

***Unlocked then Unoccupied:  
The Tappan (or Dutch) Reformed Church at Orange-Town***

*...that the sick should be immediately removed to **Orange-Town**, and barracks be prepared at Kingsbridge with all expedition to cover the troops. George Washington, September 8, 1776*

C. F. William Maurer

Tappan is a great place to visit and also to study the “War of American Independence.” There is Yoast Mabie's Inn important for the Orange Town Resolutions around the corner from brother Casparus Mabie's “old '76 House”<sup>i</sup> used as Maj. Andre's prison. Then there is Andre's Hill where a British officer recorded the appearance of the town as he passed through with the British during a successful foraging mission and also was the site where Andre was hanged two years later almost to the day, and then there is the De Wint House – the oldest homestead in Rockland County - where General Washington made his headquarters four times. All these are renown for their historical appearance and the very special events that took place. The most obvious building structure in the town, however, the Tappan Reformed Church, plays a very moving and important role in this history and is often overlooked. Overlooked is General Washington's sick and wounded troop movement to Tappan in 1776.

Two years before the Declaration of Independence was read in Philadelphia, here in Orange-Town, now Tappan, there was a carefully written letter to the King that stated that matters here are not going well and the residents are upset. No shots had been fired in battle yet. John Adams, much later in a letter to Thomas Jefferson, wrote: “What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the Revolution: it was only an effect and consequence of it. The Revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760 to 1775, in the course of fifteen years before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington.”<sup>ii</sup>

The Tappan Dutch Reformed Church's place in the history of the American Revolution has to begin before being viewed for George Washington's hopes, his use and his visits - before a shot is fired.

### **In the Beginning**

There are at least three facets of the period's war history to be examined to begin Orange-Town or Tappan's place in the war. First is the religious ardor, faith and the confusion of the Tappan Reformed Church members before this period. Next consideration is the geographical location of Tappan in relation to the events and happenings in New-York City and third, the needs of the military (and their wounded) and therefore, General Washington's desires for the troops.

When Mr. Adams wrote that the Revolution was in the minds of the people, and that this discontent began years before the war, he pointed out that complaints had been growing for years and then would be itemized by the signers of the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776. In Tappan's case, exactly two years before this historic signing, the local leadership would gather at Mabie's home and state that they *would ever wish to be true and loyal subjects to the King*, and then added a complaint about the duties imposed on them and one note about the closing of the port of Boston. This so soft demand is their “most ardent wish to” *see concord and harmony restored to England and their colonies*. The Orange-Town Resolution would then be signed by local leaders, Colonel Lent, John Haring, Thomas Outwater, Gardner Jones and Peter T. Haring as an attempt, as a plea, to solve the current problems of America and the town's folk two years before Independence would be proclaimed. These leaders of the community would take both sides of the political question during the period of the Revolution. The problems within the Dutch Reformed Church in Tappan's community also began several years earlier.

## Religious Zeal of the Tappan Church

The families in this area had roots going back almost a hundred years. This new generation's grandparents remembered the ideals and values of the old country but they were now living in a new land with new ways, new ideas. Throughout the community the strain that developed with their strong religious and political beliefs were personal and heartfelt and were to become as basic as their Sunday worship. Dissension within the Dutch Reformed Church was illustrated in Tappan as a division between the very conservative forces, favoring the administrative control of each "parish," along with the belief that the training of clergy, the choice of the pastors, and the language of worship should all be directed by the church in Amsterdam and that preaching should be in the language of the homeland, hence in Dutch. These feelings will be evident in many of the families remaining loyal to the King. The liberal families wanted the right to train and ordain their ministers here in America, adopt English as the language for the service and set up their own administration. These families seemed to stomp over to the American side.

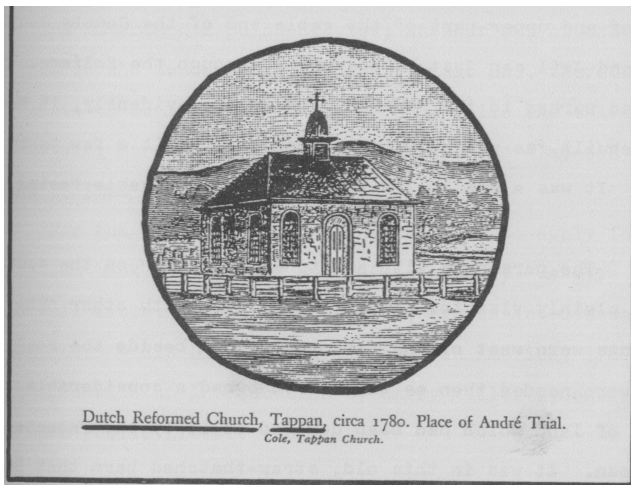
By 1727 this old school following of the Holland Church had run head on into the independent American group. Ten years later a number of ministers submitted a set of "Fundamental Articles" for an "American Assembly" to be known as "Coetus" and sent it to Holland to be adapted by the Classis of Amsterdam. As time passed some of the early backers of the Coetus now began to withdraw their support and the two distinct groups emerged again. By 1771 both bodies again continued with their separate "churches." A new pastor – Domine Verbryck – was chosen by the Coetus section to succeed the Classis's choice, the Reverend Frederick Muzelius, at Tappan in 1749. A year later Reverend Verbryck was called to divide his hours with a new church in New Hempstead, NY or today's Clarkstown. For the next eighty-one years Verbryck and his successor, Reverend Lansing, shared services in the two churches. Verbryck, though gave two-thirds of the Sabbath services to Tappan, administered communion in each church three times a year, and visited each of the congregation once a year going from house to house with an elder. The church building was vacant and probably left unlocked. In 1761, the old school members refused to pay the Dominie's salary and began attending other Dutch Reformed churches in the area where the Dominies were conservative or worshipped at home. Seceding members of the Tappan Reformed Church established their own "Schismatic" Church. <sup>iii</sup> This "Irregular" Church at Tappan, as it was called, remained until 1779, almost to the end of the Revolution. Many members of the conservative "Irregular" Church at Tappan were British supporters, or at least sympathizers. <sup>iv</sup> Domine Muzelius had served at Tappan church from 1727 and continued to live in town until his death in 1782, and the split remained.

When the congregation was founded in 1694, the original place of worship was within a log cabin. The first Church built in 1716 was pictured by British officer Archibald Robertson in his 1778 painting and was thought to be rectangle, with a hipped roof and no gables. The building was wider in the east and west than in the north and south giving the roof a short ridge. A slender steeple included a belfry with a circular window on each of its four sides with a slim spire ending in, probably, a rooster finial. A postage stamp size rendering of the church's seal shows this first Church. A remarkably similar church was replicated in 1978 in New Paltz, NY. According to staff at the site, that church could accommodate some 45 members and is approximately 28' X 30'.

Dr. David Cole in 1891 writing about the building of the new church of 1836 in his work *History of the Reformed Church of Tappan, New York* told of the tearing down of the original 1716 church. He writes: *The strong stone walls, not less than two feet in thickness, were pulled down with chains to which several yokes of oxen were attached. Under the middle aisle of the structure was a vault so old that even Domine Lansing had never been able to find out its history. It must, of course, have been under the old church of 1716, and lost to recognition even during the period.* He continues: *That the original one, (the church's graveyard) probably laid out at the building of the first church in 1716 or even at the organization of the congregation in 1694, was, as to the limits, the very enclosure used for the graves in the rear of this house now...There is a tradition, in regard to which I think that no one now knows it as more than a tradition, that a hundred soldiers were rudely "buried in a heap" in its northeast corner during the Revolution...It holds a secret never to be solved till the end of time.* <sup>v</sup> The way that the numbers figure, this "tradition" may be the sick and wounded brought to the TRC by Washington in September 1776. By leaving the building "unlocked" and "unoccupied," it certainly was useful in this time of emergency.



*View of Tappan, or Orange-Town taken 28 Sept. 1778 and finished 15 June 1780 on board the "Littledale" transport on the passage from Charles Town to New-York by Archibald Robertson. New York Public Library*



Dutch Reformed Church, Tappan, circa 1780. Place of André Trial.  
*Cole, Tappan Church.*

**(Tappan) Dutch Reformed Church, Tappan, NY – 1716<sup>vi</sup>**



**The Huguenot (Restored in 1978) Church – 1716  
New Paltz, NY**

## Location, Location, Location

The day before the Declaration of Independence was signed, the British Navy landed 30,000 troops on Staten Island and the war of the American Revolution now had arrived in New York. For the rest of the summer the British soldiers made quick landings in Brooklyn, then on Manhattan Island, fighting their way northward and sending troops towards the Bronx and Long Island.

However, General Howe was slow to press his advantage and allowed the rebel army to regroup in Harlem Heights. Their ranks were seriously depleted by desertions and dysentery and as seasons changed there were known to be insufficient tents, shoes and blankets.



### *North Jersey Highlands and New York State (1777)*

by Robert Erskine. The map shows the location of Tappan, Sparkill Creek, the ferry and the Philips' vast holdings

General Washington wrote to the Continental Congress on September 8 (1776) that;

*The case of our sick is also worthy of much consideration, their numbers by the returns form at least one-fourth of the army: policy and humanity require they should be made as comfortable as possible.*

*It was concluded to arrange the Army under three Divisions, 5000 to remain for the defense of the City, 9000 to remove to Kingsbridge, as well to Possess and secure those Posts, as to be ready to Attack the Enemy, who are moving Eastward on long Island, if they should attempt to land on this side; The remainder to occupy the intermediate space and support either, that the sick should be immediately removed to Orange Town--and Barracks prepared at Kingsbridge with all expedition, to cover the Troops...<sup>vii</sup>*

At the time, of about 28,000 men, 4,433 were listed as "present sick," 3,433 as "absent sick."

This same day Washington wrote to the New York Convention,

*It being determined to move our sick to Orange Town, we shall want four large Albany sloops for that purpose. The fatigue of traveling that distance by land would not only be more than patients could bear.<sup>viii</sup>*

Why to Orange-Town? Washington may have had in mind that Dutch Reformed Churches were traditionally built on waterways and, as he felt, this would be less stressful for the wounded going by boat than a trip by wagon on land. The Orange-Town or Tappan Reformed Church was built on the shore of the Sparkill Creek, easily accessible from two entrances on the Hudson River. Its location was also close enough to crossings connecting with the east bank, at Dobb's Ferry or Sneden's Landing.

The next day in a note, General James Clinton was instructed by General Washington:

"Head-Quarters, New-York, September 9, 1776.

"SIR: I wrote you this morning by your express, but omitted mentioning a matter of consequence. It being determined to remove our sick to *Orange-Town*, we shall want four large *Albany* sloops for that purpose. The fatigue of traveling that distance by land would not only be more than the patients could bear, but we have full employ for our wagons in transporting baggage, tents, &c., for the troops, from hence to our outposts. I must, therefore, beg the favor of your honorable body to procure the above number of vessels, and send them down with as much dispatch as possible to this city.

"I am, with respect, sir, your most obedient servant, "GO. WASHINGTON.

"To *Abraham Yates*, Jun., Esq., President of Convention of *New-York*.

"P. S. I shall be glad to know, by return of the express, when I may probably expect the sloops down. There are several now on the lower parts of the river, with boards: perhaps you might engage them to come this way, which would save time."

*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General James Clinton be requested to send a careful officer, in a whale-boat well manned, down Hudson's River, to impress four large river Sloops, to go to New-York for the Sick, agreeable to the request of his Excellency General Washington, and that a press warrant issue for that purpose. And lest such four Sloops should not be large enough for the purpose, Resolved, that two other Sloops be impressed at Fish-kill landing and dispatched for the same purpose. <sup>ix</sup>

These sloops were large boats that were used to carry both passengers and freight up and down the Hudson River. The sloops were adapted from those used in Holland. <sup>x</sup> Upon arrival in Orange-Town, the sloops would unload their cargo of wounded soldiers at the church. Next to the Church, in the village green, were the Court House and Jail. Budhke wrote in the "Journal News," October 11, 1941 that the Court House and Jail could be "discerned" in Robertson's painting and even though the Courthouse and Jail *had been burned down in 1773*,

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evidently, it had been rebuilt as prisoners were consigned to it a few years later.<sup>xi</sup> The plan for the hospital may have included these two buildings too. Volunteers and soldiers were to be used to bring the wounded from the sloops up the slight hill to the Church, maybe also to the courthouse and jail and later, hopefully, volunteers would help with the care and treatment.

## Command and Control

Due east, across the Hudson River from Tappan, was the vast property held by Frederick Philipse III, Lord of the Manor of Philipsburg. When the troop movements began in the area, Lord Philip and his family left the estate and headed for New York City. Later in the year – November 28, 1776 – Loyalists created their own “declaration” - the Declaration of Dependence – and according to the New York Historical Society, some 547 New York City Loyalists signed an oath of fidelity to the King. Lord Philipse was among them. Lord Philipse and his family soon left New York City for England and he died there in 1786.<sup>xii</sup>

Colonel Daniel Hitchcock's regiment, the 11<sup>th</sup> Continental Infantry from Rhode Island, was in the area. This regiment was raised in May, 1775, in the county of Providence, R. I., as the 2nd regiment of the Army of Observation of Rhode Island, which was formed into one brigade under Brigadier General Nathaniel Greene, consisting of three infantry regiments and a train of artillery. Over one thousand men of this Army - in the same formation - joined the American Army before Boston in 1775, as the Rhode Island quota for the call of Massachusetts for men from the rest of the New England colonies. The regiment was now commanded by Colonel Hitchcock and was known as the 11th Continental Infantry.

Colonel Hitchcock and Captain Silas Talbot were probably both involved in the HMS Gaspee Affair – a plan that ran aground this British Ship, looted and then burned it. The plan was certainly the work of the Sons of Liberty and the American participants were easily recognized.

Col. Hitchcock died on 13 January 1777, and with the reorganization of the Continental Army on January 1, 1777, the unit became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island.<sup>xiii</sup>

*On a Return of Colonel Hitchcock's Regiment, encamped at Philip's Borough, dated November 1, 1776, serving across the Hudson River from Orange Town on the property of Philipsburg Manor, the 11<sup>th</sup> Continental Regiment, listed at the end of the “morning report,” are listed individual officers and their assigned duties or whereabouts. Lieutenant John Armstrong who joined the regiment as an Ensign the first of the year, had just been promoted to second lieutenant - on August 10, 1776 - and was now chosen for his first duty away from the unit, being on “command” in taking care of the sick at Orange-Town.*

*August 27. — Lieutenant John Blunt (18 May 1804) taken prisoner on Long-Island.*

*August 27. — Lieut. Thomas Hughes (Hughes) (10 December 1821) wounded, and in the Hospital.*

*September 14. — Captain Ephraim Bowen appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General.*

*September 14. — Captain Silas Talbot (30 June 1813) burnt on board the fire-ship.*

*September 14. — **Lieutenant (John) Armstrong on command in taking care of the sick at Orange-Town.** Captain Jere. (Jeremiah) Olney (died 10 November 1812) and Captain John Spurr (died 1 November 1822) sick, in quarters.*

*September 28. — Lieutenant Mills on command with the carpenters, in the Jerseys.*

*September 30. — **Ensign (Holliman) Potter ( ---- ) and Ensign (Elphalet) Foster (served out the year) sick, in Hospital.***

*October 1. — Lieutenant-Colonel Ezekiel Cornell appointed Deputy Adjutant-General.*

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October 3. — **Captain Francis Symonds (served out the year) sick, in Hospital.**  
October 21. — **Lieutenant (James) King (---) sick, in Hospital.**  
October 25. — **Lieutenant (John) Wyman (---) sick, in Hospital.**  
October 26. — Ensign *West* on command, in the Ranging service.  
October 29. — *William Bradford*, Esquire, Adjutant, appointed Aide-de-Camp to General *Lee*.  
October 29. — Ensign *Richard Hunnewell* (8 May 1823) sick, in the country. <sup>xiv xv xvi</sup>

(See endnotes for a further explanation. A full copy of this return is at the end of the text. )

Suggest that Captain Symonds, Lieutenants King and Wyman, and Ensigns Potter and Foster died at Tappan.

Checking other unit returns shows possibly more sick sent to the hospital. The *Return of officers that are absent in Colonel Smith's Regiment*, dated October 5, 1776, <sup>xvii</sup> has an entry that may possibly refer to Tappan or to Hackensack. Because of Heitman's listing similarity to Col. Hitchcock's Regiment portions of the return are listed below:

*Sick over King's Bridge (Kingsbridge) (on the east side of the Hudson River)*  
*Captain Aaron Rowley, First Lieutenant Ebenezer Bennet, and Ensign John Stocking.*

Two of these sick are listed individually in Heitman's, *The Historical Register of Officers*, as:

Rowley, Aaron (Mass), 1st Lieutenant of Woodbridge's Massachusetts Regiment, May to December, 1775; served subsequently as Major Vermont Militia, and was wounded at Johnstown, 24 October, 1781. Died 1799.

Bennet, Ebenezer (Mass), Adjutant of Fellow's Massachusetts Regiment, May to December, 1775; served subsequently as an officer of Massachusetts Militia.

The third, Stocking, John, is not listed at all.

**The next entry reads *Sick on the Jersey side: (Maybe Tappan or even Hackensack?)***  
***First Lieutenant Ebenezer Cook, First Lieutenant Salmon Godfrey, Second Lieutenant Benjamin Wilson, Second Lieutenant Ebenezer Colburn, Ensign Elijah Browner, and First Mate Jones Prescott.***

None of these sick officers, *on the Jersey side*, are listed in Heitman's *Register*.

Another officer, Ensign Nathan Blake, was found on the return of Colonel Varnum's unit (10/05/1776) with the note *Sick in Orange County* <sup>xviii</sup> and he was listed in Heitman's *Register* as:

**Blake, Nathan** (Mass), Ensign 13<sup>th</sup> Continental Infantry, 1 January to 31 December 1776.

## **No Room in Tappan**

The hospital system was severely lacking. Dr. John Morgan was the Director-General and the Physician-in-Chief of the American Hospitals. When the British left Boston in April, Dr. Morgan now had some trained hospital units. He was ordered to transfer to New York and this created new supply problems. Medical supplies, of course, were almost unavailable. Dr. Morgan began to successfully collect large numbers of blankets, rugs, bed sacks, and pillows and medicines when he came to New York City and established his hospital. With the

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evacuation of New York City he projected moving the hospitals to two locations on either side of the Hudson River, in New Jersey and Westchester.<sup>xix</sup> His Excellency then picked Orange-Town (Tappan) for the four sloops to deliver the cargo of sick and wounded.

Tappan had become and would continue to be a “crossroads” for the movement of troops during the war. The Americans had fortifications on the Hudson but also relied on the natural landscape to delay the enemy. The hills, mountains and the Palisades provided fortifications along the river. Fort Montgomery and West Point aided in blocking approaches from the river to the west. The invasion routes blocked by the Americans were at the upper Hudson Valley thereby keeping or channeling the enemy into Bergen and Rockland counties. The military entrance to New Jersey, if arriving by ship from the Hudson was at Kings Ferry. It connected Verplanck’s Point on the east side of the Hudson with Stony Point on the Jersey side. Since the British controlled New York City, Kings Ferry was the southernmost crossing point for American personnel and supplies for a great part of the war.

It was also a very important communication line between the north and the south. This approach was called the “Upper Road” to distinguish it from the Clarkstown and Tappan route to Dobb's Ferry. Later, in September 1778, having thoroughly stripped Tappan following the massacre of the Third Dragoons, the British soldiers returned to their camp below Schraalenburgh in two columns, one on the Closter Road and the other on the Schralenburg Road, while the 71st Rangers and Emerick's division took the Lower Road and recrossed the Hudson at Dobb's Ferry and headed back to New York City.<sup>xx xxi</sup> Those American wounded were now prisoners and would be taken to the Dutch Reformed Church in Tappan. Traveling with the British Army was Major Archibald Robertson who would begin his drawing of the town of, as he spelled it, “Tapen,” from the hilltop where, two years later, Major John Andre would be held in Mabie's tavern, tried in the Church and hanged on the hill.

But when Dr. Morgan arrived from New York City to find a suitable and lasting site in Orange-Town as directed by General Washington or even a hospital on the New Jersey side of the Hudson, he was disappointed; his findings were reported on September 12 to the His Excellency:

*Agreeable to Orders I have been into the County of Orange & collected seven members of Committee, & spent the whole of Yesterday & part of this day in viewing the Country, & looking for proper Coverings for the reception of the Sick and Wounded, I am sorry to report that in a circuit of 14 miles in that County, **I cannot find or hear of any suitable accommodations, for more than about 100 Sick.** No Country can be worse provided in all respects; & the places proposed are remote from any Landing.*

*From the knowledge I have of New-Ark, I am persuaded it is a place infinitely superior in all respects for the establishment of a Genl Hospital. There are but 4 miles of Land Carriage required; all the rest is Water Carriage. The Houses are numerous large & Convenient. If it be objected that they are full of Inhabitants from N.York, so is every Hovel thro' Orange County; & as to the Town of Orange, I cannot find that there is a room for One sick person without incommoding Some One or other.*

*After this report, which is grounded on most careful Inquiry and Inspection, I wait your Excellency's further orders, but if I may be permitted to offer my Sentiments it is, that no time be lost in applying to the Committee at New-Ark by requisition for Room for the Sick; & if your Excellency thinks proper, I will immediately repair with all dispatch to urge the Matter without delay—or proceed in any other Way your Excellency may see fit. I am, Yr Excellency's Most obedt & very humble Servt. John Morgan<sup>xxii</sup>*

Similarly, Judge John Haring, one of the leading Patriots in Orange-Town (a signer of the Orange-Town Resolutions) accompanied Morgan on his brief survey, and then reported to General George Clinton that no place could be found “without turning a number of distressed persons out of doors. Almost every house is filled and crowded with people who fled out of the city . . . Every hovel in Orange County is full of inhabitants from

New York.”<sup>xxiii</sup> Among them were the family of General John Morin Scott who described his wife’s plight in a letter to his commanding officer General Heath<sup>xxiv</sup>:

*I have accounts of Mrs. Scott, of her being at Tappan with her whole family in one room. She is overwhelmed with distress, and continually in tears, not knowing how to dispose of all that are dear to her except myself. She cannot be comforted till she sees me and receives my direction for her future disposal.*<sup>xxv</sup>

Some of the sick and wounded were shipped directly to Newark as Morgan had suggested and on September 15, a newspaper account from Paulus-Hook (now Jersey City) reported, *Last night the sick were ordered to Newark, in the Jerseys, but most of them could be got no further than this place and Hoebuck, and as there is but one house at each of these places many were obliged to lie in the open air till this morning.*<sup>xxvi</sup>

On September 16 the British attacked Harlem Heights and were repelled with each side suffering about seventy killed. Dr. Morgan helped caring for the wounded and hurried back and forth until, when Redcoats arrived, he was forced to flee. Wagons and boats were in short supply and the appearance of three British Ships of War impeded further ferrying across the Hudson River. Yet by September 21, General Washington still was proposing *those too sick to fight be immediately removed to Orange- Town . . . on the Jersey side.*

Then to add to the new and growing population of Tappan and Orange County, came the report of a fire (9/26/1776) consuming a quarter of New York City. A British letter from Harlem dated September 26, 1776 is interesting:

*Friday last was discovered a vast cloud of smoke arising from the north part of the city, which continued till Saturday evening, The consequence was the the Broadway, from the new City-Hall down to Whitehall, is laid in ashes. Our friends were immediately suspected, and according to the report of a flag of truce who came to our lines soon after, those that were found on or near the spot were pitched into the conflagration, some hanged by the heels, and others by their necks, with their throats cut. Inhuman barbarity! One Hale in New-York, on suspicion of being a spy, was taken up and dragged without ceremony to the execution post, and hung up (September 22). General Washington has since sent in a flag supposed to be on that account.*<sup>xxvii</sup>

On the “morning reports” dated 5 October 1776 the hospital at the Dutch Church in Tappan is probably being used to capacity and has the wounded and sick still being treated. Some die and are buried. The town is packed with visitors and there is no more room for any more in homes or the hospital. The wounded from Harlem Heights went directly by boat across to New Jersey. The Tappan hospital was in action until the last soldier was cured and was returned to his unit, or had died.

By the fall of the year – November 16, 1776 – Fort Washington was captured and General Washington had watched from Fort Lee as the British flag was raised. This action gave the British complete control of New York City and a large percentage of the suburbs. Less than two weeks later the Medical Department appointed and divided the responsibility for the care of the wounded between their two Medical chiefs, Doctors Shippen and Dr. Morgan. On November 28, 1776, *The Medical Committee, to whom Dr. Shippen's letter was referred, brought in a report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon, Resolved, That Dr. Morgan take care of such sick and wounded of the army of the United States, as are on the east side of Hudson's river, and that Dr. Shippen take care of such of the said sick and wounded as are on the west side of Hudson's river; and that they both be directed to use the utmost diligence in superintending the surgeons and mates of the army, so that the sick and wounded may be effectually provided with everything necessary for their recovery.*<sup>xxviii</sup>

But some of those in the hospital at the Tappan Reformed Church didn't recover and were probably hastily buried, and as Dr. Cole wrote, *“There is a tradition, in regard to which I think that no one now knows it as more than a tradition, that a hundred soldiers were rudely “buried in a heap” in its northeast corner during the Revolution.”*

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[Return of Colonel Hitchcock's Regiment, encamped at Philip's Borough. \[1776-11-01\] \[S5-V3-p0505\] \[Document Details\]\[Complete Volume\]](#)

## Return of Colonel Hitchcock' s Regiment, encamped at Philip' s Borough

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*Return of Colonel HITCHCOCK' S Regiment, encamped at PHILLIPS' S Boroug*

COMPANIES.	Commissioned Officers.							Staff Officers.					Non-Com' d Officers.					
	Colonel.	Lieut. Colonel.	Major.	Captains.	First	Second Lieutenant.	Ensigns.	Chaplain.	Adjutant.	Quartermaster.	Surgeon.	Mate.	Sergeants.	Drums.	Fifes.	Fit for duty.	Sick in Camp.	Sick hos
Captain Jere Olney	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	13	2	10
Captain William Tew	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	7	11
Captain Stephen Kimboll	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	20	-	18
Captain Francis Symonds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	24	-	8
Captain Silas Talbot	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5	3	12
Captain Cog' l Olney	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	13	6	27
Captain Ephraim Bowen	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	15
Captain John Spurr	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	16	3	17
Total	1	-	1	3	5	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	8	5	5	109	22	118

1776, October 1. — Lieutenant-Colonel Ezekiel Cornell appointed Deputy Adjutant-General.

September 14. — Captain Ephraim Bowen appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General.

October 3. — Captain Francis Symonds sick, in Hospital.

September 14. — Captain Silas Talbot burnt on board the fire-ship.

Captain Jere Olney and Captain John Spurr sick, in quarters.

September 28. — Lieutenant Mills on command with the carpenters, in the Jerseys.

August 27. — Lieutenant John Blunt taken prisoner on Long-Island.

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1776, August 27. — Lieut. Thomas Hughs wounded, and in the Hospital.

October 29. — William Bradford, Esquire, Adjutant, appointed Aid-de-Camp to General Lee.

October 25. — Lieutenant Wyman sick, in Hospital.

October 21. — Lieutenant King sick, in Hospital.

September 14. — Lieutenant Armstrong on command in taking care of the sick at Orange-Town.

September 30. — Ensign Potter and Ensign Foster sick, in Hospital.

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October 26. — Ensign West on command, in the Ranging service.

DANIEL HITCHCOCK, Colonel.

[Return of Colonel Hitchcock's Regiment, encamped at Philip's Borough. \[1776-11-01\] \[S5-V3-p0505\] \[Document Details\]\[Complete Volume\]](#)

- i - 76 House, Tappan, NY: Was It A Tavern in the Eighteen Century, and When Was It Built, Firth Haring Fabend.  
http://www.dutchdoorgenealogy.com/76\_house\_new\_info.pdf
- ii - *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, (August 24, 1815), Bernard Bailyn, Harvard University Press, 1992. page 1.
- iii *The Irregular Dutch Reformed Church of Tappan and Kakiat, Rockland County, New York* by Howard I Duyrie and George Olin Zabriskie, N.Y. V. 101, #2, April 1970.
- iv The *Quackenbush Family in America* by Gail Richard Quackenbush, Henington Pub, Texas, 1987.
- v *Ibid.*, p. 96
- vi Cole, Rev. David, *History of the Reformed Church of Tappan, N.Y.*, New York, Stettiner, Lambert & Company, 1894
- vii *Letter from General Washington, September 8, Four large sloops to be impressed to go to New-York for the sick.* American Archives Series 5, Volume 2, Page 0675
- viii *Ibid.*, v. 2, Page 0675
- ix American Archives Series 5, *Warrant for impressing two sloops*, Page v2:676
- x Blazi Interligi, HRVI, Spring Intern 2009, Research Paper 1:” Hudson River Sloops, pages 1, 2.
- xi *Rockland Country During the American Revolution, 1776-1781*, p. 55. George H. Budke
- xii *New York Loyalist Declaration of Dependence*, New-York Historical Society Library, object MSS.Y1776.
- xiii *Uniforms of the Armies in the War of the American Revolution, 1775-1783*, Charles M. Lefferts: New-York Historical Society Library
- xiv *American Archives: Documents of the American Revolution 1774 – 1776* page v3:505. The assignments were arranged by date.
- xv *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution, April, 1775, to December, 1783* by Francis B. Heitman. Reprint of the “New, Revised, and Enlarged Edition of 1914” with Addenda by Robert H. Kelby, 1932. Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc. Baltimore, 1973

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xvi First names were added by me from the *Historical Record of the Officers of the Continental Army*, in the parenthesis if missing on a “Return’s” record. I also added the dates of the recorded death of the officer from “Heitman’s.” The dashes (---) reflect an unknown death date or not listed. Added is the (served out the year) comment that means the officers' last recorded assignment in these official government records was between “1 January, 1776, or “served to ---”, an unknown date. I feel that these men died, along with many other soldiers at the hospital.

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- xvii American Archives, page v2:904.
- xviii *Ibid.*, p. v2-p1061
- xix U. S. Army Medical Department, Office of Medical History: Surgeon General. [history.amed.army.mil/surgeongenerals/J\\_Morgan.html](http://history.amed.army.mil/surgeongenerals/J_Morgan.html)
- xx *The Revolutionary War in Bergen County*, p. 177, Adrian C. Leiby
- xxi *Jersey Gazette 10/7/78: ...Colonel Baylor, Major Clough, and Doctor Evans, were dangerously wounded, taken prisoners, and left on parole; the Major, we hear, has since died of his wounds; 20 others were killed on the spot, the like number left for dead, and near 30 wounded and taken off by the enemy.* A later report from Captain Stith documented 33 taken off by the enemy and carried to Tappan. *Dragoon Diary*.
- xxii *Letter from Dr. Morgan to General Washington: In a circuit of fourteen miles in the County of Orange, he cannot find or hear of any suitable accommodations for more than about one hundred sick*, American Archives Series 5, Volume 2, v2:301 American Archives Series 5, Volume 2,
- xxiii *Meandering in New Jersey's Medical History - Chapter 2 – Hackensack's First Hospital, October-November 1776.* by Dr. Michael Nevins, This work gave me the idea for this paper and tied in with my previous research. Nevin's fine research from a medical point of view was certainly most helpful from one based on history alone. Thank you, Dr. Nevins. Page 9 - 10
- xxiv *History of the St Andrew's Society of the State of New York, 1756-1906*, George Austin Morrison, Jr. New York: 1906, Biographies: John Morin Scott: Third President 1758-1759, p. 45.  
During the Revolutionary War, John Morin Scott was a member of the New York Provincial Congress and served at the same time as a Brigadier General under General Washington in the New York and New Jersey campaign. He commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> NY (Independent) Battalion, the 2<sup>nd</sup> New York (County) Battalion and several NY militia regiments. He was with Putnam at the Battle of Brooklyn on August 27<sup>th</sup> and was the last of Washington's generals to argue against surrendering Manhattan to the British. One reason may have been his large landholdings in Manhattan where today's Times Square and the Theater District is located. On September 16, 1776 he led his troops at the Battle of Harlem Heights and was wounded at White Plains on 28 October 1776. He took an active part in the campaign around New York, but retired on the 1st March, 1777, at the expiration of his commission.
- xxv *Ibid.*, p. 11
- xxvi *Ibid.*, p. 11
- xxvii “An Extract from a letter from Harlem,” dated September 28, 1776, *The Jumel Mansion: being a full history of the house on Harlem heights built ...*, p. 55, William Henry Shelton, Houghton Miffland Company, 1916
- xxviii *The Medical Depart of the United States Army during the period of the Revolution*, William Otway Owen, page 4.