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WILLIAM NELSON,  
GARRET D. W. VROOM,  
AUSTIN SCOTT,  
FRANCIS B. LEE,  
ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

DOCUMENTS  
RELATING TO THE  
REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

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VOLUME III.

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EXTRACTS FROM AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS RELATING  
TO NEW JERSEY.

VOL. III. 1779.

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EDITED BY  
WILLIAM NELSON.

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or either of them, or any person or persons concerned in them, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said negro slaves should not be condemned, as forfeited to the use of the captors, according to the prayer of the said bill.

By order of the Judge,

JOS. BLOOMFIELD, Reg.

Aug. 17, 1779.

To all whom it may concern.

New-  
Jersey, ss. **N**OTICE is hereby given that a court of admiralty will be held at the courthouse in Burlington, on Monday the 13th day of September next, at three o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, then and there to try the truth of the facts alledged in the bill of Frederick Steelman, (who as well, &c.) against the schooner or vessel called the Lawrence, to the end and intent, that the owner or owners of the said vessel, or any person or persons concerned therein, may appear and shew cause, if any they have, why the said vessel and her cargo should not be condemned, according to the prayer of the said bill. By order of the Judge.

JOS. BLOOMFIELD, Reg.

Aug. 21, 1779.

**S**TRAYED or stolen, out of Capt. Porter's pasture at the Cross Roads near Pluckemin, on the night of the 13th inst. a bay mare about 14 hands high, 4 years old, black mane and tail, and a black streak down her back, a little hurt with the saddle, shod all round, and a little lame in the off fore foot; she also has a star in her face, trots and canters freely, full half blooded. Whoever secures the said mare, so that the owner may have her

again, shall have One Hundred Dollars reward, and for the mare and thief, Two Hundred Dollars, and all reasonable charges.

JAMES NUGENT, Express-rider.

Pitt's Town, Aug. 16, 1779.

**T**HE Person to whom a Bundle of Laws of last Sitting was delivered, to be conveyed to the Hon. John Stevens, Esq. is requested either to deliver the same to him, or inform him where it is, without delay.

Thomas M'Gee, Fuller.

**B**EGS leave to inform the publick, that he has lately taken Wall's Fulling Mill, near Allentown, where those who will be pleased to favour him with custom, may depend on having their work well done.  
—*The New Jersey Gazette*, Vol. II., No. 87, Aug. 25, 1779.

We are favoured with the following account of the late affair at Minisink, which, as it is received from the best authority, may be depended on.

On the twenty first ult. a party of Savages and Tories, supposed to be about 150 in number, under the command of Brandt, appeared at Minisink. The country being quickly alarmed, a body of the militia from Orange county, under the command of col. Hathorn, joined by a small number from New Jersey, under major Meeker, in the whole amounting to 120 men, officers included, arrived at Minisink the next day; where they were informed by a spy that the enemy lay at Mongaup, a place about six miles distant: Our troops immediately marched with an intention either to fall upon them by surprise, or to gain their front and ambush them; but soon received intelligence that they were posted on such strong ground, as

would render it impossible to attack them with a probability of success; this induced our men to change their route. They proceeded along the old Kasheghton path, and at midnight encamped at Skinner's saw-mill, eighteen miles from Minisink and three miles and a half from the enemy, who then lay at the mouth of Halfway Brook. It being exceeding difficult to pass the mountains at night, the troops lay by till the morning, and at daylight, of the 23d,<sup>1</sup> after leaving their horses, and disengaging themselves of every thing that might impede their march, they proceeded and came up with the enemy, (who had received information of their advancing) at Legheway,<sup>2</sup> twenty seven miles from Minisink; here they found the enemy transporting their provisions, cattle, and plunder, across the Delaware, which they had nearly effected. It was determined immediately to attack them; our men accordingly formed into three divisions, the main body under the immediate command of col. Hathorn, with small parties on the right and left; by the accidental discharge of a musquet the enemy discovered their approach before they were properly posted, this instantly brought the men on to action, they advanced with fixed bayonets, put the enemy in confusion; some were driven into the river, and many fell by the well directed fire of our musquetry.

The troops in the rear of col. Hathorn having got into disorder, some of them only joined him. The enemy rallied in force on his right, and recrossed the river, having, from the best accounts, received a reinforcement from Kasheghton; a constant bush-firing then commenced, in which capt. Tyler, a brave and enterprizing officer, was killed, and several privates wounded. Col. Hathorn, with only forty five men, was now obliged to possess himself of an eminence advantageously situated, which the enemy repeatedly approached, and were as often repulsed. Our men, notwithstanding their fatigue, the want of water to

<sup>1</sup> The 22d.

<sup>2</sup> Lackawack, or Lackawaxen.

allay their thirst, and smallness of their number, retained their spirits and defended the ground near three hours and a half, a constant firing being kept up on both sides during the whole time; here we had three men killed and nine wounded; among the wounded were Col. Hathorn, in his head, leg and thigh; lieut. col. Tusten, adj. Finch, capt. James, and ensign Wood.<sup>1</sup>

Their ammunition being nearly expended, col. Hathorn ordered that no person should fire without having his object sure. The ceasing of our fire encouraged the enemy, who advanced upon our people, when they, being intirely destitute of ammunition, were obliged to retire down the hill towards the river, and every one separately consult his own safety. Twenty one officers and privates are missing, among whom are lieut. col. Tusten, and some other very valuable officers. During the engagement the officers and soldiers behaved with the utmost bravery and perseverance; and there is every reason to believe (though inferior in numbers) if their ammunition had not failed them, the enterprize would have been attended with complete success. Since the action several of our wounded have come in, and we have reason to expect that more are on their way to us. By our spies we are informed that the enemy, the night following, moved off their wounded in canoes, and from the blood appearing on the ground where they encamped, and other circumstances, there is the best reasons to conclude that they suffered considerably in the action. Col. Seaward, of New Jersey, with ninety three men, was during the engagement, about six miles distant from the place of action, but did not hear the firing. On the following evening he laid near the Indians, and from their cries and groans concluded that they had been lately engaged and suffered much,—

<sup>1</sup> Heitman's Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army says Ensign John Wood, N. Y. Militia, was killed at Minisink, July 22, 1779, and that Col. John Wood, N. Y. Militia, was taken prisoner, and remained a prisoner until July, 1783; also, that Nathaniel Finch, lieutenant and adjutant of Hathorne's N. Y. Militia Regiment, was killed in this affair. "Capt. James" is probably an error for Captain Samuel Jones.



he would have attacked them round their fires, but was by some accident unfortunately prevented. Brandt, who commanded the Indians, is either killed or dangerously wounded. The enemy have killed and scalped four men, made some prisoners (chiefly children) destroyed one church, eight dwelling houses, eight barns, one or two mills, and have taken off a number of horses, cattle, and other plunder; some of which, however, our people have retaken and delivered to the proper owners.—*The Pennsylvania Evening Post*, August 28, 1779.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Battle of Minisink, fought July 22, 1779, occurred so near the New Jersey border, and was participated in by so many Jerseymen, and, moreover, had such an influence in checking the advance of the Indians upon the unprotected settlements of New Jersey, that it has a decided local interest. The Indians under the noted Captain Joseph Brandt attacked the settlement at Minisink, on July 20, 1779, killing and plundering on all sides. News of this raid reached Goshen on the evening of the same day. Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Tusten, commander of the local militia in the Goshen neighborhood, summoned the officers of his regiment to assemble the next morning with as many volunteers as they could raise. Word was also sent to Colonel John Hathorn, commander of the Warwick regiment of militia, to meet him at the lower neighborhood in Minisink. On the morning of July 21, one hundred and forty-nine men assembled at Minisink, and placed themselves under the command of Colonel Tusten. Among the volunteers thus gathered were Major Meeker and Captain Harker, of Sussex county, with a considerable number of men under their command. Colonel Tusten advised that they should all wait where they were for reinforcements and ammunition, which would be with them in a short time, and reminded his men that the enemy far outnumbered them. Major Meeker, however, mounted his horse and waving a sword cried out: "Let the brave men follow me; the cowards may stay behind." This act of bravado carried the day against reason and common sense, and the party set out on its march on the trail of the retreating savages. The next morning, July 22, they were joined by Colonel Hathorn of the Warwick regiment, with a small reinforcement, and he being the senior officer took the command. They then marched a few miles to Halfway Brook, where they came upon an encampment which the Indians had occupied the night before. Another council was held, and again Colonel Tusten showed them that they were outnumbered, but the same spirit of bravado prevailed and the march was resumed. Captain Bezaleel Tyler, Junior, of the Coshecton company of the Second or South End regiment of Ulster county militia, an experienced hunter, was sent ahead with a small scouting party, but had gone only a little way before he fell into an ambushade and was killed. Notwithstanding this disaster the pursuers persisted in rushing forward. The Americans reached the fording-place on the Delaware river, opposite the Lackawaxen, about ten o'clock, and discovered some of Brandt's men crossing the Delaware with the plunder. Brandt himself appeared and demanded the surrender of the settlers, telling them his force far outnumbered theirs. This was declined, and about eleven o'clock the action

became general, and the whites found themselves in a complete ambushade. About fifty of their men became separated from the main body, and were not in the fight, in which only about ninety of the Americans were engaged. The Indians who had crossed the river were ordered by Brandt to return, and promptly fell in upon the rear of the whites. These were so completely overpowered that toward sunset the survivors fled in all directions. Colonel Tusten, who was a surgeon, remained behind, dressing the wounds of his injured comrades, seventeen of whom were under his care behind a cliff. There he was killed while discharging this humane duty. Of those actually engaged in the battle, forty-four or forty-five were killed. Colonel Benjamin Tusten was a practicing physician of the town of Goshen, where his father, who removed from Southold, Long Island, had settled in 1746. Young Tusten studied medicine with various physicians, there being no medical school at that time, and in the course of his studies spent a year with Dr. William Burnet, at Newark, N. J., where he became acquainted with a Miss Brown, and at the age of twenty-eight married her. He was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Goshen Regiment of Militia, February 28, 1776, and re-commissioned February 26, 1778. In 1777 he was appointed surrogate of Orange county, which office he held when killed at Minisink. Some time after the battle thirty-three widows of the killed, who belonged to the Presbyterian Congregation at Goshen, set out for the battlefield on horseback to gather the remains of their dead, but found the way utterly impracticable. They then hired a guide to go on and secure the remains, but he was never heard from afterwards. In 1820, Dr. David R. Arnell published a sketch of Colonel Tusten, who was killed at the battle, and this awoke a new interest in the matter, and led to the appointment of a committee to gather up the bones. On July 22, 1822, these ghastly relics were buried in the Presbyterian churchyard in Goshen, and Colonel Hathorn, then eighty years of age, laid the cornerstone of a monument to commemorate the dead. Dr. James R. Wilson delivered an address on the occasion, in which he gave an account of the battle, compiled from the recollections of the survivors and local tradition. His account has been accepted and closely followed by all later writers. It is published in full in the "History of Orange County," by S. W. Eager, Newburgh, 1846-7, pages 494-9. It was estimated that at least 15,000 people were present at the ceremonies. In 1861, the old monument having become much defaced, a new one was erected, which was dedicated on July 22, 1862. This stands in the Presbyterian churchyard at Goshen, and is of marble, suitably inscribed and adorned, and bears the names of forty-four of the killed. Among them were Daniel Talmage, Stephen Mead and Nathan Wade, certainly, and six or eight more, probably from Sussex county. Goshen is one of the court house towns of Orange county, New York, and is an important station on the Erie railroad, forty or fifty miles northwest of Paterson. The site of the Battle of Minisink is to be seen from the Erie railroad trains, a few miles west of Port Jervis, New York, which is located at the junction of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. See Eager's "Orange County," as cited, 491-499; "Battles of the United States by Sea and Land," by Henry B. Dawson, New York, 1860, II., 528; Lossing's "Field Book of the American Revolution," II., 101; "Life of Colonel Joseph Brandt," by W. L. Stone, I., 415; Gordon's "History of the American Revolution," III., 312; "N. Y. Col. Docs.," XV., 291, 292, 542; "N. Y. in the Revolution as Colony and State," by James A. Roberts, Comptroller, 2d ed., Albany, 1898, 161; "First Sussex Centenary," Newark, 1853; "History of the Minnesink Region," by Charles E. Stickney, Middletown, N. Y., 1867, 91.