

## IX WAR AND PEACE

himself, but used his utmost endeavours to prevent it being done by others; and as to herself, one would have thought her sweet appearance, and amiable life, would have protected her from even British or Tory cruelty. Not satiated by this horrid deed, after stripping the house they set fire to it and eleven more dwelling-houses in the neighbourhood, without the outhouses, &c. . . .

Consider Americans! what you have to expect from such enemies, and what you have to do! If the tribes of Israel rose as one man to revenge the cruelty offered an individual of no good character, (Judges xix)<sup>6</sup> what ought to be our conduct when the fairest innocence is no protection; when the condition of widowhood, attended with age, or a large offspring, is no defence. . . .

1. For the battle of Connecticut Farms-Springfield, see Doc. 8.
2. Caleb Wade.
3. Residents of Elizabethtown, the Caldwells moved to a rented house in Connecticut Farms to escape the British.
4. Catherine Benward.
5. Abigail Lennington.
6. The rising of the Israelites to punish the men who raped a concubine. Judg. 19-20.

### 10 “A British Officer” on Guerrilla Warfare

[*The Royal Gazette*, June 21, 1780.]

In the wake of the destruction and havoc wrought by the British army at Connecticut Farms and Springfield (see Doc. 8), the patriot press came alive with articles detailing alleged British atrocities. The accidental death of Hannah Caldwell received especial publicity (see Doc. 9). Perturbed by what he considered the “glaring falsehoods” being spread about the action of the Royal Army, an unidentified British officer wrote a public letter to Loyalist publisher James Rivington to set the record straight. At the end of the letter, he departed from an account of military operations to discuss some of the problems attendant on waging a guerrilla war in which one could not tell friend from foe and in which enemy soldiers preferred to fight from places of concealment rather than on open battlefields. The British task was further complicated by having to fight both Washington’s regular army and irregular militia units, contend with a civil war between rebels and Loyalists, and suppress a rebellion motivated by ideologies that they could not comprehend. It was not surprising, as the officer admitted, that at times emotions on both sides carried the day.

## NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Elizabeth Town, June 20, 1780

Sir,

....Whilst the troops were advancing to Connecticut Farms, the rebels fired out of the houses, agreeable to their usual practice, from which circumstance, Mrs. Caldwell had the misfortune to be shot by a random ball. What heightens the singularity of this lady's unhappy fate, is, that upon enquiry it appears beyond a doubt, that the shot was fired by the rebels themselves, as it entered the side of the house from their direction, and lodged in the wall nearest to the troops, then advancing: The manner in which the rebels aggravate this unfortunate affair, in their publications, is of a piece with their uniform conduct, plausible, but fallacious, nor is it to be wondered at, if a rebellion which originated in falsehood, is prosecuted with deceit: a soldiery received with smiles one moment, and the following instant butchered (for in a military view it merits no other name) by a set of people, who by their clothing and appointments cannot be distinguished from the quiet inhabitants of the country, may well be supposed to be exasperated; nor need we be surprized at their using the torch to dwellings, which they find hourly occupied by armed men, who either want the generosity or the spirit to close the present unhappy contest, by a manly, open soldier like decision; whatever may be the humane wishes of the Commanders, human nature at times, steps over the barrier of discipline and men of judgment and candour, in the great scale of political reasoning, do not wonder at occurrences, which their private feelings shrink at; such are the effects of intestine divisions; miserable is the fate of that country, which is the theatre of such a quarrel, and accursed is the man, or the set of men, who from motives of private lucre, or inordinate ambition have fanned a flame, which if they were willing, they are now perhaps unable to extinguish.

A BRITISH OFFICER

### 11 Residents of Trenton Celebrate the Victory at Yorktown

[*New-Jersey Gazette*, October 31, 1781.]

After the battle of Monmouth there were no more major military campaigns in the North. Clinton sat tight in New York, Washington doggedly watching his every move. The action shifted to the South, where the British army under Lord Cornwallis launched an ambitious plan first to conquer and pacify the southern states (where potential Loyalist support was greatest) and then move northward to take on the rebel strongholds. The fall of Savannah (December 1778) and Charleston (May 1780) coupled with the humiliating defeat of the Southern Army under General Horatio Gates at the battle of Camden (August 1780) won the momentum for the British and seemed to confirm the wisdom of the strategy. American resistance picked up considerably in 1781, thanks to the