

Archiving the Revolution:

A selection of New Jersey and Trenton Manuscripts
from the New Jersey State Archives



Washington Crossing the Delaware, 1851, by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/97.34>

NEW JERSEY
NJSA
STATE ARCHIVES

The following are Revolutionary War-era items from the New Jersey State Archives collections. If you have any questions about any of these items, please feel free to visit us during operating hours or at our website: www.archives.nj.gov.

1. Illustration of King George III's Royal Crest, January 11, 1775. Lion and Unicorn image drawn by the loyalist clerk of the Assembly into the legislature's minutes.

Source: New Jersey General Assembly, Minutes [Votes and Proceedings], 1703-2010, Volume 9, page 110.



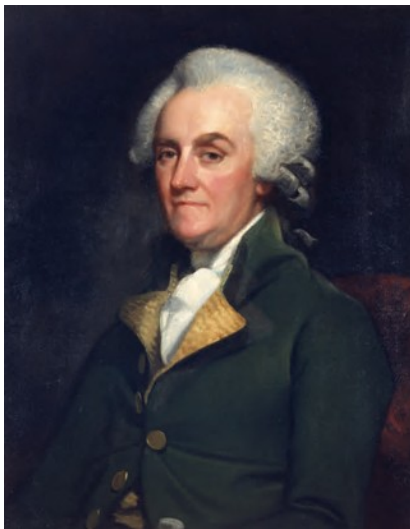
This drawing is a depiction of the royal crest of Great Britain's George III. The drawing, entered into New Jersey's General Assembly minute book, was presumably drawn by a loyalist clerk. The drawing, made in January 1775, was after the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, but before the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The colonies, including New Jersey, were very divided, some citizens wanting to stay loyal to Great Britain, and some wanting to rule their own country, their own way.

2. Colonial currency from 1776, issued by the Colony of New Jersey.

Source: New Jersey State Archives, Paper Currency, bound volume of American paper currency, 1759-1863.



The paper money shown above, taken from the currency book at the Archives, states “This Bill of Three Pounds Proclamation, is emitted by a Law of the Colony of New Jersey, passed in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Third. Dated March 25, 1776.” Although Congress had issued new bills of credit, the “Continental,” some states still printed their own money. This latter practice was officially banned when the U.S. Constitution was ratified.



3. Portrait of William Franklin, last royal governor of the colony of New Jersey

Source: New Jersey State Archives, Portraits of New Jersey Government Officials, ca. 1763 - 1994. Reproduction of royal painting at New York Public Library.

William Franklin served as governor from 1763 to 1776. Although he initially sympathized with his fellow colonists, he thought it best to stay loyal to the crown. When offered a parole, he flatly refused and was arrested on June 19, 1776 as an enemy of the state. He was sent to prison in Connecticut. Later, in the fall of 1778, he was set free and went to New York where he was a leader amongst the loyalists. After the war, Franklin fled to England, never coming back to his native country.

4. Petition of Freeholders Electors of the Township of Nottingham requesting the legislature to stop the dispute between the colonies and Great Britain, 30 January 1775.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, Bureau of Archives and History, Manuscript Collection, Box 5-1, #70.

To the Honourable the House of Assembly of the Province of New Jersey
The Petition of the Freeholders Electors of the Township of Nottingham in the County of Burlington
Sheweth That your Petitioners are greatly alarmed at the unhappy dispute, between Great Britain and the American Colonies, which is now brought to the most alarming crisis, and in all Probability will involve this once happy Country in all the Horrors of a Civil War, unless timely prevented by the immediate Interposition of the Legislatures of the Colonies—Happy in our Connection with our parent State, we are sorry that any Circumstances should have interrupted that harmony, and mutual Confidence, which have been productive of such beneficial Effects to both Countries—We are convinced, that the Real Interests of both are inseparable, and earnestly wish, that such Measures may be adopted, as may terminate the present unnatural Disputes, and Reestablish Tranquillity and Union, on a Solid and Constitutional foundation—It is with Pleasure we find Assurances given by his Excellency, of our Sovereign's Disposition to receive our Representations, and doubt not, but the Representatives of this Province, will embrace so favourable an Opportunity, of besting themselves in endeavouring to remove the Cause of the present Distractions, by making to Government, such equitable proposals, as may be Honourable for Great Britain to receive, and just and safe for us to offer—As we desire equal Security and Advantage, from our Connection with Great Britain, with his Majesty's Subjects within the Realm, we think it Reasonable to bear Independent of the Expenses of our

TRANSCRIPTION

To the Honourable the House of Assembly of the Province of New Jersey

The Petition of the Freeholders Electors of the Township of Nottingham in the County of Burlington-

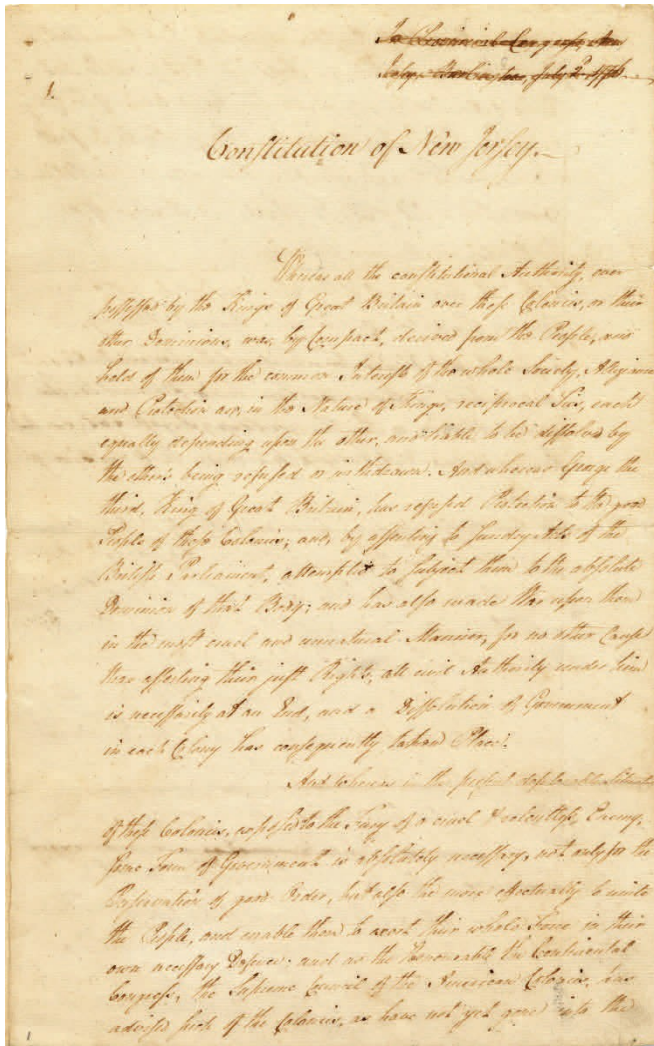
Sheweth

That your Petitioners are greatly alarmed at the unhappy dispute, between Great Britain and her American Colonies, which is now brought to the most alarming crisis, and in all Probability will Involve this once Happy Country in all the Horrors of a Civil War, unless timely Prevented by the Immediate Interposition of the Legislatures of the Colonies. Happy in our Connection with our parent State, we are sorry that any Circumstances should have Interrupted that harmony, and mutual Confidence, which have been productive of such beneficial Effects to both Countries. We are convinced, that the Real Interests of both are Inseperable, and Earnestly wish, that such Measures may be adopted, as may terminate the present Unnatural Deputes [sic], and Reestablish Tranquility and Union, on a Solid and Constitutional foundation. It is with Pleasure we find Assurances given by his Excellency, of our Sovereign's Disposition to Receive our Representations, and doubt not, but the Representatives of this Province, will embrace so favourable an Opportunity, of Exerting themselves in Endeavouring to remove the Cause of the Present Distractions, by making to Government, such Equitable proposals, as may be Honourable for Great Britain to Receive, and Just and Safe for us to Offer. As we Desire Equal securaty and Advantage, from our Connection with Great Britain, with his Majesties Subjects within the Realm, we think it Reasonable to bear (Independent of the Expenses of our Internal Government) Some part of the Public Expences necessary for the defence of the Empire, in Proportion to our Circumstances and Situation. We could wish that such a proposal was made, as the basis of a Lasting Reconciliation, and we would Cheerfully acquire in such Regulations, as our Representatives may think proper to adopt for that purpose. Such Regulations as have already been taken, for the Securaty of our Liberties, we will for the Sake of internal quiet faithfully, observe, but we Disavow all Violent Proceedings, and will Indeavour at all times to Approve our selves, Loyal Subjects of our Gracious Sovereign, friends to the Liberties of our Country and promoters of peace and good Order. We therefore pray that the Honourable House would please to take the Promisses into their Consideration, and persue Such Measures as they may think proper, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will pray. January 30, 1775

Daniel Hendrickson	Isaac Quigley	Thomas Hutchinson	Jonathan Hutchinson
Joseph Scholey	William Foord	John Cornish	William Coalman
Gys Gerthendrieson	John Inly	John Abbott	Elijah Bond
Isaac Pearson	Thomas Lawrie	Robert Pearson	Joseph Tantum
Jesse Waln	Timothy Abbott	John Abbott Jr.	John Quickfall
Jacob Cook			

5. New Jersey's State Constitution, 1776, pages 1 and 9.

Source: Department of State, Secretary of State's Office, Miscellaneous Filings, Series I, #5

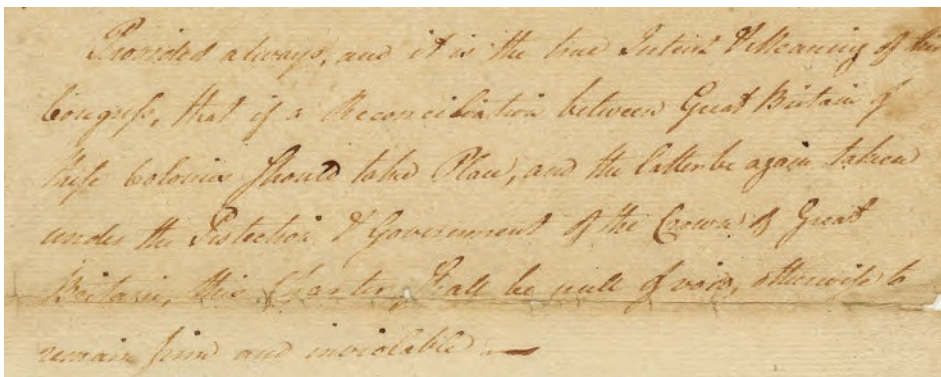


On July 2, 1776, New Jersey became the fourth American Colony to adopt a constitution declaring independence from Great Britain. It was composed in five days and although the delegates considered it a temporary charter, it remained New Jersey's state constitution for sixty-eight years.

It is interesting to note that on the last page it states "Provided always, and it is true Intent & Meaning of this Congress, that if a Reconciliation between Great Britain & these Colonies should take Place, and the latter be again taken under the Protection & Government of the Crown of Great Britain, this Charter shall be null and void, otherwise to remain firm and inviolable."

This constitution also allowed for landowning inhabitants to vote, regardless of race or gender. "That all inhabitants of this Colony, of full age, who are worth fifty pounds proclamation money, clear estate in the same, and have resided within the county in which they claim a vote for twelve months immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote for Representatives in Council and

Assembly; and also for all other public officers, that shall be elected by the people of the county at large." This was later changed in an 1807 Act, which only allowed white male tax paying citizens to vote.



To view all the pages of this constitution and to read the transcription, please visit

www.archives.nj.gov/archives/docconst76.html

6. New Jersey's Original State Seal, 1776.

Source: Department of State, Secretary of State's Office, State Seal Castings.



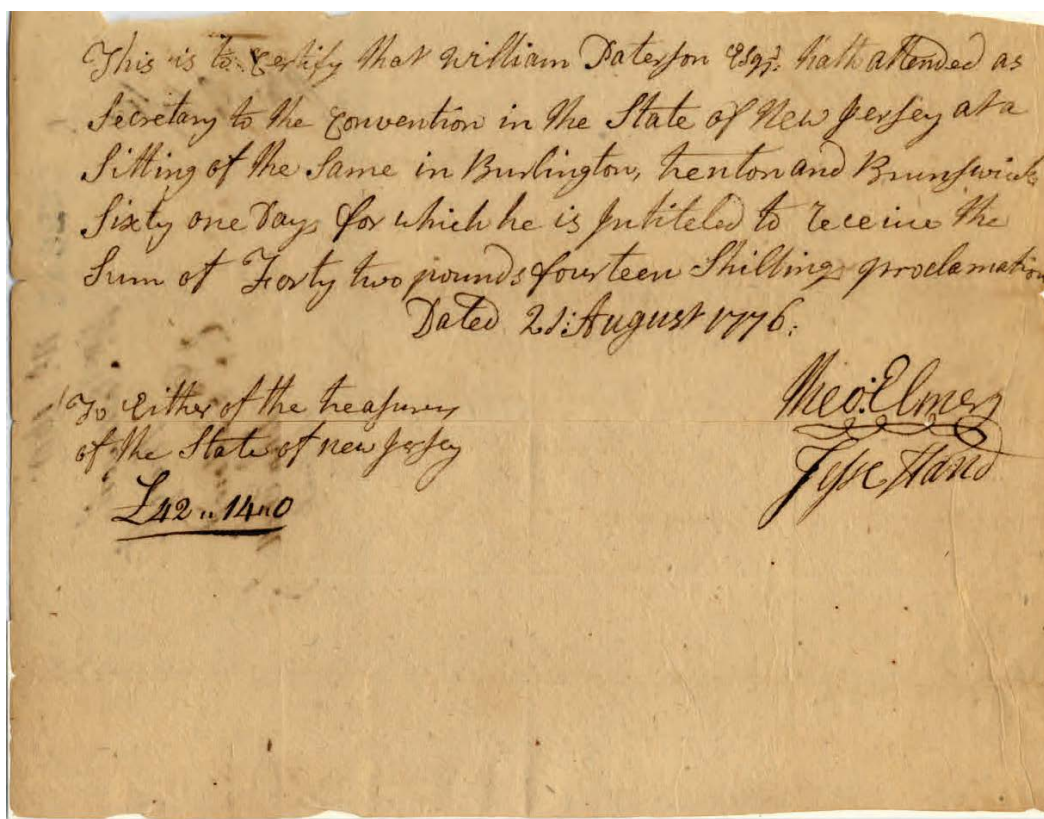
In October 1776, four months after declaring independence from Great Britain, New Jersey's first state legislature resolved to commission the production of "a Silver Seal, which is to be round, of two and a half Inches Diameter, and three-eighths of an Inch thick; and that the arms shall be three Ploughs in an Escutcheon, the Supporters Liberty and Ceres, and the Crest a Horse's Head." The commission was awarded to Pierre Eugene du Simitière, an immigrant artist and naturalist then living in Philadelphia.

The symbols chosen for the seal drew from sources in classical mythology, medieval heraldic traditions, and the contemporary ideals of revolutionary republicanism. The figure of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, holding a cornucopia, represents the new state's hopes for prosperity and abundance. The figure of Liberty, holding a staff with a liberty cap, plainly symbolizes New Jersey's claim of freedom from royal rule and from arbitrary government, generally. The use of an escutcheon (or shield) in the center stems from the medieval tradition in which noble families adopted distinctive coats of arms. The three plows depicted on the shield signify the importance of farming in an era that exalted independent yeoman as the bulwark of republican liberty. The horse's head represents agriculture, as well, though it also symbolizes speed, strength, and usefulness to commerce.

Du Simitière deviated somewhat from the legislature's instructions: he added a prince's helmet beneath the horse's head, which in heraldry denotes sovereignty, to emphasize the new state's independence. He also placed the roman numerals for 1776 (MDCCLXXVI) at the base of the seal. The helmet may have aroused some controversy, offending republican sensibilities with its aristocratic imagery: official state printers, at least, often omitted the helmet when they reprinted a version of the seal on the cover of annual session laws. Nevertheless, the legislature accepted Du Simitière's work, and the seal remained in use unchanged for just over 150 years.

7. Certificate of attendance of William Paterson as Secretary to the "Convention in the State of New Jersey," August 21, 1776.

Source: Department of State, Secretary of State's Office, AM Papers, #2520.



TRANSCRIPTION

"This is to certify that William Paterson, Esq., hath attended as Secretary to the Convention in the State of New Jersey at a Sitting of the Same in Burlington, Trenton and Brunswick, sixty one days for which he is Intitled to receive the Sum of Forty two pounds fourteen Shillings. Proclamation Dated 21 August 1776.

To Either of the treasurers of the State of New Jersey

Theo. Elmer

Jesse Hand"

William Paterson served in the Provincial Congress from 1775 until the end of the war. He was present during the signing of New Jersey's first state constitution. After the war, he helped write the United States Constitution as a member of the New Jersey delegation to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. He served as a State Senator for a short time (1789-1790), and then became New Jersey's second governor after William Livingston died in office. Later in life Paterson became an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

8. Inquisition that Daniel Coxe joined the British Army, Hunterdon County, 1 August 1778.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH-Inquisitions, Box 1-28, #94.

Hunterdon County An Inquisition taken and made at Trenton in the said County of Hunterdon, the first day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Eight, by the Oaths or Affirmations of Joseph Higbee, Alexander Chamber, William Tucker, Joseph Clunn, Hezekiah Howell, Isaiah Yard, Charles Axford Junior, Archibald William Yard, John Plaskett, Joseph Brearley, Ralph Laning, Joshua Reed, Isriel Smith, Obediah Howell, Jasper Smith, Nathaniel Furman, Joseph Reed, and Isaac How-ell. Good & Lawfull men of the said County before Rensselaer Williams Esquire one of the Justices of the peace of the said County, who upon their Oath or Affirmation aforesaid, say that Daniel Coxe late of Trenton in the County aforesaid, did since the fourth day of October one Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Six, To Witt on or about the ninth day of April in the year of our Lord 1778 Join the Army of the King of Great Brittain & did openly & publickly aid & Abett the said Army by Acting as a Magistrate of the Pollice of the City of Philadelphia.....Against the form of his Allegiance to this State, and Against the peace of this State, the Government & dignity of the same.

I do hereby certify that the Above Inquisition was taken before me by the Jurors therein named, as witness my Hand & Seal the Day & Year above.

Rensselaer Williams

Isaiah Yard	Arch. W. Yard	Thos. Higbee
Obediah Howell	Arch. W. Yard	Joseph Clunn
Jasper Smith	John Plaskett	William Tucker
Nathaniel Furman	Joseph Brearley	Joseph Clunn
Joseph Reed	Ralph Laning	Hezekiah Howell
Isaac How-ell	Joshua Reed	Isaiah Yard

TRANSCRIPTION

Hunterdon County An Inquisition taken and made at Trenton in the said County of Hunterdon, the first day of August in the year of Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Eight, by the Oaths or Affirmations of Joseph Higbee, Alexander Chamber, William Tucker, Joseph Clunn, Hezekiah Howell, Isaiah Yard, Charles Axford Junior, Archibald William Yard, John Plaskett, Joseph Brearley, Ralph Laning, Joshua Reed, Isriel Smith, Obediah Howell, Jasper Smith, Nathaniel Furman, Joseph Reed, and Isaac How-ell. Good & Lawfull men of the said County before Rensselaer Williams Esquire one of the Justices of the peace of the said County who upon their Oath or Affirmation aforesaid, say that Daniel Coxe late of Trenton in the County Aforesaid, did, since the fourth day of October one Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Six, To Witt on or about the ninth day of April in the year of our Lord 1778 Join the Army of te King of Great Brittain & did openly & publickly aid & Abett the said army by Acting as a Magistrate of the Pollice of the City of Philadelphia.....Against the form of

his Allegiance to this State, and Against the peace of this State, the Government & dignity of the same.

We whose Names are hereunto Set & Seals affixed, being the Jurors above named, do, upon the Evidence to us produced, find the Inquisition Aforesaid true.

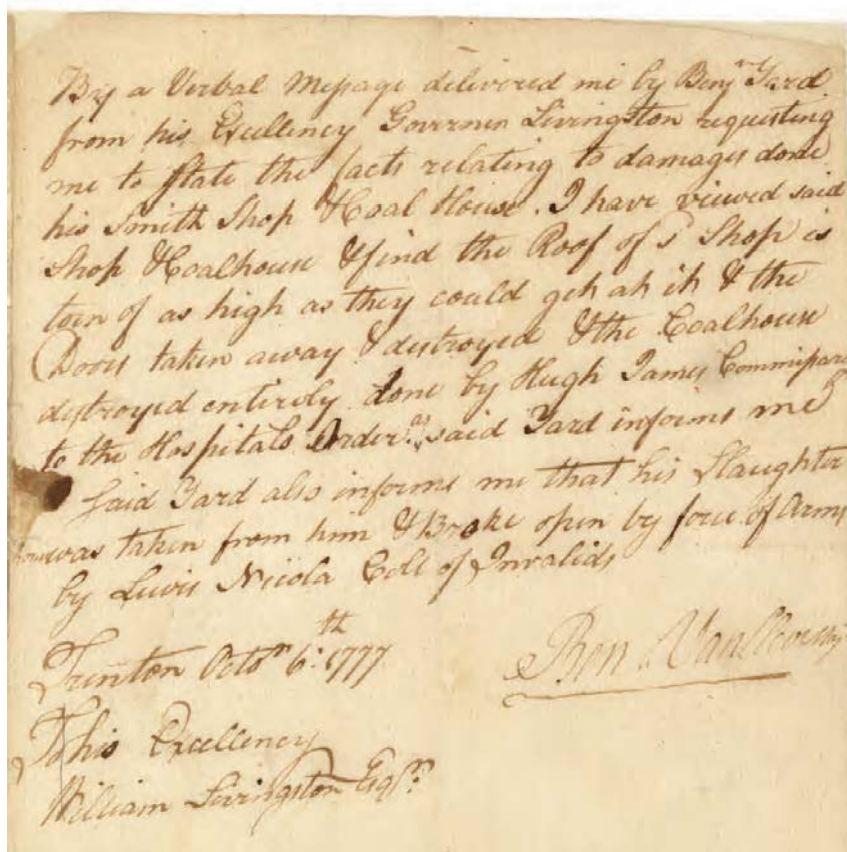
I do hereby certify that the Above Inquisition was taken before me by the Jurors therein named, as witness my Hand & Seal the Day & Year above.

Rensselaer Williams

[All jurors previously named in document signed and affixed their seals]

9. Letter from Major Benjamin Van Cleve, Trenton, to Governor William Livingston addressing the damages done to Benjamin Yard's smith shop and coal house, 6 October 1777.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Collection, Box 4-1a, #55.



By a Verbal message delivered me by Ben^y Yard
from his Excellency Governor Livingston requesting
me to state the facts relating to damages done
his Smith Shop & Coal House. I have viewed said
Shop & Coalhouse & find the Roof of said Shop is
torn of as high as they could get at it & the
Door taken away & destroyed & the Coalhouse
destroyed entirely done by Hugh James, Commissary
to the Hospitals Order as said Yard informs me
Said Yard also informs me that his Slaughter
house was taken from him & Broke open by force of Arms
by Lewis Nicola Coll of Invalids
Trenton Oct^r 6th 1777
Ben. Van Cleve
His Excellency
William Livingston Esq.

TRANSCRIPTION

By a verbal message delivered me by Benjamin Yard from his Excellency Governor Livingston requesting me to State the facts relating to damages done his Smith Shop & Coal House. I have viewed said Shop & Coalhouse & find the Roof of said Shop is torn of as high as they could get at it & the Door taken away & destroyed & the Coalhouse destroyed entirely done by Hugh James, Commissary to the Hospitals Order as said Yard informs me.

Said Yard also informed me that his Slaughter House was taken from him & Broke open by force of Arms by Lewis Nicola, Coll. Of Invalids

Trenton, Oct^r 6th, 1777

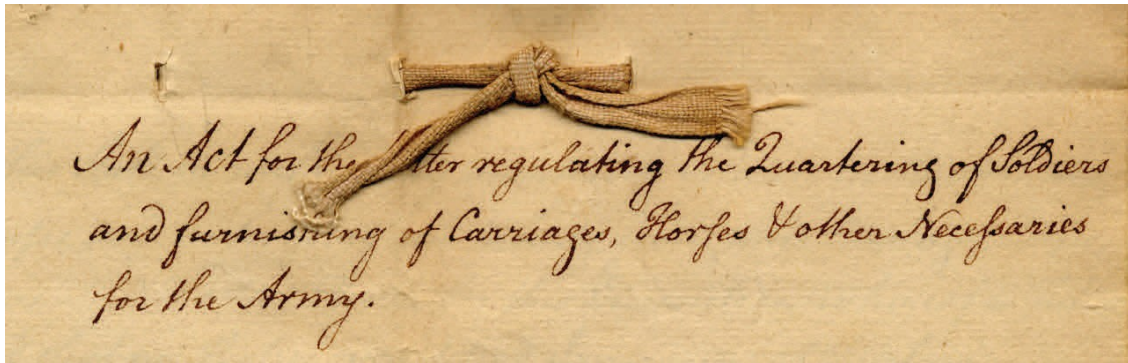
Ben. Van Cleve, Maj.

To his Excellency William Livingston Esq.^r

Benjamin Yard also filed a war damage claim with the New Jersey Legislature. Please see our War Damage database on our website, www.archives.nj.gov, or feel free to visit us to view the document.

10. An Act for the better regulating the Quartering of Soldiers and furnishing of Carriages, Horses and other Necessaries for the Army, 2 December 1777

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Collection, Box 4-1a, #58.

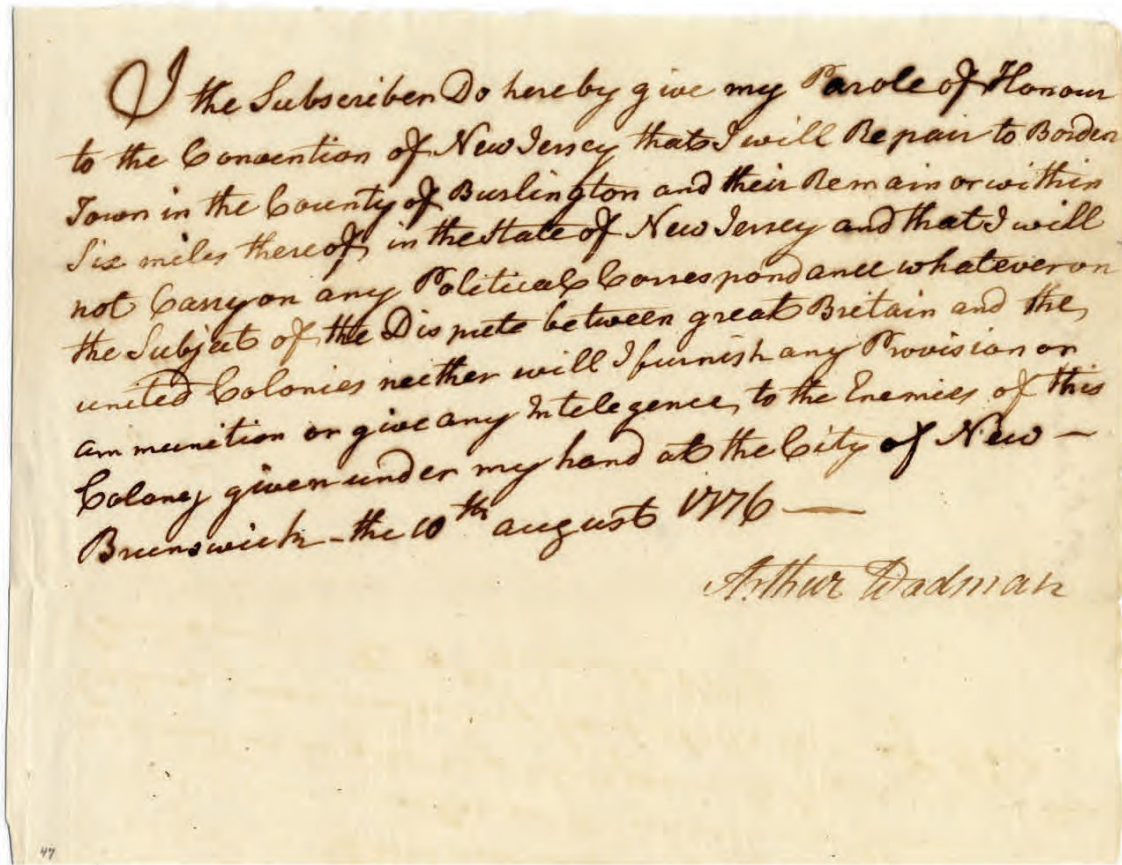


TRANSCRIPTION from a section of the act:

8. And whereas the Troops heretofore Stationed in, & passing through this State, and the Militia, have wantonly done great Damages to many of the Inhabitants in whose Houses they have been quartered, and it is, in most Cases, impossible for the Owners, or Possessors of such Houses to fix or prove the Trespass against the Person or Persons who committed the same, which has been attended with the most pernicious consequences to the Community; for remedying of which for the Future. Be it further Enacted, That when any Company, or Part of a Company shall be lawfully quartered in the Dwelling Houses, or Out House of any Inhabitant of this State, or in any Publick Building, and shall do any Damages to such Dwelling House, Out House, Publick Building, or their Appurtenances, or to the Fences, Fruit Trees, or ornamental Trees, planted near, or adjoining thereto, and such Party and every of them Shall neglect or refuse to inform the Owner, or Occupier of such Houses, or the Person or Persons having Charge of Such Publick Building, of the Name or Names of their Person, or Persons who did such Damage, then the Officer, having Command of the Party doing such Damages, shall be liable to pay to the Person or Persons injured such Sum of Money as shall be awarded for the said Damage by the Justice who quartered the said Troops or Militia, and two Reputable Freeholders of the Neighbourhood, under oath ... And such Officer, after payment of the Same, may deduct it from the pay or Bounty of Such Party of Men.

11. Parole of Honor for Arthur Wadman, 10 August 1776

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Collection, Box 4-1a, #14.



I the Subscriber Do hereby give my Parole of Honour to the Convention of New Jersey that I will Repair to Borden Town in the County of Burlington and their Remain or within Six miles thereof, in the State of New Jersey and that I will not Carry on any Political Correspondence whatever on the Subject of the Dispute between Great Britain and the United Colonies neither will I furnish any Provision or ammunition or give any Intelligence, to the Enemies of this Colony given under my hand at the City of New - Brunswick - the 10th August 1776 -

Arthur Wadman

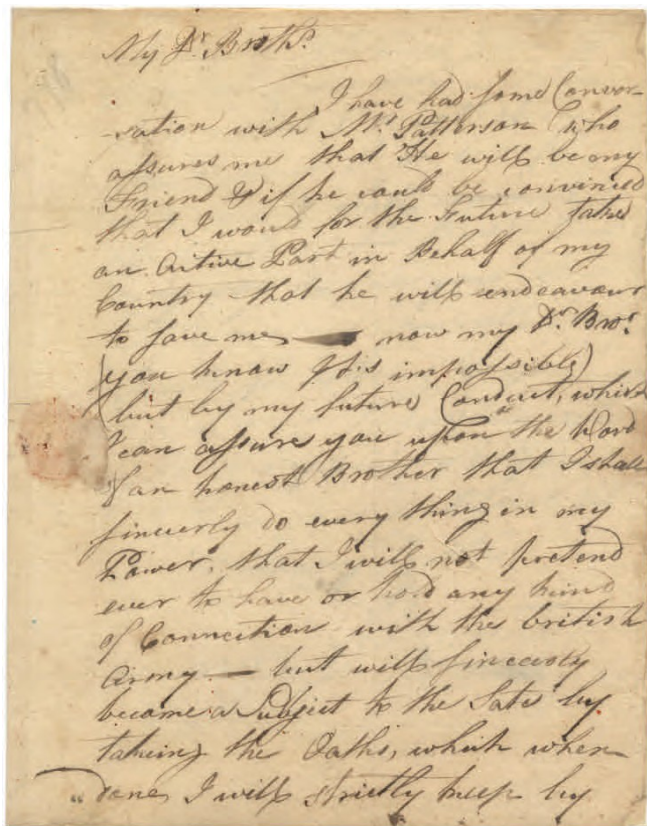
TRANSCRIPTION

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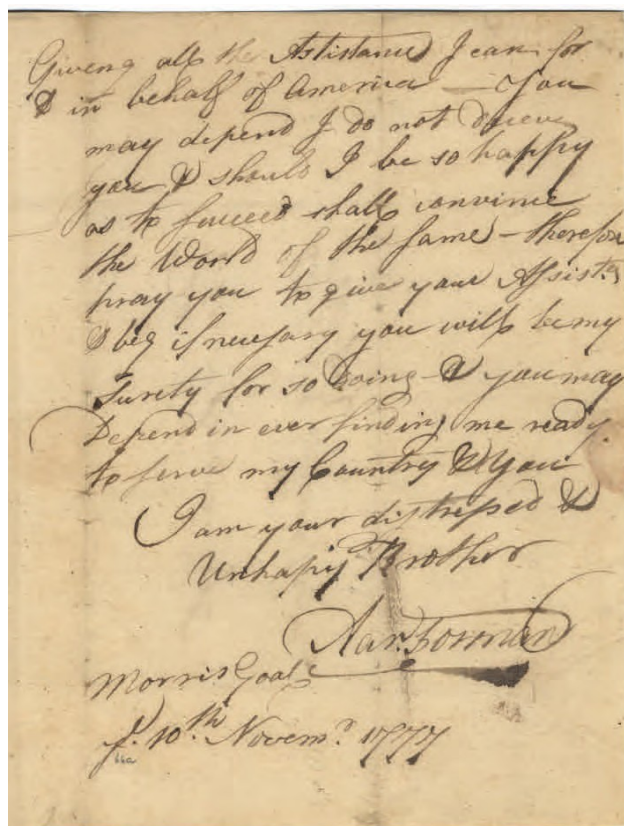
Arthur Wadman

12. Letter written from the Morristown Jail from Aaron Forman to his brother, swearing his allegiance to the state, 10 November 1777.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Collection, Box 4-1a, #56.



My Dr Brother
I have had some Conversation with Mr. Patterson who assures me that he will be my Friend & if he could be convinced that I would for the Future take an Active Part in Behalf of my Country that he will endeavour to save me. Now my Dr Brother (you know this impossible) but by my future Conduct, which I can assure you upon the Word of an honest Brother that I shall sincerely do every thing in my Power, that I will not pretend ever to have or hold any kind of Connection with the British Army — but will sincerely become a Subject to the State by taking the Oaths, which when done I will Strictly keep by



Giving all the Assistance I can for & in behalf of America — You may depend I do not deceive you & should I be so happy as to succeed shall convince the World of the same — therefore pray you to give your Assist[an]ce & beg if necessary you will be my Surety for so doing & you may Depend in ever finding me ready to serve my Country & you.
I am your distressed & Unhappy Brother
Aaron Forman
Morris Goal
Nov 10th 1777

TRANSCRIPTION

My Dr Brother,

I have had some Conversation with Mr. Patterson, who assures me that he will be my Friend & if he could be convinced that I would for the Future take an Active part in Behalf of my Country that he will endeavour to save me. Now my Dr Brother (you know this impossible) but by my future Conduct, which I can assure you upon the Word of an honest Brother that I shall sincerely do every thing in my Power, that I will not pretend ever to have or hold any kind of Connection with this British Army — but will sincerely become a Subject to the S[t]ate by taking the oaths, which when done I will Strictly keep by Giving all the Assistance I can for & in behalf of America. You may depend I do not deceive you & should I be so happy as to succeed shall convince the World of the same. Therefore pray you to give your Assist[an]ce & beg if necessary you will be my Surety for so doing & you may Depend in ever finding me ready to serve my Country & you.

I am your distressed & unhap[p]y Brother,

Aaron Forman

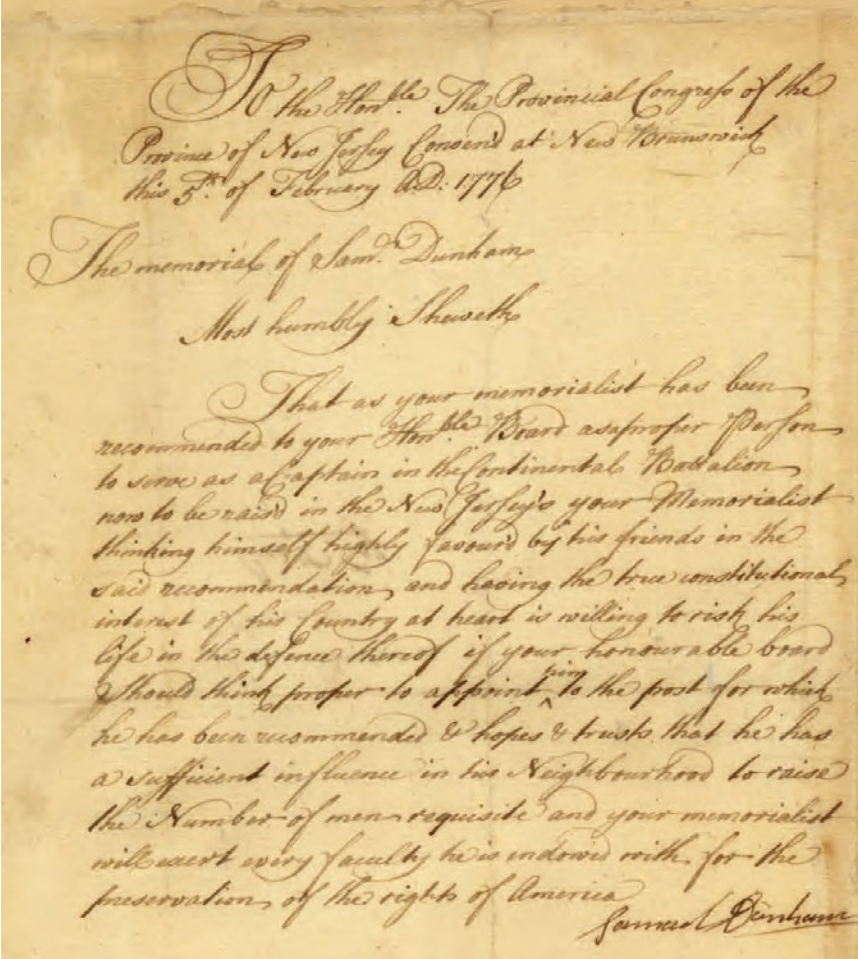
Morris Goal [Jail]

10th November 1777

Further documentation on Aaron Forman can be found in the State Archives collections.

13. Memorial of Samuel Dunham requesting appointment as captain in the Continental Battalion to be raised, 5 February 1776.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Collection, Box 5-1, #91.



To the Hon^{ble} The Provincial Congress of the
Province of New Jersey Conven'd at New Brunswick
this 5th of February A.D. 1776

The memorial of Sam^l. Dunham
Most humbly Sheweth

That as your memorialist has been
recommended to your Hon^{ble} Board as a proper Person
to serve as a Captain in the Continental Battalion
now to be rais'd in the New Jersey's your Memorialist
thinking himself highly favour'd by his friends in the
said recommendation, and having the true constitutional
interest of his Country at heart is willing to risk his
life in the defence thereof if your Honourable Board
Should think proper to appoint him to the post for which
he has been recommended & hopes & trusts that he has
a sufficient influence in his Neighbourhood to raise
the Number of men requisite and your memorialist
will exert every faculty he is endowed with for the
preservation of the rights of America

Samuel Dunham

TRANSCRIPTION

To the Hon^{ble} The Provincial Congress of the Province of New Jersey Conven'd at New Brunswick this 5th of February A.D. 1776

The Memorial of Samuel Dunham

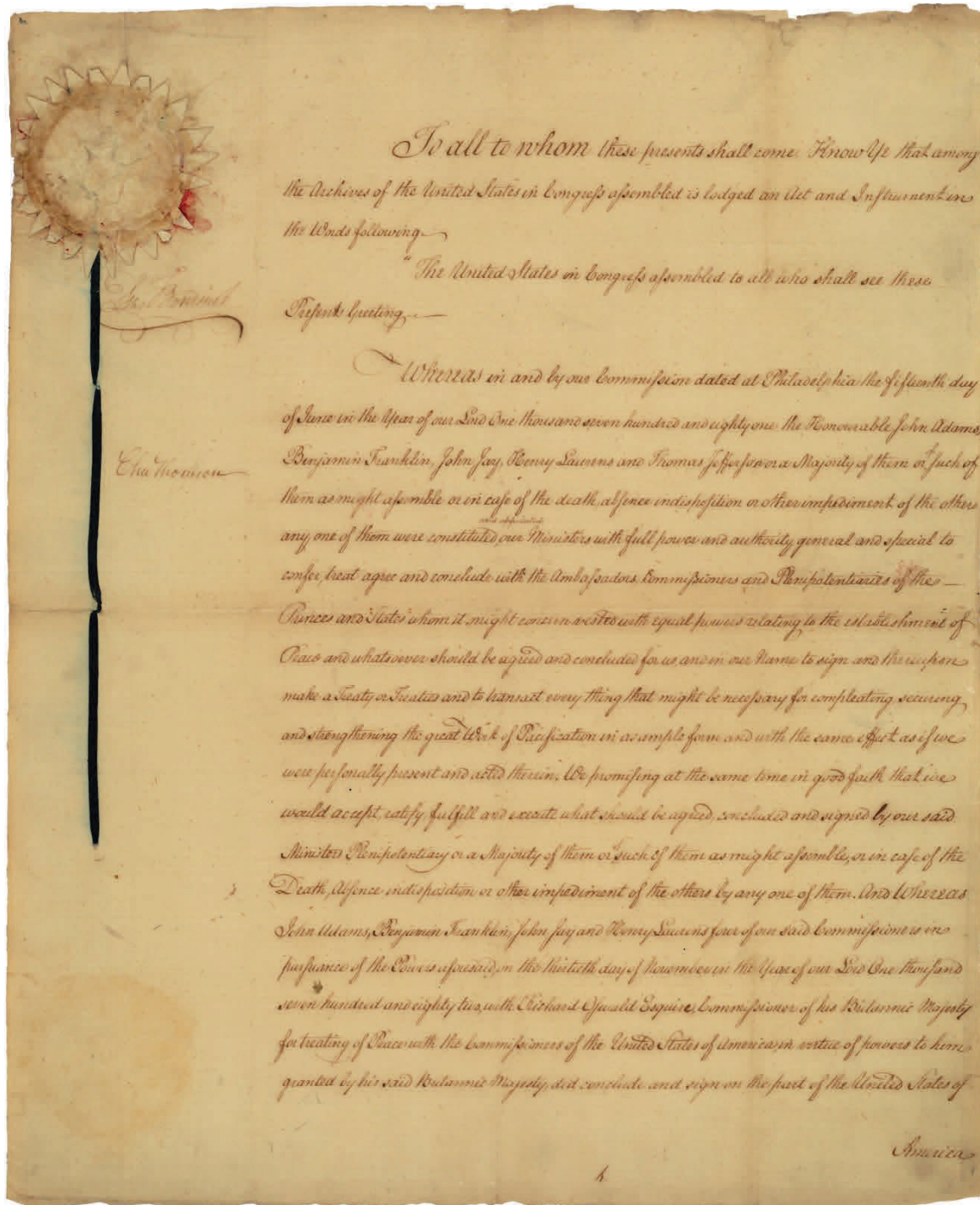
Most humbly Sheweth

That as your memorialist has been recommended to your Hon^{ble} Board as a proper Person to serve as a Captain in the Continental Battalion now to be rais'd in the New Jersey's your Memorialist thinking himself highly favour'd by his friends in the said recommendation and having the true constitutional interest of his Country at heart is willing to risk his life in the defence thereof if your honourable board Should think proper to appoint him to the post for which he has been recommended & hopes & trusts that he has a sufficient influence in his Neighbourhood to raise the Number of men requisite and your memorialist will exert every faculty he is endowed with for the preservation of the rights of America.

Samuel Dunham

14. Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution, 1783

Source: New Jersey Legislature, Treaty of Paris, Preliminary Articles.



In total, 296 engagements were fought in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War, including the Battles of Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth. There were more battles and skirmishes in New Jersey than in any other colony. The preliminary articles of the Treaty of Paris were signed on November 30, 1782, and ratified by Congress in early 1784.

15. Official copy of United States Constitution, printed by Dunlap and Claypoole, 17 September 1787.

Source: Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, BAH Manuscripts, Box OV-2.

WE, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

A R T I C L E I.

Sect. 1. ALL legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Sect. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all other persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New-Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New-Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North-Carolina five, South-Carolina five, and Georgia three.

of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

V.

The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress. Provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand seven hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate.

VI.

After the Constitutional Convention agreed on the text of the Constitution, they sent it to the printers, Dunlap and Claypoole. Copies were to be distributed to Congress and the state legislatures. However, days later, the formula of Representation from each state was changed from one for every 40,000 to one for every 30,000. While the correction was made and new copies were printed, an additional error was missed. The Constitution was supposed to state that slave trade could not be legislatively addressed until 1808. However, in the printing, it shows 1708.

16. Letter of Jane Ewing describing the reception of George Washington by the people of Trenton, 23 April 1789.

Source: New Jersey State Archives collection, Miscellaneous Correspondence.



TRANSCRIPTION

Trenton 23 April 1789

My dear Brother

I have not heard from you but once since you left us how happy was I that I met Papa at Burlington about 12 O'Clock that day he left us we set off for Trenton. Mr. Ellis Wright rode with us. We got home before night and found all well the next morning was so Cloudy and wet the Ladies give over [seeing] the General but rais'd the Triumphant Arch supported by thirteen Pillars

adorn'd with wreaths of flowers the form was thus.

I cross this is does not answer the writing large letters painted Yellow on white – the pillars on one side 6 the other 7 observe all the scallops is wreathes of laurel and pillars flowers.

[Arch picture with words "The protector of the mothers will also protect their Daughters December 26, 1776"]

The Ladies was rang'd in a line from the arch along the Bridge and thirteen Girls dress't in white with Baskets of flowers the[y] sang the inclos'd song and when they come the[n] these words Build and strewn thy way with flowers they scattered them round that is the flowers out of their Baskets round his horses feet. He sat on his horse while they sung and then made them a low Bow, say'd the Ladies had done them very great honour. Requested them to except [accept] his most greatful thanks, the most respectable Characters met him at the ferry, the Infantry and Dragoons. They made a grand appearance he stayed all night at Vandigrifson. Mr. Ewing, and a few others spent the Evening with him and next morning at Sun rise accompany'd him 8 miles out of town. I repose you had great doings let me know, we are very ready how is our honour'd Parents give my Duty and love to them if their is any thing you wish to send it will come safe in Collin's waggon which will return I expect tomorrow. Aunty and Maskill joins me in love to you all. I send a pot of Elithiary for mama sore throat as much as will go on the point of a pen knife gargled in the mouth and throat. [Adieu?] my Dear Brother, your ever affectionate Sister.

Jane Ewing

