Thank you for coming this evening!

For those attending in person, please grab a seat.
We will pass around a sign in sheet.

If you have a beverage, please take a coaster.

For those online, the presentation will begin soon.

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“Fighting for Freedom in the South Ward”

A South Brunswick Historical Society Presentation
July 2026

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Sign-in sheet
- Presentation
- Q&A
- Upcoming events and information

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This presentation will highlight the local conflicts within the South Ward: Stryker's Skirmish and The Cranbury Skirmish, which connect our region to the larger fight for independence during the Revolutionary period.

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Celebrating the 250th

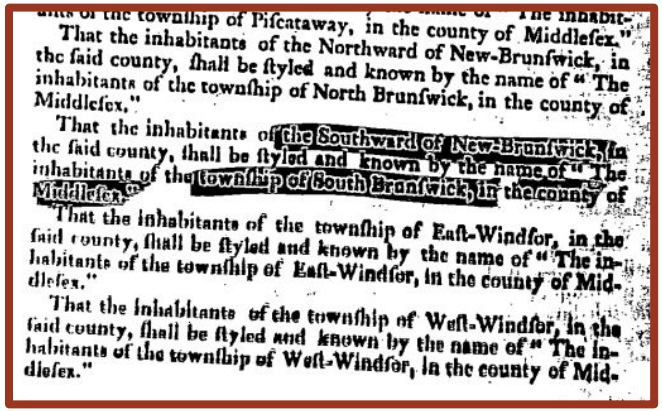
- As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we will highlight the contributions of parties big and small who fought to establish independence from Great Britain from 1775-1783

"Declaration of Independence diorama" by Bartlett Frost, https://npg.si.edu/exhibition/declaration-independence-diorama?utm_source=si.edu&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=MyVisitSI.

The Nation Makers by Howard Pyle, https://www.amrevmuseum.org/virtualexhibits/banners-of-liberty.

The South Ward and the Revolution

- Established as South Brunswick in 1798, the largely agricultural South Ward (“below” New Brunswick) was a stopping point for a number of weary travelers navigating from New York to Philadelphia
- It was also the site of multiple points of interest in the 1770s, including two skirmishes in 1777
  - Strykers Skirmish
  - The Cranbury Skirmish
- Prior to 1777, George Washington marched through in 1775 toward Massachusetts and also in 1776 when retreating from New Brunswick



That the inhabitants of the Northward of New-Brunſwick, in the ſaid county, ſhall be ſtyled and known by the name of "The inhabitants of the townſhip of North Brunſwick, in the county of Middleſex."

That the inhabitants of the Southward of New-Brunſwick, in the ſaid county, ſhall be ſtyled and known by the name of "The inhabitants of the townſhip of South Brunſwick, in the county of Middleſex."

That the inhabitants of the townſhip of Eaſt-Windſor, in the ſaid county, ſhall be ſtyled and known by the name of "The inhabitants of the townſhip of Eaſt-Windſor, in the county of Middleſex."

That the inhabitants of the townſhip of Weſt-Windſor, in the ſaid county, ſhall be ſtyled and known by the name of "The inhabitants of the townſhip of Weſt-Windſor, in the county of Middleſex."

1798 South Brunswick Incorporation Document

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The South Ward and the War in 1777

- This 1777 map outlines the main Upper Road/Kings Highway (Rt. 27) which many of the Continentals used during/to get to the sites of these skirmishes

"A New and Accurate Map of the Present seat of war in North America: comprehending New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pensylvania, New-York, &c." London: Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure, v. 61 June 1777. p. 280-283 (includes article about Philadelphia). https://www.njstatelib.org/exhibits/nj250/1776era/a-new-and-accurate-map/

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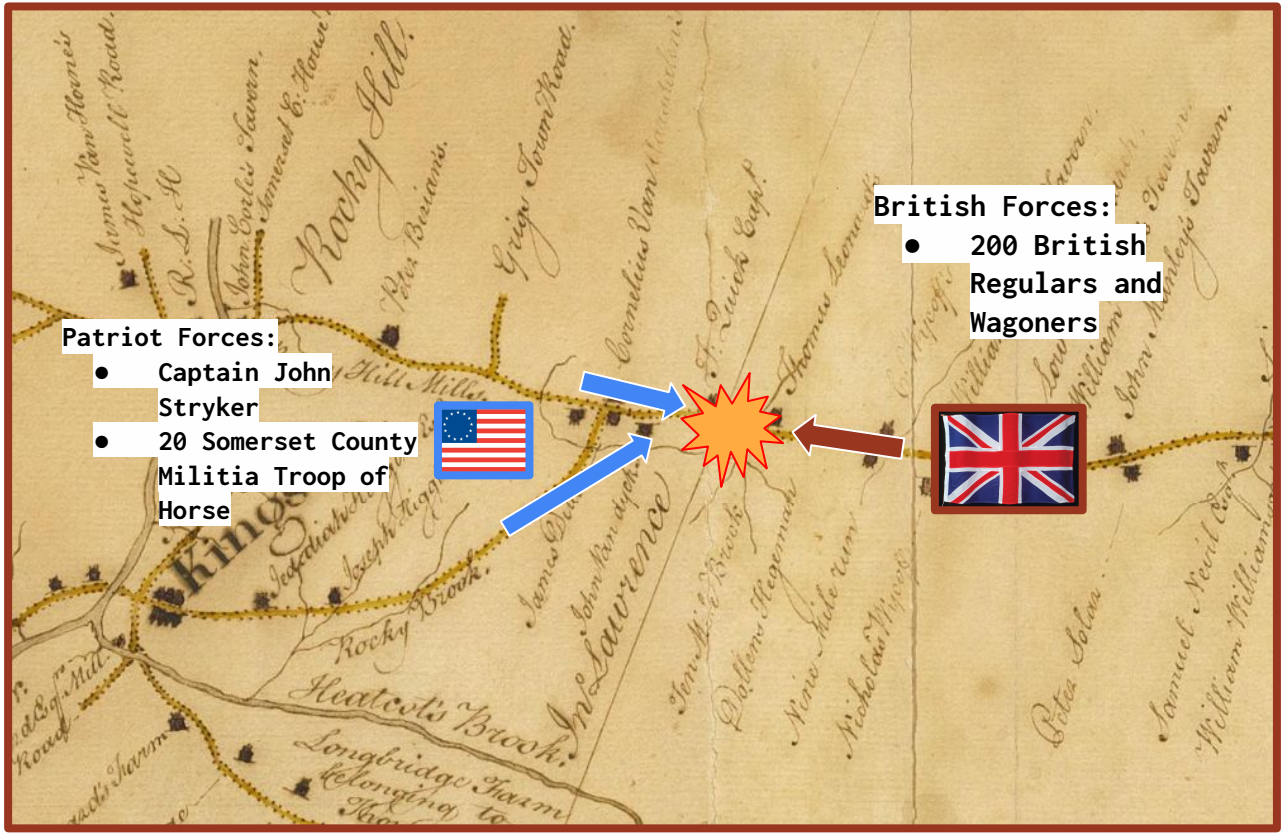
Stryker's Skirmish - January 3-4, 1777



- Section of: 1762: John Dalley. *"A Map of the Road from Trenton to Amboy Copied (from a Survey Made by John Dalley for James Alexander Esquire) by G. Bancker"* [Manuscripts Division], Princeton University. https://static-prod.lib.princeton.edu/njmaps/background/road_maps.html.

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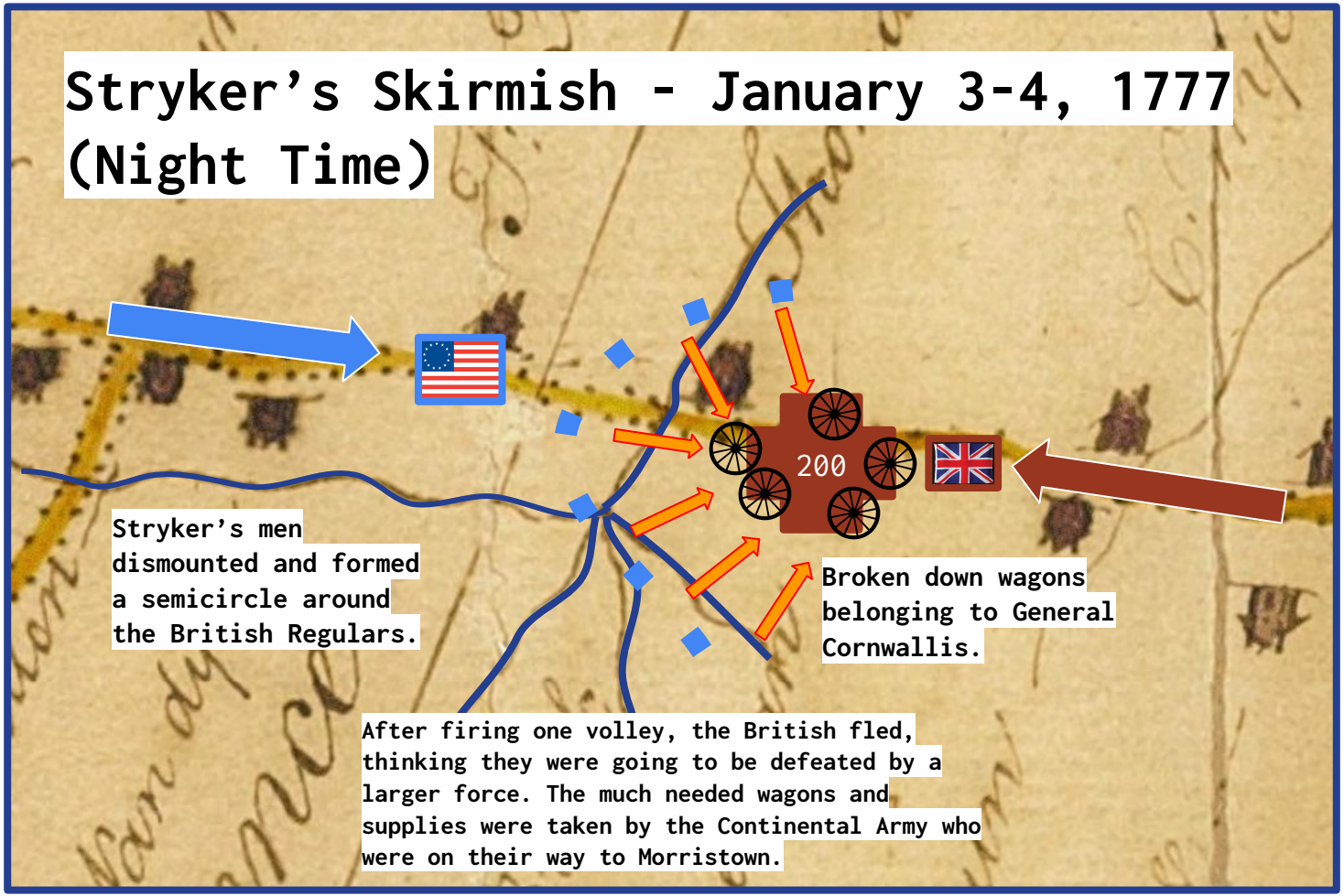
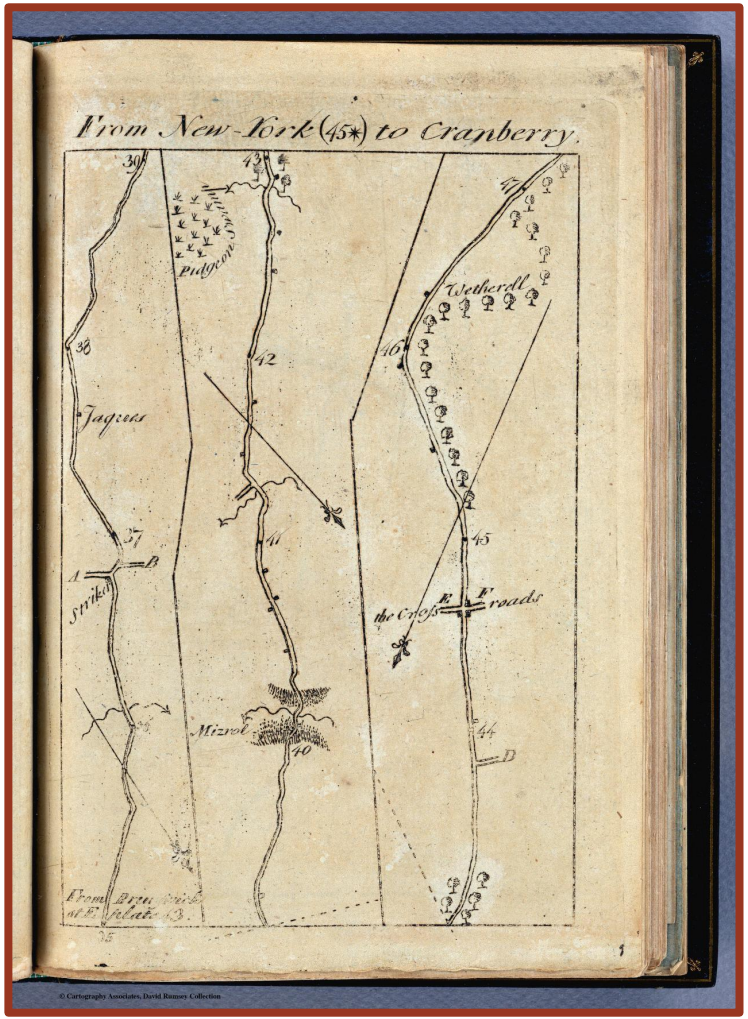
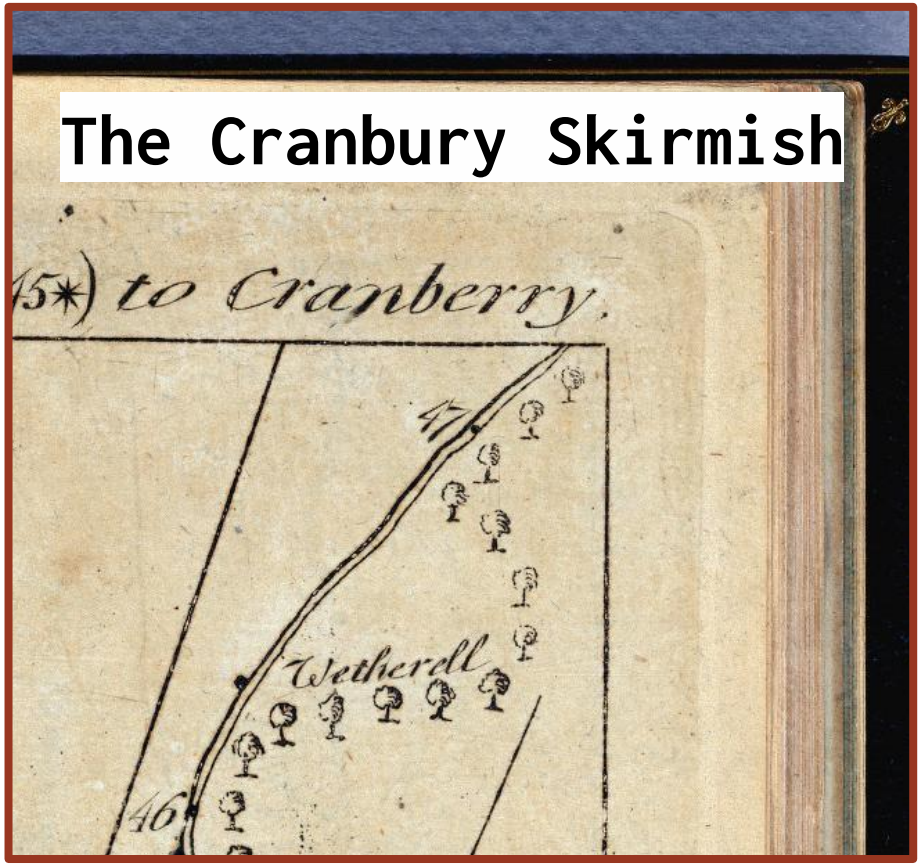
Stryker's Skirmish - January 3-4, 1777 (Night Time)





The Cranbury Skirmish



- From New York to Cranberry. A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America by Christopher Colles. 1789. C. Tiebout, Sculpt. https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1048~90066:From-New-York-to-Cranberry---45*-#

The Cranbury Skirmish

Cranbury Inn, likely HQ of Robert Nixon and his Troop

CRANBERRY

Cross Roads

Dayton

Georges Road

Section of: Hills, J., Morgan, B., Dunham, A. & Rue, J. (1781) A map, Middlesex County. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/gm72003603/

The Cranbury Skirmish

Nixon's Troop of Horse snuck up on the road going north and surprised the group of foragers.

The foragers fled without any casualties, likely to New Brunswick or Monmouth County.

Local connections overall

- The Revolution happened here!
- South Brunswick was a “crossroads of the revolution”
- We have an additional number of other important events from 1775-1778 that helped impact the the War for Independence
  - George Washington’s first march through SB - 1775
  - The retreat campsite - December 1-2, 1776
  - The sundering of the Millstone River Bridge - January 3, 1777
  - The Council on Horseback - January 3, 1777
  - South Brunswick’s road to Monmouth - June 1778

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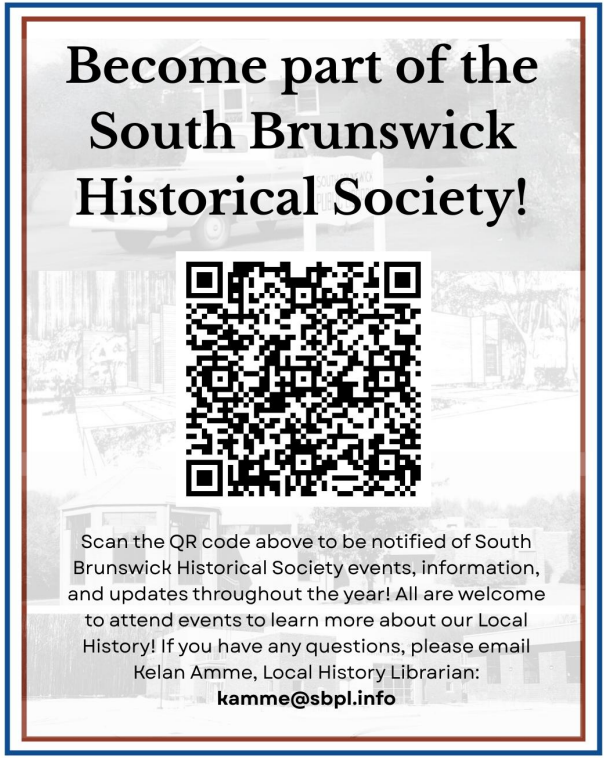
Thank you!
Any questions?

Additional Business

- Join the SB Historical Society Email List!
- Next event: **National Night Out!**
  - August 4th, 6-9 PM
  - Rowland Park
  - We will have a table!
- **RevCon 250**
  - August 8th, 10-3
  - SBPL
  - We will also have a table!
- Next formal presentation will be toward the end of September (Most likely the 30th).



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QR Codes for Links, Images, and Sources

- “Declaration of Independence diorama” by Bartlett Frost
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- “A New and Accurate Map of the Present seat of war in North America
- 1762: John Dalley. *“A Map of the Road from Trenton to Amboy Copied*
- From New York to Cranberry. A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America by Christopher Colles
- Hills, J., Morgan, B., Dunham, A. & Rue, J. (1781)