

NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Jacob Morrell, Chatham merchant.
2. Thomas Eckley, an Englishman who had a farm in Hanover and was an outspoken critic of the American protest movement.
3. The Reverend Dr. Thomas Bradbury Chandler (1726-1790), rector of St. John's Anglican Church in Elizabethtown. Chandler was the object of contention because of his religious as well as political activities (see Sec. III, Doc. 12, note 3). The prime mover of an attempt to secure the appointment of a resident Anglican bishop for the colonies, Chandler first sparked and then fanned a blazing pamphlet controversy between Churchmen and Dissenters over this highly emotional issue with his *An Appeal to the Public in behalf of the Church of England in America* (New York, 1767). An archconservative, he also became a chief spokesman for the Tory community in opposing the colonial challenge to British authority. With such publications as *What Think Ye of Congress Now? Or an Enquiry How Far the Americans are Bound to Abide by and Execute the Decisions of the Late Congress* (New York, 1775), he was the most prominent Loyalist pamphleteer of the middle colonies. The threat of violence from the radicals prompted him to quit America for England in May 1775.

12 Jemima Condict on the Outbreak of Warfare

[Jemima Condict Diary, New Jersey Historical Society.]

Whatever their political differences, all residents of New Jersey feared the prospect of war between Britain and America. Perhaps they thought less about armies and strategies and battles than about the personal horrors of death and destruction. That such thoughts troubled young Jemima Condict, a semiliterate Presbyterian maiden who lived on a small farm in the Newark Mountains, testifies to the pervasiveness of the fear of warfare. At the time she kept her diary, she was probably in her early twenties.

[October 1, 1774-May 1, 1775]

Saturday october first 1774. It seems we have troublesome times a Coming for there is great Disturbance a Broad in the earth & they say it is tea¹ that caused it So then if they will Quarel about such a trifling thing as that What must we expect But war & I think or at least fear it will be so. . . .

Monday² Wich was Called Training Day I Rode with my Dear father Down to see them train there Being Several Companys met together. I thought It Would Be a mournfull Sight to see if they had Been fighting in earnest & how soon they will Be Calld forth to the feild of war we Cannot tell for by What we Can hear the Quarels are not like to be made up Without bloodshed. I have jest Now heard Say that All

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hopes of Conciliation Between Briten & her Colonies are at an end for Both the king & his Parliement have announced our Destruction: fleet and armies are Prepareing with utmost diligence for that Purpose.

April 23rd [1775]. As every Day Brings New Troubels So this Day Brings News that yesterday very early in the morning They Began to fight at Boston.³ The regulors We hear Shot first there; they killd 30 of our men A hundred & 50 of the Regulors. . . .

Monday May first [1775]. This day I think is a Day of mourning. We have word Come that the fleet is coming into Newyork also & to Day the men of our Town is to have a general meeting to Conclud upon measures Which may Be most Proper to be taken; they have Chose men to act for them & I hope the Lord will Give them Wisdom to Conduct wisely & Prudently In all Matters.

1. The Tea Act of 1773 set off a chain-reaction that led to the Boston Tea Party, which in turn led to the passage of the Coercive Acts by Parliament and thence to the convening of the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia on September 5.

2. Date unknown since the entries in the diary are irregular and often undated. However, it would seem that the notation was made in late March or, as is more likely, in mid-April. The comment about the actions taken by the king and Parliament probably refers to the decisions made in February to couple the offer of a compromise on parliamentary taxation of the colonies with an augmentation of military and naval forces in America. News of such decisions would have taken approximately six weeks to reach the colonies. Moreover, the next entry in the diary is dated April 23.

3. The skirmish at Lexington and Concord between British regulars and colonial militiamen that occurred on April 19. News of the incident reached New York City by express rider at 4 p.m. on April 23 and spread immediately by word of mouth through northern New Jersey.

13 Jonathan Elmer, Address to the Inhabitants of Cumberland County

[Personal Papers: Jonathan Elmer, Library of Congress.]

Dr. Jonathan Elmer (1745-1817) established practice in his native Cumberland County after graduating from the first medical class of the College of Philadelphia (now University of Pennsylvania) in 1769. Like the other members of the large and influential Elmer clan, Jonathan was an active Whig.