

Assanpink bridge, and escaped by the Bordentown road. Sullivan now hastened up and cut off any further retreat by that route. Then the Hessians fell back to an orchard and endeavored to escape by the Princeton road. Washington seeing the movement, threw out Hand's rifle corps and Barker's Virginia troops and prevented escape in that direction. Every avenue of escape being cut off, and Colonel Rahl their commander mortally wounded, the enemy threw down their arms and surrendered. Just where the final surrender took place it is difficult to determine, for it is probable that the surrounding troops were at some distance from each other. Sullivan's forces reached no point farther north or east than the present site of the First Presbyterian Church. Barker's Virginia troops were probably near the Assanpink between the present Wall street and Model avenue. Hand's rifle corps were northwest of the Virginia troops and between those troops and the battery. Washington's line of battle extended somewhat to the east of the battery and toward Hand's rifle corps.

The Hessians, disordered and confused, occupied the space at different points between Greene street and Stockton and Academy streets south to the creek. The fugitives from Sullivan's advance—those turned back by the rifle corps and the Virginians, and those flying from the upper part of town—in all probability did not come together into one compact mass, but scattered over much of this ground, surrendered where they stood, and afterwards formed into line to ground their arms. Twenty-three Hessian officers were captured, 868 prisoners, four stands of colors, twelve drums, six brass field pieces and 1,000 stands of arms and accoutrements. Seven Hessian officers were killed and thirty privates ; of these twenty-four were buried in one pit in the graveyard of the Presbyterian Church. General Rahl was mortally wounded and died at his headquarters. Washington's official report gives the American loss as four wounded, not one killed.

The battle over, Washington immediately hurried his prisoners across the Delaware by McConkey's Ferry, and sent them off to Harrisburg and Carlisle. He recrossed the Delaware because he knew that with the British forces concentrated against him at Trenton he would be unable to withstand them. His success at Trenton inspired Pennsylvania and New Jersey and in a few days thousands flocked to his standard and in the last of December he recrossed by the lower ferry into Trenton. After the crossing he halted at the Eagle Tavern (yet standing), for refreshments, and then proceeded to the residence of Alexander Douglas, on the site of the present German Lutheran Church, where General St. Clair had his headquarters. General Washington spent the night at the residence of Captain John Barnes, which was demolished but a few years ago.