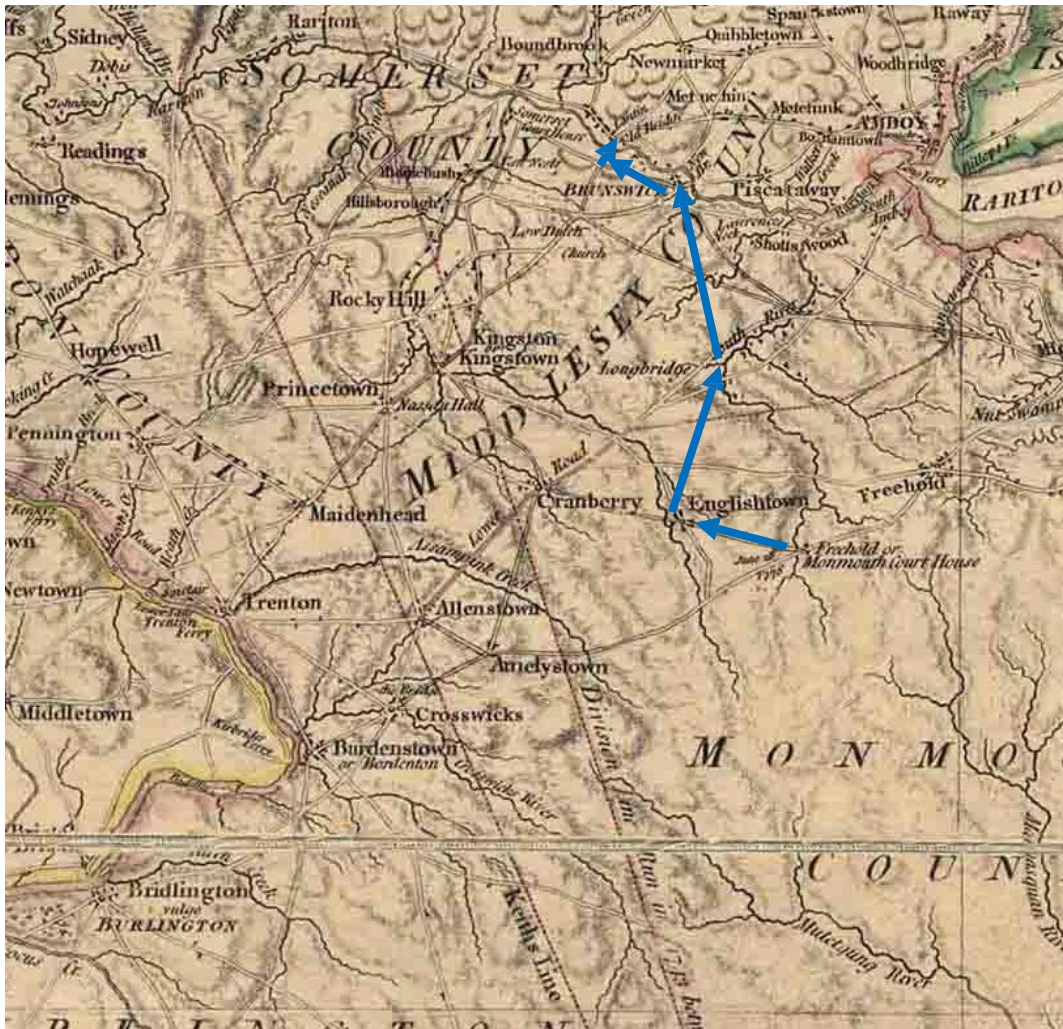


The Week that Shaped America
From Monmouth Battlefield to Raritan Landing
June 28 – July 4, 1778



Map of New Jersey by William Faden, 1778 LOC
Showing the Route of the Continental Army, June 30-July 2, 1778

Introduction

On July 4th, 1778, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, stood on the broad portico of a Dutch-style mansion, as he watched his worn and foot-sore men march past him, yet again. They did so, not in retreat, nor into battle, but into the annals of a new nation, which was about to celebrate its second year of existence. That the Main Army had survived, and Congress was once again in its home city of Philadelphia, were significant accomplishments for the forty-six year old Virginian. He was in Piscataway, New Jersey, at the head of more than eleven thousand men who hailed from Massachusetts to North Carolina, and whose ranks represented the vast diversity of the former colonies, from Anglicans to Quakers, from New England Yankees to southern planters¹. It was fully integrated too, with some eight hundred African American and dozens of Native American soldiers², with more than a sprinkling of soldiers' wives, who had, in several instances the week before, stepped into the hailstorm of battle on the plains of Monmouth³.

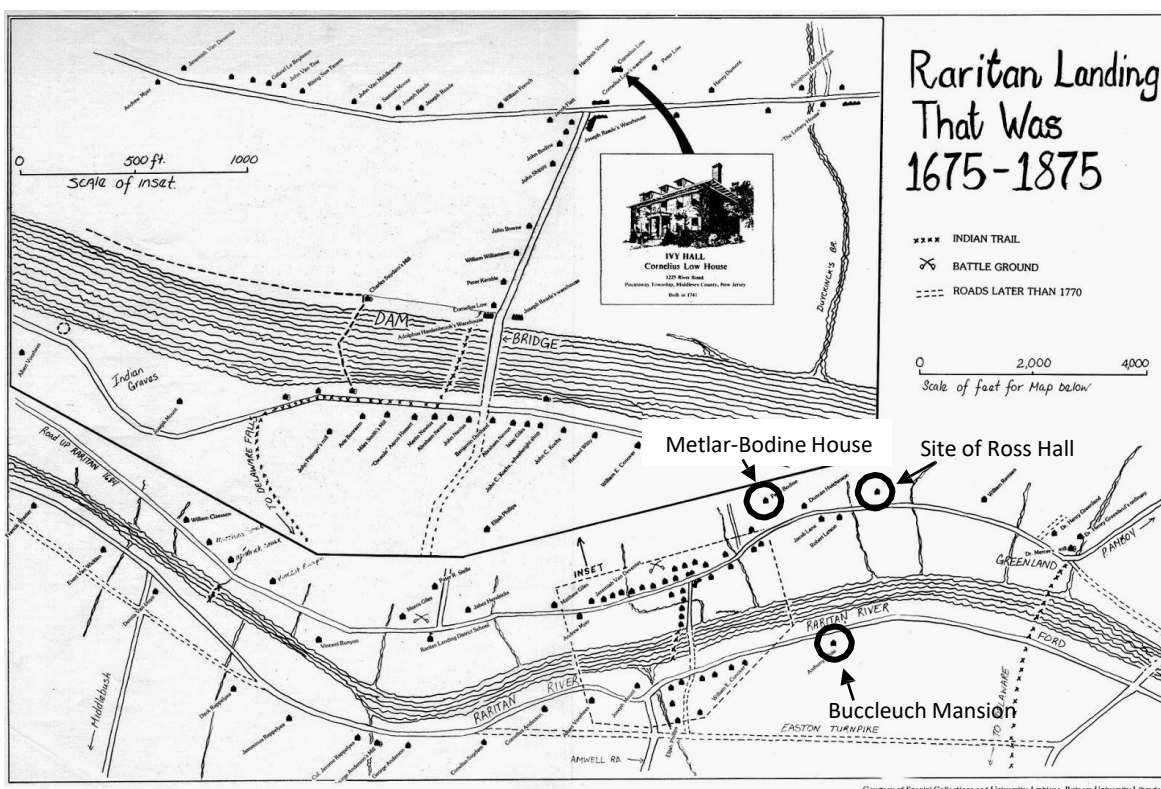
The Dutch-style mansion was Ross Hall, and the neighborhood was Raritan Landing, also referred to as Brunswick Landing, situated in Piscataway, just upriver from the town of New Brunswick. The grounds were ideally situated for the needs of the army; broad open fields were available on both sides of the Raritan River, which itself provided access to bathing and water for horses. Cool springs were nearby and the stately homes of Raritan Landing were available for officer's quarters while the men stretched their weary forms along the river's meadows with grass as their bed and the sky their covering.⁴

It was this place and time that George Washington ordered what may be considered, the first national expression of July 4th as Independence Day, creating what a future President would describe as the mystic chords of memory.⁵

1. *Continental Forces, 28 June 1778*; Dr. Garry W. Stone, Historian, Monmouth Battlefield State Park.
2. *Men of color at the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778 : the role of African Americans and Native Americans at Monmouth ; containing a brief history of these men of color and a presentation of nearly two hundred names and identifications*; Walling, Richard S. Longstreet House, Hightstown, NJ 1994
3. The story of Molly Pitcher is well-known, and soldiers' pension accounts from the war also mentioned individual wives who had brought musket ammunition to the front lines during the battle.
4. General Orders from Washington, available at the American Memory website, offer instances of direct orders for the men to bathe, just after the Battle of Monmouth, and while at Raritan Landing. *Soldiers' Shelter on Campaign During the War for Independence: Tents in the Armies of the Revolution, Part I* by John U. Rees; <http://revwar75.com/library/rees/shelter1.htm>. On July 2, the army's wagons came up and some units had tents, which were erected; see *Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution*; edited by Brary & Bushnell; Northern Illinois University Press, DeKalb IL, 1978, pp. 122-23.
5. Prior to this event, there were a handful of sporadic local parties; in 1778, Congress authorized a special prayer service for Independence Day on Sunday, July 5th. A review of July 4th celebrations is available at: <http://gurukul.american.edu/heintze/fourth.htm>. Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, on the eve of the American Civil War, ended with this sentiment: "The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union."

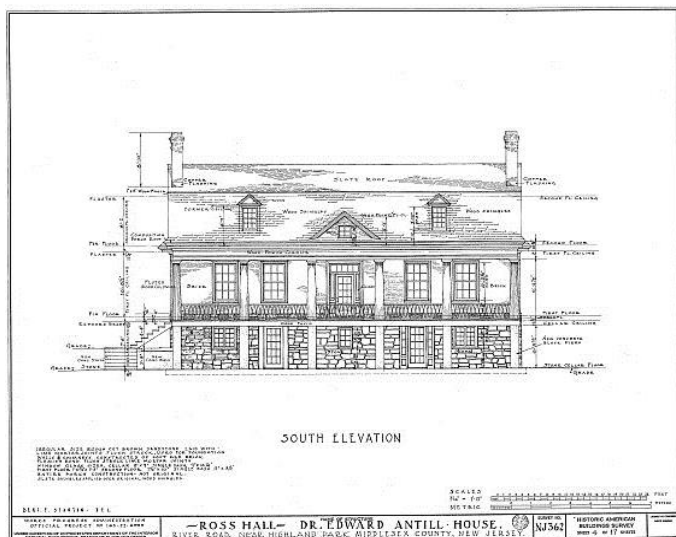
Raritan Landing and Ross Hall

Raritan Landing, also known as Brunswick Landing, was a commercial center situated in Piscataway at the head of navigation on the Raritan River, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Although its role as a hub of shipping the goods and produce of the Raritan Valley to points around the world, the rise of New Brunswick and that city's access to major transportation systems (canal, turnpike, railroad) in the early to mid-19th century, spelled doom to the vitality and viability of the Landing. As a consequence, the small port village disappeared from both the landscape and from memory. It was only with the expansion of State Highway Route 18 in the 1970s was Raritan Landing rediscovered, and a new appreciation of its historic significance emerged.



Of this vanished community, only a handful of buildings remain: Ivy Hall – the Cornelius Low House (1741), now the Middlesex County historical museum; the Metlar-Bodine House (ca 1728), built by Peter Bodine, a prominent merchant at the Landing (owned by the State of New Jersey and operated by the Fellowship for Metlar House as Piscataway's Cultural & Historical Museum); and Buccleuch Mansion (1739), owned by the City of New Brunswick and operated by the Jersey Blues Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Although this latter building was not directly caused by Raritan Landing's development, it nevertheless stands, as it has for almost three centuries, overlooking "the Landing." Its grounds also hosted the Continental Army's celebration on July 4th, 1778 and was part of the larger landscape of the American Revolution's impact on this stretch of the Raritan River.

The Landing was the site of several imposing mansions, two of which still remain, Ivy Hall and Buccleuch. Ross Hall, built in about 1740 by Edward Antill, had survived well into the 20th century, but was demolished in the early 1950s. Its architectural significance was such that it was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey of the 1930s, and both photographs and line drawings were made of this important building. Fortunately, the parlor wall from Ross Hall was preserved, and is now the focus of conservation and the planned exhibition of this unique treasure at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum.



The property included three hundred and seventy acres, including fifty acres of meadowland between the road and the river.⁶

The next owner [after Edward Antill] was Alexander Ross, Esq., M.D., born in Ireland in 1723, and died in 1775. He married Sarah Farmer, spoken of as the [step] daughter of Thomas Farmer, the first Mayor of New Brunswick, in 1730. That Dr. Ross was a man of position is indicated by the advertisement of the estate for sale by the widow Ross in 1776, offering the place, slaves, five indentured Scotch servants, two lads and three girls, and a chariot and pair of noble horses as the crowning attraction of the sale. That there was no sale made at this time is indicated by the fact that Mrs. Ross, who married her husband's pupil, Dr. Charles O. Howard, was still living on the estate in 1788.

Ross Hall was to be the headquarters of George Washington from July 2 to July 6, 1778.

6. *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, New Jersey Historical Society V. 5 1906-1908 pp 10-11

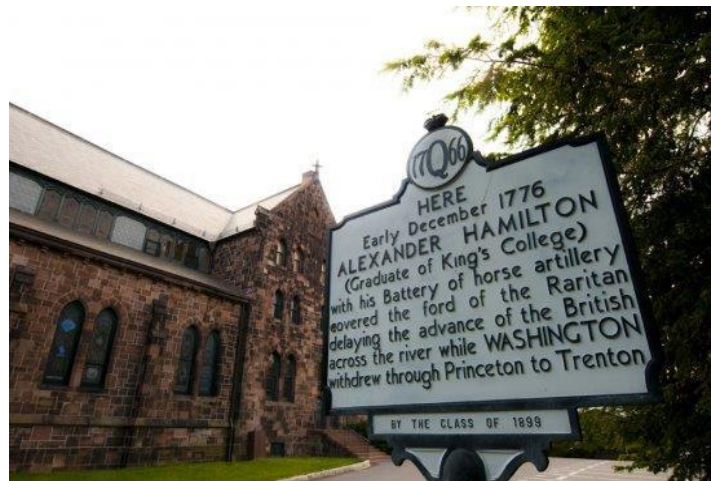
Raritan Landing & the American Revolution

In the Fall of 1776, Washington's Continental Army was forced from New York City in a retreat across New Jersey, ending with its escape to Pennsylvania, with the Delaware River playing the role of a strong, natural barrier to further pursuit by the British.

New Brunswick was occupied by the General Howe and elements of his army in December, 1776. Capt. Johann von Ewald, a Hessian jäger (light infantry), described the approach of the British:

On the morning of December 1 I set out on my march...during the afternoon, I heard heavy gunfire in the distance....Toward evening I joined the army, which had deployed upon the heights of the Raritan, where they had erected batteries which cannonaded the opposite side. The enemy returned the fire with his own guns. There was a bridge across the river at the landing...where some twenty houses were situated on both sides.⁷

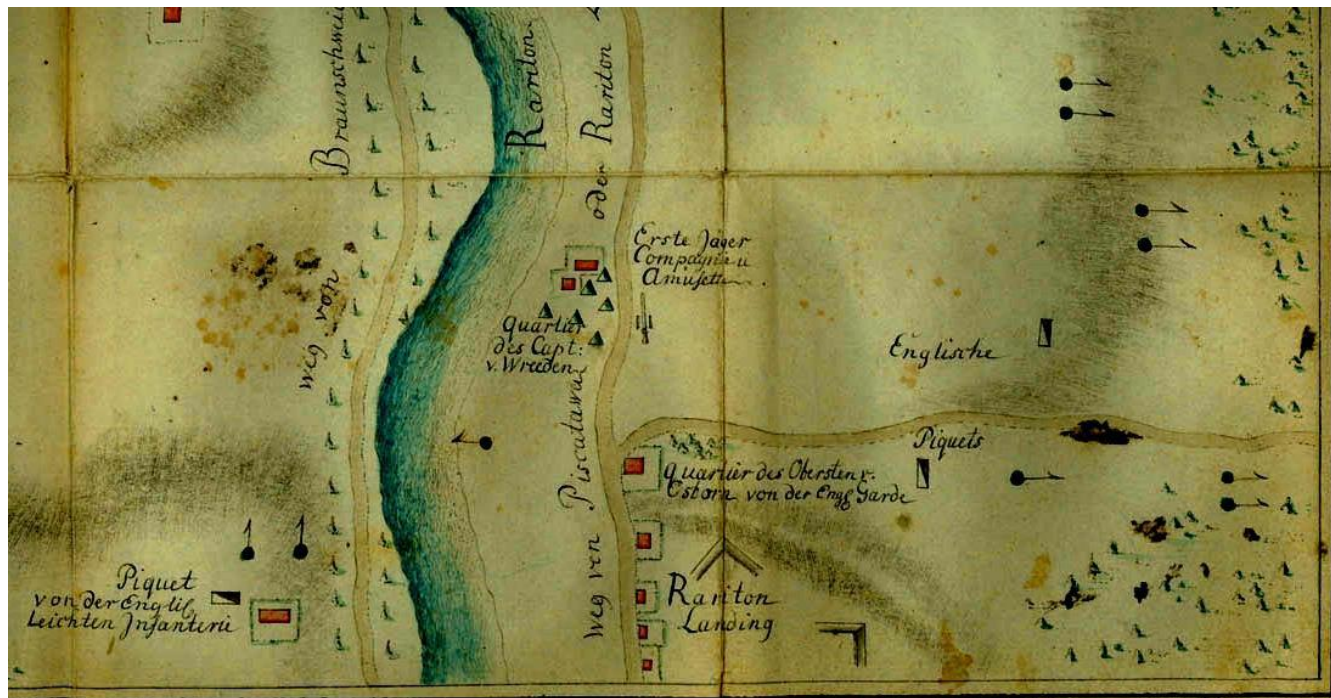
It was during this cannonade that Alexander Hamilton took part in, and marked the beginning of the famous Rutgers-Princeton artillery battle of later generations.⁸



The high ground, upon which stands the Old Queens campus, marked the right flank of the Continental Army during its July 4th celebration.

7. *Diary of the American War, A Hessian Journal*; Edited by Joseph P. Tustin; Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 1979. p. 24.
8. "Student Filmmaker Reenacts Rutgers-Princeton Rivalry"; <http://news.rutgers.edu/issue.2012-08-28.1598204061/article.2012-09-06.3695191975#.VJ8U-V4AKA>

From December to June, the British occupied the lower Raritan River Valley, from Raritan Landing to Brunswick and down to Perth Amboy, situated on Raritan Bay, and directly opposite Staten Island.



"Plan of the Area Between Raritan Landing and Bound Brook Where the Two Jäger Companies Have Been Posted. From the Beginning of the Year until 14 June 1777"⁹

Ross Hall was in the area garrisoned near both the British and Hessian troops. During their occupation, many skirmishes were fought in the area. In 1821, a visitor to Ross Hall made the following report¹⁰:

While in New Jersey I met Miles Smith, Esq. of New Brunswick, to whom I had given an Isabella grape vine, and visited his residence at Ross Hall to witness its great growth. Upon the farm I found the ruins of an old fort of Revolutionary times, an outpost of the British army, and at the site of Colonel B. Tarleton's marquee, at a grotto of tree roots, found a barrel set in a fine spring of water that had supplied the troops with water, still flowing in abundance and purity.

9. Captain Johann von Ewald (1744-1813), was a Hessian officer who came to America in 1776 with the British military forces. Source: <http://library.bloomu.edu/Archives/Maps/maplist.htm>.
10. *The memoirs of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift*, Harrison Ellery, New England Historic Genealogical Society. Privately Printed, 1890, p. 190. Miles Smith was the owner of Ross Hall after the Howard's (Mrs. Howard was the widow of Dr. Ross).

Monmouth to Raritan Landing

The Battle of Monmouth was fought on June 28, 1778 near Monmouth Courthouse in Freehold, New Jersey. It was the pivotal event of the British retreat across New Jersey as that army evacuated Philadelphia and moved to consolidate the British Empire's forces in North America (the British policy from this point forward was to focus its military efforts to end the rebellion by shifting its efforts to the southern colonies). When the Continental Army left Valley Forge on its collision course with the enemy, it was embarking on a perilous journey that would result in either victory or defeat. The resulting clash of arms provided the patriot cause with both control of the battlefield, and a new appreciation for the skill, bravery and leadership of General Washington.

The combination of fatiguing marches from Valley Forge to Monmouth Courthouse made within ten days, with the trauma of battle and its aftermath, resulted in an army much in need of rest and relaxation. On June 29, 1778 however, that sojourn was still a hard march away. New Brunswick, the strategic settlement poised along the Raritan, was more than seventeen miles away through a sandy, pine forest cut with swampy waterways. The story of Charles Lee, and his erratic behavior during these critical days were yet another burden for the army in general, and George Washington in particular, to bear.

The suffering of the men was recounted by several participants, who left a record of their experiences.¹¹

From Samuel Adams, a surgeon with Crane's Third Regiment of Continental Artillery:

June 30 th	Fair and excessive hot
July 1 st	Fair and hot indeed; army marched at 2 a.m., come into Spottswood
July 2 nd	Fair and hot shower PM and during Night - the Army marched at 12 last night came to Brunswick, encamped on the Banks of the Rariton
July 3 rd	Rainy, warm - the Army halted

From Benjamin Swartwout, 2nd NY:

1 st July	Marched over a sandy pine plain -- the heat and want of water occasioned the death of many soldiers travelled eight miles without water - at night encamped at Spotswood.
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11. These accounts are from the Battle of Monmouth Collection at the David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, PA.

2nd Marched to New Brunswick, crossed the bridge and encamped opposite the town – our baggage joined us at this place – laid still until the 5th when the left wing of the Army marched.

From Journal of Lt. Thomas Blake, 1st NH:

July 1 The whole army march to Spotswood, the weather being so excessively hot (the road being for the most part through Pitch pine) that near one-third of the men were so overcome that they were obliged to stop; many not able to march until the cool of the evening, and some so overcome they were obliged to be conveyed in waggons.

The leading elements of the army reached New Brunswick on July 2nd, where John Laurens wrote to his father to Henry Laurens¹²:

We are now arrived in a delightful country where we shall halt and refresh ourselves – bathing in the Rariton, and the good living of the Country will speedily reestablish us – I wish my dear Father that you could ride along the banks of this delightful River[.]

Twenty-four year old James McHenry, another aide de camp to Washington wrote of both Brunswick and the amenities of Ross Hall¹³:

[July 2-3, 1778] Pass through Brunswick – and make Head Quarters at Ross Hall. The mistress of the house a pretty widdow.

A fine prospect comprehending Brunswick from Ross Hall. This place still exhibits marks of war, and the remains of some elegant houses in ruins along the banks of the Raritan

From headquarters at Ross Hall, Washington issued daily orders for the army, ranging from resting the men, issuing of small reserves of new clothing to dealing with General Charles Lee, whose actions and words led his court martial.

The most significant orders however, dealt with the celebration of the second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Washington's men had won a victory at Monmouth and the goal of Independence seemed that much more attainable. He moved to combine these two events into an expression of national unity, the first large-scale Fourth of July!

12. Henry Laurens, of South Carolina, was President of the Continental Congress. Source for the letter is <http://readtheconstitutionstupid.com/>.

13. Diary of James McHenry; Battle of Monmouth Collection at the David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, PA.

General Orders:

Head Quarters Brunswick Landing July 3rd 1778

Tomorrow, the Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, will be celebrated by the firing thirteen Pieces of Cannon and a *feu de joie* [French military expression, literally meaning, Fire of Joy] of the whole line: The Army will be formed on the Brunswick side of the Raritan at five o'Clock in the afternoon on the ground pointed out by the Quarter Master General [Nathaniel Greene] - The Soldiers are to adorn their Hats with Green-Boughs and to make the best appearance possible - The disposition will be given in the orders of tomorrow - Double allowance of rum will be served out.

Head Quarters Brunswick Saturday July 4th 1778

At three o'Clock this afternoon a Cannon will fire at the Park as a signal for the troops to be put under Arms and formed ready to march - At four another signal Cannon for the Right to march by the Right over the Bridge to the Ground which shall be shown them to form on - At half past four a third signal Cannon for the Left Wing to march by the Right and follow the Right Wing - at five a fourth Signal for the second Line to form on the ground which shall be shewn them - After the Army is formed upon a signal by order of the Commander in Chief, thirteen Pieces of Cannon will be discharged, after which a single Cannon which will be a signal for a running fire to begin on the right of the Army and be continued to the left with Musquetry and Cannon. At the Conclusion of which, on a signal three Cheers will be given. "Perpetual and undisturbed Independence to the United States of America."

The Commander in Chief presents his Compliments to the General Officers and Officers commanding Brigades. The Commissary, Muster Master and Judge Advocate-Generals with the Surgeon General of the Hospital & desires the pleasure of their Company to dine with him at three o'Clock this afternoon.



Area of Raritan Landing to New Brunswick – site of the first national expression of the Fourth of July.

11,500 men & officers of the Continental Army, thirty pieces of artillery, all viewed from Ross Hall by Washington & command staff.

A map, Middlesex County. Reduced from the original survey by John Hills, 1781.
Library of Congress

Table I

CONTINENTAL FORCES, 28 JUNE 1778
George Washington, Commander-in-Chief

Brigades with Commanding Officers

Right Wing	Major-General Charles Lee
WOODFORD'S BRIGADE	Brigadier-General William Woodford
SCOTT'S BRIGADE	Charles Scott
NORTH CAROLINA BRIGADE	Colonel Thomas Clark
POOR'S BRIGADE	Brigadier-General Enoch Poor
VARNUM'S BRIGADE	Lt.-Col. Jeremiah Olney
HUNTINGTON'S BRIGADE	Brigadier-General Jedediah Huntington
Center	Major-General Marquis de Lafayette
1 ST MARYLAND BRIGADE	Brigadier-General William Smallwood
2 ND MARYLAND BRIGADE	Probably Col. Josias Hall of the 4 th MDranking officer
MUHLENBERG'S BRIGADE	Brigadier-General Peter Muhlenberg
WEEDEN'S BRIGADE	Col. Christian Febiger, 2 nd VA. [Danish]
MAXWELL'S BRIGADE	<i>Brigadier-General William Maxwell</i>
Left Wing	Major-General William Alexander, Lord Stirling
1 ST PENNSYLVANIA BRIGADE	Brigadier-General Anthony Wayne
2 ND PENNSYLVANIA BRIGADE ¹	Colonel Goose van Schaick, 1 st NY
3 RD PENNSYLVANIA BRIGADE ²	Colonel Oliver Spencer
GLOVER'S BRIGADE	Col. Wm. Shepard, 4 th MA
LEARNED'S BRIGADE	Colonel John Bailey
PATERSON'S BRIGADE	Brigadier-General John Paterson
ARTILLERY	Brigadier-General Henry Knox
<i>Rifle Battalion</i>	<i>Colonel Daniel Morgan</i>

Approximately 12,650 soldiers present and fit for duty in the Main Continental Army, June 28, 1778. Maxwell's Jersey Brigade and Morgan's Rifle Battalion remained in Monmouth County after the battle. American casualties were approximated three hundred, with additional casualties and straggling from Englishtown to Raritan Landing, July 1 – 3. Approximately 11,500 troops present at Raritan Landing on July 4th.

Source: *Continental Forces, 28 June 1778*; Dr. Garry W. Stone, Historian, Monmouth Battlefield State Park & Francis Heitman's *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April 1775, to December, 1783*; Rare Bookshop Publishing Co., Washington, D.C., 1914

As brigade commanders, these men were invited to Ross Hall for the Fourth of July party hosted by General Washington.

July 4th at Raritan Landing

General notes to the reader:

The Army was composed of three grand wings, as it was during the march from Valley Forge, at Monmouth, and the march from Monmouth to Raritan Landing:

The artillery consisted of a “park” of a number of pieces, plus some thirty pieces interspersed between the separate brigades (sixteen brigades present). The artillery park was at the high ground at Old Queens Campus at Rutgers College.

The army spread for a distance of nearly two miles, from a point near where Hamilton’s battery had been posted on December 1, 1776 (Old Queens), to beyond Landing Lane in Franklin Township.

Extract of a letter from a Gentleman at Camp, dated July 4, 1778¹⁴.

"The Anniversary of INDEPENDENCE has occasioned another grand day, far surpassing that I could see every man as he passed to the ground. The front line of the army extended from the redoubt on the height a little above Brunswick upwards of two miles up the river on the west side; the second line at some distance in the rear, not quite so extensive – The park was placed on the right of the front line at the redoubt, and upwards of thirty pieces of cannon interspersed at proper distances through the lines. After his Excellency with his suite had rid round the lines and returned to his quarters, on a signal given from thence 13 pieces of cannon were fired at the park, which were followed by a running fire of musketry and artillery, beginning on the right of the front, throughout the whole of both lines – After this three huzzas to the perpetual and undisturbed Independence of the United states of America. The same round was performed a second and third time, and exceedingly well executed every time. My situation being high and at a convenient distance in front, afforded me a complete view of the whole, and presented by far the grandest sight I ever beheld. The running fire of musketry is grand of itself, but the cannon throwing out their columns of smoke, and adding their sounds at proper distances, made it magnificent beyond description.



14. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey; Second Series, Vol. II Extracts from Newspapers 1778*, pp. 280-81.

William Scudder, a line officer in the 1st NY Regiment was awed by the scene:

The continued flame and smoke, added to the grandeur of the prospect, and bespoke of appearance of a warlike people, contending for true liberty – What horrid engines of death appeared! – as if Mount Etna was vomiting forth from her volcanoes, fire and smoke.¹⁵

Table II
Command Staff of the Continental Army
Raritan Landing, New Jersey
July 4, 1778

Commander-in-Chief	General George Washington
Aides de Camps	Lieutenant Colonel John Fitzgerald Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hanson Harrison Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens [lightly wounded] Lieutenant Colonel Richard Meade Dr. James McHenry Tench Tilghman
Adjutant General	Colonel Alexander Scammell
Inspector General	Major General Friedrich von Steuben
Surgeon General of the Hospital	Dr. John Cochran
Commander, Corps of Engineers	Brigadier General Louis Lebeque Duportail
Quartermaster General	Major General Nathanael Greene
Commissary General of Purchases	Jeremiah Wadsworth [may have been present]
Commissary General of Issues	Colonel Charles Stewart [probably present]
Commissary General of Forage	Clement Biddle
Commissary General of Musters	Joseph Ward [appears to have been present]
Deputy Muster Master General	William Bradford
Judge Advocate General	John Lawrence ¹
Baker General	Christopher Ludwick [possibly present]
Commander in Chief's Guard	Caleb Gibbs

1. John Marshall of the 3rd VA was the Deputy Judge Advocate General

Source: Valley Forge Muster Roll at <http://www.valleyforgemusterroll.org/army.asp> crosschecked with individual biographies were available.

As army staff, these men were invited to Ross Hall for the Fourth of July party hosted by General Washington.

15. *The Journal of William Scudder*; edited by F.J. Sypher; Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, Ann Arbor, MI, 2005, p. 18.

Military Ball

As the general staff and brigade commanders gathered at Ross Hall in the afternoon, their men marched across the Landing Bridge and took up their positions along the river, one can only imagine the atmosphere of exuberance and satisfaction with the men of the army and their great victory achieved against the British just one week before. All had endured fatiguing marches in the scorching heat of summer in New Jersey, and the chaos and violence of battle. They must have remembered the defeats at Brandywine and Germantown and the starvation and hand of disease and death that stalked Valley Forge.

After Washington and his retinue of officers rode back to Ross Hall, they watched the *feu de joie* from the wide veranda facing the Raritan River and the high ground beyond. The vista of over eleven thousand men with thirty pieces of artillery, extended from the high ground on the left (at present-day Old Queens Campus) westerly to the eminence at Buccleuch Mansion and beyond the Landing road. The firing continued for so long (three rounds per second would make the firing last for just over three hours) that it was heard by the British army awaiting transport in the Atlantic Highlands.¹⁶

After the *feu de joie*, the Commander-in-Chief, the general staff, and the brigade commanders had a very pleasant evening, as described by one of the men of his Life Guards.¹⁷

July 4th. We Selebrated the Independence of America by the howl [whole] army parraded and at the Right of Every Brigade there was a field piece placed. then was the signal give for the howl army to fire and they fired one round apiece and the artilyery Discharged thirteen Cannons we gave three Cheers &c. At Night his Exelency and the gentlemen and Ladys had a Bawl at Head Quarters with great Pompe.

Col. Otho Holland Williams gave the account of the day's activities, and an insight into the manner and warmth of General Washington to the line officers of the army:¹⁸

"On the 4th inst. the anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in the following manner. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a cannon was discharged as a signal for the troops to get under arms, half an hour afterwards, the second lire was a signal for the troops to begin their march, and at four the third signal was given, for the troops to drawn up in two lines, on the west side of the Raritan, which they did in beautiful order...After the *feu de joie* the general officers and officers commanding brigades, dined with his Excellency. Yesterday a number of field officers shared the same fate, and I had the satisfaction of seeing the old warrior in very fine spirits."

16. "[July 4 1778] "hear'd a great deal of firing in the Eveng. Of Cannon & Small arms at a distance which we suppose is the Americans rejoicing on the anniversary of ye. Independence The firing seems to be somewhere about Brunswick which I believe the best Intelligence we have of where Mr. Washington is" *John Peeble's American War, The Diary of a Scottish Grenadier 1776-1782*; Stackpole Books, p. 196. Also: "4 July ... After 5 o'clock we heard from afar an astonishingly loud and long running fire (Lauf-feuer) of cannons." *Journal of John Charles Philip Von Krafft, 1776-1784* New-York Historical Society, 1888, p. 50.
17. Elijah Fisher's Journal; Battle of Monmouth Collection, David Library of the American Revolution.
18. Battle of Monmouth Collection, David Library of the American Revolution

Washington was known to enjoy his Madeira wine and the company of the fairer sex. The Widow Ross was an attractive woman, and some officers' wives were most likely in attendance along with belles from the neighborhood.



Front hallway of nearby Buccleuch Mansion; the reception hall shown in the HABS drawing of Ross Hall is similar. Buccleuch is now a museum, and a hanging lamp from Ross Hall is among its collections. HABS photograph. Reference to the lamp is from a 1903 DAR report.

List of toasts given on July 4th at the Governor Livingston's party in Princeton on July 4th, 1778, and probably very similar to the toasts made at Washington's Ball:¹⁹

1. The Honorable the Congress.
2. The Free and Independent States of America.
3. His Excellency General Washington.
4. The American Army and Navy.
5. May our Independence endure while the sun shall shine or the rivers flow.
6. His Most Christian Majesty, our illustrious ally, and the magnanimous protector of the rights of mankind. [King of France]
7. May the Confederated States of America be ever supported by the same public virtue and patriotism by which they were established.
8. Our Ambassador at the Court of Versailles.
9. The State of New-Jersey.
10. Our brave and patriotic Militia.
11. All our officers and Privates engaged in the battle near Monmouth Court-house, in which we obtained a complete victory over the choicest and most veteran of the enemy's troops.
12. The memory of all the heroes who have fallen in defense of American liberty during the war.

19. *Documents Relating to the Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey; Second Series, Vol. II Extracts from Newspapers 1778*, p. 281.

13. May our example excite the oppressed in every part of the world to resist the outrages of tyranny; and may they be equally successful in asserting the natural and unalienable rights of mankind.

Table III
French Officers with the Continental Army
At the Battle of Monmouth

Marquis de Lafayette & Staff

Lt. Col. Jean Joseph De Gimat
Lt. Col. Anne-Louis Tousard - Chief of artillery under Lafayette at Monmouth
Major Chevalier de Pontgibaud
Capt. Louis Celeron - engineer
Michel Capitaine du Chesnoy - personal cartographer
John Hagey - Lafayette's Private Guard
Louis Pierre De Vienne

Baron de Kalb (Bavarian, but serving in the French army) & Staff

Major Charles-François Du Buysson, aide de camp to DeKalb

Louis Le Begue de Presle Duportail (Engineer-in-Chief) & Staff

Col. Jean Baptiste De Laumoy
Lt. Col. Louis-Antoine-Jean Baptiste, Chevalier de Cambray-Digny.
Lt. Col. Jean Baptiste Gouvion
Major Jean Bernard Gauthie Murnan
Major Jean-Louis-Ambroise Villefranche
[Lt.] Estienne Nicolas Marie Béchet, Sieur de Rochefontaine

Von Stueben's Staff

Col. Jean, Chevalier de Ternant - Sub Inspector
Capt. Pierre Charles L'Enfant - Engineer officer
Capt. Augustin Francois Des Epiniers (nephew of Pierre Beaumarchais)
Capt. Pierre Etienne Duponceau
Capt. Louis De Ponthiere

Marechal de Camp Francois-Louis-Tesseidre, Marquis de Fleury - Sub Inspector under Gen. Lee

Lt. Col. Francis de Malmedy - Aide de camp to General Lee

Lt. Col. Thomas Antoine de Mauduit du Plessis - Served four gun battery on Combs Hill

Major Count Julius DE Montfort - 2nd Continental Dragoons (a detachment was at Monmouth)

Capt. Michel-Gabriel Houdin - 15th MA - Col. Bigelow

Lt. Wm. Cysandreu - Ensign in the 15th MA - Col. Bigelow

Sources: *The Order Of The Cincinnati In France*; Asa Bird Gardiner; *The Rhode Island State Society Of The Cincinnati*; 1905.
"The Continental Army at Valley Forge, 1777," Eye Witness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com.
French Volunteers and Supporters of the American Revolution at <http://www.xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/volunt.htm>.

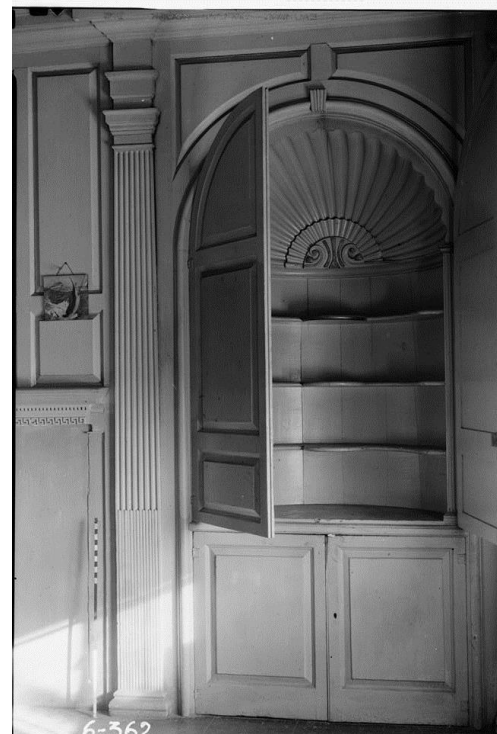
Conclusion

The next day, July 5th, the army left its camps along the Raritan and took up its march towards White Plains, New York. By mid-July, the soldiers were on the east side of the Hudson River and ready to move into their old camps near White Plains. After one year of campaigning, the main battle armies of both the British and the Americans were in exactly the same place as they started in the summer of 1777 – Philadelphia had been captured and abandoned by the British, and its hopes for a victory in North America now rested with the “Southern Strategy” by which the war against the rebels would be won in the southern colonies. Savannah, Kings Mountain, Cowpens, Guilford Court House, and Yorktown were yet to come.

Among the necessary elements in creating a unified vision for a disparate collection of communities and interests, as stated in our national motto of *E Pluribus Unum*, out of many, one, is the establishment of special dates or events that bind diverse groups to a core value. Examples in the United States include Thanksgiving (officially made the third Thursday of November in 1863 by President Lincoln), and Memorial Day, to honor the fallen of our military. Yet before those secular holidays of the 19th century, there was Independence Day, with July 4th as the day to celebrate it. Washington gave special orders for July 4th, and did so again in 1779 and 1782.

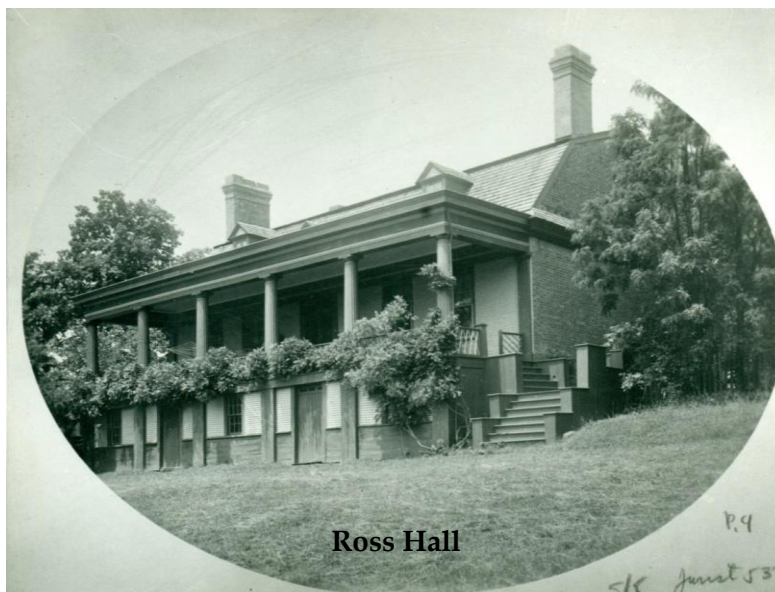
Washington saw the importance of creating national unity, or creating one out of many, and deliberately acted to make the platitude into reality. In so doing, he was the architect for the new national identity for all Americans to share. Washington is rightfully called Father of our Country. His leadership, vision and fortitude were acknowledged during his lifetime. He was the architect of much of our first years of existence as a nation.

The unique sense of nationalism that defines America and Americans provides a secular interpretation of the word religion (defined as an organized collection of beliefs, cultural systems and world views that relate humanity to an order of existence). Raritan Landing was the place of the birth of the Fourth of July as a national holiday. It was centered on the men and women of Continental Army who represented the nation. Ross Hall was the epicenter of that singularly unique moment in time, and although the word relic is perhaps most often associated with religion (ie. pieces of the Cross, fragments of saints and holy persons, etc.), the Ross Hall Wall is a secular relic. This wall, apart from its value as a piece of colonial craftsmanship and architecture, has a deeper, more resonating significance: it was a witness to history and to the generation that founded, and defended, the United States of America.



Cupboard detail of the Ross Hall Wall – crafted in about 1740, witness to the first national celebration of the Fourth of July.

To be exhibited at the Metlar-Bodine House Museum in Piscataway once necessary funding is secured. The Metlar-Bodine House is one of two surviving buildings of the historic village of Raritan Landing in Piscataway, New Jersey. Photo from the HABS Collection, LOC.



Ross Hall

On the Rariton River

By James McHenry, Aide de Camp to Washington²⁰

1.

Here a while let a wanderer stay
and kiss thy mild stream as it flows
now the horrors of war are away
he seeks with thy lambkins repose.

2.

Now the hamlet looks gay on the green,
its shadow reclined on thy breast
while at distance the city is seen
for cities are strangers to rest.

3.

Long o here may the shepherd unfold
the tale of his love without art,
and the nymph who prefers love to gold
resign without coyness her heart.

4.

On thy banks may he slumber at noon
at [which] may he carelessly roam
or return by the light of the moon
to Lovers who wait him at home.

5.

Such, O Rariton, sweet as the Dee
such lovers her for [were] thy care
so thy stream shall glide pure to the Sea
and fishermen welcome you there.

20. James McHenry Papers; Special Collections, Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, NJ