

X CITIZEN SOLDIERS

State by the Troops of his Britannic Majesty have readily obeyed the Orders of their Commander in Chief to join the Army under the Command of his Excellency General Washington; yet a considerable number of them regardless of the Freedom of America, and of their Duty to their Country have hitherto disobeyed the most express orders for joining the said Army to repel the said Invasion and still continue at their respective places of abode when their Country so loudly calls upon them to join the Troops of the United States now in New Jersey. You are therefore hereby authorized to compel all such Delinquents immediately to join the said Army and to continue in the Service, in this State, until they shall be regularly discharged.

5 A Woman in Arms

[*Pennsylvania Journal; and the Weekly Advertiser*, April 2, 1777.]

Although neither the identity of the woman mentioned in the article below nor independent confirmation of her achievement has come to light, there is little reason to doubt the essential veracity of the incident. Many Jersey women were willing and able to shoulder arms if necessary, and during the first quarter of 1777 numerous Hesse and Ansbach soldiers were cantoned throughout the Raritan Valley east of New Brunswick.

[March 20?, 1777]

From New Jersey we learn, that on or about the 20th ult. a woman passing an evacuated house in Woodbridge, saw, through the window, a drunken Hessian soldier, who had straggled from his party; there being no men within less than a mile of the town, she went home, dressed herself in man's apparel, and armed with an old firelock, returned to the house, entered it, and took the Hessian prisoner, whom she stripped of his arms, and was leading off, when she fell in with the patrol guard of a New-Jersey regiment, stationed near Woodbridge, to whom she delivered her prisoner.

6 Colonel Elijah Hand to Colonel Charles Mawhood

[*PNJHS*, ser. 1, (1858), 8:100-1.]