

NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

written by Major John Armstrong) was circulated in March among the officers at Washington's main camp at Newburgh, New York. While some officers and ranking civilians approved of the thinly veiled threat of a military coup, Washington condemned such talk and crushed the incipient mutiny with a stirring appeal to the patriotism of the officers.

7. Oliver Cromwell (see above note 2).
8. Cato the Younger or Cato the Elder. See Sec. XIII, Doc. 3, note 2.
9. Marcus Junius Brutus (85-42 B.C.), leader of the conspiracy against the dictator Caesar in 44 B.C.
10. Gaius Cassius Longinus, coleader with Brutus of the assassination of Caesar.
11. Liberator of the fatherland.
12. Lover of mankind.
13. Superior in human praise.

14 David Bonnel, Sr., Inventory of Property Losses

[Damages by the British in New Jersey, 1776-1782: Essex County, Connecticut Farms No. 3, New Jersey State Library.]

Caught in the cockpit of the revolutionary war, Jerseymen suffered greatly from the ravages of warfare. The British and American forces that repeatedly traversed the state from 1776 to 1778 left an awesome wake of destruction. Thereafter cantoned armies and roving militia, not to mention the raiding parties that sporadically visited the state, continued the devastation. Especially hard hit were the residents of the geographic corridor in the center of the state which connected the strategic cities of New York and Philadelphia. At the behest of the Congress, the New Jersey legislature in December 1781 passed a law authorizing appraisers in each county to collect inventories of "Goods, Chattels or other Property, whether Real or Personal, damaged, wasted, spoiled, plundered, burned, or destroyed by the Troops in Service of the Enemy or their Adherents, or by the Continental Army, or by the Militia of this or of the neighboring States." The legislature was to use the damage claims, based upon prices current in 1775, "to devise Ways and Means for the Relief of those who have suffered, that equal Justice may be done to all the Inhabitants of this State." Although detailed inventories were systematically collected throughout the state, claimants never received any compensation from the government. Nonetheless, the inventories are valuable indexes of the personal financial losses endured by individual citizens during the war. Representative is a claim submitted by David Bonnel, an Essex County farmer of modest means, for losses sustained during the British raid on Connecticut Farms in June 1780 (see Doc. 8). Bonnel is typical of his countrymen not only in the kinds of possessions he owned but also in the arduous task he faced in rebuilding after the war.

IX WAR AND PEACE

Connecticut Farms 25th May 1789

Inventory and Appraisal of the property of David Bonnel Senior, Burnt, taken and Destroyed by the British Army & their Adherents on the 7th day of June 1780.

1 Dwelling House 18 by 16 Compleatly finished }	£120.0.0 ¹
1 Barn 18 by 16 }	
1 Gum Cupboard	5.0.0
2 Linen & one Woollen Wheels ²	3.0.0
1 Rope wheel and Rope Tackling	1.5.0
1 Feather Bed 80/ ³ 3 Chast ⁴ Beds @ 15/	4.15.0
6 pair of Sheets	6.0.0
2 Bolsters and 4 Pillows	1.9.0
4 pair of Pillow Cases	16.0
2 Bedsteads and two Bed Cords	1.12.0
5 Coverlets	4.10.0
2 Blankets	1.10.0
1 Set of Black Chairs—3 fiddle Back do. ⁵	2.5.0
80 lbs of Good Flax	4.0.0
15 yards of New white Linen	2.8.0
15 yards of Linsey ⁶	3.7.6
12 yards of Cheap Linen	2.12.0
20 yards of Tow Cloth ⁷	2.0.0
2 Large Iron Dish Kettles	18.0
1 Frying pan 7/ one Small Iron Kettle 6/	13.0
3 Hatchets	2.0.0
8 Shirts and Shifts	1.13.0
6 Pair of Stockings	1.10.0
80 lbs Flour—30 lbs of Linen Yarn @ 3/3	5.7.0
1 Barrel of Soap 30/—5 Low Chests @ 12/	4.10.0
3 Pails and one Iron hoop'd Bucket	16.6
4 Good Cyder Barrels	16.0
1 Cedar Wash Tub one New Meat Barrel	15.0
12 Dry Barrels	1.4.0
1 Flax Brake ⁸ one Shovel two Rakes	19.0
1 Pail and 4 lb Whitened yarn	18.0
1 Mortar and Pestle and four milk Bowls	10.0
1 Quart pewter pot 4/ 3 Earthen pots @ 1/3	7.9
6 Earthen plates	3.0
2 three pint Basons ⁹ & 12 Spoons	7.0
1 Set of knives and forks	6.6
20 lbs of Tallow	1.0.0
2 Stone pots with 20 lbs of Hogs fat	15.0
6 pewter plates three Neats ¹⁰ Tongues	18.0
1 Clock Reel 10/ 3 Bushels of Indian Corn	1.8.0
1 Churn 6/6 1 New Splinter Sceive 4/	10.6
1 Hogshead ¹¹ 7/ 1 Hair Sceive 4/	11.0
8 Fowls @ 1/ 2 Bibles 1/1 & a Psalm book	1.3.6
Watts's Sermons ¹² —Confession of Faith	15.0
Miltons Paridise Lost & 7 other Books	15.0

NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1 Hog of 200 Weight	2.6.0
1 Coat, Vest and Breeches, part wore	1.10.0
6 Petticoats some part worn	1.16.0
6 Short Gowns	1.10.0
2 Worsted Long Gowns	2.10.0
half an Acre of Extraordinary good Wheat	2.16.0
5 lbs of Wool	12.6
1 Case of Bottles	10.0
1 pair Smoothing Irons	7.6
2 Bushels of Rye and one peck of Beans	13.0
2 Tables and one Stand	1.15.0
1/2 Bushel of Salt	2.0
1 half Bushel and one four Quart Measure	5.0
3 Extraordinary Apple Trees destroyed	1.10.0
5 Plumb Trees Burnt	15.0
20 Chestnut Rails and 4 Posts Burnt	7.0
	£ 218.7.3

The above Attested to by the Oaths of David Bonnel, Caleb Wade and William Bonnel

1. Monetary figures are divided into the following columns: pounds, shillings, pence.
2. Spinning wheels.
3. Figures before slashes indicate shillings; after slashes pence.
4. Chaste beds: simple in design, inexpensive.
5. Abbreviation for "ditto."
6. Linsey-woolsey: coarse cloth made from a linen-wool or cotton-wool blend.
7. Cloth made of yarn derived from the coarse and broken part of flax (tow).
8. Instrument used to crush the woody part of flax or hemp so that it can be separated from the fiber.
9. Basin.
10. neat: cattle of the oxen variety.
11. A large cask holding a specified amount of liquid (approx. 63 gallons).
12. Isaac Watts (1674-1748), a radical English Protestant, who championed civil and religious liberties.