

CORNELIA HANCOCK



Cornelia Hancock was the daughter of Thomas Hancock and Rachel Nicholson Hancock. She was born on February 8th, 1840 and is known for her determined attitude. Against her parents' wishes, she traveled to Gettysburg at the age of 23 with her brother-in-law, Dr. Henry T. Child, to serve as a nurse after the battle. During her time there, she wrote letters back home to her mother and sister describing her experiences in great detail. Cornelia served as a nurse for the remainder of the war at several different hospitals, including a Contraband Hospital. Her experiences at the Contraband Hospital led her to open the Laing School for freed slaves in South Carolina, after the War. Cornelia taught here until 1876, when she returned home to care for her father. Cornelia continued her charity and social work until her passing on December 31, 1927.

Stops Along the Tour:

Stop 1: The Hancock House Historic Site

3 Front Street
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Stop 2: Cornelia Departs for Gettysburg

The house that Cornelia left for Gettysburg is now a small lot between 25 Main Street and 35 Main Street in Hancocks Bridge.



The Site of Cornelia's home before Gettysburg.

Stop 3: Quaker Meeting House

78 Buttonwood Avenue
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Stop 4: Cornelia's Childhood Home (PRIVATE PROPERTY)

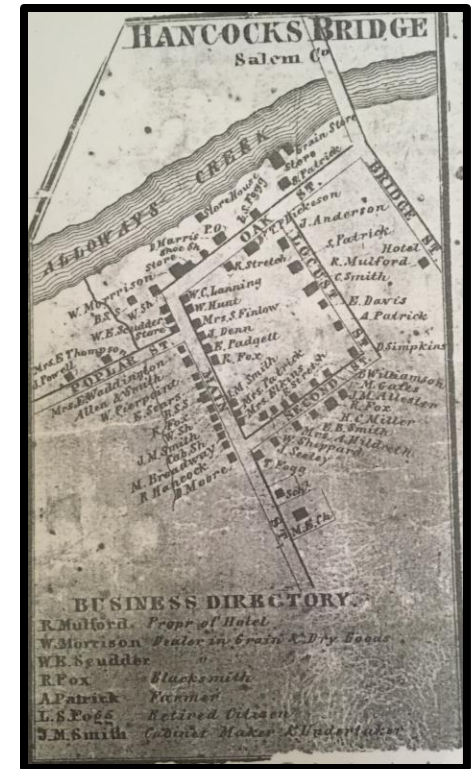
Follow New Bridge Rd. north (past the "Road Closed Ahead" sign) and a historic marker will be on your right, near the drive to the house.

Stop 5: Cornelia's Gravesite

Cedar Hills Friends Cemetery
Hancocks Bridge Harmersville Road
(County Road 658)
Harmersville, New Jersey, 08079

"In the Footsteps of Cornelia"

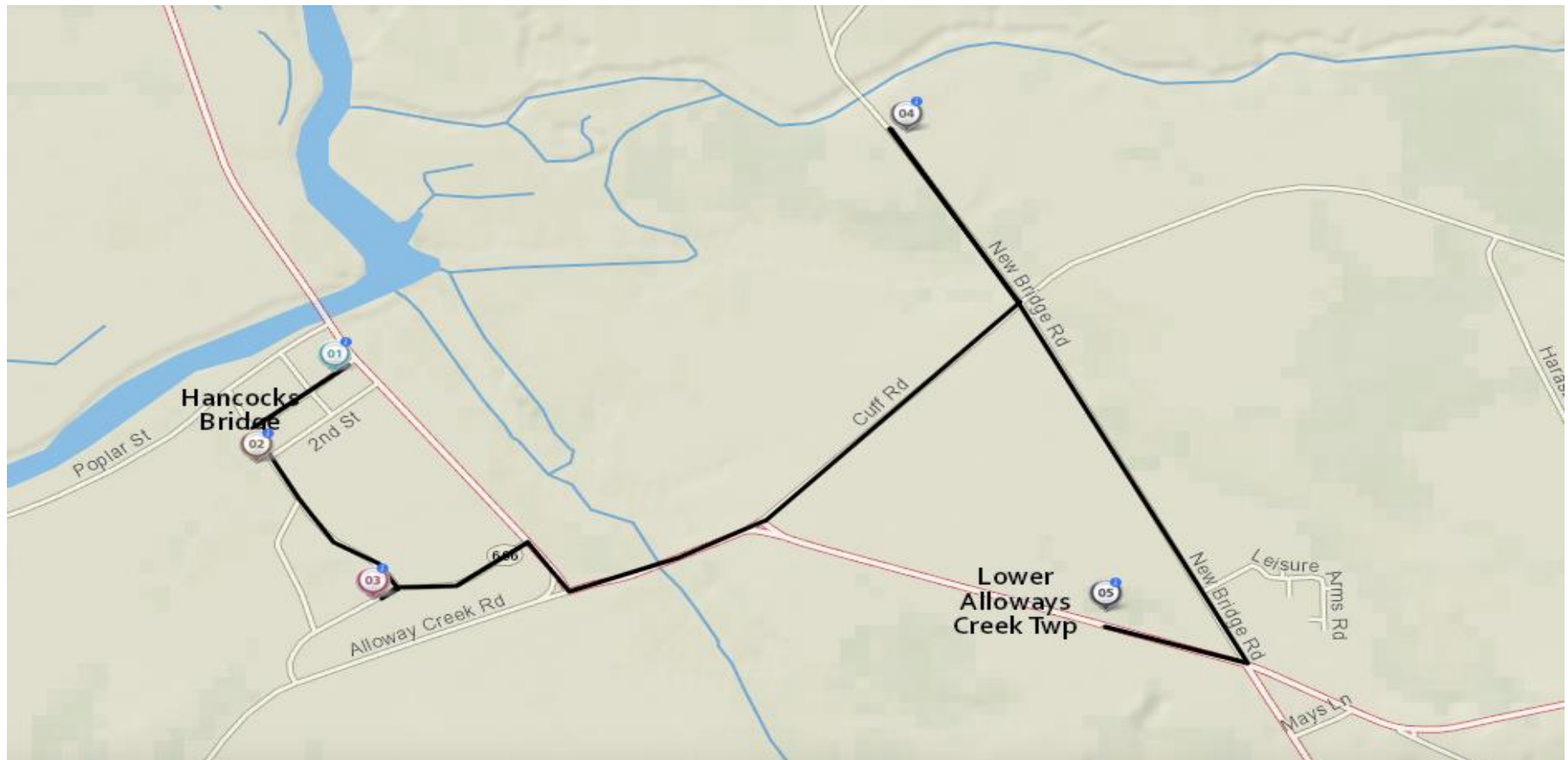
A self-guided tour of several local sites associated with the Civil War nurse, Cornelia Hancock



Presented By:

The Hancock House Historic Site

3 FRONT STREET, HANCOCK BRIDGE
NJ, 08038
(856) 936-4373



MAP KEY

1. **Hancock House Historic Site:** Built in 1734, the Hancock House is the site of a Revolutionary War attack carried out by Major John Graves Simcoe and his loyalist Queens Rangers. Cornelia's mother and father, Rachel Sinnickson and Thomas Hancock, were the last generation of Hancock's to reside in the house, leaving in the 1820s. The house was used as a tavern and a hotel by the 1840s, and was bought by the State of New Jersey in 1931.
2. **Cornelia's Home Before Gettysburg:** While the house is no longer standing on Main Street, this is likely the site of Cornelia's home before she left for Gettysburg. On the morning of July 5th, 1863, Cornelia's brother-in-law sent a carriage for her. Upon its arrival her mother was alarmed, but Cornelia reassured her that "the Doctor had sent for me to go to war". She would arrive at Gettysburg on July 6th and stay until late September.
3. **Lower Alloways Creek Friends Meeting House c. 1756/1787:** Here, Cornelia would have attended Sunday meeting. Her mother Rachel was a Quaker minister and for a brief time Cornelia taught at the Buttonwood Seminary, previously located on the same property.
4. **Cornelia's Childhood Home (private property):** After growing tired of the tavern attached to the Hancock House, Rachel and Thomas moved to a new home a few miles away on New Bridge Road. Here they raised the three children: Ellen, William, and Cornelia. (There is a historic sign at the end of the drive entitled: "The Cornelia Hancock House")
5. **Cornelia's Grave at Cedar Hill's Friends Cemetery:** Cornelia passed away on December 31st, 1927 at the age of 87. At the time, she was living near Atlantic City with her niece. While many of Cornelia's letters have been published, she left a stack on her bedside with instruction to "burn without reading." Her faithful niece did just that. Cornelia was laid to rest with the rest of her family in Harmersville.

