

Before We Start

- **Presenter: Andrew Dauphinee**
- **If you have any questions, please submit them using the Q&A or Chat feature in the Zoom dashboard.**
- **Some links and files will be shared in the chat during the presentation.**
- **Please complete the survey after the webinar. We appreciate your feedback!**
- **To view my timeline about the NJ Volunteers, please visit <https://www.timetoast.com/timelines/2828978>.**



Strangely Contaminated: The Loyalists of NJ



Andrew Dauphinee
New Jersey State Library

Project Background

- **Master's Thesis: Lord Charles Cornwallis and the Loyalists: A Study in British Pacification during the American Revolution: 1775-1783**
- **Quote from Sir William Howe**
 - **“I could have no reason to suspect the fidelity of those who came in to us from Monmouth; but I was soon deceived. Many, very many, of these Loyalists, were a short time afterwards taken in arms against us, and others killed with my protections in their pockets. In the pockets of the killed, and prisoners, were also found certificates of those very men having subscribed a declaration of allegiance, in consequence of the Proclamation of the King's Commissioners for a general indemnity. – These are notorious facts.” – Narrative of Lieut. Gen. Sir William Howe**

Types of Loyalists in NJ

- Provincial Units
 - New Jersey Volunteers
 - One of the most active Provincial forces of the war
 - West Jersey Volunteers
- Militia Units
 - Monmouth County Militia
 - King's Militia Volunteers
- Associators/Refugees
 - Black Brigade
 - Loyal Refugee Volunteers
- Non-combat Loyalists
 - Many fled behind British lines to New York City or Staten Island



Private, King's Royal
Regiment of New York

Loyal American Association

Officer, Queen's Rangers

How Many Loyalists?

- Historian John Shy – roughly 1/5 considered “treasonous”
- 477 Loyalists from NJ made claims for repayment from the British Crown
- General Sir William Howe notes the following numbers of Loyalists in the NJ Volunteers
 - Jan 1777 – 517
 - November 1777 – 859
 - May 1778 – 1101
- Historian Paul Smith estimates that 2,450 Loyalists joined the NJ Volunteers throughout the war
- He also estimates 51,000 – 52,000 Loyalists in NJ

The New Jersey Volunteers

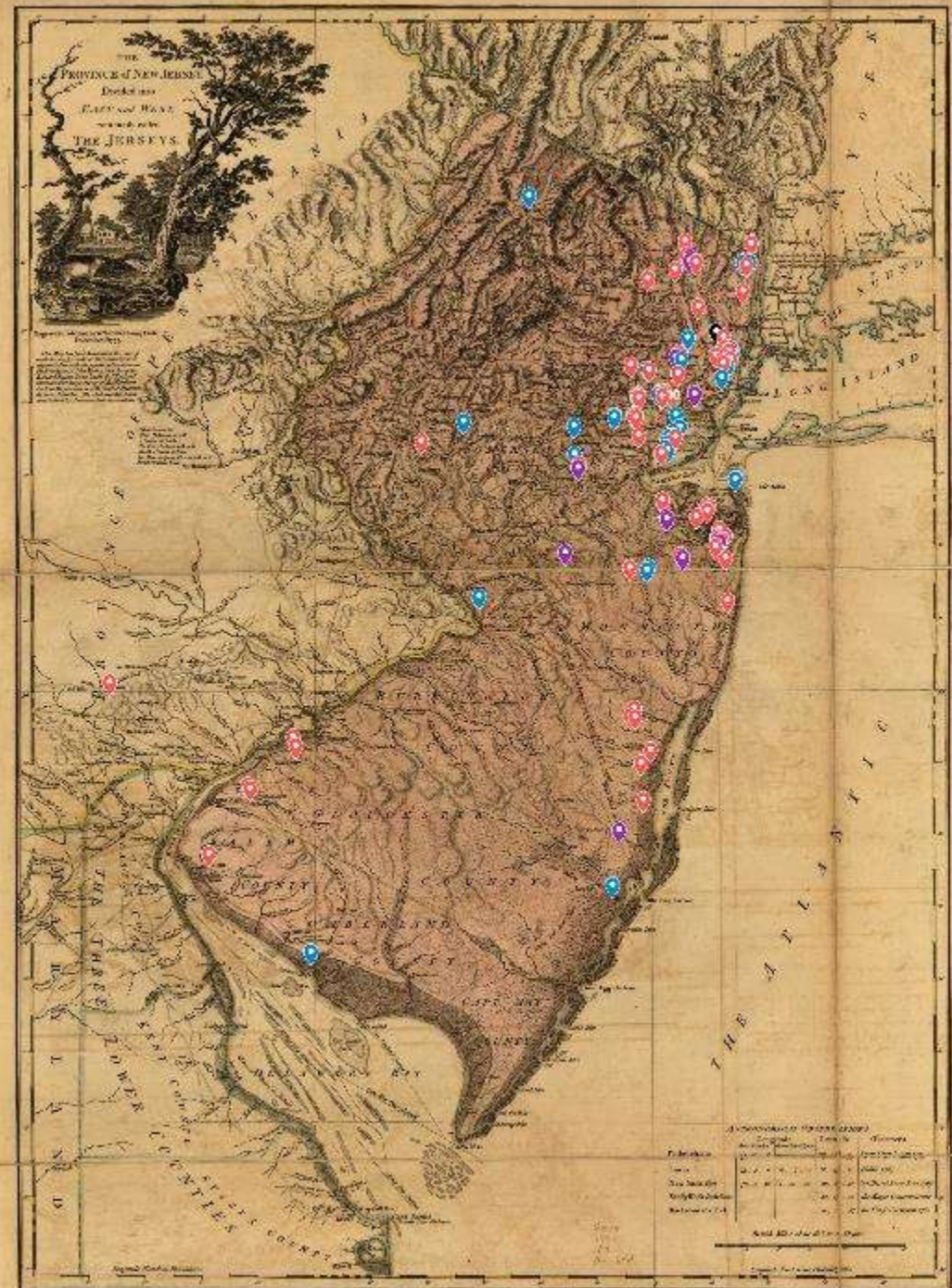
- One of the earliest Provincial Units raised in the colonies and remained in service for the duration of the war
- Under the command of Brigadier General Cortlandt Skinner
 - Commissioned on September 4th, 1776 to raise and command a Provincial corps of 2,500 men
 - The first NJV battalion was actually commissioned July 1, 1776 in Staten Island
- Until roughly 1779, the NJV wore green coats with white facing like most other Provincial Units. New uniforms became red coats with orange facing.
 - Because of their dress, they were commonly referred to as “Skinner’s Greens”



The New Jersey Volunteers

- One of the most active Provincial Units during the conflict
 - Mainly stationed in Staten Island and various posts around the coast of Monmouth and Bergen counties
- Took part in over 100 engagements in New Jersey alone
 - Mainly raids for supplies and prisoners
- Notable “major” engagements include:
 - Battles of Brandywine and Germantown*
 - Battle of Monmouth*
 - Raid of Staten Island
 - Battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield
 - Battle of King’s Mountain
 - Battle of Groton Heights





The 1st NJ Volunteers

- Lt. Col. Elisha Lawrence then Lt. Col. Joseph Barton
- 46-60 men from Monmouth County sailed to Staten Island and commissioned on July 1, 1776.
- Detachment was garrisoned at Sandy Hook Lighthouse until 1782
- Detachment involved at Little Egg Harbor
- Raided throughout the war from Staten Island

The 1st NJ Volunteers

FIRST BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel, Elisha Lawrence.
Major, Thomas Leonard.
Adjutant, Patrick Henry.
Quartermaster, James Neelson.
Surgeon, William Peterson.
Captains, John Barbarie,
John Longstreet,
Garret Keating,
Richard Cayford.
Captain-Lieutenant, James Neelson.
Lieutenants, John Taylor,
Thomas Oakason,
Samuel Leonard,
John Throckmorton,
John Monro,
Patrick Henry,
Robert Peterson.
Ensigns, John Robbins,
John Thompson,
Richard Lippincott,
William Lawrence,
Hector McLean.

The 2nd NJ Volunteers

- Lt. Col. John Morris
- Late November, Early December 1776 – Direct competition to Elisha Lawrence
- April 1777, they join the Royal Artillery and participated in the Philadelphia Campaign and Battle of Monmouth
- Disbanded from Royal Artillery in November 1779 with only 150 men

The 2nd NJ Volunteers

SECOND BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel, John Morris.
First Major, John Antill.
Second Major, John Colden.
Adjutant, Thomas T. Pritchard.
Quartermaster, Thomas Morrison.
Surgeon, Charles Earle.
Surgeon's Mate, James Boggs.
Chaplain, John Rowland.
Captains, Donald Campbell,
George Stanforth,

Captains, Waldron Bleau,
Norman McLeod,
Cornelius McLeod,
Uriah Bleau.

Lieutenants, John DeMonzes,
Thomas T. Pritchard,
William VanDumont,
Josiah Parker,
William Stevenson.
Ensigns, William K. Hurllet,
Thomas Morrison.

The 3rd NJ Volunteers

- William Luce, Lt. Col. Edward Vaughn Dongen, then finally Lt. Col. Isaac Allen
- Commissioned November 1776 with 125 men (mostly Dutch) from Essex County
- Detachment involved in Little Egg Harbor
- Sent to Georgia under Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell in November 1778
- Large detachment sent to Carolinas with Clinton in 1780 and stayed there for almost the remainder of the war
 - Decimated at Musgrove's Mill and King's Mountain
- Became 2nd Battalion in July 1781

The 4th NJ Volunteers

- Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk
- Secret force in Bergen County that officially commissioned in late November/early December 1776
- Most active of all Battalions and constantly raided NJ throughout war
- Battle of Connecticut Farms
- Became the 3rd Battalion in July 1781

The 4th NJ Volunteers

FOURTH BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel, Abraham Van Buskirk.
First Major, Daniel Isaac Browne.
Second Major, Robert Timpany.
Adjutant, Arthur Maddox.
Quartermaster, William Sorrell.

Surgeon, John Hammell.
Captains, William Van Allen,
Samuel Heyden,
Peter Ruttan,
Patrick Campbell,
Daniel Bessonnet,
Samuel Ryerson,
Arthur Maddox.

Lieutenants, Edward Earle,
Martin Ryerson,
John Van Buskirk,
Michael Smith,
James Servanier,
Donald McPherson,
John Hyslop.

Ensigns, John Simonson,
James Cole,
Justus Earle,
John Van Norden,
Colin McVane,
George Ryerson.

The 5th NJ Volunteers

- Lt. Col. Joseph Barton commissioned on November 27, 1776
- 250 men and officers from Sussex county
- Raiding during early portions of the war, particularly around Paramus and English Neighbourhood
- Almost destroyed in Staten Island raid August 22, 1777.
 - Folded into 1st afterwards

The 5th NJ Volunteers

FIFTH BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel, Joseph Barton.
Major, Thomas Millidge.
Adjutant, Isaac Hedden.
Quartermaster, Fleming Colgan.
Surgeon, Uzal Johnson.
Surgeon's Mate, Stephen Millidge.
Captains, Joseph Crowell,
James Shaw,
Benjamin Barton,
John Williams.
Lieutenants, John Cogle,
Isaac Hedden,
Joseph Waller,
William Hutchinson,
Christopher Insley,
Daniel Shannon,

Lieutenants, John Reid.
Ensigns, Patrick Haggerty,
Ezekiel Dennis,
Peter Anderson,
Joseph Bean.

The 6th NJ Volunteers

- Lt. Col. Isaac Allen (Trenton Lawyer) commissioned December 6, 1776
- Mostly from Hunterdon County (Trenton and Princeton)
- A couple of failed raids and capture of men left battalion understaffed
- Folded into the 3rd after August 1777 Staten Island Raid

The 6th NJ Volunteers

SIXTH BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel, . . . Isaac Allen.
Major, Richard V. Stockton.
Captains, Joseph Lee,
Peter Campbell,
Charles Harrison.
Lieutenants, John Vought,
John Hatton,
Edward Steele.
Ensigns, Daniel Grandin,
Cornelius Thompson,
James Service.

The New Jersey Volunteers

New Jersey Volunteers (B.G. Cortland Skinner)	Max Strength Known	Dead, discharged, deserted Known	Attrition Rate Estimated	Officers Known	Cumulative Total Known	Cumulative Total Estimated
1 st Bt. (Lt. Col. Joseph Barton)	500	332	Heavy	52	864	887
2 nd Bt. (Lt. Col. John Morris)	350	-	?	31	521	718
3 rd Bt. (Lt. Col. Isaac Allen)	481	318	Heavy	42	822	845
4 th Bt. (Lt. Col. Abraham Van Buskirk)	304	27	?	38	-	Comb.
5 th Bt.	209	-	-	17 Comb.	-	Comb.
6 th Bt.	128	-	-	17 Comb.	-	Comb.

Other Loyalists Units in NJ

- **West Jersey Volunteers**
 - Formed by farmer and tavern keeper Richard Cayford in December 1777 in Philadelphia
 - Augmented with 100 men recruited by Captain Daniel Cozens from Gloucester and stationed at Billingsport
 - Traveled with British army back to Staten Island in summer of 1778 and folded into NJV – many deserted
- **Black Brigade**
 - Founded at Refugeetown in 1779 by Cornelius Titus, Colonel Tye, a former slave in Monmouth County

Other Loyalists Units in NJ

- **Loyal Refugee Volunteers**
 - formed in early 1780 to chop wood in Bergen County
- **King's Militia Volunteers**
 - brainchild of former governor William Franklin
 - Operated out of Hoboken and Bergan Point from 1778-1779
 - Included Captains Peter Earle, David Peek and Samuel Peek; Lieutenants Johannes J. Ackerman and Theunis Blauvelt; and Ensigns Weart Banta and Peter Myer
- **Monmouth County Militia***
 - commanded by former rebel militia leader Colonel George Taylor

Legal Actions Against the Loyalists

- August 2, 1776 – Provincial Congress recommends that county committees make inventories and appraisals of all realty and personal property left by those who joined the enemy.
- October 4, 1776 – Any person who by speech, writing, deeds, or action defended the King could be fined up to 300 pounds and imprisoned for up to 1 year. Any person who was suspected could be summoned by any two justices of the peace and asked to take an oath of allegiance to the state and to renounce the King.
- June 5, 1777 - the legislature offered an unconditional pardon to Loyalists who took the oath of allegiance before a justice of the state or a county. If they failed to do so, their personal property was seized and sold by the state's commissioners.

Legal Actions Against the Loyalists

- August 1777 – Loyalist estates and effects were to be confiscated by the commissioners and if an estate was in danger of being by the enemy, personal property was to be sold as soon as possible.
- April 18, 1778 – The Legislature broadens its measures against Loyalists and to set up official procedure for general confiscation. Commissioners were instructed to put up notices that an accused was to be brought before a jury of 24 freeholders. Only 12 jurors had to concur in the verdict. If the accused wanted to try and clear their name, they had to pay 1,000 pounds or whatever the court directed in order to guarantee that he would prosecute his case to the end and pay court cost if the judgement went them.

Legal Actions Against the Loyalists

- December 11, 1778 – Confiscation was extended to citizens of other states who own land in NJ. Also, a conviction in one county resulted in the confiscation in all counties.
- Between December 1778 and June 1781, New Jersey received 1,388,910 pounds-worth in Continental currency of land and goods confiscated from Loyalists. Yet, due to currency depreciation, it was only worth about 2% of the original value. Sale was delayed until after the war.



Loyalist Exposes – Cortlandt Skinner

- Last Royal Attorney General of the colony of New Jersey (1754-1776)
- Also member of the General Assembly from Perth Amboy (1763-1775) and speaker of the Assembly (1765-1770, 1772-1776)
- Fled to NY in 1776 after intercepting a letter authorizing his capture by the Rebels
- Commissioned Brigadier General and authorized to raise a provincial corps
 - He commissioned his own officers for the 6 battalions, but rarely led them in the field
- Headquarters in Staten Island and Paulus Hook for most of the war and focused on intelligence gathering in NJ



Loyalists Exposes – Colonel Tye

- Formerly a slave named Cornelius Titus, he escaped from his Quaker master, John Corlis of Shrewsbury Township, around November 1, 1775
- Exact life in early part of the war is unknown but many believe that he joined with Lord Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment
- Later in the war, Colonel Tye becomes more prominent and mentioned in accounts of raids from Sandy Hook, forming the Black Brigade
 - Possibly from the encampment on Sandy Hook called Refugeetown
- Conducted several raids in Monmouth County, including the capture of militia Captain Joshua Huddy
 - Mortally wounded in the wrist and died of gangrene 2 days later



Loyalists Exposes – Abraham Van Buskirk

- Doctor and apothecary
- An earlier supporter of rebel cause, he was elected as a member of the provincial assembly from Teaneck, Bergen County and a member of the Bergen County militia
 - Did not believe it outright independence
- Secretly raised a regiment of loyalists from the militia and become the 4th battalion
- Raided extensively throughout the war and even took part in Benedict Arnold's raid on New London, Connecticut
 - Tasked with hauling artillery up a hill and saw no action
- Fled to Canada after the war where he died

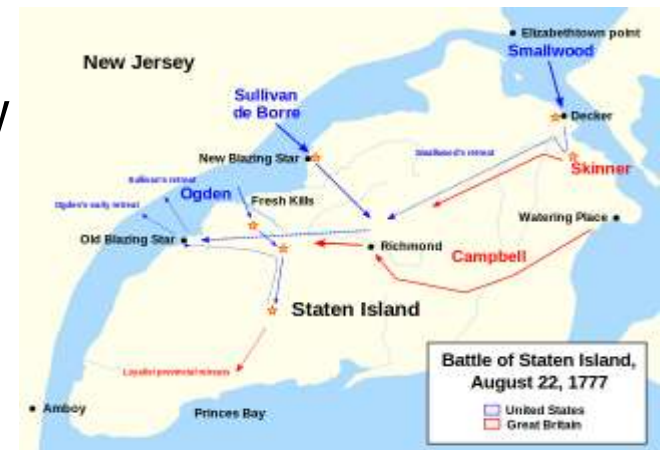
Loyalist Exposes – James Moody

- A quiet man from Knowlton Township, Sussex County, he only got involved in the war in 1777 after rebels attacked his farm
 - Joined with Joseph Barton's 5th Battalion
- Moody did a mix of skirmishing, raiding, and recruiting, particularly in Sussex county
- On June 10th, 1779 Moody led a group of Loyalists to capture militia leaders in Monmouth county, leading a bayonet charge during their retreat to push back the pursuing rebels
- In May of 1780, he was appointed by Sir Henry Clinton to capture NJ Governor William Livingston
- Returning from freeing Loyalist prisoners held at the Newton jail, he was captured by a force of Continentals under General Mad Anthony Wayne
- He was able to escape capture by overpowering sentries and then falling in line with the troops that were looking for him
- He spent most of the rest of the war intercepting rebel intelligence between Philadelphia and New England



Staten Island Raid – August 22, 1777

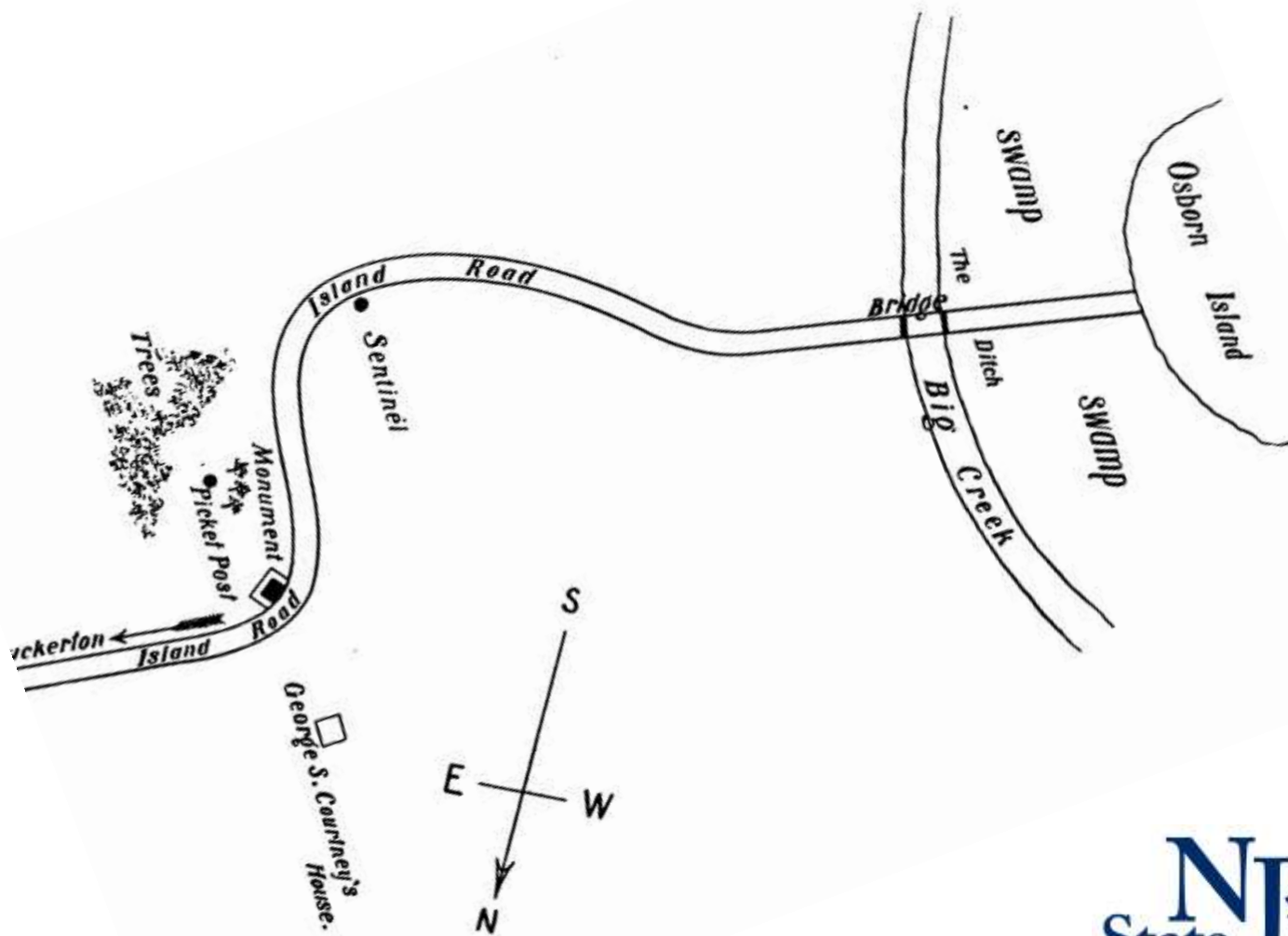
- American Major General John Sullivan raids Staten Island at dawn with about 1,000 men, mostly Continentals
- Attack Loyalist outposts on northern and western shores
 - Captured over 100 from the NJ Volunteers, including Lt. Cols. Joseph Barton (5th) and Elisha Lawrence (1st)
 - Lt. Col. Dongen (3rd) was shot and mortally wounded, dying a few days later
- Raid was quickly repulsed by Lt. Col. John Campbell and 900 Redcoats and Hessians
- While hailed as a victory for the British, Sullivan's raid caused major casualties throughout the NJ Volunteers, ultimately forcing Skinner to reorganize them into 4 battalions



Little Egg Harbor Raid – October 1778

- Captain Patrick Ferguson led 400 men (100 NJV) on a raid of Little Egg Harbor in response to Rebel pirates securing 2 British prize ships
- Washington learned of this venture and sent Brigadier General Count Kazimierz Pulaski and his Legion to defend the area
- The British first raided Chestnut Neck, recapturing supplies and burning ships and buildings
- Destroyed the salt works of Eli Mathis on the Bass River as well as homes of other patriots
- A Hessian deserter and now part of the Legion alerts the British on their ships of Pulaski's location
- Ferguson takes 250 men and attacks their outpost near Osborn Island, slaughtering almost 50 men
 - Pulaski arrives too late to save them

Little Egg Harbor Raid – October 1778



Battle of Connecticut Farms – June 7, 1780

- Hessian General Wilhelm von Knyphausen made an attempt to reach the principal Continental Army encampment at Morristown
 - His 6,000 troops were divided into 2 divisions, with men from the 1st and 4th NJV part of the 2nd division
- Knyphausen's advance was halted by mostly militia under the command of Brigadier General William Maxwell at Connecticut Farms
 - They held off the British for 3 hours, but were eventually overwhelmed, retreating to Springfield
- Washington arrived with his army later that evening, forcing Knyphausen to retreat back to New York



Photo Credit:
David Arminio

Battle of Springfield – June 23, 1780

- Sir Henry Clinton decided to make a second attempt at Washington's army, forcing him into a trap around the Watchung Mountains
 - General Knyphausen again led 6,000 troops, split into 2 divisions
- British left from Elizabethtown Point, with the NJV in the vanguard
 - Loyalists engaged Brigadier General Maxwell and forced him to retreat to Connecticut Farms
 - Under Lt. Col. Joseph Barton, the NJV pressed on to Connecticut Farms, but were stalled by forces under Colonel Elias Dayton
- The NJV then joined Major General Edward Mathew's assault on the Vauxhall Road Bridge, fording the Rahway
 - Engaged with Major Henry Lee's militia, forcing them back to the Short Hills outside Springfield
- Before retreating, the NJV were ordered to burn down Springfield, which they obliged

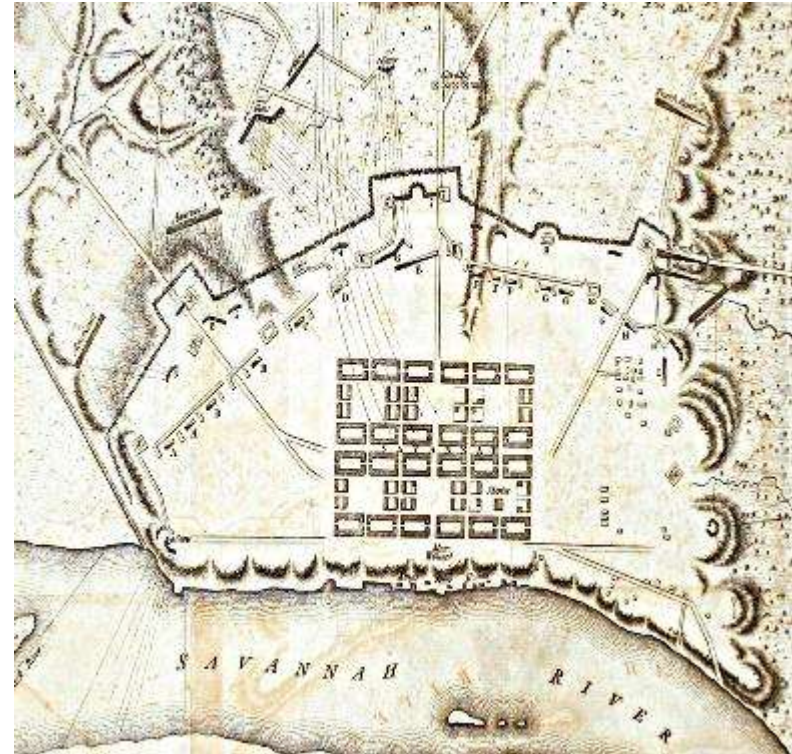
Battle of Springfield – June 23, 1780



Plan of battle-ground at Springfield, N.J.

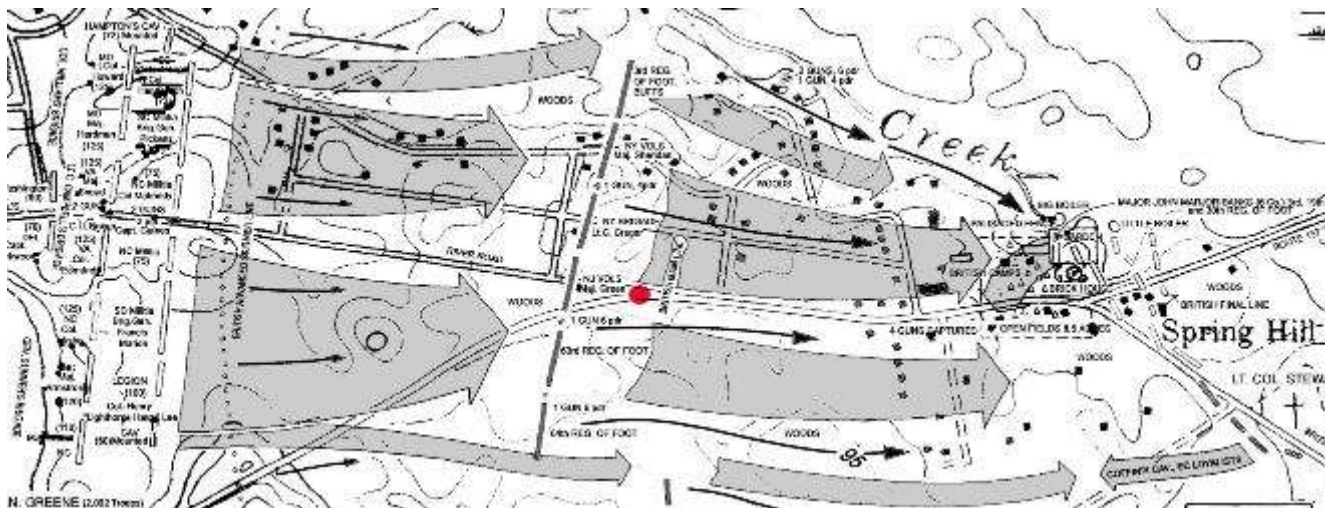
The Southern Campaigns – 1778-1782

- The “light” company of the 3rd NJV under the command of Captain Patrick Campbell joined Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell’s venture to Georgia in the winter of 78-79
 - Took Savannah on Dec. 29, 1778 with few losses
 - One was Captain Patrick Campbell who was replaced by Captain Peter Campbell (no relation)
 - Assailed by a combined American/French force in September 1779
 - Repulsed an attack by the South Carolina Continentals without aid



The Southern Campaigns – 1778-1782

- The rest of the 3rd NJV joined Sir Henry Clinton's siege of Charleston in the spring of 1780
 - 3rd Battalion was stationed at Ninety-Six while the light company was decimated at Musgrove's Mill
 - Repulsed a siege by General Nathaniel Greene before retreating to Charleston in July 1781
 - Fought their last and bloodiest battle at Eutaw Springs, losing 40% of their manpower



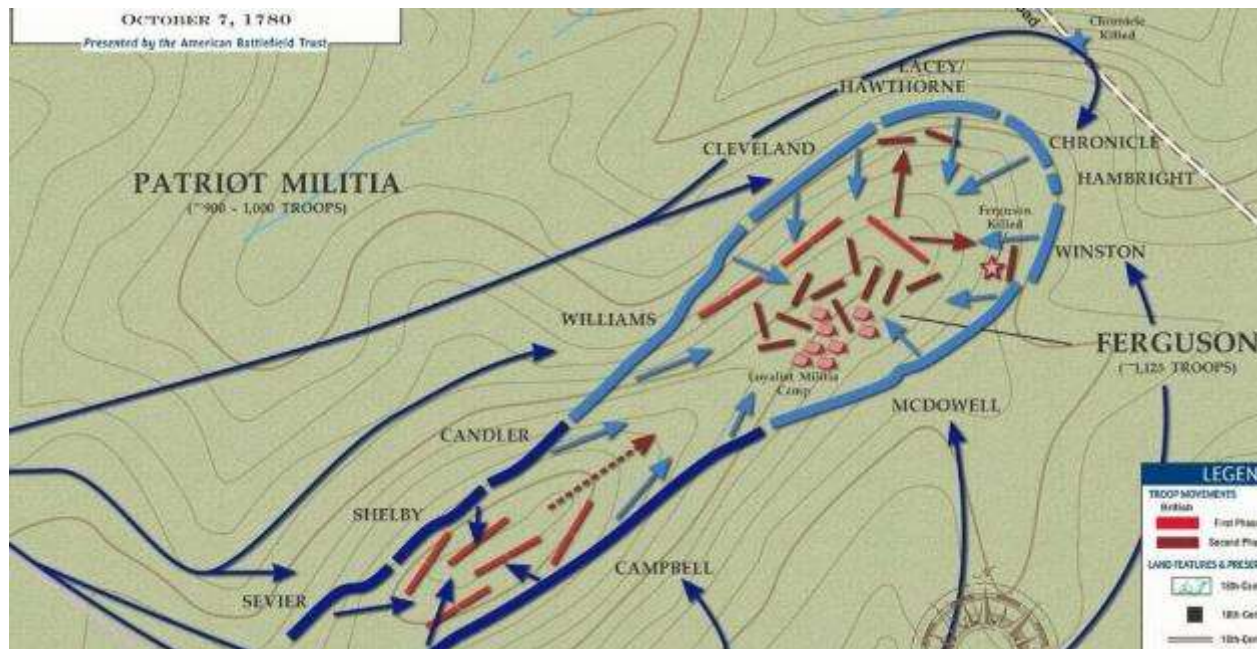
The Southern Campaigns – 1778-1782

- 100 NJV from the 1st, 2nd, and 4th sailed with Clinton to South Carolina and Georgia, joining Captain Patrick Ferguson's American Volunteers
 - Their commanding officer, Lieutenant Martin Ryerson, died of malaria in Savannah in February 1780
 - Act of "friendly fire" with the British Legion on their way to Charleston
 - Routed rebel cavalry at Monck's Corner in late April 1780



The Southern Campaigns – 1778-1782

- Disaster at King's Mountain
 - Ferguson's American Volunteers became trapped on King's Mountain in South Carolina, surrounded by 900 rebel militia
 - Ferguson is killed and the American Volunteers suffer 90% casualties



Thank You!