

adjoining New York and Pennsylvania. He was a member of the General Assembly of the Province of New Jersey and a deputy of the Provincial Congress. Unfortunately he turned Loyalist and recruited a battalion of Loyalists mostly from Bergen County, but none from Acquackanonk. His property was all confiscated later. His general store had been sold to John Low, then to Samuel Seeley, and then to Abraham Ackerman who made another success of the business, as he built extensive docks for a line of boats plying between here and New York City, and at one time owned most of the Landing river front property. The business was later acquired by Ryerson and Van Houten who later sold out to Peter Jackson. Peter also ran boats to New York, and also engaged in the timber and wood business cut from his own woodlands. He also built the Ryerson's Hotel, since demolished. His son, John P. Jackson, was president of the United Railroads of New Jersey, and another son, Schuyler B. Jackson, was ex-speaker of the New Jersey Assembly. The Peter Jackson business was later acquired by Richard Morrell and John A. Post who later went into the lumber business.

The Drummond general store was the most important during the old days of Acquackanonk Landing. There were numerous other stores and workshops. Acquackanonk Landing had been the headquarters for lumber, timber, and all kinds of building materials for over 200 years, and from 1716 to nearly the close of that century was the only place in this section of the state where such could be obtained, because of river navigation and cheap transportation. John Low is believed to be the first here to engage in building materials at about 1715. His successor was the Anderson Lumber Co., successors of William S. Anderson, Anderson Brothers, Anderson & Post, and Morrell & Post about 125 years ago. The name of Colfax also came into the Landing picture. Robert Colfax had a general store in competition with Ackerman, but later went back to Pompton. He was related to Dr. William Colfax mentioned below.

By this time, before railroads took over, farms were prospering, travelers were coming and going through Acquackanonk Landing by stagecoach, wagon, boat, or horseback, and important highways crossed here for north, south, east and west. This was a stage transfer point. Some travelers would stay over in the small hotels, taverns or rooming houses. Drivers of wagons carrying farm products, barrel hoops and staves, poles, forge and foundry products, lumber and other materials would also stop over. Docks were full of cargo boats, and along the shore were many passenger and pleasure boats, some large, and regattas were held. The oldest inhabitant there once told W. W. Scott of years before seeing long lines of wagons loaded with wares coming daily to Landing where boats took them to New York and other ports. Many of these were from Paterson.

**DURING THE REVOLUTION-
Washington Saved With His Army**
Acquackanonk Landing's part in the Revolution was as impressive as that of any other area involved in the war. There are enough historical markers in the small area to substantiate.

Why Washington Decided on Acquackanonk Landing as his Headquarters —

Following the battle of White Plains and the concentration of British forces, Washington predicted they would enter New Jersey, and instructed his engineers to survey and record safe areas for retreat. He then selected Acquackanonk "Bridge" where his troops would be safe. Retreating from Ft. Lee, but stopping briefly at Hackensack and found the people mostly apathetic, he decided to go on to Acquackanonk Bridge. More about his retreat to follow.

Acquackanonk Landing was on the main artery of travel south to north and east with the only bridge over navigable waters. Acquackanonk Bridge was the most important military point in North Jersey. During the Revolutionary period, it was the center of military operations for North Jersey and the most strategic point in the entire colony. Acquackanonk Landing led the state in Revolutionary activities till the end of the war. Washington established headquarters under Lord Stirling till the war's end. The bridge was maintained against at least six attempts to wrest it from the Americans; the command was to hold it at all cost of blood and money. It was the headquarters for all activities of the war for miles around and a stronghold of the Americans. Three militia companies were organized in Acquackanonk Township; it was strong for Washington.

The above was confirmed later by subsequent events and the final victory, and Washington establishing headquarters there. During one year all famous officers of the American army were within the borders of Saddle River Township across the river from Acquackanonk. With the exception of Valley Forge and the Virginia campaign against Cornwallis in 1781, the Continental troops were constantly in or on the confines of New Jersey.

Before the war, Acquackanonk was the first to take action in this state on the Massachusetts plan to set up correspondence between colonies to keep informed of what was transpiring in England towards the colonies through elected committees. A Committee of Observation for Acquackanonk was elected to check for disloyals. The above was confirmed at a public meeting at Acquackanonk Bridge May 3, 1775. Elected to a General Committee were: Michael Vreeland, Chairman; Henry Garritse, Peter Peterse, John Berry, Robert Drummond, Francis Post, Thomas Post, Daniel Neil, Richard Ludlow, Capt. Abraham Godwin, John Spier, Jacob Van Riper, Lucas Wessels, Frances Van Winkle, Cornelius Van Winkle, Henry Post, Dr. Walter De Graw, John Peer, Jacob Garritse, Jacob Vreeland, Abraham Van Riper, and Stephen Ryder, Dr. Nicholas Roche, Committee Clerk.

Of these, Henry Garritse, Robert Drummond, Michael Vreeland, and John Berry were elected members of the Provincial Congress. This meeting was held in James Leslie's tavern, originally the church parsonage (1713) and later known as the Blanchard House. Of the above, the following were buried in the old Acquackanonk Landing graveyard: M. Vreeland, H. Garritse, P. Peterse, J. Berry, T. Post, R. Ludlow, J. Spier, J. Van Riper, L. Wessels, F. & C. Van Winkle, H. Post, Jr., J. Vreeland, A. Van Riper, Dr. Roche. Ryder and Drummond turned Tories.

A rousing and memorable meeting was held in the old tavern on July 3, 1776 to consider the question of defense, should the enemy invade. Acquackanonk Landing at that time was an important point on the main artery from Newark to Hackensack, Totowa, Paramus, and Pompton and the only bridge between here and Newark. Strong speeches were made by Chairman Benjamin Helme, John Sip, John J. Vreeland, and Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker, pastor of the Acquackanonk Church. Rev. Schoonmaker not only prayed and preached, but worked for the cause, going about the country encouraging inhabitants to fight. His influence was wide and powerful. His field or parish was large, extending from what is now Belleville on the south to the New York State line on the north, from near Hackensack on the east to Morris County on the west. Of all land owners in the area, it was believed three fourths of the adult population was connected directly or indirectly with this church.

The above committee served indefatigably with added duties of food conservation and hospital relief without pay till the end of the war. Henry Garritse was the most influential and prominent man of his day, furnishing secret information of great value to the American army, and the only man here who had the honor of a visit from Gen. Washington. He was also the first member of the legislature from this district. Members of the Passaic County Historical Society had the painful experience of witnessing recently the demolition of his once beautiful and well-kept Dutch colonial house on Lexington Ave. (old King's Highway or Weasel Road) on July 2, 1968 after fruitless efforts to save it. However, it could have been saved at least temporarily with preservation means made available a few weeks later.

**Events During the War's Progress —
Washington's Retreat —** As mentioned above, after the loss of Ft. Lee, Washington found Bergen County a hot-bed of Toryism and willing to assist the enemy even as spies. The land was flat and open with no protection from the larger enemy forces better equipped. His forces were poorly clad, more than half without shoes, feet bound in straw, clothing worn to tatters. Washington had no alternative but to retreat to Acquackanonk Bridge, leaving Hackensack in the afternoon and arriving at the Bridge about dusk of Nov. 21, 1776. Gen. Greene had been sent to fortify Acquackanonk Bridge by constructing ramparts along the river shore in which cannons were placed. Through all this and more, Washington never indicated any defeatist attitude.

By this time the peaceful little village of Acquackanonk Landing was beginning to feel the fingers of war were beginning to reach her. On Nov. 9, 1776 Gen. Stephen was ordered to proceed immediately with his brigade to Acquackanonk to assist Gen. Greene still there. On Nov. 10 Gen. Mercer arrived with his troops, and on Nov. 14 Lord Stirling crossed the bridge with 8 regiments on the way to Rahway. Washington also had sent word ahead to advise all farmers to cart all movable stuff 2 or 3 miles back into the country, but they ignored this to their sorrow later.

The day Washington arrived at Acquackanonk was cold and rainy, but the most tensely exciting day in old Acquackanonk. Every man, woman, and child dreaded the bloody carnage that might result. It was also known that Gen. Cornwallis was closely following Washington. In expectation of his coming every farmer in the area was aroused and started for the Landing. A rousing meeting was held. The old minister made a ringing speech. About every man offered himself to fight for liberty. At the head was a vigorous and able bodied man named Post who promised and later enlisted. A decision at the conference was that Post with a picked body of volunteers would destroy the bridge after Washington crossed to prevent the British from crossing. This body of men was quickly formed and stationed at the bridge ready for service. Most of the men in this group to help Post were members of present old families in this area, but space does not permit listing them.

When Washington's army was seen approaching in the distance a committee headed by Rev. Schoonmaker stood in the tavern door yard. The place was full of women with their children who had flocked there from near and far, and scores of farm wagons were on the road and in open spaces. A convoy went out to escort Washington to the bridge. It is recorded that Walling Van Winkle, one of the convoys, told his grandson that Washington's army did not come over the road but was led across fields to the bridge. There were about 3000 soldiers in line and were encamped in the church cemetery area. Washington was welcomed with rousing cheers. Supper was served to Washington and his staff in the dining room. After supper Washington met local prominent men upstairs to discuss affairs. Just before dark Generals Irvine and Heard and Thomas Paine and with David Gordon and Lucas Wessels were on a tour of inspection of the old tombs, many of which were of early settlers. Guards were placed around the house and grounds.

A letter by Washington to Gov. Livingston dated Nov. 21, 1776 at Acquackanonk Bridge states in part, "I have this moment arrived at this place with Gen. Beall's and Gen. Heard's brigades from Maryland and Jersey, and part of Gen. Ewing's from Pennsylvania. Three other regiments, left to guard the passes from Hackensack River, and to serve as covering parties, are expected up this

evening...However, we were lucky enough to gain the bridge before them; by which means we saved all our men..." The rear guard referred to in this letter crossed the bridge about midnight, and the next day Post (Capt. John Post later) and his able body of men destroyed the bridge. At the moment Washington was writing this letter, Paine started to write "The Crisis" and at the very next moment Washington actually started to write, Paine opened up with the famous words: "These are the times that try men's souls". The next day; Nov. 22, Washington and his army left for Newark, leaving behind Smallwood's Regiment to rest up from fatigue in guarding the rear of Washington's retreat to Acquackanonk Bridge. The Bridge was strongly held to the war's end.

The British army seemed in no hurry to follow up Washington's retreat, but instead delayed pursuit several days to feast on the larders of the Bergen farmers. This is why Washington felt safe in staying overnight at the tavern and his men scattered over the churchyard, but well guarded. On Nov. 26, 1776 the British crossed at a ford near present Dundee Dam and later known as Robertsford. In coming down Weasel Road (now Lexington Ave.), they seemed to be in no hurry, but were shot at often by irate farmers. They looted every farm, house and barn in the vicinity as they found everything in abundance here, the farmers being prosperous and wealthy. The British evidently were not looking for trouble as they never set foot on Acquackanonk village streets, but went to Anthony's Nose hill overlooking Acquackanonk Landing. This site was later that of Paulison's unfinished mansion and then of the old City Hall. While there the British never fired a shot or engaged in a skirmish.

The bridge which had been destroyed had now been repaired but no measures taken to protect it. The British took advantage of this in December 1776 and held it for that winter and left in the spring without a soldier or guard. When Washington was aware of this, he ordered Gen. Heard to move part of his militia here from Pompton. On July 30, 1777, American forces numbering 4500 passed through Acquackanonk Landing on their way to the South.

In September 1777, Acquackanonk and adjacent area were visited by several raiding parties of British troops totalling about 6000 men with horses, wagons and cannon. Among them were Loyalists including Capt. Robert Drummond, a local merchant prince who was picked for knowing the way from Belleville. No doubt this entire display was to strike terror in the hearts of peaceful country folk when they realize the strength of the King's army. Due to the absence of young men who were in the army and only women and older men at home, the invaders met little opposition. Other objectives of Gen. Clinton's invasion was to entrap unwary American soldiers and to take away every horse, cattle, and swine that could be found. From Acquackanonk they crossed the bridge after a struggle with bridge guards. Half of the

detachment crossed the bridge and rested along the river at what is now Outwater Lane near the ford. The other half went north on Weasel Road to the ford area and reuniting with the other part of the detachment, after each plundered on the way.

These were troops of Gen. Clinton, Brig. Gen. Campbell, and Maj. Gen. Vaughn, some coming by boat from New York up the Hackensack River and then overland, some by boat to Elizabethtown Point to meet Clinton at Belleville. Gen. Vaughn came by boat on the Hudson to Ft. Lee and overland to the ford at Outwater Lane where they all met on September 15, 1777, and lay there until every farm in that area was looted and robbed. They then started on their return to New York with hundreds of horses, cattle and sheep, after a loss of some killed, wounded, taken prisoners and missing. There were skirmishes near Acquackanonk Bridge.

As Gen. Clinton's raid was a great surprise to everybody, including Washington, a signal system for warning the people of the approach of the enemy was set up with signal stations, one for Acquackanonk was at the Notch, with gong at day and bonfire at night.

After leaving Valley Forge June 18, 1778, Washington with his army passed through Acquackanonk July 9, establishing headquarters at the old tavern. In September 1778 the British began another foraging expedition and sent vessels to carry the loot away. But Gen. William Winds with 1000 men quickly drove them out of the state. The signal stations proving ineffective, Lord Stirling set up guard headquarters at the same old tavern and placed groups of his men along river drive and Weasel Road (Lexington Ave.) to protect the farmers. These guards put an end to enemy raids.

Gen. Woodford's brigade passed through Acquackanonk on October 16 and 29, 1778. Washington at head of his army visited here again December 2 and 3 on way to winter quarters at Middlebrook. He was here again on the 5th on the way from Elizabeth to Paramus, returning again on the 8th. The Pennsylvania Line encamped here from December 9 to 12.

As space does not permit detailing all troop movements, skirmishes and other incidents in this writing, others worthy of mention are grouped herewith: Brig. Gen. Philip Van Cortlandt was almost caught passing through Acquackanonk after the White Plains battle. Arnold's Morris County Independent Light Horse were at Acquackanonk soon after Washington crossed the bridge on his retreat. They served as videttes and as express carriers. In December 1778, Gen. Putnam's Continental army division marched from Paramus to Acquackanonk. His First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. Gibson visited Acquackanonk Bridge again August 22, 1781. On July 21, 1780, the First Pennsylvania passed through Acquackanonk. During 1780, detachments from the First Pennsylvania were sent from Totowa through Acquackanonk to Newark and elsewhere. During the first 3 weeks of July 1780, Washington had his headquarters at the Dey mansion

in Preakness. On June 26, 1781, Martha Washington passed through Acquackanonk escorted by a guard of honor from Gen. Heath's division. She passed through several other times. July 4, 1781 Continental State troops under Gen. Waterbury passed Acquackanonk Bridge. August 25, 1781, Gen. Lincoln with the Light Infantry and the First New York Regiment passed through Acquackanonk. In August 1781, Washington and his corps passed through Acquackanonk to join up with the French division of the American Army, under Rochambeau.

Soon after his crossing over the Acquackanonk Bridge and with the experience he had with Tories coming through Bergen, Washington spent much of his time while at the old tap house (Blanchard House) setting up a secret service organization and arranged to enlist certain good men as spies, men acquainted with every foot for miles around. Jacob A. Van Riper was one of the first. Others were: Richard Van Riper, Hale, Tallmadge, Culper. Spies for both sides were active at Acquackanonk. In October 1780, Major Parr set up a better watch and patrol. He installed a beacon and tower and a cannon on the mountain at Great Notch from which Acquackanonk was plainly seen.

In the summer of 1776, the blast furnaces at Hibernia, Morris County, had been set up to make 3-pounder cannon and balls. Mr. Huff, superintendent, wrote Col. Knox that he had cast over 35 tons of shot and had no way of shipping. Arrangements were made with George Van Iderstine and Cornelius Ludlow of Acquackanonk Landing to cart the shot to be put on boats.

Besides Capt. John H. Post, Acquackanonk had many heroes. Another worthy of mention is Capt. Daniel Neil, a young successful merchant from Acquackanonk. While brother-merchant Robert Drummond chose to join the Loyalists, Daniel Neil talked to Washington, put his business in another's hands, and became captain of the Eastern Battery just authorized by the Provincial Congress. He won commendation from Washington at Trenton, and almost the last word he heard was that of Washington when he was mortally wounded at the battle of Princeton. Washington with his surgeon, Gen. Rush, shook his hand expressing hope for a quick recovery, but he died that night. Gov. Livingston suggested a monument to his memory, but there is no record of anything done.

Another hero who performed here magnificently was Gen. William Winds of Rockaway, Morris County, one of the bravest of Washington's generals. He was with Washington on his retreat and was stationed here both before and after that event, and succeeded in preventing British raids. On one occasion, he was surprised by the appearance of a superior enemy force in the distance, whereupon he roared with his tremendous voice: "Open to the right and left, and let the artillery through!", in a voice that struck terror into the enemy, who retreated hastily, expecting an artillery attack, but there was no artillery.

Besides the bridge at Acquackanonk, the next most important site at Acquackanonk Landing is the old cemetery area, which is probably unmatched by the number of encampments during each of the 7 years, most of which area will be eliminated by Route 21. Here is a list of encampments as recorded by historian Scott:

- 1776--Nov. 14, by Pennsylvania troops. 21, by Washington's army of 3000.
- 1777--Jan. 4, by enemy troops under Gen. Howe. June 6, by Gen. Dongen's troops. July 8 to Sept. 4, by Washington's troops.
- 1778--June 5, by Gen. Heard's guards taking Gov. Franklin a prisoner to Conn.; July, by Washington's troops. Sept., Oct. by Pennsylvania troops. Dec. by Pennsylvania Troops.
- 1779--July, by Cornwallis' and Howe's army. Oct., by Gen. Sullivan's army.
- 1780--July 5, by Pennsylvania troops. Aug., by Gen. St. Clair's troops.
- 1781--July 4, American troops had a parade. Aug., by French troops. Sept., by Washington's troops. Oct., by Gen Hazen's troops.
- 1782--Lord Stirling, who was stationed here during the remainder of the war, established permanent quarters here for his troops.

Here is a list of **Revolutionary Monuments and markers** in Acquackanonk Landing to indicate part it played and how the events are being perpetuated:

Cenotaph for local soldiers and sailors of all wars (1)

Monument to Capt. John Post. Post's burial underneath with soldiers of Revolution and later wars, in a 75 ft. dia. circle (Post in center) (2)

Capt. Post's tombstone with bolt and shaft-bearing from old gristmill where he was born. (preserved by Passaic County Hist. Society) (3)

Burial marker of Henry Garritse, Washington's informer, member Provincial Congress and of first legislature. (by Claverack DAR) (4)

Monument for Washington's staying here. Contrib. by Passaic School Child (5)

Site of first church in county. Minister and church took active part in Rev. (6)

Tablet under tree, "Under parent of this tree Washington took command of American Army" (planted by Acquackanonk Landing DAR) (7)

Wall tablet indicating location of Acquackanonk Bridge and Blanchard House as Washington Headquarters (by Acquackanonk Landing DAR) (8)

Tablet listing "real" DAR's (daughters of Revolutionary soldiers) by Acquackanonk Landing DAR) (9)

Gregory Ave. street marker for Acquackanonk Bridge and Washington headquarters (by N. J. Commission of Historical Sites) (10)

Gregory Ave. marker for Acquackanonk Bridge where Washington was saved (by N.J. Tercentenary Commission) (11)

The following are unmarked sites of pre-Revolutionary structures now demolished some figuring in the Revolution:

Shipping docks at Acquackanonk. Landing through which furnace and forge munitions (cannons, balls), forest, farm, and mine products were shipped and received. Once largest shipping port of North Jersey before railroads (12)

First district school in county. In use nearly 200 years (13)

First store in county (14)
Actual location of Acquackanonk Bridge (markers are elsewhere) (15)

Actual location of Blanchard House (markers are elsewhere) (16)

Old cemetery and encampment grounds (oldest in county) (17)

There is also a stone tablet where Gen. Pershing reviewed and spoke to local World War veterans (18)

(Numerals pinpoint marker locations See map last page)

During the war inflation went rampant and prices skyrocketed. Things were almost beyond reach for many. For instance, a pair of shoes went to \$50 or more, a common cloak and hat cost \$1000, a silk handkerchief \$40, a man's hat \$400, green peas \$8 a peck, etc. Then, after the war was turning in our favor and we were having victories, and in spite of the depreciated currency, speculation ran riot and merry making seemed to have no bounds. At staid, old Acquackanonk dinner parties were held in the homes of John J. Vreeland, Henry Garritse, Christopher Steinmets, Henry Averson, and others. There was a lavish military ball at the Blanchard House in honor of Gen. Stirling, the original commander of the bridge guard, and to commemorate the third anniversary of the destruction of the bridge. No expense was spared as those in charge were farmers and merchants who were making money as never before.

For at least 20 years after the Revolution, Fourth of July parades were held on River Drive in Acquackanonk village, participated in by those who had been in the services. It was headed by John Parcel and Robert Walker, former express riders, William Conklin was drum-major, Jonathan H. Osborn and Henry Walter, drummers, and Abraham H. King and David Crane, fifers. Virtually the whole village and farmers for miles around would line up the route. After the parade all would assemble in front of the old church for songs and stimulating speeches by the pastor and others.

DISTRICT SCHOOL AND ACADEMIES-

As the early Dutch settlers were as careful about the secular as they were of the religious education of the young, in those days ministers also acted as schoolmasters, so that the history of the Old Dutch Reformed Church at Acquackanonk is also the history of the school. In 1693 the first law of the state was passed for establishing public schools. Thereafter the school was separated from the church and a new district school building was built near the church in 1694. Guiliam Bertholf, the church minister, became the first schoolmaster in the first school in Passaic County. The school district had a radius of over 5 miles and included part of Bergen County. This building was in continuous use until 1870, for nearly 200 years, somewhat of a record. One of the teachers was Dr. William Colfax, an uncle of Vice President Colfax and son of William Colfax, commander of Washington's Life-Guards during the Revo-

lution. He practiced medicine and taught school at the same time.

At one time the building had two stories with the Academy occupying the second floor. This was the birthplace and for years the home of Nassau Hall Academy, preparing boys for college, particularly a feeder for Princeton. Being a thriving town in the early days and with good means of transportation (boat, stage, and later one of the first railroads in New Jersey), there was an advantage of locating here the advanced seat of learning in the northern part of the state. Although Newark had an academy, the courses of studies did not include as many of the higher branches and languages as Nassau Hall Academy. Many young men preferred to come here on horseback as did those from north areas. Others farther away boarded here in boarding houses. For girls, there was the Young Ladies Academy at Prospect near Park Place.

In December 1802, members of the Association for the Promotion of Useful Literature decided to establish the Acquackanonk Academy. It was constructed on Prospect St., then part of old Kings Highway. It continued until 1876, but during the last score years it became the well known Young Ladies Seminary. In 1859, Dr. John M. Howe erected Howe's Academy for children of select families. Discontinued in 1870.

RAILROAD ERA — DECLINE OF ACQUACKANONK LANDING —

For nearly 150 years Acquackanonk Landing had been a peaceful community made up of farms, the finest in the state and owned by rich men, and commerce was prospering with stage and wagon traffic and river shipping. The natives did very little traveling. But things were soon to change with the railroad, and Acquackanonk looked good for railroad business. Although short-haul railroad business started here in the early 1830's, it was not until the Erie Railroad came in 1836 that shipping business suffered. The stagewagon and river commerce came to a standstill and Acquackanonk Landing business was stagnant until the Dundee Canal and Dundee Dam were built in 1859, a project of Hamilton's Society of Useful Manufactures (SUM). Industries were attracted by the water and water-power facilities; lush farms in the area soon gave way to a great variety

of manufacturing plants, eventually creating one of the most concentrated and diversified areas in the country. Among these were or still are the country's largest handkerchief, worsted, industrial rubber makers, and heavy-duty electric cables. The center of the community shifted from the river-front to up-hill to accommodate railroad transportation of freight and passengers. The Acquackanonk name was changed through the efforts of Alfred Speer to "Passaic" in 1854, and became incorporated as a city in 1866. Acquackanonk Landing lost its name and identity, but the Delawanna and Clifton areas continued as Acquackanonk Township.

About this time, there were two men who were helping develop Acquackanonk. One was Alfred Speer who had vineyards in surrounding areas and a large winery and warehouse at Landing near the bridge and made the best native wines and sherries in the country. The other was Charles M. K. Paulison, known as the Father of Passaic. He bought up land, laid out streets on the hill and changed Passaic from rural to urban. He built his "castle" on Anthony's Nose Hill but never lived to enjoy it.

Acquackanonk village was fortunate in successfully making the transition from a river-shipping economy to a formidable diversified industrial center. The extensive prosperous surrounding farm areas helped "keep an even keel". Acquackanonk has gone through all stages of economic development as mentioned previously and survived. Many other towns died on the vine or became ghost towns along rivers, canals, on bypassed turnpikes or abandoned railroads, or depleted mines or stripped forests, lacking inertia to change and progress.

To help bring Acquackanonk Landing into better perspective, it was:

- Largest shipping port in North Jersey.
- First bridge across Passaic River
- Outlet for Hamilton's "Paterson-made" products and for upstate farm, forest, and mine products, also for incoming materials, supplies.
- First church and cemetery, store, tavern in county. Cemetery area used as Revolutionary encampment for 7 years.
- First district school in county, in use nearly 200 years.
- All famous American officers during one year were across river from Acquackanonk
- Papermill owned by Saturday Evening Post family
- Had one of first railroads (at first Acquackanonk to Paterson)

Made country's best domestic wines. Washington selected Acquackanonk Landing as a safe place for his army on his retreat.

Acquackanonk Landing led the state in Revolutionary activities till end.

Was Washington's headquarters under Lord Stirling till end of war.

Was on main artery of travel south to north and east.

Was center of military operations for North Jersey and most strategic point in entire colony.

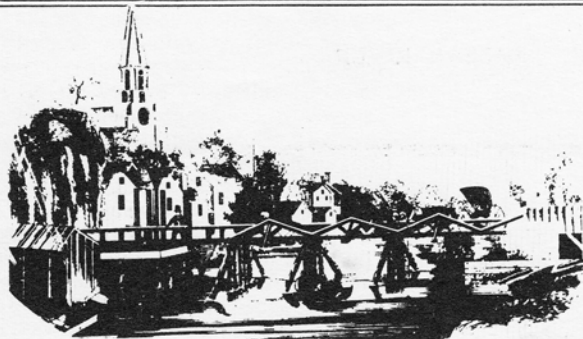
First white settler, first land purchase in county and upstate.

Part of this Acquackanonk area history was included in a history of Passaic which was entered in the Congressional Record by Congressman Charles S. Joelson January 17, 1967. At this writing the Passaic County Historical Society, spearheaded by Alfred P. Cappio, president and Capt. Andrew T. Derrom, vice president, is making an effort to have this Acquackanonk Landing area designated or dedicated as a national historic monument, although much of the old cemetery used as a Revolutionary encampment for seven years may be obliterated, unless quick action is taken, by Route 21 now under construction. There are few if any areas of similar size that have been so active in the Revolution or have so many historical markers and monuments.

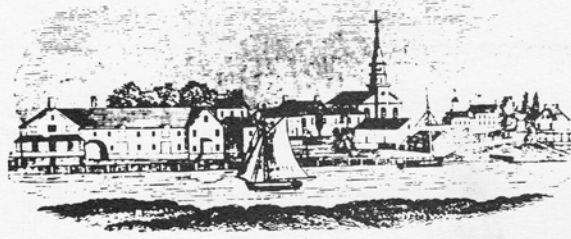
Some day monuments with tablets listing troops that passed over the bridge and encamped in the cemetery area would be informative and inspiring to future generations, and certainly in the event of dedicating Acquackanonk Landing as a national historic monument, symbolizing a veritable "birth of a nation". Acquackanonk Landing could or should occupy an important place in the Bicentennial Commemorative Celebration as it was the stronghold of the American Army and led the state in Revolutionary activities.

Much credit for the above is due the late William W. Scott who lived at a time when sons and grandsons and others in the Revolutionary period provided him with the first hand information and from original documents still in their possession. Much has been recorded for posterity in his History of Passaic and Its Environs. Also his father helped build the Dundee Dam and Canal which started Passaic's great industrial growth.

James J. De Mario
October 9, 1968



MID 1770'S
VILLAGE OF ACQUACKANONK
LOOKING ACROSS THE PASSAIC RIVER.



1844
VILLAGE OF ACQUACKANONK
LOOKING WEST ACROSS THE PASSAIC RIVER.

REVOLUTIONARY MONUMENTS & MARKERS IN ACQUACKANONK LANDING

See page 4 for descriptions

