

NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

times happened that the troops were reduced to one-half, or to one-quarter allowance, and some days have passed without any meat or bread being delivered out. The causes assigned for these extraordinary deficiencies, are the very low state of the public finances, in consequence of the rapid depreciation of the continental currency, and some irregularity in the commissary's department. Our soldiers, in general, support their sufferings with commendable firmness, but it is feared that their patience will be exhausted, and very serious consequences ensue. . . .

1. Now Riverdale.
2. Jockey Hollow, site of a modern reconstruction of the encampment.
3. The term "waiter" was used variously to describe a watchman, servant, or attendant.
4. The Jacob Ford House, now preserved as part of the Morristown National Historical Park.

13 Formation of a Women's Relief Society

[New Jersey Broadside Collection, Alexander Library, Rutgers University; also published in the *New-Jersey Gazette*, July 12, 1780.]

Virtually nothing is known about the New Jersey women's relief society described below. No records of the organization exist, nor are there accounts of actual donations. It is certain only that women in all counties of the state launched a campaign to provide financial assistance to the men of the Continental army. As the roster of committeewomen shows, some of the most prominent ladies in New Jersey lent their time and talent to the cause.

Trenton, July 4, 1780

The Ladies of Trenton, in New-Jersey, emulating the noble example of their Patriotic Sisters of Pennsylvania, and being desirous of manifesting their zeal in the glorious cause of American Liberty, having this day assembled for the purpose of 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:¹ And taking into consideration the scattered situation of the well-disposed

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through the State, who would wish to contribute to so laudable an undertaking,² have for the convenience of such, and the more effectually to carry their scheme into execution, unanimously appointed Mrs. [General Philemon] Dickinson, Mrs. [John] Cox, Mrs. [Moore] Furman and Miss [Elizabeth?] Cadwallader, a Committee, whose duty it shall be immediately to open subscriptions and to correspond with the Ladies hereafter named, of the different counties throughout the state, whose aid and influence in their several districts, the ladies now met here, have taken the liberty to solicit in promoting said subscriptions, viz. For the County of Hunterdon, Mrs. (Vice-President) [John] Stevens, Mrs. (Judge) [Isaac] Smith, Mrs. (Charles) Cox, Mrs. R[ichard] Stevens, Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. T[homas] Lowrey, Mrs. J[ared] Sexton, Mrs. [Benjamin] Van-Cleve, Mrs. (Col.) Berry, Mrs. (Doctor) [William, Jr.] Burnet:—County of Sussex, Mrs. (Counsellor) [Robert] Ogden, Mrs. (Col.) [Mark] Thomson, Mrs. (Major) [Robert] Hoops, Mrs. T[homas] Anderson:—County of Bergen, Mrs. (Col.) [Theunis] Dey, Mrs. [John] Fell, Mrs. [Hendrick] Kuyper, Mrs. [Robert] Erskine, Mrs. (Major) [Richard] Dey:— County of Morris, Mrs. (Counsellor) [Silas] Condict, Mrs. (Parson) [Timothy] Jo[h]nes, Mrs. (Col.) Remson, Mrs. Vanzant, Mrs. [Alexander] Carmichael, Mrs. (Col.) [Ellis] Cook, Mrs. [John Jacob] Faesch:—County of Essex, Mrs. (Governor) [William] Livingston, Mrs. C[aleb] Camp, Mrs. (Doctor) [William] Burnet, Mrs. (Elisha) Boudinot, Mrs. [Josiah] Hornblower: — County of Middlesex, Mrs. [James] Neilson, Mrs. (Counsellor) [Jonathan] Deare, Mrs. (George) Morgan, Mrs. (Col.) [John] Neilson, Mrs. [James] Neilson, Mrs. (Daniel) Marsh:—County of Monmouth, Mrs. (Gen.) [David] Forman, Mrs. (Col.) [Nathaniel] Scudder, Mrs. [James] Newell, Mrs. (Peter) Forman, Mrs. (Jacob) Wikoff, Mrs. (Peter) Covenhoven:—County of Burlington, Mrs. (Col.) Cox, Mrs. (Counsellor) [Peter] Tallman, Mrs. (Col.) [Joseph, Jr.] Borden, Mrs. (Secretary) [Bowes] Reed, Mrs. (Capt.) Reed, Mrs. (Lieut. Col.) [Oakey] Hoagland:—County of Somerset, Lady Stirling [Mrs. William Alexander], Mrs. (General) Morris, Mrs. (Col.) [Ephraim] Martin, Mrs. (Attorney-General) [William] Paterson, Mrs. R[ichard] Stockton: — County of Gloucester, Mrs. (Col.) [Elijah] Clark, Mrs. (Col.) [Richard] Westcot[t], Mrs. (Col.) [Joseph] Ellis, Mrs. (Col.) [Joseph] Hugg, Mrs. [Joseph] Bloomfield: — County of Salem, Mrs. (Col.) [Samuel] Dick, Mrs. [John] Mayhew, Mrs. [Jacob] Tagart:—County of Cumberland, Mrs. (Counsellor) [John] Buck, Mrs. [Ephraim?] Harris, Mrs. [Timothy] Elmer, Mrs. [Jonathan] Bowen, Mrs. [Joel] Fithian:—County of Cape-May, Mrs. (Counsellor) [Jesse] Hand, Mrs. [James] Whilden, Mrs. [Henry Young] Townsend, Mrs. [Joseph] Hildreth; whose well-known patriotism leaves no room to doubt of their best exertions in the promotion of an undertaking so humane and praise-worthy, and that they will be happy in forwarding the amount of their several collections, either with or without the names of the donors, which will be immediately transmitted by Mrs. (Moore) Furman, who is hereby appointed Treasurer, to be disposed of by the Commander in Chief, agreeable to the General Plan.

As the Ladies here would wish to expedite the good work as much as possible they have appointed Miss [Mary] Dagworthy of Trenton, their Secretary, who will receive and answer all letters that the Ladies of the different counties may think proper to favour her with on the occasion.

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1. In an essay published in the July 12, 1780 issue of the *New-Jersey Gazette*, "a Lady in New Jersey" expressed "the feelings of a woman" about the campaign to raise money for Continental soldiers. She supported the effort because "it is to this class of men we more immediately owe our defence and protection; they have born the weight of the war, and met danger in every quarter; and what is higher praise, they have with Roman courage and perseverance suffered the extremes of heat and cold, the attacks of hunger, and the pain of long fatiguing marches. . . . Their many sufferings so cheerfully undergone, highly merit our gratitude and sincere thanks, and claim all the assistance we can afford their distresses. If we have it not in our power to do from the double motive of religion and a love of liberty, what some Ladies of the highest rank in the Court of France every day perform from motives of religion only in the hospitals of the sick and diseased, let us animate one another to contribute from our purses in proportion to our circumstances towards the support and comfort of the brave men who are fighting and suffering for us in the field."

2. A report dated June 24, 1780, from the American army camp near Springfield indicates that the campaign was already under way: "The Ladies of this town and neighbourhood, animated by the ardour which daily prevails more and more among all ranks of people to distinguish themselves in the present conjuncture of publick affairs, have instituted a subscription to be applied as a donation to the soldiery, for the purpose of rendering their situation more easy and comfortable. A large sum has already been given, and we flatter ourselves that similar subscriptions will circulate throughout the state." *New-Jersey Gazette*, June 28, 1780.

14 Lieutenant Colonel Francis Barber to Colonel Jonathan Dayton

[Gratz Collection, Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

Besides inadequate and irregular pay and provisions, New Jersey soldiers were angered by alleged improper extensions of tours of duty and discrepancies between their compensation and that of other state units, especially the generous bounties recently obtained by New Englanders. When the Pennsylvania Line mutinied on January 1, 1781, in a successful attempt to redress grievances, the example was not lost on Jerseymen. The legislature promptly appointed a special committee to compute back pay owed the troops and to investigate additional complaints. Nonetheless, a portion of the New Jersey Brigade at Pompton staged a minor four-day mutiny on January 20-23, a sorry affair that resulted in the execution of two ringleaders. Although possible