *Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary Army*, by William S. Stryker, 12, 16. The Continental Congress appointed him, October 23d, 1776, Brigadier-General, and placed under him the four battalions raised on the Second Establishment, called "Maxwell's Brigade."—*Stryker, ut supra*, 41-2. On May 11th, 1778, Maxwell's Brigade was ordered to the Susquehanna, on Sullivan's expedition. He resigned July 25th, 1780. "He commanded the Jersey line, during his entire term of service, as a general officer, and took an active part in every battle in which his brigade distinguished itself."—*Stryker, ut supra*, 64. "He served in the French War of 1755 as an officer of Provincial troops; was with Braddock when that officer was defeated, and fought under Wolfe at the taking of Quebec. He was afterwards attached to the Commissary Department, and was posted at Mackinaw, holding the rank of Colonel. As

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Vol. II.

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DOCUMENTS
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This volume was prepared and edited by authority of the State of New Jersey at the request of the New Jersey Historical Society and under the direction of the following Committee of the Society:

- WILLIAM NELSON.
- GABRIEL D. W. VROOM.
- AUSTIN SCOTT.
- FRANCIS B. LEE.
- ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

VOLUME II.

EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

VOL. II. 1778.

EDITED BY
FRANCIS B. LEE.

TRENTON, N. J.,
THE JOHN L. MURPHY PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS
1903

Easy Scan and Print

DEC 12 1904

PREFACE.

The year 1778, which this volume of newspaper extracts embraces, was one of great importance in the military annals of the State of New Jersey. The close of the campaign of 1777 found the Anglo-Hessian army in complete control of Philadelphia, with New York City also under its domination. Winter saw Washington and his troops starving in Valley Forge, and the rich agricultural counties of New Jersey, lying upon the Delaware, the Hudson and the waters tributary to New York bay, exposed to marauding, food-searching expeditions sent out by British commanders.

All that had been gained at Trenton seemed to be lost. Early summer, however, brought a change.

General Clinton evacuated Philadelphia, and dragging his army, encumbered by camp followers, across the plantation lands and wooded tracts of central New Jersey, met General Washington upon the field of Monmouth. Soon thereafter the second anniversary of the birth of the independence of the United States, celebrated by the American army at New Brunswick, gave New Jersey to the patriotic cause and turned the tide of war to the southward. Thence, until the end of the year, the military events in the State were of such purely local interest as to be of no national importance.

It is with the details of these great movements that this volume deals. One finds, in the official reports published in the Whig and Tory newspapers, various tales of the naval fight at Red Bank, not printed until 1778, and the expeditions into Salem and Burlington counties. Then, too, is told the "Story of the Kegs," immortalized by Francis Hopkinson, one of the trimvirate of Whig

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satirical poets of New Jersey, and of the midnight raids in the vicinity of Paulus Hook, now Jersey City, near Elizabethtown and on the "north shore" of Monmouth county.

The evacuation of Philadelphia and the battle of Monmouth are detailed by Washington and Clinton, and over against all stands Charles Lee, and his hitherto forgotten letter to the *New Jersey Gazette*, in which, like many another military leader caught in a sorry fix, he pleads a "suspension of judgment."

But there is much that does not relate to matters purely military. For the first time in the history of New Jersey journalism, a woman, "Belinda," contributes to Isaac Collins' newspaper. There is something familiar in the signatures and arguments of "Equal Taxer" and "A True Patriot," while other discontented citizens "advise" the legislature and "warn" those in authority. "Adolphus," in verse, tells of "The Future Glory of America" and initialed contributors pour out political and economic essays.

Among all the contributors to the *New Jersey Gazette*, from which so many extracts are taken, "Hortentius" Governor William Livingston stands pre-eminent. In satirical poetry, in essay writing, and in legislative messages, he found constant place in the columns of the *Gazette*, outranking, even, John Witherspoon, who was the friend and associate of the editor.

There is much that throws light upon the social conditions of the time. Not even war, with uncertainties of government and depreciated currency, prevented the sales of real and of personal property. Landowners and storekeepers advertised everything from mansions to patent medicines, while admiralty sales of captured vessels and their cargoes scattered luxuries throughout the State. Slaves and soldiers ran away, and farmers suggested methods of cultivation of flax and the making of molasses, sugar and spirits from Indian corn and pumpkins.

From the inquisitions found and returned in the county courts may be ascertained the names of Tories of New Jersey, whose property had been confiscated and was to be sold. That this Tory element, as late as 1778, was large is clearly shown by the list presented in the index of this volume. Many of these names are not to be found in the usual works of reference and form a striking commentary upon the continued prevalence of the doctrine that in adherence to the King, a family name, a reputation in the community, worldly goods and even life, should be sacrificed to his cause. The interest attached to such names is unquestioned.

Among the extracts are the neglected records of the naval engagements from Sandy Hook to Cape May, the eulogies of men and women whose very names have been forgotten, the loss of lottery tickets, the announcements of horse breeders, an industry once so prominent that a "nag's head, proper" is emblazoned, as a part of the crest of the great seal of the State; the strangely untrue accounts of successes met with by British arms, circulated by the *New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury*, and the sincerity of Quaker Isaac Collins, who issued the *Gazette*, and said that if he couldn't fight he could write for the cause of Independence.

The notes in this volume, unless otherwise stated, are by the Editor.

F. B. L.

ARCHIVES
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Vol. III.

DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE

REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

VOLUME III.

EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS RELATING
TO NEW JERSEY.

VOL. III. 1779.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM NELSON.

TRENTON, N. J.

The John L. Murphy Publishing Company, Printers.

1906.

This volume was prepared and edited by authority of the State of New Jersey, at the request of the New Jersey Historical Society, and under the direction of the following Committee of the Society:

WILLIAM NELSON,
GARRET D. W. VROOM,
AUSTIN SCOTT,
FRANCIS B. LEE,
ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

PREFACE.

As might be expected, the contents of this volume relate principally to the progress of the war of the Revolution. We have extracts from various newspapers, American and Royalist, giving their accounts of current events of the war, naturally biased by their respective view-points and sympathies, but from which the intelligent reader can draw an average balance as to the facts.

The Jersey brigade was winning a name and fame for itself in General John Sullivan's expedition against the Western Indians.

William Alexander, who loved to call himself the "Earl of Stirling," was fighting in the American armies, with the rank of Major-General, while his property was advertised to be sold to pay his debts.

We have several vastly differing accounts of the spirited attack by "Light Horse Harry" Lee and his gallant legion of troopers upon the block-house at Powles Hook, in the month of August, 1779. From the official reports, which were accepted by General Washington, with commendations in general orders, it is shown to have been a notable triumph for the American arms. From the British accounts, on the contrary, it might be inferred that the victory all lay on that side.

Very little attention is paid in the histories to the success of the Americans at sea, but these newspaper extracts show that a great many British vessels were captured and brought into New Jersey ports to be condemned and sold as prizes of war. Most of the captures were made by Jerseymen along the coast.

We have here, also, an account of the reckless blundering which brought on the massacre called the battle of Minisink, July 22d, 1779.

Colonel John G. Simeoe, with his Queen's Light Dragoons, made a desperate and gallant dash on New Brunswick on October 26th, 1779, resulting in his being wounded and captured by the Americans, and with the loss of a large party of his dragoons, the expedition being very much of a failure.

The military announcements, advertisements, orders, &c., bring home to us the fact that New Jersey was essentially the war ground of the Revolution.

The number of farms, mills, plantations and houses advertised for sale shows the stress of the times. Nevertheless, Peter Hulick, staymaker, from New York, thinks the conditions sufficiently propitious to appeal to the ladies of Trenton for their patronage. He soon meets competition in Richard Norris, staymaker, from London, who enters into minute anatomical details regarding his product. Rival and enterprising shopkeepers at Trenton, Elizabethtown, Chatham and Morristown (Newark merchants do not enter into the competition, perhaps having a prudent fear of attracting the enemy) advertise abundant and varied stocks of goods calculated to attract the fair sex, including pistol lawns, pelongs, green and black ducape, callimancoes of all colors, shalloons, moreens, broadcloths of all shades, blue and brown naps, plain and spotted swanskin, duffel baiges, red and white plains, camblets, marquisites, barcelona handkerchiefs, black, blue and green drawboys, sarcinett ribbands, Persians, Drumcondriff linen, faggot, and other fabrics of long-forgotten nomenclature.

A curious inconsistency of the times is shown by the patriots struggling for freedom, who, at the same time, advertised negro men, women and children for sale into perpetual slavery.

An aftermath of General Charles Lee's unfortunate conduct at the Battle of Monmouth is a duel between him and

young Colonel John Laurens, occasioned by Lee's ill-tempered allusions to General Washington.

A very important topic connected with the prosecution of the war is the depreciation of the currency, which is discussed at great length by "Cains" (Governor Livingston), who says the colonies had issued millions of paper money before the Revolution, but by 1775 had paid it nearly all off, so that they were all the more ready to enter upon the contest of 1775-83. The enormous resources of the colonies were thus displayed. "A True Patriot" shows how the evils of paper money might be remedied. "Hard Money" takes up the cudgels in his own behalf, and a "Jersey Farmer" descants on the follies of paper money and the ill consequences of its depreciation, while "Continental Currency" defends himself from numerous attacks. Few of these correspondents can present their ideas in less than two or three columns. Some of the communications, although of unconscionable length, often contain excellent ideas and sound reasoning. The writers take themselves very seriously, treating their themes most ponderously. There is an utter absence of that insouciance and lightness with which modern writers discuss grave questions, and humor is almost never indulged in, although one writer does poke fun at another for considering "whether plants or animals will prosper in one country if transplanted to another."

Meetings were held throughout the State to regulate the prices of labor, produce and manufactures, and it was generally agreed that prices in the summer of 1779 should not be more than fifteen times as great as they had been in 1774. Thus, the price of hay was fixed at £50 per ton; flour, £15 to £19 per hundred; tea, £4 15s.; butter, 15s. per pound; bar iron, at the works, £450 per ton; horse-shoes, £1 15s. per pair, &c.

The spirited correspondence between Governor Livingston and Sir Henry Clinton, regarding the alleged offer by Clinton of a reward for the capture, dead or alive, of the

doughty Governor, is here printed in full, together with the angry comments of other correspondents.

We have, also, accounts of various raids by British and Tories on different parts of the State, as on Elizabeth, in February, 1779; the disgraceful affair at Little Egg Harbour in October, 1778; the raids by Lieutenant Colonel Abraham Van Buskirk and his Fourth Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers on Bergen county, in April, 1779; a considerable party of British, about eight hundred strong, on the vicinity of Red Bank and Shrewsbury, in April, 1779, and another attack, on May 10th, 1779, on Closter, Bergen county. On June 9th a party of refugees from Sandy Hook penetrated as far as Tinton Falls and Shrewsbury. Another party from Staten Island made a raid on Rahway and Woodbridge in July, and in the same month Closter, Bergen county, was again visited by the enemy, who drove off cattle and horses.

Most of these raids were made by the Loyalists, or "New Jersey Volunteers," as they were called, who had enlisted in the British service. Many of them were by private parties of refugees. They were usually noted for the great ferocity of the attacking party and the equal ferocity with which they were followed up by the patriots. We gather from these accounts, as from no other source, some idea of the intense bitterness between the men who adhered to the American cause and their neighbors who took the side of the King. We have here, too, another evidence, and perhaps one of the causes, of this intense feeling in the numerous advertisements of the proceedings taken against the Loyalists to confiscate their property and the announcements of the sales thereof in all parts of the State. In this and the volume to succeed it will be found the names of something like twelve hundred Loyalists, who were thus adjudged by the courts to be giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and of treasonable practices, and whose property was declared forfeited to the State. Two of the refugees captured in Bergen county were tried for felony, and,

being convicted, were promptly hanged. They had been ravaging the county—robbing, housebreaking, pocket-picking and horse stealing.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Barton, of Sussex county, offers twenty dollars bounty to "Gentlemen Volunteers" enlisting in his "Loyal Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers," for "two years or during this wanton Rebellion." Fifteen years later he was living unmolested in Sussex, and drawing half-pay from the British government.

A remarkable record was that presented by the surgeons in charge of the military hospital at New Brunswick. Out of upwards of fifteen hundred sick, only twenty-two died between November, 1778, and June, 1779.

Notwithstanding the movements of the armies and of various hostile expeditions through New Jersey, the arts of peace and learning were not utterly forgotten. We have a long official notice of the vicissitudes of Princeton College and Grammar School from January, 1777, when the Battle of Princeton was fought, to April, 1779. Later in the year we have a detailed account of the commencement exercises at Princeton.

The trustees of Queen's College announce that it is fairly established on the banks of the Raritan, sufficiently remote from the headquarters of both armies to be reasonably safe from war's alarms. By act of the Legislature the faculty and pupils were exempted from military service.

Advertisements for school teachers are not infrequent. The emphasis laid upon sobriety as a qualification indicates that it was too often lacking in the wielders of the rod.

A perennial subject of interest was the clearing out of obstructions in the Passaic river, above Little Falls, in order to drain the Great Meadows.

The production of salt as a home industry was stimulated by the war, not always with success. Salt-works on the Jersey coast are advertised for sale, with interesting particulars of their extent and apparatus.

The printer of the *New Jersey Gazette* frequently takes his readers into his confidence and relates his struggles to maintain his paper and to justify his increase of the price thereof.

The anniversary of the alliance between the United States and France is celebrated at Pluckemin, February 18th, 1779, Washington and Lady Washington and other notables being present on the occasion.

Was it the hardships of war, or the depreciation of the currency, making the troubles of the housekeeper so much greater, that induced so many wives to leave their husbands? John Scott advertises his spouse, and after giving the usual form of notice about not paying her debts, he drops into pathetic poetry on "The Injured Husband." The wife retorts a few weeks later by giving notice that she will not pay any more debts of his contracting, and she sarcastically adds: "His forbidding people to trust me on his account is quite needless, for they never would, except a trifle." Levi Gardner advertises his wife, but she in turn offers "thirty dollars to anyone that will take up said Gardner and secure him in any gaol, so that his wife may have restitution made her," and also agrees that all reasonable charges will be paid. Stimulated by the bereaved Scott's example, William Willis, of Westfield, finds vent for his feelings in some more or less touching verses.

When John Hart died, at Hopewell, a local writer speaks of him as "one of the representatives in the General Assembly for the county of Hunterdon county, and late Speaker of the House." Not a word about his having signed the Declaration of Independence—the one act on which his fame rests to-day. The epoch-making importance of that event was not realized in 1779.

The exchange of prisoners was the subject of much friction between the armies, of anxiety on the part of the prisoners and their friends. The discussions on this matter remind us of the similar experiences eighty-four years later.

Doings at Washington's headquarters at Middlebrook are frequently mentioned. The ambassador from the court of France was received there with joyful acclaim in April, 1779. The minister, elders and deacons of the Dutch church at Raritan presented a handsome address to Washington, to which he graciously responded, in the month of July.

FEBRUARY 10, 1908.

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Vol IV.

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1780-1782

This volume was prepared and edited by authority of the State of New Jersey at the request of the New Jersey Historical Society and under the direction of its Committee on Colonial Documents. That committee at present is constituted as follows:

AUSTIN SCOTT,
 ERNEST C. RICHARDSON,
 JOSEPH F. FOLSOM,
 A. VAN DOREN HONEYMAN,
 JAMES J. BERGEN,
 HIRAM E. DEATS.

DOCUMENTS
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VOLUME V.

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS RELATING TO NEW JERSEY.

OCTOBER, 1780—JULY, 1782.

EDITED BY
 AUSTIN SCOTT.

TRENTON, N. J.
 STATE GAZETTE PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS.
 1917.

APR 27 1918
Ely, Richard T.

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PREFACE.

The manuscript copies of newspaper extracts from October, 1780, to July, 1782, mostly from the *NEW JERSEY GAZETTE*, had been made under the direction of Mr. William Nelson, the editor of former volumes, and 166 pages of the present volume had been put in type before his death, August 10, 1914. There remained in manuscript copy, 1,004 pages. In order to bring this matter within the compass of a moderate sized volume, the present editor, with the sanction of his colleagues in the Committee on Colonial Documents, changed the form of printing; the attempt to reproduce the display style of the newspaper was abandoned, smaller sized type was chosen, repetitions for the most part eliminated and acts of the Legislature indicated only by title and not re-printed at length. These changes mar somewhat symmetry of appearance, but they were necessary if the matter was to be contained in one not too bulky volume, and this seemed very desirable.

It is to be noted that on page 167 and subsequent pages the source of the extracts is made to precede, and not, as in previous pages and previous volumes, to follow the extracts.

The index was prepared by the present corresponding secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society, Mr. A. V. D. Honeyman.