

## Revolutionary War – New Jersey *The Revolutionary War 1775-1783*

Battles in New Jersey gave birth to the phrase “These are the times that try men’s souls.”

New Jersey is known as the “Crossroads of the American Revolution” because it was strategically located between New York City and Philadelphia.

George Washington spent more time in New Jersey than any other state, using it for vital military campaigns and encamping there for three hard winters.

Some enslaved people joined the British in exchange for promises of freedom, leading to conflicts within the state.

New Jersey adopted the first state constitution declaring its independence in July 1776. This progressive document briefly granted voting rights to all inhabitants who met property requirements, including single women and free Black men, the right was then restricted in 1807.

During the Revolutionary War, the New Jersey coast was defended by a combination of Continental Army fortifications, the state militia, and privateers.

The Egg Harbor Guard, a militia stationed on the barrier islands, protected local farmers from raiders and captured British supply ships that ran aground on sandbars.

Privateers were private shipowners who, drawing on their experience as local sailors, used their own small, maneuverable sloops to navigate the Jersey Shore’s sandbars and back channels allowing them to successfully capture British supply vessels.

Privateers had permission from the government, during wartime, to attack enemy ships. Goods captured were shared between the ship owner, its crew and the government.

## Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society Museum and Research Library (GEHTHS)

The Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society’s mission includes the discovery and collection of any material which may help to document or illustrate the history of Egg Harbor Township, its explorations, settlement and development as well as progress. Printed materials may include genealogies, newspapers, family Bibles, letters, and photographs. We have numerous collections of artifacts illustrating the life, conditions, events and activities of the past as well as the present.

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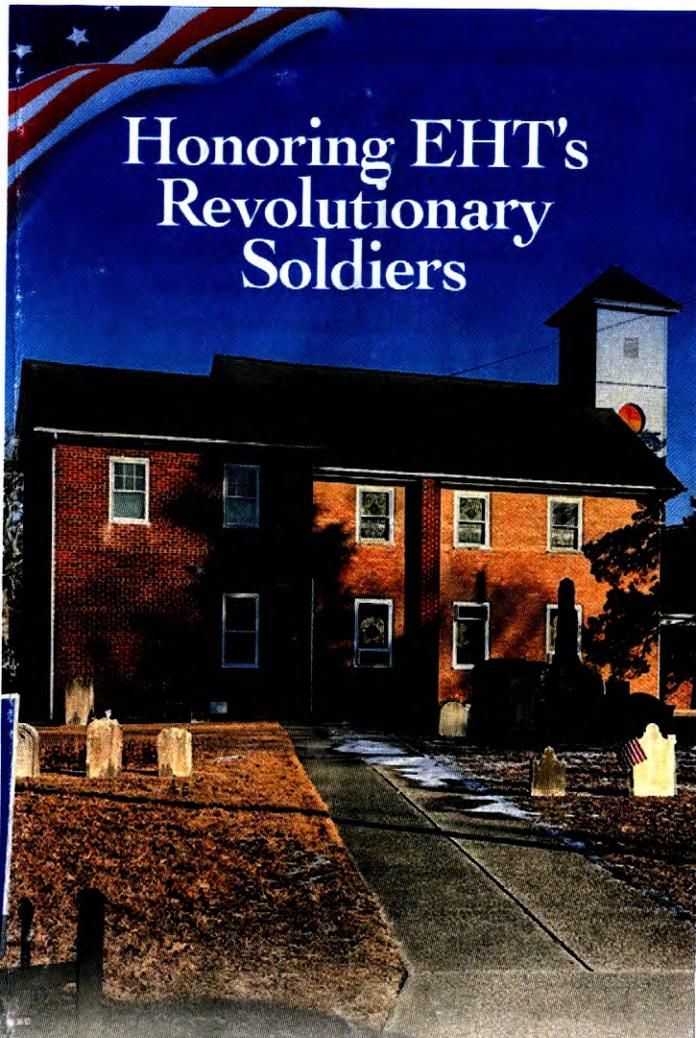
GEHTHS is partnering with the Egg Harbor Township Schools, Cygnus Creative Arts Centre, and the Atlantic Pops Community Band to create community wide programs celebrating America’s 250th Anniversary.

Tamara Lamb, *GEHTHS, Chair*  
Pamela Tyson, *GEHTHS, Vice Chair*  
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Cindy Domino, *Director, Cygnus Creative Arts*

### GEHTHS Museum & Research Library

OPEN: Sundays 10am-Noon and by appointment.  
6647 West Jersey Ave, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234  
609-380-4524 • info@GEHTHSmuseum.org  
GEHTHSMuseum.org

Join us: facebook.com/GEHTHSMuseumLibrary  
GEHTHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the limit of the law. Tax ID # 22-2313429



# Honoring EHT's Revolutionary Soldiers

**Saturday, October 11, 2025**  
**2pm**

**Zion Methodist Church**  
**652 Zion Rd,**  
**Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234**



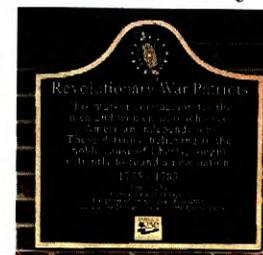
Presented by the Great Egg Harbour  
Township Historical Society

## Zion Free Cemetery *Resting place of 11 Revolutionary Soldiers and many of their family members.*

The early land deed called for a free cemetery opened to all. Anyone could bury their loved ones here by simply claiming a spot. No deeds were issued. No records exist of anyone paying for a grave in the cemetery. There is no design or layout. The care of the cemetery falls on the congregation of the Zion United Methodist Church. The trustees of the church opened a cemetery fund in 1974 to get paid maintenance. The Zion Cemetery across the street is not affiliated with the Zion Methodist Church. The iron fence was installed in 1857.

*In visiting the graves, you will notice that all of our soldiers returned home alive, thus being able to enjoy the birth of our new nation.*

## Local Chapter of DAR Commemorates the Revolutionary War Patriots



The Daughters of the America Revolution National Society’s 250 Patriots Marker raises awareness of the Patriots who won America’s

independence. In January of 2025, the General Lafayette Chapter of the DAR placed this plaque in the Zion Free Cemetery after honoring the 11 Revolutionary Soldiers by cleaning their grave markers.

*This plaque can be viewed hanging on the Zion Methodist Church.*

*A special thank you to the Zion Methodist Church, Reverend Keith Roller, and Margie Gerety.*

To honor the early residents of Egg Harbour Township who served in the Revolutionary War, we invite you to visit the following grave sites as numbered.

**#1 Zephaniah Steelman (1760–1836)**

Zephaniah's military activity was very extensive, serving under Richard Somers, Captain Snell, and others. His records mention extensive marching from one town to another escorting prisoners and pursuing the Hessians all the way to Coopers Ferry. In 1778 he served at Chestnut Neck. He was also involved in guarding the New Jersey coast (Egg Harbor area) against British and Loyalist/Tory raids. He received a pension of \$200.00 per year. He married Sybilla Alberson in 1784 and they had 10 children.



**#15 David Blackman (1753-1821)**

David would have been in his early/mid-20s during the war. DAR states that he served in the Gloucester County Militia. He was married to Mary Blackman and was the son of Andrew Blackman who donated the land for the building of the Blackman Meeting House. David and Mary entertained circuit riders and Bishop Asbury in their English Creek home. Two of their sons, Nehemiah and Learner, became Circuit Riders. One daughter married John Collins, a Circuit Rider.

**#16 John Jeffers (Jeffries) (1765–1840)**

John would have been relatively young during the late war. He was a private in the army. He was awarded 500 acres of land in NY for his bravery during the war, which was inherited by his heirs.

**#17 Joseph Scull (1731–1810)**

Joseph was one of the wealthiest men in South Jersey. George Washington recommended Joe Scull for promotion saying "He is a young man, a brave soldier, and deserves a promotion." Joseph Scull married Sarah Smith. Sarah gave birth to seven children. (The last one is listed as died). Abel Scull was their oldest son.

**#18 Abel Scull (1760–1809)**

Abel was a Revolutionary War soldier. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Smith Scull. He married Alice Collins Scull and they were the parents of at least 13 children including Richard Scull.

**#19 John H. Tilton (1752-1846)**

John registered for military service in 1778. He married Mary Risley about 1778. They were the parents of at least three sons and two daughters. They were the parents of James Tilton, whose grave is marked with an obelisk at the Zion Free Cemetery.

**#20 John R. Tilton (1750-1821)**

John's grave is marked as a Revolutionary Soldier. Probably cousin to John H. Tilton.

**#21 Thomson ("Tomson") Price (1766–1853)**

As a Revolutionary War soldier, Thomson would have been quite young during the later/middle years of the war.

**#23 John Baker (1734–1815)**

John was in his 40's during the war. He was married twice... Martha Swain and Elizabeth Scull. He may be related to the Bakers Mill on the Patcong Creek.



**#25 Levi Price (1756-1846)**

Levi was a Revolutionary War private who helped capture British ships along the New Jersey coast. He also served in the war of 1812. He served on the US Constitution during the battle that sunk the British Ship Guerriere. He is buried in an unmarked grave, near the grave of his son, also named Levi Price. Levi Senior married Martha B. Scull and they had at least one son and four daughters.



*The soldiers buried in the Zion Free Cemetery all survived serving during the Revolutionary War and many lived into their 70's and 80's. Even though the Zion Free Cemetery has a sign noting that 11 Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried here, they list 12 names. We have marked all 12.*

*A very special thank you to all who have contributed to honoring the Revolutionary War soldiers and their families who were laid to rest at the Zion Free Cemetery. We thank multiple historians, today's re-enactors, and those who shared their family histories.*

*We also thank all GEHTHS sponsors and partners.*



**#11 Andrew Frambes (1759–1790)**

Andrew is the brother of Nicholas Frambes. He served as a private/ in the Gloucester County militia. His grave is marked with the oldest dated stone in the cemetery.

**#14 Nicholas Frambes (1758–1835)**

A tar maker by trade, Nicholas lived in Catawba, a town near Mays Landing. He served as a Minuteman in the Gloucester County NJ Militia. Minutemen were young men, who were provided with weapons by the government and were ready at a minute's notice. Nicholas married three times. He married his first wife Sarah Rape in June 1785. His third wife was Abel Scull's widow (after Abel's death).



*Information reflected in this brochure, during the presentation, and from our volunteers is based on a collection of resources and research. In some cases we have found conflicting data. We welcome any additional input from historians and those who have done family research. Thank you.*