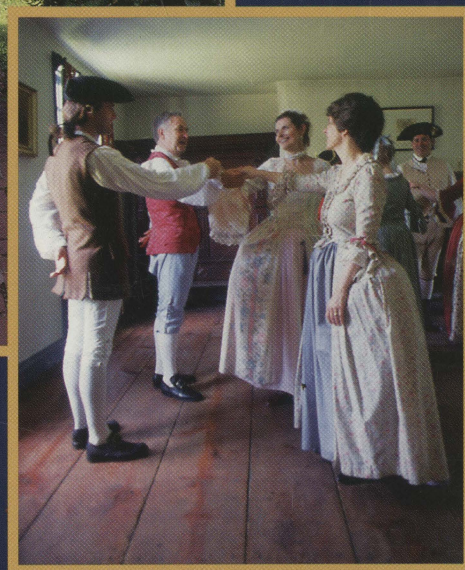
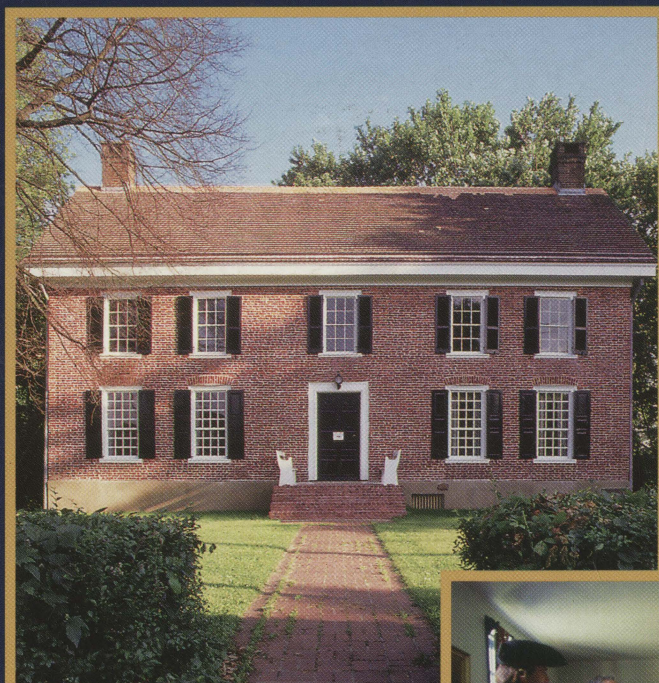


ALEX
DOCNJ
F
132.3
.R48
1998
c.2

A REVOLUTIONARY TIME

*Take a few days and visit the
Crossroads of the American Revolution*

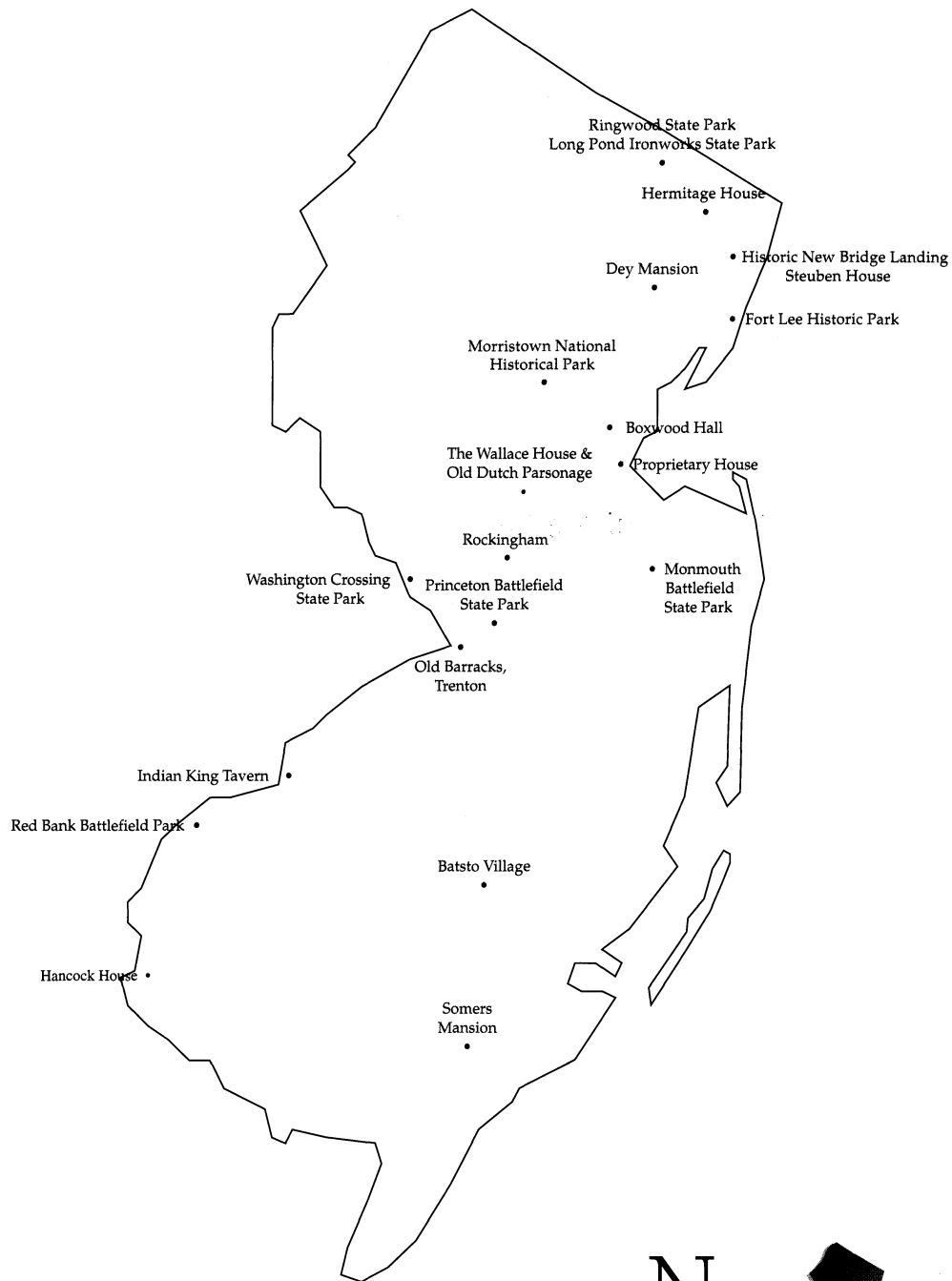


The Guide to New Jersey's
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR TRAIL

• Historic homes, landscapes and battlefields

• What happened, where it happened and when it happened

SELECTED AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES IN NEW JERSEY



New
Jersey & You
Reflect Together

Washington and the Continental Army spent almost half of the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey.

TAKE A FEW DAYS AND DISCOVER WHY . . .



Children's Day at Rockingham

Caught between the Continental Congress in Philadelphia and General William Howe's troops in New York, with the Delaware River in the west and access to New England by way of the Hudson River in the northeast, New Jersey became a major crossroads for the American Revolutionary War. In testimony to this fact, an impressive representation of historic sites associated with the war are located throughout the state.

From 1775 to 1783, New Jersey was home to a series of events crucial to the struggle for democracy. Battles and skirmishes were fought, policy was made, speeches were written and General George Washington wrote his farewell address. New Jersey even had its own tea parties. Throughout New Jersey are quiet reminders of those dramatic days - historic buildings, markers and statues. Annual reenactments and living history events bring the past into the present.

We hope this guide will be your passport to discovering an exciting chapter of New Jersey's colorful history.

ALEX. LIB. RUTGERS

DEC 23 1998

DEPOSITORY

For information on the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry, please call (800) 843-6420 or (609) 984-0370. Text telephone users: please call NJ Relay Services at (800) 852-7899.

For a free *New Jersey Travel Guide*, please call the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, Office of Travel and Tourism, at (800) JERSEY-7, ext. 8942, or visit the website at www.state.nj.us/travel.

Sites have been selected based on their historical significance and the availability of staffing and facilities. Additional places of interest are listed in the guide. As some of the sites included in this publication are staffed by volunteers, please call ahead for hours and tour information. There are many important sites in the state, and we are sorry that we cannot include each and every location that had a role in the colonies' struggle for independence. County cultural and heritage commissions also can provide information on local sites.

Photo credits: front cover, Mercer Oak on back cover, pages 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 by Walter Choroszewski. Page 1 - Children's Day at Rockingham by Peggy Carlsen. Page 4 - spinner at Johnson Ferry House. Page 4 - Washington crossing the Delaware River by John Keator. Page 12 - Rockingham by Paul Taylor. Back cover - Princeton Battlefield by John Mills.

We extend our thanks to the many individuals and organizations who helped make this publication possible.

Itinerary

To help you plan your trip, the *Guide to New Jersey's American Revolutionary War Trail* provides information on several key sites and other points of interest. For information, please call the phone number listed after each site.

The Retreat Across New Jersey - November 1776
From Fort Lee to Historic New Bridge Landing
and Other Sites in North Jersey

Ten Crucial Days -
December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777
From Washington Crossing State Park to the Old
Barracks in Trenton to Princeton Battlefield State Park

Victory and Rebuilding - January 1777
Defeat, Starvation and Retrenching -
December 1779 to 1780
Morristown National Historic Park

Defense of the Delaware River -
September to December 1777
Red Bank Battlefield and Other Sites in South Jersey

The Battle of Monmouth - June 28, 1778
Monmouth Battlefield State Park

Washington's Farewell Address - November 1783
Rockingham Historic Site and
Other Sites in Central Jersey

While in North Jersey, be sure to visit . . .

The Hermitage

335 North Franklin Turnpike

Ho-Ho-Kus 07423

(201) 445-8311

Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

Elaborate gingerbread and a charming peaked roof give the Hermitage an appealing enchantment.

The original core of the Hermitage was built in the mid-18th century. George Washington and his staff frequently visited here during the Revolutionary War. The spacious rooms and stunning wallpaper provided the setting for the marriage of Aaron Burr to the house's owner, Theodosia Prevost. In 1845, the house was transformed by architect William Ranlett into one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in North America.

There are many special events throughout the year. The site is operated and supported by the Friends of the Hermitage. The Hermitage features rotating exhibits and Victorian period furnishings. Guided tours are available and an admission fee is charged.

Boxwood Hall

1073 East Jersey Street

Elizabeth 07201

(973) 648-4540

Hours: 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Call to confirm.

Built about 1750, the house became the residence of Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress that ratified the Peace Treaty with Great Britain. Boudinot's sister, Annis, married Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. On his journey from Mt. Vernon to New York City for his first inauguration in 1789, George Washington visited his friend Elias Boudinot at this house.

In the early 19th century, the house was owned by Jonathan Dayton, the youngest signer of the Constitution. In 1824, Dayton entertained General Lafayette during his tour of the United States. The house contains a fine collection of period furnishings. Guided tours are available and admission is free.

Proprietary House

149 Kearney Avenue

Perth Amboy 08862

(732) 826-5527

Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm, Sunday. Tours can be arranged.

The Proprietary House is the only original existing colonial governor's residence in the thirteen colonies. It was built for the last royal governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin. The house is leased to the Proprietary House Association.

Dey Mansion

199 Totowa Road

Wayne 07470

(973) 696-1776

Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Although the Dey Mansion is a superb example of modified Georgian architecture, it has achieved national recognition as General Washington's Revolutionary War headquarters in the Preakness Valley. Constructed between 1740 and 1750 by Dirck Dey, a Dutch-born planter, the mansion is a combination of Dutch and English influences. It is a rich and dramatic composition of rural and urban elements that had few mid-18th century counterparts west of the Hudson River.

During the revolution, Dirck Dey's son Theunis commanded the Bergen County Militia. Colonel Dey offered the east side of the house to General Washington when the commander-in-chief established his headquarters in July, October and November of 1780. Historical research discloses that 364 letters and orders were actually written at the mansion by and on behalf of General Washington and directed to senior officers as well as the Continental Congress.

The Dey Mansion is the headquarters of the Bergen County Militia, a reenactment group dedicated to recreating the military life of the American Revolution. The militia sponsors a number of annual events at the mansion.

The production of iron was crucial to the war. Don't miss Ringwood State Park and Long Pond Ironworks in Ringwood in north Jersey, (973) 962-7031.

RETREAT ACROSS NEW JERSEY

Fort Lee and Fort Washington were built on opposite sides of the Hudson River to block river access to New England from the British, but the inexperienced Americans were unable to defend these precarious forts against the well-equipped and professionally trained British and German soldiers. As General Washington watched helplessly from **Fort Lee in New Jersey**, Fort Washington, located just across the river in northern Manhattan, fell to British troops on November 16, 1776.

Two days later, General Cornwallis ferried more than 6,000 British troops across the Hudson River. The British scaled the steep cliffs along the west bank of the river known as the Palisades. As soon as Washington learned of the British approach, he hastily evacuated his troops, heading west across New Jersey through **Historic New Bridge Landing** and on to Pennsylvania.

Since speed was crucial, the Continental soldiers were forced to leave behind much of their equipment including food, blankets, cannons and supplies. The disastrous retreat inspired Thomas Paine to pen his most famous words, written on a drum, "These are the times that try men's souls."



Steuben House, Historic New Bridge Landing



Dey Mansion, Wayne

Historic New Bridge Landing

1209 Main Street, River Edge 07661

(201) 487-1739

Hours: 10 am to 4 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

Today, Historic New Bridge Landing is 18 acres of unspoiled land in the middle of one of the country's most densely developed areas. The wooden bridge that crossed the river enabled the Continental Army to flee to safety. Visitors to the site can tour *the Steuben House, Campbell-Christie House, the Demarest House, an out-kitchen/bake house, English-style barn and an 1889 iron-truss swing bridge.*

The Steuben House, the site's centerpiece, is the earliest and finest example of the Dutch Colonial style of architecture. General Washington established headquarters here on September 4, 1780. The use of the house was later granted to Baron von Steuben, who played a vital part in training the Continental Army at Valley Forge.

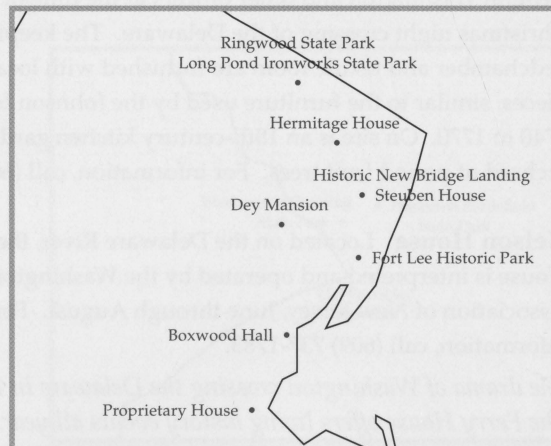
Fort Lee Historic Park

Hudson Terrace, Fort Lee 07024

(201) 461-1776

Hours: 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesday through Sunday.

Visitors can follow paths through the gun batteries, firing steps and several overlooks that offer spectacular views of the George Washington Bridge, the Hudson River and the New York City skyline. Two floors of audiovisual displays, exhibits and programs tell the story of Washington's retreat.



December 25, 1776, to January 3, 1777

TEN CRUCIAL DAYS

On December 25, 1776, the icy waters of the Delaware River provided the setting for one of the pivotal events of the Revolutionary War. The Continental Army had little to celebrate that Christmas and seemed beaten by hunger and cold. After crossing the ice-choked river at night, General George Washington and the Continental Army landed at Johnson's Ferry, which is located in what is now known as Washington Crossing State Park. At 4 am, they began their march to Trenton where they defeated the Hessian troops in an unexpected attack. This battle was followed by the Second Battle of Trenton on January 2, 1777, and the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777.



Annual Reenactment of Washington Crossing the Delaware

Washington Crossing State Park

355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville 08560

Park Office: (609) 737-0623; Visitors Center/Museum: (609) 737-9303

Summer hours: 8 am to 8 pm; winter hours: 8 am to 4:30 pm

This is the site where General Washington daringly maneuvered to attack British forces and reverse the series of defeats suffered during the fall of 1776. **Washington Crossing State Park** offers picnic facilities, an interpretive center with exhibits and many trails and paths that lead through a natural area and along a stream. **The Continental Lane**, believed to be the route over which the Continental Army marched to Trenton, runs through the park. A summer festival of music and drama is presented on an open outdoor stage at the **Open Air Theatre**. The theatre is operated from June through August by the Washington Crossing Association of New Jersey. For more information, call (609) 737-1826.

Swan Historical Foundation Collection Located in the Visitors Center/Museum of Washington Crossing State Park, the Swan collection represents one of the most extensive, broad-based collections of Revolutionary War artifacts on display in the country. Over 900 original objects interpret the era, circa 1745 through 1789. Open Wednesday through Sunday, year round. For more information, call (609) 737-9303.

Johnson Ferry House This early 18th-century gambrel roof farmhouse and tavern near the Delaware River was owned by Garret Johnson, who operated a ferry service across the river in the 1700s. Local tradition says the house may have been used by General Washington and other officers at the time of the Christmas night crossing of the Delaware. The keeping room, bedchamber and textile room are furnished with local period pieces, similar to the furniture used by the Johnson family from 1740 to 1770. On site is an 18th-century kitchen garden and an orchard of period fruit trees. For information, call (609) 737-2515.

Nelson House Located on the Delaware River, the Nelson House is interpreted and operated by the Washington Crossing Association of New Jersey, June through August. For further information, call (609) 737-1783.



Living History at the Johnson Ferry House

The drama of Washington crossing the Delaware in Durham boats is reenacted every year on the afternoon of December 25. The Ferry House offers living history events all year. Please call the Visitors Center/Museum for dates and times.

The Old Barracks of Trenton

Barrack Street, Trenton 08608

(609) 396-1776

Hours: Open daily 10 am to 5 pm.

The colony of New Jersey built the Old Barracks to relieve Trenton of the burden of housing British soldiers during the French and Indian Wars. The Officers' House was constructed in 1760 to house officers of the regiments at the Barracks. The building saw various uses during the American Revolution. Americans, British and Hessians occupied the Barracks during the early stages of the war at different times. The Continental Army eventually used it as a hospital. It is one of the few surviving military sites left from the two battles of Trenton.

Visitors to the site can tour a recreated barrack and hospital rooms. The Officers' House provides a glimpse into the lifestyle of officers during the French and Indian Wars. The conflicts that arose before the revolution are explained to visitors on the tour of the Barracks. In the History Labs, visitors learn what it's like to be a researcher, archaeologist, architect and curator in a hands-on exhibit that delves into the discoveries made at the Old Barracks.



Old Barracks of
Trenton

Sites to Visit Nearby

Nassau Hall, Princeton University During the Revolution, Nassau Hall served as a barracks and hospital for both Continental and British troops. It was the scene of the last stand of the British in the Battle of Princeton. In 1776, the first legislature of New Jersey convened in it, the first governor of the state (William Livingston) was inducted, and the seal of the state was adopted.

From June to November 1783, the Continental Congress sat in Nassau Hall, and at that time it thanked Washington in person for his conduct of the war, received news that the treaty of peace had been signed and officially received the first minister accredited to the new independent nation.

Stony Brook Friends Meeting House Built in 1726, the meeting house is adjacent to Princeton Battlefield. Its cemetery contains the gravesite of Richard Stockton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who resided in Morven.

The Princeton Battle Monument Designed by sculptor Frederick MacMonnies and dedicated by President Warren Harding, the monument is located in Princeton Borough at Stockton Street and Bayard Street.

A Winter Victory

The Battle of Princeton

Princeton Battlefield State Park

500 Mercer Road, Princeton

(609) 921-0074

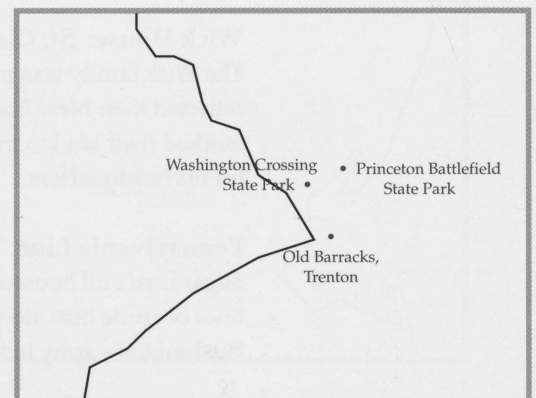
Park hours: Open dawn to dusk.

Clarke House hours: 10 am to 4 pm; Wednesday through Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm on Sunday. Closed Wednesdays after holidays.

On January 3, 1777, the peaceful winter fields and woods of Princeton Battlefield were transformed into the site of what is considered to be the fiercest fight of its size during the war. During this desperate battle, American troops under General George Washington surprised and defeated a force of British Regulars.

The park is the site of the Mercer Oak and the Clarke House, built in 1772 by Thomas Clarke. General Hugh Mercer was mortally wounded nearby and was carried to the Clarke House, where he died nine days after the battle. Also located on the battlefield is the Ionic Colonnade designed by Thomas U. Walter (architect of the US Capitol Building) and a stone patio marking the grave of 21 British and 15 American soldiers killed in the battle.

The 85-acre **Princeton Battlefield State Park** offers trails for hiking, walking and cross-country skiing. The park lies next to the 600-acre **Institute Woods**, a wildlife preserve.



VICTORY AND REBUILDING

Weary, but elated by its brilliant victories at Trenton and Princeton, the Continental Army trudged into winter quarters at Morristown in early January 1777. Washington hardly could have picked a more defensible place in which to rest and reassemble his army, which had almost melted away during the Jersey campaign.

The high ramparts of Watchung Mountains east of town protected them from Howe's army in New York City, 30 miles away. Its passes could be easily defended and lookouts posted on ridge tops afforded a place to quickly spot any British move on Morristown or across the Jersey plains toward the patriot capital at Philadelphia. Washington used the winter lull to fill his ranks and forge them into an effective fighting machine.



Washington Headquarters, 1779-80

In early December 1779, Morristown's finest house became a center of the American Revolution. Mrs. Jacob Ford, Jr., a widow with four young children, offered the hospitality of her home to the General and Mrs. Washington. With the commander-in-chief came staff officers assigned to assist in a multitude of duties.

Fort Nonsense, 1777

In May 1777, Fort Nonsense throbbed with activity as soldiers dug trenches and raised embankments. George Washington ordered the crest fortified as it strategically overlooked the town. The earthworks became known as "Fort Nonsense" because of a later legend that it had been built only to keep the troops occupied.

Jockey Hollow Encampment Area, 1779-80

Twelve men often shared one of the more than 1,000 simple huts built in Jockey Hollow to house the army. Activity in the encampment began early each day and often continued until late at night with inspections, drills, training, work details and guard duty filling long hours. Dogged and biting cold, soldiers spent most of their free time huddled around the fireplace.

Wick House: St. Clair's Headquarters, 1779-80

The Wick family was prosperous and lived in a comfortable home whose construction and style reflected their New England origins. Like all farmers, the Wick family, father, mother and children worked their land to meet their daily needs. In 1779-80, General Arthur St. Clair used the Wick House for his headquarters.

Pennsylvania Line, 1779-80

Sugar Loaf Hill housed 2,000 men during the 1779-80 encampment. Around the face of this hillside, lines of crude huts stood in military array. There was little to suggest that here was the heart of Washington's army in such a bleak landscape.

DEFEAT, STARVATION AND RETRENCHING



As 1779 drew to a close, Washington turned his attention to the coming winter encampment of the Continental Army. The large British force in New York City had to be watched from a place where the American army could be preserved through the always difficult winter months. Morristown's strategic location once again satisfied these requirements. Washington and his troops arrived in Morristown amidst a severe hail and snow storm on December 1, 1779. The general made his headquarters at the home of the widow of Jacob Ford, Jr.

Senior officers found quarters in private homes in and around Morristown. Junior officers lived with their men in Jockey Hollow, a few miles south of Morristown. As each brigade arrived, it was assigned a campsite. The men lived in tents as work began on the log cabins that would serve as their barracks. Cold, hunger and illness were the troops constant companions during what was the most severe winter of the 18th century.

Grand Parade

Military ceremony, training and discipline were as important to 18th-century army life as they are today. The dignitaries who visited Morristown went to the Grand Parade to witness ceremonies involving the entire army. What was learned here could mean the difference between life and death, victory and defeat on the battlefield.

New Jersey Brigade Area, 1779-80

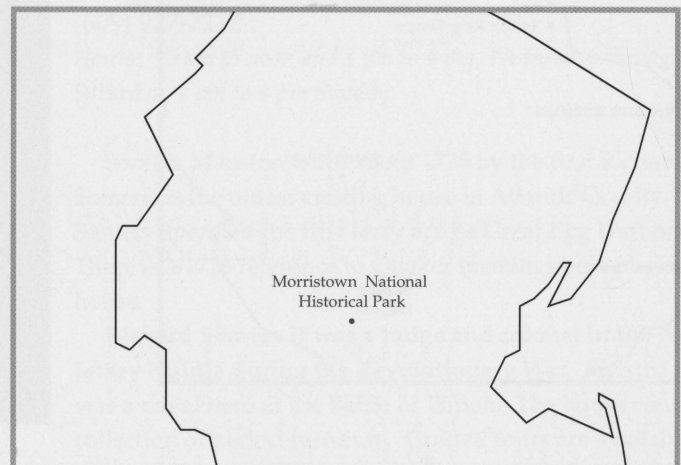
About 900 troops of the New Jersey Brigade encamped on a steep plot of land two miles southwest of Jockey Hollow.

Tours and admission Washington's Headquarters and the adjacent museum are open daily. The museum is open from 9 am to 5 pm. The Ford Mansion/Headquarters is shown by scheduled tours that begin at the museum. The Jockey Hollow visitor center is open daily, June through October, from 9 am to 5 pm. The nearby Wick House is open daily, June through October, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Both buildings are open the rest of the year on a limited schedule. All hours are subject to change. A moderate admission fee is charged for Washington's Headquarters and Jockey Hollow.

Morristown National Historical Park

National Park Service
Washington Place
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 539-2085

Access to the Jockey Hollow Encampment Area from I-287 is via exit 30 and US 202 near Bernardsville. Turn right or north on US 202 and follow signs to the encampment area.



September to December 1777

DEFENSE OF THE DELAWARE RIVER



James and Ann Whitall House

From the beginning, the Continental Congress recognized the importance of protecting the city of Philadelphia against a sea attack. Orders were made to develop the necessary river defense systems, including underwater obstructions and three land batteries: Fort Mifflin on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River, Fort Mercer in Red Bank, New Jersey, and a fortification four miles away at Billingsport. These extensive river defenses prevented ships from transporting desperately needed food and supplies to British soldiers and citizens occupying the city. Although each of the land batteries were ultimately evacuated and overtaken by the British, the valiant defense efforts made by American soldiers resulted in several small victories against the British and provided Washington and his army much-needed time to reorganize.

Red Bank Battlefield Park

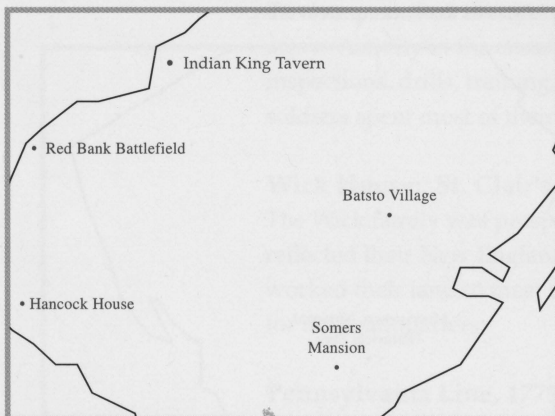
100 Hessian Avenue, National Park 08063
(609) 853-5120

Hours: Open dawn to dusk.

James and Ann Whitall House: 9 am to noon, Wednesday to Friday; 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Closed weekends November through March.

Historic Red Bank Battlefield is located on the Delaware River. The remains of Fort Mercer, site of the battle to defend the Delaware River, are found in the park. The park offers picnic pavilions and playgrounds situated in a grove of trees.

Within the park is the James and Ann Whitall House, which was built in 1748 and is a fine example of 18th-century Georgian architecture. After the Battle of Red Bank, the wounded were brought to the Whitall House which served as a hospital. Ann Whitall, who had remained behind, tended the wounded. On November 19th, the fort was destroyed and the Americans moved on. The Whitalls, forced to vacate also, returned in April 1778. After the Revolutionary War, the Whitalls went back to working the plantation - the focal point of a thriving multi-faceted business with orchards, livestock, grist mill, smokehouse, shad fishery and a ferry across the Delaware River.



Red Bank Battlefield Park

While in South Jersey, don't miss these historic places . . .

Indian King Tavern

233 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield 08033
(609) 429-6792

Hours: 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; 1 pm to 4 pm Sunday.

On **March 10, 1777**, the New Jersey Assembly met at the Indian King Tavern and approved the adoption of the Great Seal of New Jersey. Six months later on September 20, the Assembly again met at the Tavern and enacted a law substituting the word "State" for "Colony" in all commissions, writs and indictments. Formerly known as the American House, the Tavern was built about 1750 by Mathias Aspden. The Indian King Tavern contains a collection of early American furnishings. Guided tours are offered. Admission is free.

Hancock House

Hancocks Bridge 08038
Mailing address: c/o Fort Mott State Park
454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville 08070
(609) 935-3218

Hours: Limited schedule. Call Fort Mott State Park for a tour.

During the war, a small garrison of local militia men were stationed at the settlement of Hancock's Bridge. The draw-bridge was considered a vital transportation link requiring protection against British attack.

In early 1778, the army at Valley Forge became increasingly desperate because of dwindling food and supplies. Washington sent a foraging party around British-held Philadelphia across the Delaware River to Salem County. They collected more than 300 cattle, driving them north via Haddonfield, Trenton and back across the Delaware to Valley Forge. The British army in Philadelphia also sent military units to forage for food and supplies.

On **March 15, 1778**, British regulars and American loyalists under Colonel Mawhood left Philadelphia for Salem, where they skirmished with American militia and burned the houses of several military officers. The opposing forces met at Quinton's Bridge on March 18, when British troops nearly trapped a group of local militia who were rescued by the Cumberland County Militia Regiment.

Colonel Mawhood dispatched 300 men under Major Simcoe to Hancock's Bridge. The British force of regular troops and local loyalists surprised and massacred approximately thirty members of the American garrison and Judge William Hancock.

The brick Hancock house was built in 1734 by Judge William Hancock and contains a collection of South Jersey

period furniture. The decorative patterned brickwork on the end wall of the house contains the initials of Judge Hancock and his wife, and the date of construction.

Batsto Village

Wharton State Forest
Route 542, Batsto, RD #9
Hammonton 08037
(609) 561-3262

Hours: The Batsto mansion, post office and visitors center are open to the public year round. The general store, gristmill, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, sawmill and workmen's houses are open seasonally to the public. The mansion is open at specified times. There is a small charge for a guided tour of Batsto Mansion.

Batsto Village, a former bog iron and glassmaking industrial center from 1766 to 1867, currently reflects the agricultural and commercial enterprises that existed here during the late 19th century. Located in Wharton State Forest, this Pine Barrens village consists of thirty-three historic buildings and structures, including the Batsto Mansion, gristmill, sawmill, general store, workers' homes and post office.

The Batsto Ironworks was erected by Charles Read of Burlington in 1766. **During the Revolutionary War, the ironworks produced cannon and munitions for Washington's Continental Army.** In 1784, the property was acquired by William Richards, whose descendants continued to own and operate Batsto for the next 92 years. Joseph Wharton, a wealthy Philadelphia industrialist and financier, acquired the estate in 1876, making considerable changes to the village landscape.

Somers Mansion

1000 Shore Road
Somers Point 08244
(609) 927-2212

Hours: 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; 1 pm to 4 pm Sunday.

Somers Mansion, built about 1725 by the first Richard Somers, is the oldest existing house in Atlantic County. Somers operated the first ferry across Great Egg Harbor Bay. There is a 1726 reference to Quaker meetings being held in the house.

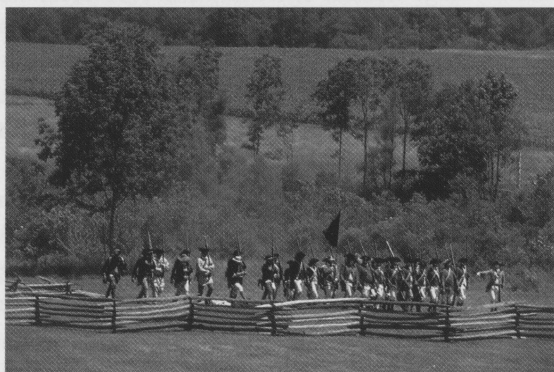
Richard Somers II was a judge and colonel in the New Jersey Militia during the Revolutionary War. Richard III was a naval hero at the Battle of Tripoli. The house contains a collection of period furniture. Guided tours are available. Admission is free. The site is supported by the Atlantic County Historical Society.

June 28, 1778

THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

One of the largest and hottest battles of the American Revolution took place at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. On June 18, 1778, the main British Army under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton abandoned Philadelphia and began marching to the city of New York. The next day, the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington left Valley Forge and moved on to harass the British. Sunday, June 28, 1778, found the British Army of 20,000 men camped near Freehold, while the main Continental Army of 8,500 men camped around Englishtown. General Charles Lee and an advance force of 5,000 men had orders to attack the rear of the British Army.

As the British broke camp to continue their march, General Lee moved to encircle the British rear guard. Barely in time, Lee realized that half of the British Army was returning to attack him. As Lee led a retreat across the Rhea Farm, Washington intercepted him and gave orders to begin a delaying action while the main Continental Army regrouped.



Monmouth Battlefield State Park

347 Freehold-Englishtown Road, Manalapan 07726
(732) 462-9616

Hours: The park is open from dawn to dusk. Please call ahead for visitor center hours.

The park preserves a splendid rural 18th-century landscape of hilly farmland and hedgerows of 2,000 acres that encompass miles of hiking and horseback riding trails, picnic areas, a restored Revolutionary War farmhouse and a visitors center. The visitors center stands on top of Combs Hill, which was once commanded by the Continental Army artillery. Inside is an interpretive display area and the park office. Artifacts recovered in battlefield archaeology are also on display. The park is located in Manalapan and Freehold townships just west of Freehold Borough with the main entrance on Business Route 33. **The Craig House, the Rhea-Applegate House, and the Sutfin-Herbert House** were all witnesses to this major battle.

The Craig House During the battle, this farmhouse was the home of John and Ann Craig and their three children. The house was used as a field hospital for both sides in the conflict. According to family tradition, the Craigs hid their silverware in the well before fleeing their farm. During the battle, thirsty British troops drained the well and found the silver at the bottom. The 1746 kitchen is Dutch-framed, while the two-story addition is English-framed. The house contains a collection of period furnishings.



A Long Hot Battle in June

For several long, hot, and exhausting hours during the afternoon of June 28, the largest land artillery battle of the American Revolution raged. The Continental artillery won the battle forcing the British artillery to withdraw. General Washington moved fresh troops forward to resume the battle at dawn, but during the night, British forces slipped away, ending the last major battle of the north.

The Battle of Monmouth was a political triumph for the Continental Army and General George Washington. The Continental Army had met the British in open field and forced them to retreat. British casualties were two to three times greater than those of the American troops.

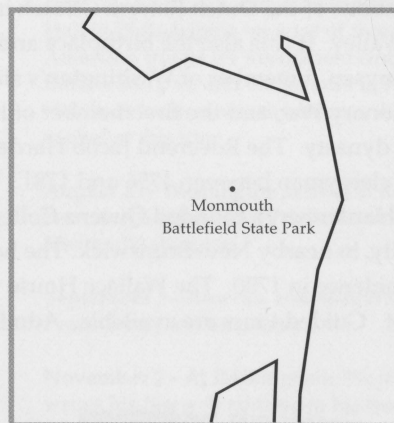
Before the Battle In the 1680s, Scottish and Dutch families began settling in the area. By the 1770s, seven well-established farms occupied the park site. The farmers and their slaves grew wheat, rye, Indian corn, and oats. Horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs fed in pastures and fallow fields, and the men cut hay in the marshes along the brooks. Orchards provided fruit and cider. In the farmhouses and surrounding enclosures, the women gardened, made preserves, kept the dairy and poultry, and provided their families with meals and clothes.

The 1800s and 1900s During the 1800s, the last of the forests were cleared, marshes were drained, and roads were straightened. The freed African-American farm workers built a church nearby. Some enlisted in the Union Army. A Civil War training camp, Camp Vredenburg, was constructed in a field next to the 1852 Freehold-Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad, where three New Jersey regiments were trained during 1862-63. A landscape restoration program will recreate Revolutionary War fences, lanes and a woodlot.

Related Structures Old Tennent Church (1751), which is adjacent to the battlefield; the 1726 Village Inn in Englishtown; St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1771); the Monmouth County Historical Association Museum; the Covenhoven House (c. 1752) and the Monmouth Battle Monument in the town of Freehold, which was dedicated in 1884 to commemorate the Battle of Monmouth.

The Annual Battle of Monmouth Reenactment Fourth Weekend in June

A reenactment of the June 1778 battle is held every year with authentically dressed troops camped out in the park and situated in the fields for fighting. For an entire weekend, the park is inhabited by men, women and children in 18th-century dress. They cook over campfires, live in tents, drill and march off to scheduled battles. **Please call for exact dates and time: (732) 462-9616.**



November 1783

WASHINGTON WRITES HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS

Rockingham

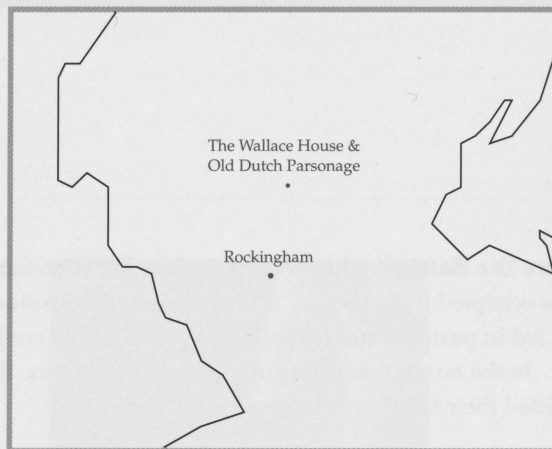
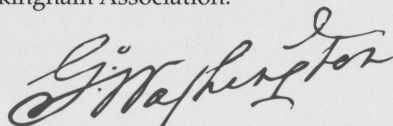
108 CR 518, RD #4, Princeton 08540

(609) 921-8835

Hours: 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sunday.

Built about 1730, Rockingham was purchased and enlarged by Judge John Berrien in 1764. In 1783, while the Continental Congress was meeting at Nassau Hall in nearby Princeton, Congress rented the house from Judge Berrien's widow for use by General Washington. The house was occupied by General Washington from August 23 to November 10, 1783. Martha joined him at Rockingham.

It was here that Washington wrote his "*Farewell Address to the Army*." It was Washington's last military headquarters during the war. The house contains a fine collection of period furnishings. There is a children's museum exhibit. Several outbuildings and gardens add to the interpretation. Guided tours are available. Admission is free. The site is supported by the Rockingham Association.



COLONIAL HOUSE TOURS IN CENTRAL JERSEY

Old Dutch Parsonage

65 Washington Place, Somerville 08876

(908) 725-1015

Hours: 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sunday.

The Old Dutch Parsonage was built in 1751 for John Frelinghuysen, who came from Amsterdam to serve three congregations of the Dutch Reform Church in the upper Raritan Valley. It was also the birthplace and home of General Frelinghuysen, a member of Washington's staff during the Revolutionary War, and the first member of his family's political dynasty. The Reverend Jacob Hardenbergh was the resident clergyman between 1756 and 1781. While living here in 1766, Hardenbergh founded Queens College, now Rutgers University, in nearby New Brunswick. The house is furnished as his residence in 1780. The Wallace House is located across the street. Guided tours are available. Admission is free.

Wallace House

38 Washington Place, Somerville 08876

(908) 725-1015

Hours: 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday through Saturday; 1 pm to 4 pm, Sunday.

The Wallace House was completed in 1777 as Hope Farm for John Wallace, a successful Philadelphia merchant. Wallace leased the house for use by General George Washington as his headquarters during the Middlebrook Winter Encampment from December 11, 1778, to June 3, 1779. While at the Wallace House, Washington completed plans for General Sullivan's expedition against Britain's Native American allies in Pennsylvania and New York. Martha Washington joined the general on February 5th and stayed there through the spring.

Today the house is one of the best and most original examples of Georgian architecture in New Jersey, and was one of the largest homes constructed in the state during the Revolution. Guided tours are available. Admission is free. The site is supported by the Friends of Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage.

The War for Independence - A Chronology of Events in New Jersey

1774

January - At the College of New Jersey, the future Princeton University, students burn tea in support of Boston.

September 5 - October 26 - The first Continental Congress organizes in Philadelphia.

December 22 - In Greenwich, New Jersey, men dressed as "Indians" break into a storehouse, take tea delivered by the ship Greyhound, and burn it in a field.

1775

April 19 - Open fighting between local militia and British redcoats begins at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

May 10 - The 2nd Continental Congress opens in Philadelphia.

1776

June 19 - New Jersey's Royal Governor, William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, is arrested.

June 21 - The New Jersey Provincial Congress at Burlington votes 53-3 to break ties with Great Britain and to declare independence.

July 4 - The Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.

July - Washington's troops construct Fort Lee on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River and Fort Washington on the New York side to control river access to New England.

November 16 - Fort Washington falls to the British. Washington and his troops evacuate Fort Lee.

November 20 - General Washington leads 2,000 troops from Fort Lee to safety across the Hackensack River at New Bridge Landing and the Steuben House.

November 23 through December 3 - Washington continues retreat across New Jersey, passing through Princeton on his way to the Delaware River.

December 7 and 8 - Washington and his troops cross the Delaware River, taking all the boats in the area. British and Hessians reach Princeton and Trenton.

December 13 - In Basking Ridge, General Lee does not obey Washington's orders to retreat and is captured by the British.

The night of December 25 - Washington and 2,400 troops cross the ice-choked Delaware River, landing at Johnson's Ferry.

December 26, predawn - The American army marches to Trenton, surprising the Hessians at their barracks and achieving a much-needed victory.

1777

January 1 - Lord Cornwallis takes command of the British army in Princeton.

January 2 - Americans fight British forces at second Battle of Trenton, with heavy American fire along the Assunpink.

January 3 - After a forced night march around British forces at Trenton, Washington strikes the British rear at Princeton. Following intense fighting, the Americans defeat a smaller British force.

January 6 to May 28 - Five thousand victorious but exhausted American troops spend the winter at Morristown.

September 26 - British take Philadelphia.

September to October - Washington builds up defenses on the lower Delaware River at Red Bank with Fort Mercer on the New Jersey side and Fort Mifflin on the Pennsylvania side.

October 22 - After inflicting a crushing defeat on the attacking Hessian troops, the Americans abandon Fort Mercer at Red Bank Battlefield on the Delaware.

November 15 - British take Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, in order to open up the river for maritime traffic.

December 1777 through May 1778

Washington and 12,000 troops survive a bitter winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Troops leave in May to pursue British.

1778

March 21 - British and Loyalist troops under Colonel Charles Mawhood and Major John Simcoe raid Hancock's Bridge. Americans die at the Hancock House massacre.

June 28 - Major turning point of war with American victory at the intense Battle of Monmouth in Freehold.

December 11 - The Continental troops spend the winter in the safety of the Watchung Mountains in Middlebrook. General Washington sets up headquarters in the Wallace House in Somerville, where Martha Washington joins him.

1779

August 19 - Major Henry (Light Horse) Lee attacks the British Fort at Paulus Hook (Jersey City), capturing 150 British.

October 28 - British Major John Simcoe leads the Queen's Rangers on a raid through Elizabethtown to Bound Brook and Somerset Courthouse, Millstone, destroying supplies and burning the courthouse. Simcoe is captured.

December 1 - Washington moves his army into winter quarters at Morristown for what turns out to be the most severe winter of the century. The army suffers hardships much greater than they suffered at Valley Forge.

1780

June 7-23 - German General Wilhelm von Knyphausen invades Elizabethtown and Springfield hoping to reach the Americans at Morristown. Two main battles occur on the 7th and 23rd, but a daily exchange is seen between the two armies. The heavy fighting at Springfield on the 23rd sees strong American resistance throw back 6,000 British and German soldiers.

July 1 to 29 - Washington establishes his headquarters at Theunis Dey Mansion in Wayne. Arrival of French forces for Hudson Highlands campaign.

1781

January 1 - 8 - Pennsylvania Line troops mutiny at Morristown and march south toward Philadelphia reaching Princeton by January 3rd. Negotiations by Joseph Reed, on behalf of Congress, end the mutiny by January 8th.

January 20 - 27 - The New Jersey Brigade mutinies at Pompton, marching to Chatham then back to Pompton. Washington surrounds the Brigade with a large American force. Several leaders of the mutiny are tried and executed.

October 19 - General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, Virginia, after American and French forces take over the town.

1783

June 30 - Congress abandons Independence Hall in Philadelphia because of threats from American troops for insufficient clothing, rations and pay, and reconvenes in Nassau Hall in Princeton, which becomes the nation's capital at this time.

August 23 - Washington arrives at Rockingham, seven miles from Princeton, with Martha Washington.

September 3 - America and Britain sign Peace Treaty in Paris, France.

November 2 - At Rockingham, Washington writes his farewell address to his troops.

RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY



3 9030 02602283 2

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS
ALEXANDER LIBRARY
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
155 GORDON STREET
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902



The Mercer Oak
Princeton Battlefield State Park



Reenactment
Princeton Battlefield State Park

New
Jersey & You
Perfect Together

Governor Christine Todd Whitman

NJ Commerce and Economic
Growth Commission
Office of Travel and Tourism
PO Box 820
Trenton, NJ 08625
*For the New Jersey Travel Guide, call
(800) JERSEY-7 Ext. 8942*



NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
PO Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625
(800) 843-6420 or (609) 984-0370
Text telephone users, call the NJ Relay Services
at (800) 852-7899