

V FROM RESISTANCE TO REBELLION

was reelected to Congress in 1776.

4. The assembly did not appoint a replacement since any three of the five delegates were empowered to represent the colony in the Congress.

12 The Reverend Philip Vickers Fithian Describes the Martial State of South Jersey

[Robert G. Albion and Leonidas Dodson, eds., *Philip Vickers Fithian: Journal, 1775-1776* (Princeton, 1934), p. 131.]

In the aftermath of the battles of Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point, Jerseymen in increasing numbers put down their plowshares and took up their swords. Just before leaving the province on a missionary trip to Virginia, the Reverend Philip Vickers Fithian (1747-1776) a 1772 graduate of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) vividly described the martial spirit that pervaded rural, sparsely populated south Jersey. Everywhere he went, from Greenwich and Bridgeton in Cumberland County to Salem in Salem County, the scene was the same: men in arms prepared to pay the ultimate price in defense of their liberties. Apparently such courage and resolve deeply affected the young Presbyterian clergyman, for he subsequently enlisted in the army as a chaplain in June 1776 and lost his life in the service of the new nation (see Sec. X, Doc. 1).

November 13, 1775

We leave New-Jersey in a melancholy State! Battalions of Militia & Minute-Men embodying—Drums & Fife rattling—Military Language in every Mouth—Numbers who a few Days ago were plain Countrymen have now clothed themselves in martial Forms—Powdered Hair [&] Sharp pinched Beavers—Uniform in Dress with their Battalion—Swords on their Thighs—& stern in the Art of War—Resolved, in steady manly Firmness, to support & establish American Liberty, or die in Battle!