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Special Issue

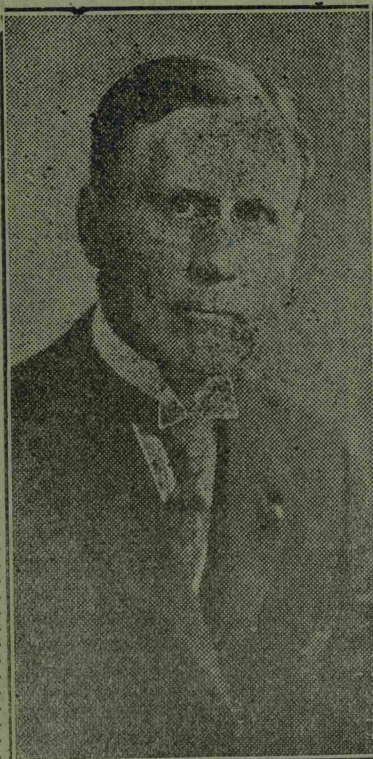
The Freeholder

Vol. 1

FREEHOLD, N. J., JUNE 28, 1928.

No. 6

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Samuel Craig Cowart.

The Freeholder's
OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Freehold, N.J.
Sesqui - Centennial

Celebration,
Battle of Monmouth

June 28th, 1928

AT

FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY

BOOST FREEHOLD NUMBER

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The Freeholder.

Vol. 1.

FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY, JUNE 28, 1928.

No. 6

Places of Interest in Historic Freehold.

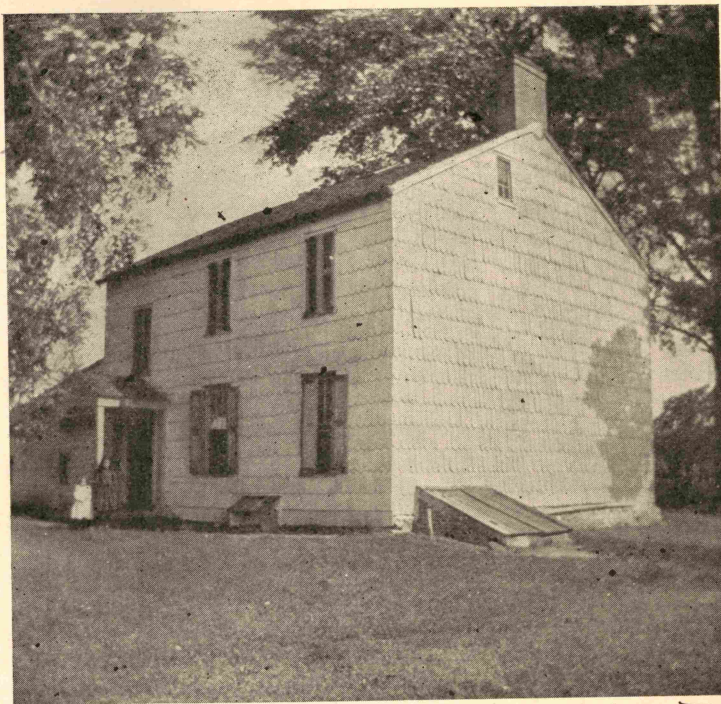
Compiled by the General Committee on
Celebration.

1. Headquarters of General Knyp-
hausen, commander of baggage
train, now farmhouse of Charles
M. Higgins, four miles from
Freehold on the Smithburg
Road.
2. General Clinton's headquarters
near Moreau house on West Main
Street.
3. Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
used as hospital by the British,
corner of West Main and Throck-
morton Streets.
4. Monmouth Court House, used as
hospital by the British, corner
of West Main and Court Streets.
5. Location of ancient house where
Washington held Masonic lodge
meeting, now the store of Meyer
Niemtzow, West Main Street.
6. New Freehold High School on
site of first skirmish in the battle
where Lafayette met an advance
guard, of 5,000 British troops.
Broadway.
7. Residence of S. C. Cowart, chair-
man of General Committee, on
hill from which the British light
dragoons charged over present
monument grounds and were
repulsed by Butler's troops.
8. Site of third skirmish in battle
about 1,000 feet south east of
what is called Molly Pitcher's
Well, Englishtown road.
9. John Craig's house, now owned
by S. C. Cowart, used as field
hospital by the British, two miles
from Freehold on the English-
town road.
10. Old Tennent Parsonage farm
where main battle took place
two miles west of Freehold.
11. Old Tennent Church at Tennent,
used as temporary hospital by
Colonial army, three miles west
of Freehold.
12. Molly Pitcher's Spring, now
under Pennsylvania Railroad
right of way, 1,000 feet east of
what is known as Molly Pitcher's
Well.

Official Story of the Battle of Monmouth.

By SAMUEL CRAIG COWART
Chairman, General Committee

The Battle of Monmouth was fought on the Sabbath day, June 28th, 1778, a holy day on which to fight for a holy cause. The main battle was fought on Tennent Parsonage farm, two miles west of Freehold, N. J. It was holy ground, consecrated by the fervent prayers of John and William Tennent, patriot pastors of this Old Tennent Church.



Cowart found ~~Knyphausen's~~ ^{Knyphausen's} Headquarters ~~used as Hospital by British.~~

During the hard, severe winter of 1777-78 the British army, quartered in the cozy, comfortable precincts of good old Philadelphia, famous for Quaker hospitality and brotherly love, did not feel the harsh rigors of the chilling blasts, while a few miles away at Valley Forge, the noble Washington and his raw, undisciplined recruits were housed in log huts, exposed to wintry blasts and all the privations of camp life in the open field, ily clothed and poorly fed. But, when spring opened and that skilled warrior, Baron Steuben, broke up his military school, which had transformed those raw, undisciplined military school boys into an invincible fighting machine, the American commander was cheered by the news that the French nation had formed an alliance with the American Colonies and had fitted out a fleet to bottle up Clinton in Philadel-

phia. The wary Clinton however, did not enjoy this cheering news and decided to quit his comfortable quarters for the safer precincts of New York. He failed, however, to give landlord Washington three months notice, or, forsooth, any notice, of his intention to quit the premises; in fact so far as we can gather, he never yet has paid the rent for those goodly houses which he and his gold-laced officers had enjoyed for those many months, and at the unseemly hour of three o'clock a. m., on June 18th, 1778, he started to march his troops, with all his household goods and camp equipments, across the Jerseys for New York. Washington decided to distrain for rent, the goodly baggage train of General Clinton, which, twelve miles long, presented many tempting articles to the impecunious landlord from Valley Forge.

Continued on page two

The Freeholder.

"Freehold's Livest Publication"

JUNE 28, 1928

Published Monthly at Freehold, N. J.
by

THE FREEHOLDER PUBLISHING
COMPANY

Robert E. Parks, Editor and Publish'r
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Advertising rates made known on
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Address all communications to the
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THE FREEHOLDER'S PLATFORM
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BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

As everyone in Freehold knows the Battle of Monmouth was fought one hundred and fifty years ago today. Fifty years ago it was Freehold's privilege to celebrate the centennial observance of that fight. Now comes the sesqui-centennial observance.

Opinion today is divided as to whether the fight actually was of great proportions, whether Washington, Clinton, or whether anybody actually won it.

The fact remains that in spite of who won the battle the celebration of it in Freehold is one of the gala days, on each occasion, in the history of the Borough.

Therefore, it was with much surprise that the Editor of The Freeholder observed that no other local publication had made any effort whatsoever to preserve what might be classed as a permanent record of this sesqui-centennial observance.

Last week the Transcript generously devoted of its space to a fair account of the battle, and a more or less detailed listing of historic places of the vicinity. But newspaper is not permanent. What is news today is kindling in a thousand fires tomorrow.

And so The Freeholder, after waiting until the last moment to take credit from any other organization for the making of a permanent record of this celebration, has at no little labor and expense issued this, the Sesqui-Centennial Issue, containing the Official Program, Mr. Cowart's account of the battle, illustrations of places important in the progression of that fight and a map which will give the reader some idea of the topography of the land over which the struggle was waged.

In so doing The Freeholder has adopted the spirit of Abraham Lincoln when he said at Gettysburg "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

The Freeholder has not dwelt upon what was said today, but it has given you, Mr. Visitor-to-Freehold-and-the-Celebration, a lasting reminder of your visit here, printed attractively

Continued on page three.

OFFICIAL STORY

Continued from page one

He first detached General Dickinson, with Maxwell and the Jersey militia, to hang on the flanks of the retreating army and obstruct its passage, so that his main army would overtake them, at some convenient place, to take an inventory of Clinton's goods. These Jersey mosquitoes so pestered Clinton and his troops, by attacks at Crosswicks and other points, by tearing up bridges and putting other obstructions in his way, that Clinton changed his general plan of going to New York via Rahway and the Amboys, and decided to hasten through Monmouth County to Sandy Hook and there take vessel for New York.

He therefore, with his fine body of over 10,000 disciplined troops, well equipped with cannon and the accoutrements of war and well supplied with baggage, which was safely guarded by that skillful General, Knyphausen, journeyed leisurely across the Jerseys by way of Bordentown, Allentown, Crosswicks, Imlaystown, toward the good old town of Freehold. He traveled in three divisions, one by way of Mount Holly, one by way of Columbus, one by way of Bordentown. The first division, commanded by General Knyphausen, at the fording of Crosswicks Creek was attacked by the Jersey militia under General Dickinson, with three regiments commanded by Colonels Frelinghuysen, Van Dyke, and Webster. At Crosswicks an incident occurred which presaged some evil to the British arms. Knyphausen's gallant steed, in crossing the creek, reared and plunged. The redoubtable General lost one of his gold spurs, which years after was found in the stream and was marked with the initial "K."; (The speaker learned of this incident from the lips of Mrs. Sarah Waln Hendrickson, whose family owned and occupied Waln's Mills near where Knyphausen forded the Creek at Crosswicks). Clinton moved on to Allentown. On June 24th, Knyphausen encamped with baggage train at Imlaystown; Lord Cornwallis encamped at Allentown. Knyphausen's

Continued on page three.



*Higgins Farm formerly Thompson's
Gen. Knyphausen's Headquarters
near to Battle Monmouth.*

Continued from page two.

BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

and compactly. What was said is of secondary importance. But the pictures and the story of the battle will serve to keep ever fresh in your mind, as you glance back thru the trips of years ago, the real significance of the observance you witnessed here.

And remember that Freehold was glad to have you here, that Freehold is always glad to welcome strangers to the fold. And if you do that you will, in a sense, be a Citizen of a Wonderful Borough and boost Freehold to the utmost of your ability.

SAMUEL CRAIG COWART

Facing opposition from the start, harrassed by lack of financial backing, hampered by ridicule, maligned by many, aided by few, Samuel Craig Cowart, lawyer, philosopher, gentleman, citizen of Freehold, descendant of the immortal patriots of Monmouth has fought the second Battle of Monmouth and today he won that battle.

Continuing the fight for an appropriate observance of the sesqui-centennial anniversary of the battle where most others would quit, Mr. Cowart has, by dint of self sacrifice, hard, thankless work, resulting often in dislike of himself by those he approached, succeeded in staging a fitting celebration. And as the day draws to a close, let us hark back to the days of Washington when a glass among gentlemen was not frowned upon by straight laced Virtue in the guise of prohibitory amendments.

Gentlemen, attention. We give you a man with the courage of his convictions; we give you Freehold's truest patriot, we give you SAMUEL CRAIG COWART!

OFFICIAL STORY

Continued from page two.

division was composed of the 17th Regiment Light Dragoons, Second Battalion Light Infantry, Hessian Yagers, First and Second Brigades, (Sterns and Loos) Hessian-Pennsylvania Loyalists, West Jersey Tories and Maryland Loyalists.

The second division under Cornwallis was composed of Sixteenth Regiment Light Dragoons, First and Second Battalions of British Grenadiers, the Queens Guards and Third, Fourth and Fifth Brigades. The balance of the British army was under the immediate command of General



Moreou Farm near Clinton's Headquarters

Clinton in the Third division. There was a Brigadier General Grant with him but fortunately for the Americans he was not the hero of Appomatox.

Clinton, hearing that Washington had crossed to the East side of the Delaware and was expecting reinforcements from General Gates with his northern army, abandoned his idea of going to New York, via, New Brunswick, Rahway, and Amboy, and decided to push for Sandy Hook via, Freehold, as above stated. He sent his baggage train forward in the advance and protected it in the rear with his best troops, the flower of the British army. On June 25th, Knypshausen reached the Stone House Farm, on the Monmouth Road, about four miles from Freehold, and Friday, June 26th, the whole army reached Freehold and remained over Saturday, and until early Sunday morning, June 28th. General Clinton's headquarters on Saturday, while at Freehold, were at the William Conover farm house, now owned by Mr. Moreau, on the south side of Freehold near the Freehold Cemetery. The weather was oppressively warm, the roads dusty and heavy with sand, and the weary men enjoyed the needed rest and shade, during the two days and nights spent at Freehold.

When Clinton evacuated Philadelphia, Washington sent General Arnold with a small force to occupy it and ordered the Jersey Militia under General Dickinson to pursue and harass the retreating British. He next detached General Morgan and his select body of six hundred men, called "Morgan's Rangers," to hang on the right flank of the enemy and

reinforce General Dickinson and General Maxwell. Morgan took up his quarters at Richmond's Mills (now Hall's Mills) about three miles south of Freehold and occupied that position throughout the whole of the battle of Monmouth, without joining in the action, for the reason that he never received any orders from Lee to do so. Washington himself marched toward Princeton and halting at Hopewell, remained there until June 25th. Here a council of war was held which is depicted in one of the handsome bronzes on the Monmouth Battle Monument. In this council, Lee opposed a general engagement, but Wayne and Lafayette and Washington himself advocated bringing on a battle at Freehold. While at Hopewell, Washington also detached General Scott and fifteen hundred more troops to enforce Generals Dickinson, Maxwell and Morgan. On June 25, Washington moved to Kingston and, on that date, sent General Wayne and a select body of 1,000 men as further reinforcement train towards Middletown and Sandy Hook. Clinton did not begin to move his division, comprising the rear guard, until about 8 o'clock. Washington had ordered Lee to keep his troops lying on their arms during the night of the 27th, and to attack promptly the moment the British moved. General Dickinson was up bright and early and at 5 o'clock A. M. sent a dispatch to Washington that the British had begun to move. Washington then commanded the main army to advance and ordered Lee to attack the enemy, "unless there were powerful

Continued on page six.

OFFICIAL CELEBRATION

9 O'CLOCK A. M. (NEW TIME),

Salvo 48 Guns on Perrine Farm near High School, scene of First Skirmish N. J. National Guard.

10 TO 11:30 O'CLOCK A. M.,

Registration of Invited Guests at Presbyterian Church Lecture Room, corner West Main Street and Brinkerhoff Avenue

11 O'CLOCK A. M.,

Mobilization Federal and State Troops, Veterans of Civil War (the Blue and the Grey), Spanish-American and World Wars, at Athletic Field north of High School.

12 O'CLOCK M.,

Military Parade on Broadway and Main Street to Freehold Driving Park, returning via George Street, Yard Avenue, Broad Street, Court Street, Schenck Street, around Monmouth Monument to Broadway and field north of High School, where troops will be rationed.

Major Henry L. Jones, Grand Marshall.

1 O'CLOCK P. M.,

Commemorative Ceremonies at Grand Stand, Freehold Driving Park.

Rev. Gill Robb Wilson, National Chaplain American Legion, Presiding.

INVOCATION,

Rev. Charles H. Neff, Pastor of Old Tennent Church.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME,

Hon. A. Harry Moore, Governor of New Jersey.

PRESENTATION,

Molly Pitcher Flag to Borough of Freehold.

Mr. Joseph Humphreys.

ACCEPTANCE, Mayor Peter F. Runyon.

GREETINGS,

From Ambassadors, Great Britain, France, Germany and other countries.

SINGING,

Kenser's Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Freehold Male Chorus.

150th Anniversary of

PROGRAM

ORIGINAL POEM,

"Monmouth Field".

Rev. Lyman Whitney Allen, D. D.

MUSIC,

"The Stars and Stripes Forever".

Sanford's Band.

STORY OF THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH,

Samuel Craig Cowart, Historian Monmouth Chapter S. A. R.

ADDRESS,

Lafayette, Hero of Monmouth, and Effect on World of Today.

Hon. Edward E. Spafford, National Commander American Legion.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE OF THE SUPREME RULER OF NATIONS.

Cardinal Patrick Hayes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, Chairman General Committee.

SINGING,

"America" (Two verses).

Freehold Male Chorus.

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION,

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

3 O'CLOCK P. M.,

Luncheon tendered to 1,000 invited guests in auditorium beneath Grand Stand (admission only by ticket).

MUSIC AT LUNCHEON,

Freehold Male Chorus, Edwin Howell, Jr., Director.

The Song of the Jolly Roger—Candish

Star Spangled Banner—Key

other selections ad libitum

Dated June 28, 1928

SAMUEL CRAIG COWART,

Chairman General Committee.

fe Battle of Monmouth

Continued from page three.

OFFICIAL STORY

reasons to the contrary." He ordered him to have his men throw off their knapsacks and blankets and other superfluous accoutrements and sent word to him that he was moving to his support.

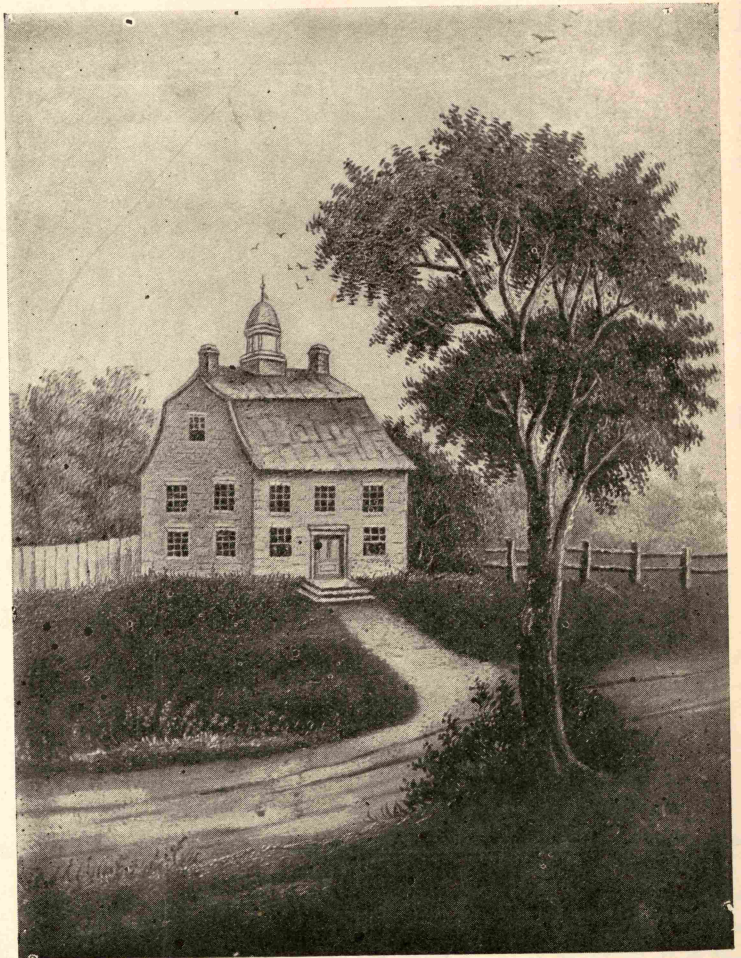
Lee made the attack but then seemed to find "powerful reasons" why he should retreat and he did retreat. There were three skirmishes before the main battle. Knyphausen with his baggage had passed on the Dutch Lane Road towards Middletown and had gotten beyond the Briar Hill Farm about two miles east of Freehold. In the rear, guarding the baggage, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, Brig. General Grant and other experienced Generals, were the Light Dragoons, the Grenadiers, and other picked troops constituting the flower of the British army, with orders to protect the baggage, at all hazards, and bring on a general engagement, if necessary. The first skirmish was on the Andrew Perrine farm about half a mile northeast of Freehold. General Wayne and Colonel Butler were in the advance and were supported by the troops of Generals Maxwell, Lafayette, Livingston, Varnum, Scott, and Colonels Jackson, Grayson, General Dickinson, Colonel Stewart, and Colonel Wesson, supported also by Oswald's artillery. In the first skirmish the British Grenadiers and other troops were drawn into action and owing to some confusion in orders from Lee, the American forces were driven back to a point in the rear of the Court House, on the high ground on the Daniel S. Schanck farm, where the Battle Monument now stands. Here a second stand was made by the Americans. The British Light Dragoons charged from the hill on which S. C. Cowart's house now stands, across the low ground up the Monument hill, where they were met by such a galling fire from Colonel Butler's troops that they were driven back through the town of Freehold and past the Court House. If Morgan's picked troops had been brought into action at that point the battle of Monmouth might have ended there. But again there came a confusion of orders and for some unaccountable reason, the Continental troops again began a retreat, in good order, however. Oswald managed to cross a morass and pull his guns to the high ground on the Schanck farm and the Continental troops continued their

retreat until they reached the John Craig and Parsonage farms, about two miles west of Freehold. Here a third stand was made, and a sharp skirmish ensued, when Colonel Ramsey and Oswald, with his guns, were ordered by Washington to check the enemy, in the edge of a woods, until the flying troops could be reformed and the main army could be brought into action.

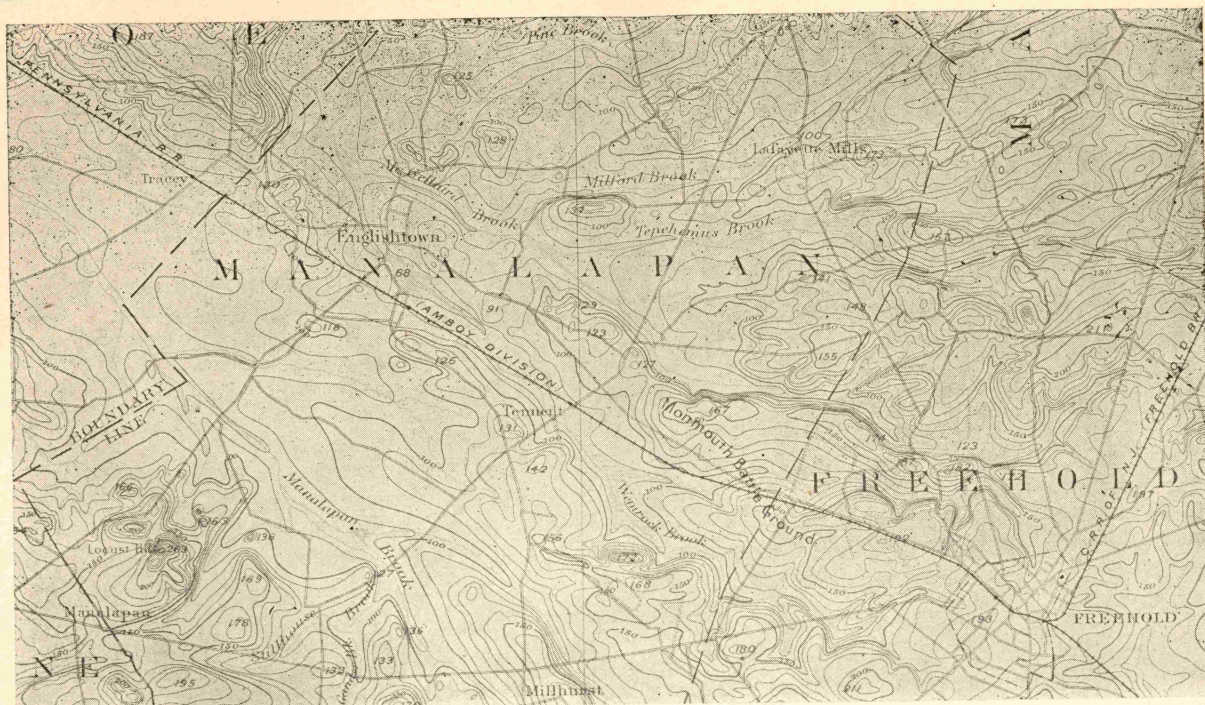
A bronze upon the Battle Monument depicts this scene of brave Colonel Ramsey defending his guns. Ramsey was with his Maryland troops and did splendid service in that critical hour. He is depicted with his short sword in a hand to hand fight with the British troopers and, although met with overpowering numbers, he stood his ground until finally compelled to withdraw his guns from the woods on the West to a higher point of vantage, which had been taken by Lord Sterling and his troops on the westerly part of the John Craig farm (now owned by S. C. Cowart).

Another bronze on the Monument depicts Washington rallying the retreating troops of Lee. He met the

first of Lee's retreating troops on the Herbert farm (now owned by George DuBois) and met Lee himself on the Thompson farm (now owned by Mr. Judson Armstrong). He was riding on his magnificent white horse, which Governor Livingston had presented to him the day before. He asked Lee what was the meaning of this retreat. Lee seemed confused, and at first made no intelligible answer. Washington then asked what all this confusion was about and why this retreat. Lee said he saw no confusion except what arose from disobedience of his orders. Washington said he was informed it was only a strong covering party. Lee replied that it might be so, but that it was stronger than he was and that he did not think it proper to risk so much. Washington then asked Lee if he would take measures to protect the front while he was reforming the other troops. Lee said his orders would be obeyed and that he would not be the first to leave the field. Various accounts are given of the strong language used on this occasion. One account states that Washington called Lee "a d—n poltroon."



Monmouth Court House



Plan of Battlefield

But the language used was probably justified by the conduct of Lee. Washington immediately ordered General Sterling to assume the command of the left wing, which took up its position on the high ground on the westerly side of the John Craig farm. In the left wing were the troops of Ramsey and Stewart. He ordered General Greene to take command of the right wing, which stationed itself on the high ground on the south side of the Tennent Parsonage farm. Knox's battery was posted to the southwest of the Parsonage farm on a high piece of ground, called Combs' Hill, which commanded the approaches of the British forces. Washington took command of the center and sent General Wayne ahead to the attack with his supporting columns, consisting of the troops of Generals Poor, Woodward, Varnum and Colonel Livingston.

Washington ordered the formation of a second line of defense, on the Sheriff Perrine farm (now owned by Dr. I. S. Long). He placed General Lafayette in command there and in this second line were most of the troops who had borne the heat and burden of the first skirmishes.

Clinton first attacked the left wing commanded by Lord Sterling and was repulsed and then attacked the right wing commanded by General Greene and was again repulsed. A final charge was made at the center by the Royal Grenadiers and Light Dragoons and Queen's Rangers which was met by Wayne and his troops. The charge came over a

hedge fence and Wayne, who lay in wait with his troops, gave orders to pick off the officers. With Monckton at their head, waving his sword and haranguing his troops, the Redcoats came on in beautiful order until close to the hedge fence, when a withering fire, poured into them by Knox's battery, Sterling's artillery, and the sharpshooters under Wayne. Whole platoons of the British troops were mowed down by the enfilading fire from Knox's battery on Combs' Hill and Sterling's artillery on the Craig farm. Many officers were slain, Among them fell the brave Colonel Monckton, mortally wounded. A fierce fight waged over his fallen body, but Wayne's forces finally bore it away in triumph and he was afterwards buried at Tennent church. The British did not again advance beyond the hedge fence, but retreated behind a thick woods protected by a morass on two sides and as night came on the battle ceased, and both armies rested upon their arms. The British used the old John Craig (now Cowart) farm house, as a field hospital, during the battle and also the Court House, St. Peter's church and the Scudder mansion (where the Pennsylvania station stands) in Freehold. Washington used Old Tennent Church and Tennent Parsonage as his field hospitals and afterwards also the Court House. He slept under a tree in front of the house on the Herbert (now Estate of George DuBois) farm the night after the battle. Washington expected to resume the battle the next

morning, but the wary Clinton decided that it was safer for him to retreat, as he had sufficient taste of Continental steel and courage. He did not take the same leisurely steps, which he had taken in the preceding days, but, resting his troops only about two hours, commenced his retreat, at the early hour of 10 p. m., when the moon was just beginning to wane, as its setting was at 10:55 that night. He gave as an excuse for retreating so suddenly, that he wished to avail himself of the light of the moon in order to pass out of the surrounding forests, and he certainly hastened his departure most quietly for Washington was not aware of his retreat until early next morning. His weary troops were so fatigued by the extreme heat of the day and the fierceness of the fight, that they did not awaken from their slumbers until Clinton and his gallant troops had nearly reached the Heights of Middletown. Washington determined that it was an unsafe place to bring on another general engagement, and simply contented himself by having Morgan and a brigade of Jersey militia, harass the retreating enemy.

The losses on the American side, as officially reported by Washington were: killed, 8 officers and 61 non-commissioned officers and privates; wounded, 18 officers and 142 privates, total, 229 killed and wounded; missing, five sergeants and 126 privates; total killed, wounded and missing, 360. Many of the missing were afterwards accounted for. The British

loss, according to Gen. Clinton's report was: killed, 4 officers and 184 men; wounded, 16 officers, 154 privates, total 358. Clinton's report, however, is incorrect as 4 British officers and 245 privates were buried on the field of battle by our troops. Clinton showed his consideration for his dead and wounded soldiers by sending a personal note to Washington, committing them to his care.

The bravery of Mollie Pitcher at Monmouth is familiar to every student of Revolutionary history. When her husband fell mortally wounded, while serving one of the cannon, when Ramsey was defending his guns, the commanding officer directed the cannon to be withdrawn. She at once stepped forward and said she would avenge her husband's death by serving the cannon herself. She seized the ramrod and loaded and fired the gun during the rest of the battle. Her gallantry was an inspiration to the soldiers fighting by her side and was observed and rewarded by Washington himself, who gave her a lieutenant's commission and she was known thereafter as "Captain Mollie". While her husband was serving as cannonier, the heat being excessive, she is said frequently to have gone to a neighboring spring to get water for him and his comrades. I am satisfied that this spring was in the edge of Gordon's woods near what is known as Gordon's Bridge on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and not where "Mollie Pitcher's Well" is pointed out, for

the reason that Ramsey's guns in the third skirmish were near these woods and the well was not dug until long after the battle. Anyhow, it would have been too far away for convenient use on that day and many soldiers on both sides died from the heat without suffering a single wound.

I do not wish for a moment to dim the glory, or belittle the importance, of the battles of Trenton and Princeton but in each of these engagements only a small part of each army was engaged, and there was no pitched battle on either field of conflict.

At Monmouth, the main British army under command of General Clinton, with his ablest Generals, and with its strongest and best trained troops, met, for the first time, the main army of the Colonies, commanded by General Washington, assisted by his ablest and most skillful officers. The British regulars had a chance to try the metal of those hardened soldiers from Valley Forge and found them foemen worthy of their steel. And when Moncton made his bayonet charge with the trained veterans of old England, he found those sturdy yeomen never flinched, but gave blow for blow with those sinews and bones of iron which had been toughened and hardened at Valley Forge.

The pale moon faded and left the bloody field in darkness. The hiring of a King and the Son of Liberty lay side by side in death's embrace, the one, an unholy sacrifice to

despotism, the other, a consecrated offering on his country's altar. And so a great battle was fought and won and the sunrise of Freedom rose on Monmouth's battle plain, gladdening the hearts and homes of the patriots of '76.

WHOLESALE

RETAIL

QUINN BROS.

CHOICE MEATS

SOUTH STREET

SYD says--

Boys, BE UP-TO-DATE
with a

**Hart, Schaffner and Marx
CREATION**

S. S. STRYKER

"Everything for the Gentleman."

Mount's Model Bakery

We've always led
with Home-Made Bread

The Best in Cakes and Pastry

Main St.

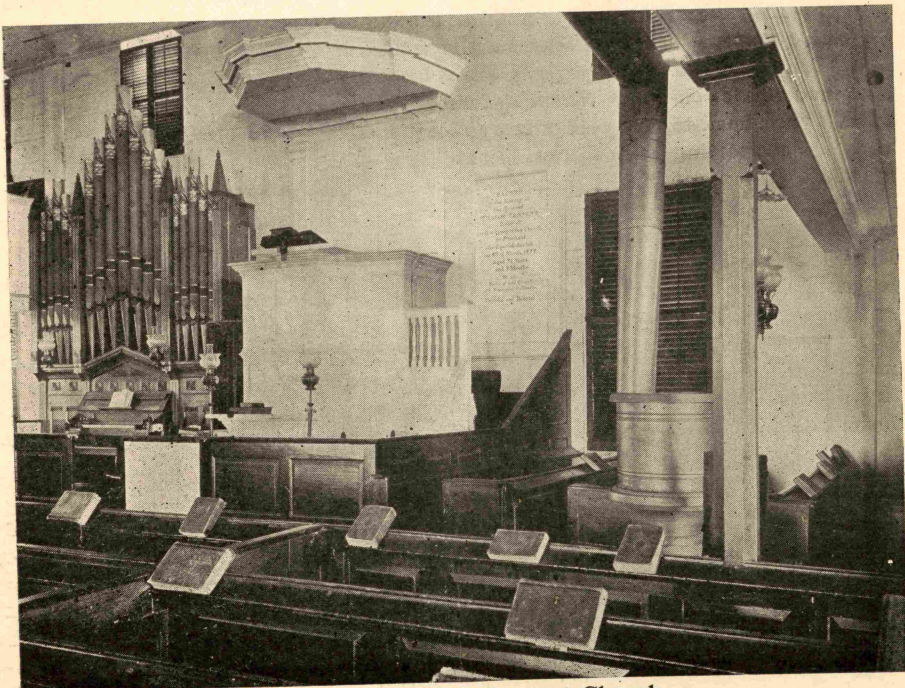
Throckmorton St.

The Monmouth Diner

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