

NEW JERSEY

AS A COLONY AND AS A STATE

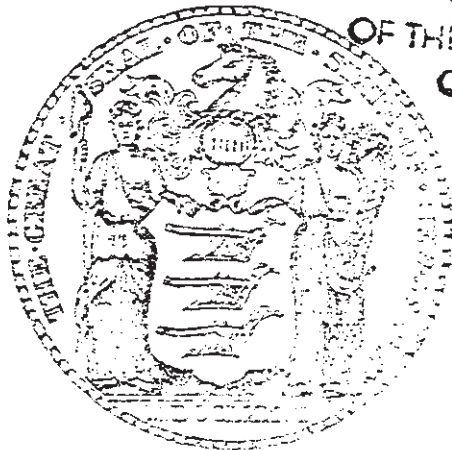
One of the Original Thirteen

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VOLUME TWO



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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THE PUBLISHING SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
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CHAPTER IV

THE CONTINENTAL LINE MILITIA, AND STATE
TROOPS

talion with Samuel Forman as colonel, while Colonel Charles Read's battalion consisted of three companies from Burlington, three from Gloucester, and one from Cumberland. Under a method that lasted throughout the war one-half the militia was in constant service on a basis of monthly classes.

By acts of March 15, 1777, and April 14, 1778, the militia was further regulated, the latter statute creating two brigades, Middlesex, Somerset, Essex, Bergen, Morris, and Sussex forming one brigade, the remaining counties of the State the other. In 1781, on the 8th of January, the Upper, Middle, and Lower Brigades were created. The Upper Brigade included the militia of the Counties of Bergen, Essex, Morris, and Sussex, and of those parts of Middlesex and Somerset lying on the northern and eastern side of the Raritan and its South Branch. The Middle Brigade included the remaining portions of Middlesex and Somerset and the Counties of Monmouth, Hunterdon, and Burlington. The Lower Brigade comprised Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May. Throughout the duration of the war artillery companies and troops of horse were organized under the direction of the governor or the Legislature.

The county organization of the militia shows the command to have been vested in Major-General Philemon Dickinson, with Bergen County,



A GRENADEER
OFFICER.

Colonel Theunis Dey; Burlington County, First Regiment, Colonel Joseph Borden, Second Regiment, Charles Read; Cape May County, Colonel John Mackay; Cumberland County, First Battalion, Colonel Silas Newcomb, Second Battalion, Colonel David Potter; Essex County, First Regiment, Colonel Elias Dayton, Second Regiment, North and South Battalions, Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt; Gloucester County, First Battalion, Colonel Israel Shreve, Second Battalion, Colonel Joseph Ellis, Third Battalion, Colonel Richard Somers; Hunterdon County, First Regiment, Colonel Isaac Smith; Second Regiment, Colonel Nathaniel Hunt, Third Regiment, Colonel David Chambers, Fourth Regiment, Colonel John Mehelm; Middlesex County, First Regiment, Colonel Nathaniel Heard, Second Regiment, Colonel John Wetherill, Third Regiment, Colonel John Duyckinck; Monmouth County, First Regiment, Colonel Nathaniel Scudder, Second Regiment, Colonel David Brearley, Third Regiment, Colonel Samuel Breese; Morris County, Eastern Battalion, Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr., Western Battalion, Colonel Jacob Drake; Salem County, Western Battalion, Colonel Samuel Dick, Eastern Battalion, Colonel John Holme; Somerset County, First Battalion, Colonel William Alexander, Second Battalion, Colonel Abraham Quick; Sussex County, First Regiment, Colonel William Maxwell, Second Regiment, Col-

CHAPTER X

THE OCCUPATION OF PHILADELPHIA

than eight constituted the majority of the last electors, which is an evident demonstration that it is now a matter of indifference who takes the lead as tyranny and oppression is only to be expected from such as are willing to be of the number, who constitute that illegal assembly.

While Mawhood was ravaging the Salem coast one hundred and fifty Tories had been intrenching themselves at Billingsport. To invest this force Colonel Shreve, of the Second New Jersey Regiment, dispatched Major Howell and a party to cooperate with the militia of Salem and Cumberland Counties. Failing to cooperate, Major Howell returned to headquarters at Haddonfield. To circumvent and surprise Colonel Shreve, fourteen hundred men were sent from Philadelphia to Gloucester Point, but Colonel Shreve, advised of the movement, retired with a greatly inferior force to Mount Holly without losing a man except three who were bayoneted by the Tories. One of the American cavalry who had been dispatched to give notice to the guard at Cooper's Ferry, now Camden, was also killed, by which circumstance the guard had no notice of the enemy's approach. Several of the Cooper's Ferry guard were killed and taken prisoners. Among the latter was Colonel Ellis, of the Gloucester County militia. The Tories then, according to a contemporaneous Whig account, "frustrated in their design of massacring our troops, and having gasconaded through the village, where they committed many

acts of cruelty, besides burning two dwelling houses, returned to Philadelphia, in the evening of the same day."

The last of the marauding expeditions upon the Delaware occurred early in May, when, according to the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* of May 13, 1778, "four galleys, an armed brig, and a schooner, with a detachment of light infantry in boats," went up the Delaware in search of American shipping removed for safety between Bordentown and Trenton. Landing at White Hill, the "Washington" and "Effingham," frigates, and several smaller craft were destroyed. Here, says the *Post*, the Whigs made a "show of resistance with about fifty light horse and the like number of militia, who were instantly dispersed with the loss of several men and four pieces of cannon, which was demolished."

Arriving in Bordentown, "a quantity of naval stores, and some thousands of tent poles, pegs, &c. with the storehouses, were burnt; by which means the dwelling house of Joseph Borden also shared the same fate!" After committing further waste, as well as barbarously murdering four captives, while their officers dined in the house of Francis Hopkinson, member of Congress, a portion of the invading force proceeded to Biles Island, near Trenton. Here General Dickinson stopped their progress, and a possible descent

upon that village was averted. At Biles Island, on the Pennsylvania shore, and at Watson's Creek, upon the New Jersey side of the river, shipping was burned, as well as the residence of Colonel Kirkbride, opposite Bordentown. From Kirkbride's the troops marched to Bristol, where they reëmbarked, after burning two ships and cannonading the undefended village of Burlington. According to the *Post* the number of vessels destroyed, besides the two frigates, was two privateers, one of fourteen and the other of ten guns, one large ship pierced for twenty-four guns, nine other ships, besides fourteen or fifteen smaller vessels. The troops and vessels employed on this excursion returned to Philadelphia without the loss of a man.

Thus ended the attempt of the British general-in-chief to retain control of the Delaware.



WILLIAM PITT.

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, styled "Pitt the Elder," one of the greatest orators and statesmen of the eighteenth century: b. Nov. 15, 1708; entered Parliament 1725; premier of Great Britain; noted for his championship of the rights of the American colonies; d. May 11, 1778; William, his second son, b. May 28, 1759, entered Parliament 1781, and became prime minister 1783.

CHAPTER XVI

NEW JERSEY WOMEN IN THE REVOLUTION

of their country. And to clear this measure from every imputation of injustice, I have only to observe, that the generality of the women in that county having, for above a century, worn the breeches, it is highly reasonable that the men should now, and especially upon so important an occasion, make booty of the petticoats.

HORTENTIUS.

It was upon July 4, 1780, that the women of Trenton organized the first society in New Jersey, the plan and scope of whose work geographically embraced the entire State. The purpose of this society was highly laudable, as the *New Jersey Gazette* of that week shows, being directed toward "promoting a subscription for the relief and encouragement of those brave Men in the Continental army who, stimulated by example and regardless of danger, have so repeatedly suffered, fought, and bled in the cause of virtue and their oppressed country."

Emulating a precedent already established by "their patriotic sisters in Pennsylvania," and being desirous "of manifesting their zeal in the glorious cause of American liberty," these women of Trenton, "taking into consideration the scattered situation of the well disposed thro' the State, who would wish to contribute to so laudable an undertaking," unanimously appointed a local committee consisting of Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Dickinson, Mrs. Moore Furman, and Miss Cadwallader. Of the committee Mrs. Furman was "treasuress" and Miss Dagworthy secretary.

To carry the plan into effect the committee was directed immediately to open subscriptions and to correspond with women of known patriotism throughout the State. Fortunately the names of those who would further so humane a plan have been preserved. As printed in the *Gazette* the list is: "For the County of Hunterdon—Mrs. [Vice-President] Stevens, Mrs. [Judge] Smith, Mrs. [Charles] Coxe, Mrs. R. Stevens, Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. T. Lowrey, Mrs. J. Sexton, Mrs. B. Van Cleve, Mrs. [Colonel] Berry, Mrs. [Doctor] Burnet. County of Sussex—Mrs. [Counsellor] Ogden, Mrs. [Colonel] Thomson, Mrs. [Major] Hoops, Mrs. T. Anderson. County of Bergen—Mrs. [Colonel] Dey, Mrs. Fell, Mrs. Kuyper, Mrs. Erskine, Mrs. [Major] Dey. County of Morris—Mrs. [Counsellor] Condict, Mrs. [Parson] Jones, Mrs. [Colonel] Remsen, Mrs. Vansant, Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. [Colonel] Cook, Mrs. Fæsch. County of Essex—Mrs. [Governor] Livingston, Mrs. C. Camp, Mrs. [Doctor] Burnet, Mrs. [Elisha] Boudinot, Mrs. Hornblower. County of Middlesex—Mrs. Neilson, Mrs. [Counsellor] Deare, Mrs. [George] Morgan, Mrs. [Colonel] Neilson, Mrs. Neilson, Mrs. [Daniel] Marsh. County of Monmouth—Mrs. [General] Forman, Mrs. [Colonel] Scudder, Mrs. Newell, Mrs. [Peter] Foreman, Mrs. [Jacob] Wickoff, Mrs. [Peter] Couvenhoven. County of Burlington—Mrs. [Colonel] Cox, Mrs. [Counsel-

lor] Tallman, Mrs. [Colonel] Borden, Mrs. [Secretary] Reed, Mrs. [Captain] Read. County of Somerset—Lady Stirling, Mrs. [General] Morris, Mrs. [Colonel] Martin, Mrs. [Attorney-General] Paterson, Mrs. R. Stockton. County of Gloucester—Mrs. [Colonel] Clark, Mrs. [Colonel] Wescott, Mrs. [Colonel] Ellis, Mrs. [Colonel] Hugg, Mrs. Bloomfield. County of Salem—Mrs. [Colonel] Dick, Mrs. Mayhew, Mrs. Tagart. County of Cumberland—Mrs. [Counsellor] Buck, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Fithian. County of Cape May—Mrs. [Counsellor] Hand, Mrs. Whilden, Mrs. Townsend, and Mrs. Hildreth.”

Of this company of women all had attained distinction, and all were representative of the culture and social life of the day. None were better known than Lady Stirling; Mrs. Richard Stockton, who under her maiden name, Annis Boudinot, at “Morven” in Princeton, had not only written patriotic verses, but verses worthy of approving criticism; and Mrs. William Livingston, mistress of “Liberty Hall” in Elizabeth. Intimately associated with these family names by ties of kinship and friendship were Mrs. Stevens, of Hunterdon, and Mrs. Elisha Boudinot, of Essex. Those who represented the Counties of Monmouth and Cape May bore names of families who had intermarried for a century.



Sa. Jay

Sarah Van Brugh Livingston, eldest daughter of Governor William Livingston; married John Jay April 28, 1774.

And so, to a less degree possibly, in the case of the other counties.

Unfortunately no record of this organization has been preserved; indeed no information can be obtained as to the results of its work. But certain it is that, instituted under such powerful influences, for so worthy an object, the society performed its patriotic labors and could enjoy within a few years the blessings that came with peace and reestablishment of domestic relations.

CHAPTER XVIII

NEW JERSEY'S LITERARY LIFE DURING THE
REVOLUTION

much of his work has perished, that which remains shows him to have been a man who had much in common with Livingston, and one whose type of mind was sadly needed in a day when New Jersey was yet uncertain as to her course. In the lapse of years, many of the evidences of the direct influence of John Witherspoon have been lost. Sufficient, however, remains to show that his unqualified position upon every question of policy, and his uncompromising attitude in favor of separation from the mother country, so stimulated the students of the College of New Jersey that, when they later struggled for freedom, the name of Princeton became synonymous with that of liberty.

“One of your pretty little curious, ingenious men— * * * yet he is genteel, and well bred and is very social”—so, in brief, John Adams, writing to his wife on an August day, 1776, described Francis Hopkinson, member of Congress from New Jersey, whom he had just met in the studio of Charles Willson Peale, the Philadelphia artist.

Among Jersey men of his time, Francis Hopkinson, whose fame had already graced Bordentown, was unquestionably the most versatile. Chosen to his seat in Congress by reason of his legal abilities, and statesmanship, he had earlier devoted himself to scientific research. In the world

of fine arts, Francis Hopkinson composed music, was "a writer of airy and dainty songs," an artist—under his direction, Du Simitière drew the design for the great seal of New Jersey, which design Hopkinson is said to have conceived—and a satirist, second only to that other Jerseyman, Philip Freneau, of Monmouth County.

Under the inspiration of his father, who was a most active spirit in the founding of the College of Philadelphia, now the University of Pennsylvania, Francis Hopkinson was the first pupil upon the rolls of the institution, and was a member of its first class—that of 1760. After practicing law for five years he departed for England in the year 1766. Arriving in the Old World at the age of twenty-nine, he sought that society for which his artistic soul longed, being received by Benjamin West, the Quaker president of the Royal Academy, himself a Pennsylvanian, John Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania, and Lord North, to whom he largely owed his future advancement. To the foreign favor of Lord North must be added the local influence of Francis Hopkinson's marriage to Ann Borden, descendant of Joseph Borden, founder of Bordentown.

It was in the year 1774 that Hopkinson first appears in New Jersey politics as mandamus member of council, but in spite of temptations never faltered in the discharge of that duty he



THE LORD NORTH MEDAL.

owed his country when he boldly signed the Declaration of Independence and afterward devoted his pen to the cause he so much loved.

During the early months of the year 1775 appeared "The First Book of the American Chronicles of the Times," which, as a scriptural parody, embracing the tea troubles, attracted a deal of attention, has been credited to Hopkinson. There is no doubt, however, as to the authorship of "A Pretty Story," by "Peter Grievous, Esq.," which was printed during the session of the Continental Congress which met in September, 1774. The "Pretty Story" is a delightful bit of satire, in which the disturbed relations between the Old Farm and the New Farm—England and America—are depicted. The "Pretty Story" ends abruptly, for only time could tell to what lengths the settlers upon the New Farm would be driven by the tyranny of the owners of the plantation.

In the debate upon the question of independence, Hopkinson had thrown himself with fervor. As a reply, to "Cato," who was the Reverend William Smith, provost of the College of Philadelphia, he had written a well conceived and well executed "Prophecy," in which effort he had been seconded by the contemporaneous newspaper articles of "Tom" Paine. Shortly afterward came his "Letter written by a Foreigner on the Character of the English Nation." Weighted

down with official cares, too busy in Congress with framing the articles of confederation and the "business of the navy" to accept the position of associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, Hopkinson devoted himself to his literary labors and as Professor Tyler suggests became the apostle of political free-mindedness—necessary to rid Americans of their sentimental attachment to the crown. Toward the "military invaders of the country and their American allies" Hopkinson drove the shafts of his ready wit. All hope of reconciliation having passed away, Francis Hopkinson sent flying through America a "series of his writings," most of which were "peculiarly characteristic of him, and of his ability to be severe without being either violent or uncivil." While Washington was retreating through the Jerseys came "A Letter to Lord Howe," and shortly afterward "A Political Catechism," a clear, succinct history of the causes of the war, and the war itself until 1777. Then for the soldiers, he wrote his "Camp Ballad," of which the last stanza is more than a memory:

On Heaven and Washington placing reliance
 We'll meet the bold Briton and bid him defiance;
 Our cause we'll support, for 't is just and 't is glorious.
 When men fight for freedom, they must be victorious.

The summer of 1777 brought the counter proc-



WASHINGTON'S BOOKPLATE.

lamation to Burgoyne, a peculiarly happy effort, as was his ballad dealing with the surrender of that English general.

The "Battle of the Kegs," far from being in Hopkinson's best style, gained a vast circulation. By the "Battle of the Kegs" he is best known to the mass of the people. David Bushnell, of Connecticut, had prepared kegs filled with gunpowder, which were floated down the Delaware for the purpose of annoying the British shipping at Philadelphia. At these objects, as well as everything else visible in the river, the British are said to have "discharged their small arms and cannon." The "Battle of the Kegs" seldom appears, without expurgation, on account of an allusion to Lord Howe and his relations to Mrs. Loring, a woman of prominence in Philadelphia, the wife of a member of his military family.

Nor were his attacks against the loyalists in America less satirical. His "Two Letters," his "Birds and Beasts and the Bat," the fable of the "political trimmer," his "Letter" to Joseph Galloway, and a "Letter" to Isaac Collins are but a part of his voluminous writings, which culminated in 1781, in a list of books, plays, maps, and prints, philosophical apparatus and patent medicines alleged to be offered for sale by James Rivington, the Tory printer of New York.

Upon the commencement day of the College of

New Jersey, in the year 1771, there received the degree granted by that temple of learning one whose after life forms a true romance in the history of the American Revolution. With him appeared before the faculty and an auditory composed of people of the highest reputations Hugh Henry Brackenridge, who, like his associate, did so much to advance the cause of American liberty. By the side of these young men sat their classmate, James Madison, a future President of the United States. This was the public introduction to the world of letters of Philip Freneau, a youth of eighteen. It was then that he appeared as "interlocutor in a metrical dialogue, written by himself and Brackenridge," under the imposing title of "The Rising Glory of America." Privately, to his fellow students if not to a wider circle, Philip Freneau was by no means unknown, for in his college career he had already written a poem "The Prophet Jonah," and a dramatic bit of blank verse "The Pyramids of Egypt."

Born of Huguenot ancestry, his mind was ever alert, his pen filled with imagery—often that of the sea, which he so dearly loved. But, in the mass of literary workmanship, which was a part of his contribution to the Revolution, one seeks well nigh in vain for the vivacity, the abandon, the sunlight of Francis Hopkinson. Before us



Philip Freneau, b. New York City, Jan. 2, 1752; grad. Princeton College 1771; d. near Freehold, N. J., Dec. 18, 1832.