



Why I Think High Bridge Played a Role in Shaping the United States

Nolen Mascola
High Bridge

I think my home town High Bridge played an important role in shaping our nation during the Revolutionary War. A company named Taylor Iron Works, started in 1742, played a role because it made cannon balls for General Washington. High Bridge was part of the area called the “crossroads of the revolution” because it is located between two major cities, Philadelphia and New York City. George Washington visited this company and went to eat at the American Hotel on Main St.

High Bridge held political prisoners during part of the Revolutionary war. The solitude house held John Penn who was a loyalist removed from Philadelphia.

Taylor Iron company later became Taylor Iron and Steel Company called TISCO. The forge provided iron tools, war items, and railroad parts. Also High Bridge has a bridge over the South Branch of the Raritan River that carried trains with coal and iron.

Those are my reasons why I think High Bridge played an important role during the Revolutionary War.



America's Story Begins at Home: Scotch Plains

Zianna Patel
Scotch Plains

The history of Scotch Plains makes my town special to the USA.

One historic place of town is Ash Brook Reservation. On June 26 1777, British and Colonial forces fought there in the Battle of Short Hills.

This battle stretches from Metuchen to Watchung Mountains and is known as "Bloody Gap". One fascinating thing is that the Colonial forces won even with fewer soldiers than the British.

Another historic place in my town is Osborn Cannonball House, which was built in the early 1700s. During the Revolutionary War, both British and Continental troops marched past the front door. It got its name because a cannonball struck the house during a skirmish.

Scotch Plains also honors Malcolm E. Nettingham, who served as a radio technician in the U.S. Army during World War II, through the school named after him.

I am very proud that our town contributed to America's Story.

Celebrating America's 250th Essay Contest



America's story begins at home

Chester's Crucial Contribution

Clara Martin

Chester

Imagine the United States was still part of the British Empire. This might have been our reality if not for the crucial support provided by small towns like Chester, New Jersey. By providing essential resources like food, equipment, and medical care, Chester played a vital role in shaping the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

One of Chester's most significant contributions was its local gristmills. The Isaiah Younglove mill, where the Cooper Gristmill stands today, was one of the few mills not captured by the British. These mills processed grain into flour to make "hardtack," a hard bread that served as a staple food for the Continental Army. Without these safe locations to produce flour, the army would have lacked the basic nutrition needed to stay in the fight.

Chester's residents also stepped up during the infamous "Starving Time." When six-foot snowdrifts cut off supply lines, soldiers were forced to eat birch bark and even roasted shoes to survive. Despite a recent drought that ruined much of their own harvest, Chester's farmers selflessly donated livestock, grain, and hay. This local benevolence kept the troops from starving during their darkest hours.

Beyond food, the town provided critical non-food aid. Residents opened their homes to care for wounded soldiers and supplied the army with muskets and gunpowder. Chester also provided the horses and wagons necessary to move heavy military equipment across difficult terrain.

In summary, Chester's impact on the Revolutionary War was immense. By providing food, shelter, and weaponry, the people of Chester showed incredible bravery and kindness. Their support 250 years ago helped turn the tide of the war, making the birth of a new nation possible. Every resident today can be proud of this small town's big legacy.

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Backyard History

Arkayan Trivedi
Mount Olive

Located in Morris County, the Military Capital of the American Revolution, Mount Olive Township influenced the American Revolution greatly. While the town's geographic location was a key factor, it also provided the Continental Army with crucial resources for the revolution. The people of the town were also involved with the American Revolution, helping the Continental Army.

In the mid 18th century the Continental Army, led by General George Washington required a direct connection to sites of several important battle grounds. Mount Olive Township provided this strategic location near Waterloo and close to the Hudson River. This important information is acknowledged on the Township's website, describing that the town gave the Continental Army a passageway to major towns and helped General Washington reach important locations for battles.

During this time, Mount Olive township supplied valuable resources to the Continental army. According to an article available on the Morris Tourism website, titled Morris County's Significance in the Revolutionary War, Mount Olive supplied the Continental Army with iron. The township contained iron mines, which helped with manufacturing iron. This iron was used to create weapons and majorly helped the Continental Army.

The people of Mount Olive also had an influence on the American Revolution. They supported the patriotic cause and some joined the Continental Army. The local people in the township supplied the army with necessities such as food and water during the cold winter. According to the Morris County Historical Society's website, several Revolutionary War veterans have their final resting place located in the township.

In summary, Mount Olive Township has significantly impacted the American Revolution-from providing shelter to giving resources. A town like Mount Olive that impacted the entire country requires attention. The story of Mount Olive proves that any help can play an important role in history.