

## 18 A Tory Roundup in Sussex County

[*New-York Journal; or, General Advertiser*, December 28, 1775.]

Political pressure, social ostracism, and threats of physical violence failed to persuade the most ardent supporters of royal government to give even tacit support to the resistance movement. The division between rebel and royalist became more distinct with the onset of armed rebellion, and the prospect of organized counterinsurgency increased; popular leaders did not hesitate to seize crown supporters by force in order to prevent opposition to extralegal activities. The "Tory hunt" described below was repeated in the fall and winter of 1775 in many sections of East New Jersey where there existed sizable conservative enclaves.

Newtown, Sussex County, New-Jersey

Last Tuesday,<sup>1</sup> about four hundred of the militia of this county, under the command of Col. Ephraim Martin and Mark Thompson,<sup>2</sup> assembled and proceeded in good order and regularity in quest of Tories, a considerable number of whom, (inhabitants of this county) had entered into a combination and agreement not to comply with any Congress measures; about forty, we hear, are taken, most of whom have recanted, signed the Association,<sup>3</sup> and profess themselves true sons of liberty, being fully convinced of their error: And that two or three who remain incorrigible are to be sent to the Congress<sup>4</sup> to be dealt with.

1. December 26.

2. Besides being militia officers, farmers Martin and Thompson were members of the Provincial Congress from 1775 to 1776.

3. The Provincial Association (see Doc. 1).

4. The Provincial Congress dealt with recalcitrants referred to it by local committees.