

# NEW JERSEY SOCIETY

## Col. Richard Somers Chapter

The Col. Richard Somers Chapter conducted a memorial service and marked the graves of Patriots Reuben and Ebenezer Tucker on May 1 in the Old Methodist Cemetery in Tuckerton, N.J. Under the leadership of Rich Serfass, the New Jersey Society Color Guard marched in, along with Boy Scout Troop 117 of Eagleswood Twp. Bagpiper Keith Tice opened the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of "When the Battles O'er." State President Charles Morgan welcomed attendees, and Ocean County Commissioner Virginia Haines, a DAR member, emphasized the importance of preserving our history and never forgetting our Patriot Ancestors. Somers Chaplain Don Higbee provided prayers, blessing each grave.

Master of Ceremonies Michael T. Mangum discussed the role each Patriot played in the Revolution.

Although only 23, Ebenezer obtained a Letter of Marque in 1780 as the captain of the privateering bark *Kitty* (Hetty), operating out of that "Nest of Rebel Pirates," Chestnut Neck, N.J. He was an eyewitness to the British burning Chestnut Neck, including on Bass River, where the British burned his sawmill and surveyor's house, which he outlined in two letters in 1837, and the massacre of Count Vladimir Pulaski's advance force. The house Pulaski used as his headquarters later became Ebenezer's home. Earlier in the war, he participated in the Battle of Long Island and other engagements under George Washington. He also held several unnamed positions of honorable trust during the war. In November 1781, he and other prominent Patriots from Burlington and Monmouth counties petitioned His Excellency William Livingston, governor of New Jersey, to protect Loyalists from the ravages and devastations of "Bloody" John Bacon.

After the war, Ebenezer became a freeholder, justice of



*Memorial service and grave marking for Patriots Reuben and Ebenezer Tucker.*

the peace, chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Justice of the Court of Quarter Sessions and congressman. Through his influence, George Washington appointed him the first Collector of Customs in the



Little Egg Harbor District, and his father was appointed one of New Jersey's first 12 postmasters. As judge, he fought for destitute Patriots to receive the pensions justly due to them. He served in Congress from 1824-1828. There is only one record of him coming to the house floor to comment on legislation in Congress. On May 7, 1828, he gave an impassioned plea supporting a bill providing relief for surviving officers of the Revolutionary War. He argued that promises had been made and broken by Congress. A few days later, Congress passed legislation that even exceeded Judge Tucker's pleas.

To conclude the ceremony, Michael B. and Sarah Mangum, members of the Morven Chapter of the C.A.R., placed flags on the graves. The Gen. Lafayette and Capt. Joshua Huddy DAR chapters placed wreaths on each grave. The ceremony ended with the color guards retiring the colors to "Amazing Grace."