

**HISTORICAL SKETCHES  
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY  
AND CIVIL WARS**

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Historical sketches of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars by J. Madison Drake

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AND CIVIL WARS**





GEN. J. MADISON DRAKE

# Historical Sketches

OF THE

## Revolutionary and Civil Wars

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With an account of author's desperate leap from a swiftly moving train of cars, and a fatiguing tramp of 1,000 miles through three Confederate states, in making his escape from a Prison-pen

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BY  
J. MADISON DRAKE

Captain Ninth N. J. Volunteers and Bt. Brig.-  
General by special act of N. J. Legislature

Historian Ninth N. J. Volunteers, Past Historian Medal of Honor Legion, U. S. A., and author of "Fast and Loose in Dixie," and "Across the Continent in Red Breeches"

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### INTRODUCTORY.

**A**T the earnest and repeated solicitations of many citizens I present this volume to the public, the chief object of which is to preserve in convenient form many personal incidents which enlivened the war for American Liberty—1775-1783—as well as the war for the preservation of the Union—1861-1865.

The sketches of the Revolutionary War are founded upon legends I fondly heard when a youth from revolutionary sires and their descendants, as well as from official reports and statements appearing in the newspapers of that period, while those relating to the Civil War furnished by the actors, some of whom are still living, are given that the heroic actions of my comrades may not be effaced by time, nor their wondrous deeds deprived of renown.

The modest work is submitted with the fond hope that it may revive proud recollections in the hearts of all true Americans, and inspire them with patriotism and greater love of country, for which its braves sacrificed so much.

What the author has done (in the pages which follow) in chronicling and perpetuating the brilliant history of New Jerseymen he much fears will be but an epitome of what might be recorded, but such as it is he dedicates it to the

PATRIOTIC PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

J. MADISON DRAKE.

Elizabeth, N. J., 1908.

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# Historical Sketches of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

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## PART I.—THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

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### NEW JERSEY'S CONTINENTALS.

THE first call made on New Jersey for troops in the Revolutionary War was by a resolution adopted by Congress October 9, 1775, and under its provisions two regiments of eight companies each were promptly raised. The men, enlisted for one year, were to receive five dollars per month, and, in lieu of a bounty, a felt hat, pair of stockings, and a pair of shoes. They were compelled to provide their own arms and accoutrements. A few days later Congress showed its further generosity to the men who were to expose their lives and do the real work by granting each man a hunting shirt, not exceeding in value \$1.33, and a blanket, providing these articles could be procured. This was to be regarded as a gift, not as a part of the enlistment contract.

On the 26th of October, Samuel Tucker, president of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, issued a call for able-bodied men to fill the quota, and appointed Elias Dayton, of Elizabethtown, chairman of a commission, to muster the men.

The first regiment raised in New Jersey had as its first colonel William Alexander (Lord Stirling), of Somerset County, William De Hart (major), Matthias Ogden (lieutenant-colonel), Matthias Halsted (quartermaster), and Aaron Ogden (paymaster).

The Second Regiment, with William Maxwell as colonel, was raised in the middle of the state.

On the tenth of January, 1776, Congress called for another regiment from New Jersey, on the same terms offered the other two. None, however, were to be enlisted but healthy, sound and able-bodied freemen over sixteen years of age. The call further



specified that no apprentice should be enlisted without the consent of his master or mistress, and every person under the age of twenty-one years, enlisting as aforesaid, may within twenty-four hours after their parent or guardian shall have notice of their enlistment obtain his discharge by refunding the money received from the recruiting officer, and returning such necessaries as may have been supplied him by the officer or the value thereof in money.

Elias Dayton was appointed colonel of the Third Regiment, Francis Barber, major; Jonathan Dayton, paymaster, and Rev. James Caldwell, chaplain.

As soon as organized, four companies were sent over to Staten Island; the other four to Amboy. On the 28th of April the Third Regiment reassembled here, and was reviewed on the public ground in front of the First Presbyterian Church graveyard (a valuable property since presented to the church corporation by a corrupt city council). On the third of May the First and Third Regiments embarked on sloops, and sailed for Albany, thus commencing a term of active service, in which they won, during eight years of war, imperishable renown. While in the north, companies of the two regiments were stationed at Johnstown, German Flats, Fort Dayton (thus named in honor of Colonel Dayton), Fort Schuyler, Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, to prevent incursions of the Indians. The two commands did hard duty in that section until March, 1777, when they returned to Morristown in this state, and were mustered out of service, their term of enlistment having expired.

Congress, in September, 1776, called for four regiments, offering a bounty of twenty dollars to every man who would enlist to serve during the war, unless sooner discharged. Under this call Congress made grants of land to all officers and men who should serve during the entire war. A colonel was to have 500 acres; a lieutenant-colonel, 450; a major, 400; a captain, 300; a lieutenant, 200; an ensign, 150, and each enlisted man 100 acres of land.

The four regiments thus called for were promptly forthcoming. They constituted what was for seven years known far and wide as the "Jersey Brigade." It participated in every important battle of the war, besides taking part in Sullivan's expedition to Wyoming Valley, Pa., to punish the Indians for their outrages in that section.

## HOW MINUTE-MEN WERE ORGANIZED.

THE Provincial Congress of New Jersey, on the fifth of August, 1775, ordered the various counties to raise and equip fifty-four companies of minute-men, of sixty-four men each, making a total of 3,456, from which ten battalions were formed. Elizabethtown, then really Essex County, furnished one regiment, known as the First, to which Lord Stirling, of Baskingridge, was assigned as colonel. Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, Morris, Sussex, Hunterdon and Burlington counties each furnished a battalion, Gloucester and Salem counties another. Cumberland and Cape May counties organized independent companies of infantry and horsemen.

New Jersey, being a frontier state, with the British occupying Staten Island and New York City, was subjected to all the dangers and miseries of border warfare, and her losses in proportion to her wealth and population were probably greater than those of any other State, with, perhaps, the exception of South Carolina.

When a powerful British fleet and army appeared off Staten Island, July 1, 1776, the disaffected in New York and New Jersey greatly rejoiced and united as far as they could in annoying the patriots and their provincial governments. Cortlandt Skinner who had been attorney-general of New Jersey, with every member of his family, pronounced their allegiance to the British king and removed to Staten Island, whither he called all Jerseymen who acknowledged their loyalty to the enemy. Skinner was quickly appointed a brigadier-general, and ordered to raise 2,500 Jerseymen, which he thought he would have no difficulty in doing, but he succeeded in getting only 500, many of whom were low characters, but fit for the cowardly work he set them at.

In the summer of 1776 the tories of Monmouth, Hunterdon, Bergen and Sussex counties became so active in their opposition to the measures of Congress that minute-men were sent to arrest the leaders. Things took such a turn in Hunterdon that the tories committed acts of violence, going so far as to plunder the house of Captain Jones, who, in resisting, was beaten and wounded.

Congress then ordered the militia to march to the disaffected localities and disarm all who were ascertained to be sympathizers or supporters of the British king.

An act of cruelty that enraged New Jerseymen was the

arrest and confinement of Richard Stockton, a member of Congress, whose home was at Princeton. When the British army, in pursuit of Washington, reached that town, they made search for Mr. Stockton, who had a few days before taken his family down into Monmouth County to save them from danger. A British force, dispatched in search of him, dragged him out of bed at night, and in his night dress carried him to Amboy, where he was put in a dungeon. The ill-treatment he received during his long imprisonment at Amboy and New York laid the foundation for a disease that terminated his existence in 1781.

On the 17th of July, 1776, the patriots of New Jersey, that the world might know where they stood in the times that tried men's souls, caused the provincial congress to pass the following:

"Whereas, The honorable, the Continental Congress, have declared the United Colonies free and independent states, we, the deputies of New Jersey, in provincial congress assembled, do resolve and declare, that we will support the freedom and independence of the said states, with our lives and fortunes, and with the whole force of New Jersey."

This proclamation sounded the death knell of toryism in New Jersey during the war for American freedom.

#### NEW JERSEYMEN HAD MARTIAL SPIRIT.

**I**N no section of this beautiful land have people more firmly adhered to patriotic principles than in New Jersey. The pure and upright men who came here from New England in 1664 were intense lovers of civil and religious liberty, and willing to make any sacrifice to enjoy it. Fathers who had fled from the oppression of the British government, after coming to this virgin soil, told the story of the indignities and wrongs they had suffered, and the truths sinking deep into the hearts of their children, caused them to hate despotism. The men who settled Elizabethtown, and consequently New Jersey, had no love for the British throne nor for the pomp and circumstance of corrupt and gilded courts. They were jealous of natural and covenanted rights, and ever firmly resisted attempts to part with them.

The people of Elizabethtown were first to follow Massachusetts in opposing the provisions of the stamp act, passed by the British government in March, 1765, and in February, 1766, erected a gallows on Broad street, vowing they would hang with-