

Revolutionary War Sites

The settlement and establishment of Burlington County was in its one hundredth year when American Independence was declared in 1776. During the preceding century it had grown from a tiny cluster of shelters along the Delaware to become the largest County in New Jersey stretching from the river to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

The area had a strong tradition of freedom and democracy as secured by "The Concessions and Agreements of the Proprietors of West Jersey" (adopted 3 March 1676) which guaranteed freedom of speech and religion and the right to trial by jury long before the adoption of the Bill of Rights, and which specifically decried taxation without representation a full century before that issue ignited the American Revolution.

Upon this base Burlington County grew until its position, politically, socially, economically and geographically thrust it headlong into the Nation's struggle for independence. This tour, which leads to many of the places in which that struggle occurred, is meant to, provide a tangible description of Burlington County's Revolutionary War history and to identify and make us mindful of the forces and ideals which contributed to the formation of the United States of America.

For a self guided tour of Revolutionary war sites in Burlington County, you can either click on one of the links below for a virtual tour or you can download the brochure by clicking on one of the links below.

Northern Loop Tour (Visiting such towns as Beverly, Burlington, Bordentown, and others)

1. This tour of the Revolutionary War sites of Burlington County begins in Mount Holly, which has been the county seat since 1795. At the time of the Revolution, Mount Holly was described as "a compact and pleasant village, having a great proportion of handsome women therein". In addition to that noteworthy feature, the town was graced by an imposing Friends Meeting House (corner High and Garden Sts.) which had been built in 1775.

Follow High St. (Rte. 541) 6 mi., northwest out of Mt. Holly toward Burlington.

2. According to many accounts, a place called "Gallows Hill" stood not far from the Burlington-Mt. Holly Road (Rte. 541). These same accounts recall that it was here in 1781 that the notorious Joe Mulliner, bandit of the Pines during the Revolution, met his end/hanged for treason.

Rte. 541 becomes High St. again in Burlington Twp. Follow it across Rte. 130 and then, past E. Federal St. to 459 High St., on right.

3. Originally settled in 1677, Burlington served, along with Perth Amboy, as New Jersey's provincial capital from 1703 to 1776. As the seat of the king's government Burlington boasted, among other things, a fine governor's mansion and a well appointed stone barracks. Because of these ties to England, the city was the home of many ardent Tories including the mayor, John Lawrence, who lived at (what is now) 459 High St. Lawrence, who entertained Hessian officers in this house, was later imprisoned for his loyalty to the crown.

Continue on High St. to first light at Broad St. Turn left onto Broad St. Follow one block to Wood St.

Old St. Mary's Church (1corner Broad & Wood) had been chartered by Queen Anne in 1703. Its rector during the Revolution, Dr. Jonathan Odell, was so outspoken a Tory that he was once forced into hiding to save himself from an angry band of Burlington patriots.



Marker



Church



Cemetery

Turn right onto Wood St., and follow past stop sign at Union St. to Revell House (6th building on right beyond Union).

The Revell House, built in 1685, is the oldest identified structure in Burlington County. Traditionally, it was from this house that an old woman gave gingerbread to a hungry Benjamin Franklin on his first trek to Philadelphia.



Revell House Marker



Revell House

Follow Wood St. to Pearl St. (stop sign) turn left on Pearl and follow one block to Talbot St. Turn right on Talbot, follow one block to its end at Riverbank (stop sign). Turn right, follow .1 mi. to "Ship Shield marker", (stone enclosed in wrought iron) on right.

Behind the "Ship Shield marker" once stood the Governor's Mansion; the official residence of New Jersey's Royal Governor. After his office was abolished in 1776 the building became the home of another vehement loyalist-Margaret Morris, who has left us a fine account of Revolutionary Burlington through a journal she maintained during those times.



Ship Shield Marker

Follow Riverbank to its end at High St. (stop sign).

The Burlington Wharf which stood at the foot of High St. was bombarded by marauding British frigates on 8 May 1778. Before opening fire, the British had taken the trouble to warn some small boys and their dogs to vacate the streets.

Turn right on High St., follow beyond Pearl St. to the marker just before the Temple B'nai Israel, on right.

At this place (note marker) stood the little print shop in which Benjamin Franklin printed New Jersey currency in 1728, and from which Isaac Collins issued the State's first newspaper "The New Jersey Gazette" on 5 December 1777.



Little Print Shop

Continue on High St. to 2nd light (at Broad St.). Turn right onto Broad past Wood St. and Talbot St. to 207 Broad St., the Boudinot-Bradford House.

Elias Boudinot was the President of the 9th Continental Congress and first Director of the United States Mint. William Bradford, George Washington's second Attorney General, was Boudinot's son-in-law.



Boudinot - Bradford House

Follow Broad St. to circle. -3/4 around circle, take the Rte. 413 East exit to Rte. 130 South .3 mi. to light past Odd Fellows Cemetery. Turn right at light (toward Edgewater Park) onto Rte. 543 (Beverly Rd., later Warren St.) and follow 2.5 mi. from light to Cooper St., Beverly. Turn right onto Cooper St., follow to river and along riverbank to memorial at flag pole.

4. Near this point, George Washington planned a second crossing of the Delaware to occur simultaneously with his own, north of Trenton. 1,500 men, under General Cadwalader were ordered to cross here, at Duncan Williamson's, "Dunk's" Ferry and attack the Hessians in Burlington County on Christmas night 1776. Finding the river impassable and the bank insurmountable, however, Cadwalader was forced to return his troops to the Pennsylvania shore- thus precluding a major confrontation in Burlington County.



Dunk's Ferry

Turn left, away from the river and follow road (which becomes Broad St.) to stop sign at Warren St. Continue straight on Broad St..7 mi. from stop to Mt. Holly Rd. (stop sign past National Cemetery). Turn left onto Mt. Holly Rd. (Rte. 626) and, follow to light at Rte. 130 intersection.

Cross Rte. 130 and continue straight on 626 (now Beverly-Rancocas Rd.) approximately 2.2 mi. from Rte. 130 to a point just beyond the Delaware Valley Baptist Church, on left.

5. A marker at the near left corner of the intersection of Beverly Rancocas Rd. and Kennedy Way states that at the pinnacle of the rise stood, in Revolutionary times, a mansion called Franklin Park, the private residence of William Franklin, the illegitimate son of Benjamin, and the last Royal Governor of New Jersey. As much a loyalist as his father a patriot, Franklin was imprisoned in Burlington in 1776 and chose exile to England when American independence was won.



William Franklin
Marker



William Franklin Site

Continue on Rte. 626 (Beverly-Rancocas Rd.) .6 mi. beyond Franklin Park to signs for "Main St. Rancocas." Bear left immediately past Garfield Dr. light, and turn left to Main St. Rancocas, from left lane, Follow Main .4 mi. to the center of Rancocas.

6. Although most of this village dates from the early 19th Century, the Friends Meeting House in the center of town had been built in 1772 and served this rural area's Quakers at the time of the Revolution.



Dwelling



Dwelling



Dwelling



Dwelling

Continue on Main St. .3 mi. to its end at Beverly-Rancocas Rd. (Rte. 626). Turn left, toward Mt. Holly onto Rte. 626 and follow .4 mi. to entrance to Rte. 295 North. Follow 295 North 12 mi. toward Bordentown.

This stretch of 295 provides an excellent view of Burlington County's rich farmland-the appearance of which has changed little in two hundred years.

Exit Rte. 295 onto Rte. 130 North. Follow 130 to second light (junction Rte. 206). Continue straight on 130-206 .3 mi. to signs for Ward Ave., on right. Turn right onto Ward Ave. Follow 2.6 mi. to entrance to Crosswicks (at picket fence on right).

7. This late 17th Century Quaker settlement endured many occupations and witnessed at least one skirmish during the Revolution. The slope to your right (along Ward Ave. at entrance to town) was covered, in June 1778, with British troops following their evacuation of Philadelphia. Near the J.P. Bunting Mansion (behind picket fence on right) stood an earlier home of the Bunting family, which was chosen as headquarters by Sir Henry Clinton during that particular occupation. According to one tale, Sir Henry had too much to drink one night while staying here, and, awakened from his drunken slumber by a nightmare, he ran screaming from the house, down the hill and into the stream. The lady of the house, Mrs. Bunting, was kind enough to calm and clean the shaken General and return him to bed.



Crosswicks

Continue on Ward Ave. to the first stop sign (at Church St.). Turn right at stop (onto Church St.) and follow one block to the stop sign (at Front St.).

The meeting house on the left was built in 1773. It served as the command post, on 29 December 1776, of the American Col. Silas Newcomb prior to his troops' engagement in the second Battle of Trenton. Later, in June 1778 while Sir Henry Clinton occupied the home of the Bunting family, many of the 17,000 men, women, and children in his charge settled in and around this building. During that occupation a skirmish erupted with American units attempting to destroy a bridge over the Crosswicks Creek and a cannon ball struck and become lodged in the north wall of this meeting house. The relic is still there.



Meeting House Marker



Meeting House



Cannonball

Turn left at stop sign, onto Front St. and follow one block to its end at Chesterfield Rd. (stop sign). Turn right and follow Chesterfield Road 2.4 mi. to its first stop sign at the intersection in Chesterfield.

8. Chesterfield was called Recklesstown at the time of the American Revolution (after its founder Joseph Reckless) and the tavern to your left (now the Chesterfield Inn) was then, the Recklesstown Tavern. Established in the mid-18th Century, it was the scene, in Revolutionary War days, of many a heated town meeting.



Chesterfield Inn



Chesterfield Intersection

Make a sharp right onto the Bordentown Rd. (Rte. 528) and follow 1.5 mi. to its intersection with the Old York Road.

9. Paralleling the road you are traveling (Rte. 528) to your left are the remains of an old Indian trail called the "Burlington Path," and near it, in the area to your left stood and stands the homestead of the Taylor family-Brookdale Farm. The plunderous British army marched along the Burlington Path, following the evacuation of Philadelphia in 1778, burning or carrying off much of what lay in its way. To spare her home the lady of Brookdale Farm, Ann Newbold Taylor carefully hid her true feelings, put a smile on her face and graciously invited several of the officers in to tea.



Burlington Path

Continue on the Bordentown Rd. (Rte. 528) 2.3 miles to the jughandle at Rte. 130. Follow the jughandle left, toward Bordentown. Cross Rte. 130 to Butts Ave. and follow to the stop sign at Crosswicks St. Turn left onto Crosswicks St. and follow to its end at Farnsworth Ave. Turn right onto Farnsworth, one block to its intersection with Church St.

10. The Thomas Paine House (on left, first building past Farnsworth Church intersection) became the home of the fiery pamphleteer in 1783. Paine's "Common Sense;" published in early 1776, began "These are the times that try men's souls." His words and spirit heartened many a patriot in the early days of the Revolution.



Thomas Paine Marker



Thomas Paine House

Continue on Farnsworth to stop sign at Park St. intersection.

Each building at this historic corner figures significantly into our area's Revolutionary War history. The Francis Hopkinson House (red brick on right) was the home of one of New Jersey's five signers of the Declaration of Independence. Occupied by the enemy on several occasions, it was spared the torch by a scholarly Hessian officer who was impressed with Hopkinson's library.

Facing the Hopkinson House, across Farnsworth, stands the Patience Lovell Wright House, home of the noted American sculptor. Carried to England and the court of George III by her talent, Patience Wright reportedly gathered information helpful to the American Cause during the Revolution.

Next to the Wright House, across Park St., stands the home of Col. Joseph Borden, or rather the house built upon the foundations of Borden's home which was burned by the British in May 1778.

Across Farnsworth from Borden House stood Hoagland's Tavern, a center for the 2,000 Hessians and Scotsmen billeted in Bordentown under Col. Kurt von Donop in December 1776. Had these troops not been lured southward (see remainder of tour) just prior to Washington's attack on Trenton, they might easily have reached the 1,500 Hessians quartered in Trenton and turned Washington's victory there into a devastating defeat.



Hopkinson House Wright House Marker Wright House Borden House Hoagland Tavern

Turn left on Park St. to its intersection with Prince St. (stop sign).

At the foot of this bluff stood, at the time of the American Revolution, the bustling Bordentown wharf. In, an attempt to destroy a portion of the British fleet stationed at Philadelphia during the winter 1777-78 a number of floating explosive devices (wooden kegs filled with gunpowder) were launched from this point. The episode was later recounted by Francis Hopkinson in his poem "The Battle of the Kegs" in which he observed,

*"The kegs, 'tis said, tho' strongly made,
of rebel stayes and hoops, sir
Could not oppose their powerful foes,
The Conque'ring British Troops, sir:"*

Although a failure militarily, the kegs came to symbolize American ingenuity and spirit, and in Hopkinson's satirical lines they prode an early glimpse of American humor.



Bordentown Wharf

Turn left onto Prince, and follow (3 blocks) to stop sign at Burlington St. Turn right on Burlington St. (later 4th St.) (Rte. 662) and follow 1.2 miles to entrance to "White Hill Mansion" in Fieldsboro.

11. The "White Hill Mansion" (beyond trees to right) was the 18th Century home of the American patriots Robert and Mary Field. An early activist for the American cause, Field was to die shortly after the Revolution began, leaving his wife alone to protect her young family through the ravages of war. More than once her home was occupied and she was frequently interrogated for her alleged patriotic activities.

As a result of the British army's capture of Philadelphia in the fall of 1777, most of the American navy, which had been stationed on the Delaware, became trapped upstream. For lack of a better place to moor, the vessels -stood at the foot of White Hill in the spring of 1778, near the Field landing. In early May word reached the area that a detachment of British ships was sailing up the river to seize the American. Fleet and the inhabitants of this tiny community, acting under orders, took the only course open to them to prevent the seizure. When the British reached White Hill on 6 May 1778 they found the riverfront ablaze-local patriots having put the torch to each and every vessel.



White Hill Mansion

Continue on Rte. 662 .7 mile to its end at Rte. 130 South. Bear right, following 130 .9 mile to the Hedding Road (Rte. 678). Turn left on Hedding Road from left lane, follow .9 mile to the intersection in Hedding. Continue straight through intersection on Hedding-Mansfield Road 2.3 miles to its end at Rte. 206.

North of this point, at Rising Sun, (now Mansfield Square) the Hessian commander von Donop stationed several companies for which he could not find room in Bordentown in December 1776.

Turn right onto Rte. 206 and follow .4 mile to the exit toward Burlington-Columbus. Turn right onto exit and follow to stop sign at Main St., Columbus (Rte. 543).

12. Columbus, then called Black Horse, was the southernmost knot - in the string of posts the British had flung across New Jersey in the wake of Washington's 1776 retreat to Pennsylvania. Along with others stationed at Princeton, Trenton, Bordentown, and Rising Sun, the Hessians at Black Horse assumed that the Americans were settled in across the Delaware for the winter and prepared themselves for a quiet occupation of Burlington County.



Columbus

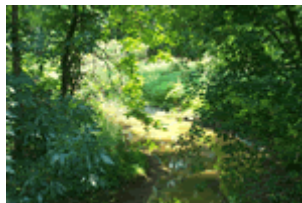
Turn right onto Main St., Columbus (Rte. 543) and follow .6 mile to Petticoat Bridge Road (on left). Turn left onto Petticoat Bridge Road and follow 1.25 miles to Petticoat Bridge over the Assiscunk Creek (historical marker).

13. At his command post in Bordentown, Count von Donop had received reports on 19 December 1776 that an American force of nearly 3,000 men was gathering at Mount Holly and preparing to march north. The reports acquired new validity when, on 21 December, a Hessian outpost stationed at Petticoat Bridge was attacked by an American detachment of some 400 men. The Hessians, many of them wounded, fled back to Black Horse following the skirmish convinced that a much larger American force was on the way. On 22 December, von Donop came to Black Horse to assess the situation. Fearing that a surprise attack by the Americans would trap his troops against the river at Bordentown, he ordered his forces stationed there and at points south, to march on Mount Holly.

In reality, the Americans at Mt. Holly under Col. Samuel Griffin numbered only 600. Hidden amidst the trees south of Petticoat Bridge, however, they appeared to be many more when they opened fire on the advancing Hessian troops on 23 December. Following their initial barrage, the Americans retreated for Mt. Holly and safety, south of the Rancocas.



Petticoat Bridge
Marker



Petticoat Bridge View



Petticoat Bridge View

Continue on Petticoat Bridge Road 1/1 mile to its end at the stop sign at Jobstown-Jacksonville Rd. (Rte. 670). Turn right and follow Jobstown-Jacksonville Road .4 mile to the red brick building on left.

14. When the "Old Springfield Friends" had this structure, Copany Meeting House, built in 1775 they intended it only to serve as a place of worship. A year later, however, it was used to serve a very different purpose when its doors were thrown open, following the skirmish at Petticoat Bridge, and the Hessian surgeons ordered their wounded carried inside. A bloodied hand print, still visible in the loft of the building, testifies to Copany's use as a Revolutionary War hospital.



Springfield Friends
House

Continue on Jobstown-Jacksonville Rd. .4 mile to the fiveway intersection at Jacksonville. Make the "lazy" left onto Rte. 628 (Jacksonville-Mt. Holly Road) and follow 3 miles from' intersection to the light at Woodlane Rd. Continue on Jacksonville Rd..4 mile to Broad St. Turn right on Broad St. and follow 3 blocks to its intersection with Buttonwood St. Turn right on Buttonwood and follow to its end at Hillside Rd.

15. Ahead of you is the "Mount" to which Count von Donop ordered his troops and guns on 24 December 1776 and from which the Hessians opened fire on the town and the Americans, across the Rancocas on Iron Works Hill. Following a daylong barrage, the enemy invaded Mount Holly to find the Americans again on the run, this time along the road to Moorestown. Satisfied with their "victory" and more than ready to enjoy their Christmas, the Hessians were quick to locate the village taverns. Their celebration was finally interrupted on the morning of 26 December by the dull thunder of distant guns-the Battle of Trenton was being fought, and lost, without them.



The Mount View



The Mount View

Turn left onto Hillside Rd. and follow it to its end, at High St. Turn left on High and follow to the tour's starting point, at High and Garden St.

This Concludes the Northern Loop Tour

Southern Loop Tour (Visiting such towns as Mt. Holly, Medford, Batsto and others)

1. At the time of the American Revolution, Mount Holly was a thriving community of perhaps two hundred households which, because of its strategic location, was occupied time and again as British, Hessian, and American troops crossed and recrossed New Jersey.

Follow High St. one half block down the hill, from its intersection with Rancocas Road' and Garden St., to Brainerd St. Turn left on Brainerd and follow it .1 mile to "The Old School House" on the left.

Virtually every serviceable building was used in one way or another by the armies which so frequently occupied Burlington County towns. The 1759 schoolhouse, for example, served as a temporary stable to house British mounts during that army's retreat from Philadelphia in June 1778.



Marker



Schoolhouse

Continue on Brainerd to its end at Buttonwood St. (stop sign). Turn right on Buttonwood and follow one block to its end at Mill St. (stop sign). Turn right onto Mill. Follow to light, preparing to turn left from left lane.

The Three Tuns Tavern (on right, at light) was built in 1723. The Court of Admiralty met here during the last year of the Revolution.



Tavern

Turn left onto Pine St. and follow .3 mile, to the entrance to St. Andrew's Graveyard-"Iron Works Hill", on right.

The hill to the right was named for the iron industry located there in Revolutionary War times. It was to this point, to Iron Works Hill, that Col. Samuel Griffin withdrew his forces on 23

December 1776 having lured more than 2,000 Hessians south from points of support near Trenton. Griffin's guns answered those of the hessian von Donop who was stationed at the summit of the Mount,' across the Creek. On Christmas Eve the Americans again withdrew along the road to Moorestown leaving Mount Holly to the enemy, and the Hessians in Trenton far more vulnerable to Washington's surprise attack in the early morning hours of the day after Christmas.



Church



Church

Continue on Pine St. across Rte. 38(light) where it becomes Eayrestown Rd. (Rte. 612). Follow this 2.4 miles from light to the second intersection (Eayrestown Rd : East Landing Rd.).

2. On the land to the right (beyond this intersection) stood (until 1975) the homestead of the Eayres family which had established a saw mill here as early as 1712. It is reported that the mills, along with the Eayres' home, were burned by the Hessians in 1778. All were rebuilt soon thereafter and resumed their function as a thriving commercial center.



Eayres Site



Eayres Site

Continue on the Eayrestown Rd . .3 mile beyond the East Lan ding intersection to the fork and bear left onto Eayrestown Red Lion Rd. Follow this 1.3 miles from the fork to its intersection (stop sign) with Church Rd. (Rte. 616). Turn right onto Church Rd. and follow 1.7 miles to Kirby's Mill (on right immediately past Rancocas Creek bridge).

3. Kirby's Mill was called Haines' Mill when it was put into operation by John Haines in 1778. Serving this area as a grist mill throughout the Revolution, it later spawned an early industrial complex.



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's Mill



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside



Kirby's - Inside

Continue on Church Rd. (Rte. 616) .6 - mile beyond Kirby's Mill to crest of hill and make sharp left onto New Freedom Rd. Follow New Freedom Rd. 1.6 miles to the second intersection (Chairville Rd.). Turn right on Chairville Rd. and follow .5 mile to a point just short of the Rte. 70 intersection.

4. This cemetery (on left just prior to Rte. 70) which is the property and burial ground of the Peacock family is noteworthy here. Because of a 1777 mishap involving a bad batch of gunpowder and a family member named Adonijah who operated a one-man powder mill not far from here. While reprocessing the bad powder for Washington's army, Adonijah allowed it to come too close to his fire. The resultant explosion and Adonijah's demise are recounted on his tombstone in this grave yard.



Peacock Cemetery Marker



Peacock Cemetery Site

Turn right onto Rte. 70 (west) and follow 1.8 miles to Medford Circle. 3/4 around take Main St. (Rte. 541 South) into Medford. Follow Main St. (later Stokes Road) 1.9 miles from the circle to a point just beyond Branin Rd. on left.

5. Cross Keys Tavern (5th building on left, past Branin Road, note marker) was opened by Benjamin Thomas in 1777. It served this area, as did countless other taverns throughout the thirteen original states as a center for news and meetings during the Country's early years.



Cross Keys Tavern
Site

Continue on Stokes Road (Rte. 541) 1.2 miles from tavern to a point just beyond Settler's Inn. Note marker on left, across road from "Memorial Hall" (log chapel).

6. This area (now Medford Lakes) was called Aetna Furnace when a forge was founded here by Charles Read in 1766. One of many Read furnaces created during that period throughout Burlington County, this one closed in 1773 just prior to the increased demands placed upon the industry by the Revolution.



Aetna Furnace

Continue along Stokes Rd. - (Rte. 541) toward Rte. 206 intersection.

7. 4 miles beyond the Aetna Furnace site note the historical marker (on right) locating the boundary of the 3,284, acres which comprised Brotherton (later Indian Mills), the reservation established for the Indians of Southern New Jersey in 1758. A peaceable people, the Indians here sought to remain apart from the white man's war. One account from those times recalls that a deputation from Brotherton appeared before a British officer to plead for the release of one of their number who had been "mistakenly" arrested for his alleged active support of the American cause.

Continue on Rte. 541 to its end at Rte. 206. Turn right onto Rte. 206 and follow 2 miles to Rte. 534 turn off (signs to Atco-Berlin) on north shore of Atsion Lake.

8. At this point on the Mullica River, Charles Read established another bog iron operation. This one, called Atsion Forge, functioned throughout the Revolution supplying the Americans with a wide variety of implements. The Richards family, which later developed the industrial site, was responsible for the construction of the buildings currently located here (across 206 from lake).



Atsion Forge



Atsion Forge Cabin



Atsion Forge Cabin

The traveler now has two options:

- (A) pursue the tour of Batsto (restored village, allow approx. Two hours) or
- (B) make Batsto a separate outing and continue motor tour along Rte. 534.

Follow Rte. 206 South from Atsion into Atlantic County. Signs beginning 4.3 miles south of Atsion lake will direct you, via a rural route, back into Burlington County to Batsto.

9. Batsto, too, had been established as a part of Charles Read's bog iron empire. Owned by John Cox during the Revolution, Batsto supplied the Americans with cannon and ball, and countless other products required by the military. So vital was this industry that a Tory spy living in a house still standing on the lake reported his daily observations to the British.



Batsto Mansion



Batsto General Store



Batsto Lake

Retrace route from Batsto to Rte. 206. Follow 206 north to Atsion Lake and resume tour as follows:

Turn onto Atsion Rd. (Rte. 534) following signs toward At co and Berlin. Follow 4.5 miles to Jackson Road intersection (stop sign). Cross intersection and continue straight on Atsion Road.

By tradition, many of the Hessian soldiers who deserted the ranks during the American Revolution, fled into Burlington County's pine forests and fathered the race which later generations would call the "pineys. "



Pineys

Follow Atsion Road 5 more miles to its end at Tuckerton Rd. (Rte. 620). Turn left onto Tuckerton Rd. Follow 6 miles toward Marlton.

In the late spring of 1778, after Benjamin Franklin had persuaded the French to enter the War on the side of the Americans, the British position in Philadelphia became precarious. Following a decision to abandon that city on 17 June 1778, 16,000 British and Hessian soldiers, and a thousand American loyalists, streamed across the Delaware in hopes of reaching safety in New York City. At Haddonfield, the British commander, Sir Henry Clinton, ordered his forces to split—one half to reach Mount Holly via Moorestown, the other by the way of the Evesboro-Mount Laurel Road. In so ordering, Clinton opened large areas of Burlington County to certain plunder and destruction. In anticipation of the worst, many Countians scurried to hide endangered valuables and livestock, while others, in an attempt to hinder the British, felled trees and burned bridges in their path.

Tuckerton Road becomes Main St. , Marlton. Follow to light at Main and Maple Ave., turn right on Maple and cross Rte. 70. 1.3 miles beyond Rte. 70 intersection, to light at Green tree Road . Turn right. Follow Greentree .5 mile to farmhouse on left.

10. General Clinton, who led the sector taking the Evesboro-Mt. Laurel route, chose (by tradition) this house (dated 1764) as his head quarters when he ordered a halt on the evening of 19 June. A legend which grew out of Clinton's stay here related that he had a young American soldier, who had been wounded and captured, brought to him for interrogation. The American, the story goes, did not survive the night in enemy hands, but thereafter, whenever a British soldier ventured into the area, his death was heralded by the appearance, along this route, of a phantom horseman.



Phantom Horseman

Continue on Greentree Rd. (Rte. 674) 1.6 miles to its intersection with Mt. Laurel Rd. (light). Turn left onto Mt. Laurel Rd.

11. In the area to your right, along the slope, the bulk of Clinton's army spent the soggy night of 19 June 1778. Those that could find room took shelter from the storm in the meeting house (then half its present size) near the crest of the mount. The rest huddled in the rain, awaiting orders to move on.



Mt. Laurel Friends



Mt. Laurel Friends

(Continue along Mt. Laurel Rd. (Rte. 603) 3.3 miles from the Meeting House, across Rte. 38 (light) to its end at E. Main St., Moorestown. Turn left onto E. Main and follow to Schooley St. , 2nd road on right.

12. The troops which took the King's Highway out of Haddonfield were under the command of the Hessian general Knyphausen, who is remembered locally for having used his fingers where others might have employed a knife and fork. Entering Moorestown in the rain on the 19th, Knyphausen's men sought dry quarters. Ordering whole families into single rooms, a privileged few found comfort in private homes. The two buildings on the right, just before Schooley St., were used in this fashion.



Schooley Street House



Schooley Street House

Continue on Main to light at Chester Ave. Note cemetery across Chester Ave. on right.

In the open area on the far right corner stood, at that time, Moorestown 's stone Friend's Meeting House. This became home that night for many who could not find shelter in private dwellings. Even this, however, was not large enough to hold the multitude and the rest spilled out across the lawn. Provisions were obtained forcibly as is witnessed by one local who called it "a most dismal time of trial and stripping... they plundered the houses... taking away horses and creatures of every sort."



Moorestown Friends

Follow Main St. past the Moorestown Community House (on left) and make next left onto High St. Follow High beyond crest of hill.

The Smith-Cadbury Mansion (on right, 12 High St.) was, in 1778, the home of the eminent Moorestonian, Richard Smith and his family. A well appointed residence, it was one of the first in town to be occupied. The British officers who spent the night here were not, however, impressed with its elegance-it is said that they plucked and cooked chickens in one of the family's finest rooms.



Smith Cadbury
Mansion



Smith Cadbury
Mansion

Follow High St. to Prospect Ave. Turn right on Prospect, following it to its end at So. Church St. Turn right on Church and follow to the light at Main St. and turn right. Follow Main St. (Rte. 537) 6 miles from the light, toward Mt. Holly.

Under orders from Clinton, officer and foot-soldier alike took leave of temporary shelters at 4:00 on the morning of 20 June 1778 and marched toward Mount Holly. Those under Knyphausen used the old Philadelphia Road (approximated by the present Rte. 537).

At a point on Rte. 537 6.4 miles from the Main-Church intersection, Moorestown, a steel bridge crosses the Rancocas.

13. Near here, the king's forces met some opposition from a small band of patriots. The incident which was noted by Clinton's confidential secretary on 20 June, occurred as follows: "At a small distance from this town (Mount Holly) a bridge was broken down by the rebels which, when our people were repairing, were fired upon by those villains from a house, two of which were taken prisoners, three killed and the other two ran into the cellar and fastened it so that we were obliged to burn the house and consume them in it."



Moorestown Bridge

Continue 2.4 miles into Mount Holly , via Rte. 537.

Knyphausen's brigades entered Mount Holly by this route late on the 20th and were met by the forces commanded by General Clinton which had marched into town by way of Pine St. What followed was a weekend of plunderous occupation during which time the industry on Iron Works Hill was demolished and the church of the patriot preacher John Brainerd was burned. On Monday 22 June the cavalcade set off again along the Old Monmouth Road , headed toward the safety of New York City. They were to find their trek through the northern reaches of Burlington County no easier than it had been in the County's southern sections. Exhausted by the heat and constant harassment of bands of patriots, they emerged from Burlington County only to encounter Washington and the American Army on 28 June 1778 at the Battle of Monmouth Court House.

This Concludes the Southern Loop Tour