

V FROM RESISTANCE TO REBELLION

5 Richard Cayford Proclaimed “An Enemy to the Rights of America”

[*Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 9, 1775.]

Social ostracism was one of the most effective means devised by the rebels to cow opponents. By declaring someone to be an enemy to the liberties of America, committeemen could transform a formerly respected member of the community into a social outcast, a political leper. The often subtle, invidious pressures brought to bear on such a person were often sufficient to bring about conversion to the popular cause. Richard Cayford, owner and operator of Cayford's Inn in Bridgeton, undoubtedly also paid a heavy economic price for his dissent.

Cumberland County, July 22, 1775

The Committee of the county of Cumberland, in New-Jersey, having from time to time received information of the inimical conduct of Richard Cayford, with respect to the present unhappy disputes between Great-Britain and America, met on the 21st day of July instant, and, having sent for the said Cayford, informed him of the charges that lay against him, and by the testimony of unexceptionable evidences, examined before the Committee in his presence, made it appear that he had repeatedly acted in opposition to the general measures pursued by the united American colonies, and endeavoured to instil[1] into others his own pernicious principles, that he had repeatedly impeached the first military characters in America, and dissuaded the unwary from learning the military art, branding those who had exerted themselves in those laudable exercises with the epithets of rebels, rascals, &c. &c. names which Americans detest! And it did not appear to the Committee, by any confession of the said Cayford, that he thought he had done amiss; and therefore, agreeable to their duty, they do in this manner hold him up to the public, that every person may break off all dealings with him, and avoid him as an enemy to the rights of America. By order of the Committee,

THOMAS EWING, Clerk

6 John Conway to the Provincial Congress

[*Provincial Congress Papers*, 60, New Jersey Historical Society.]

The tocsin of war rang loudly in New Jersey. Indeed, the willingness of men