

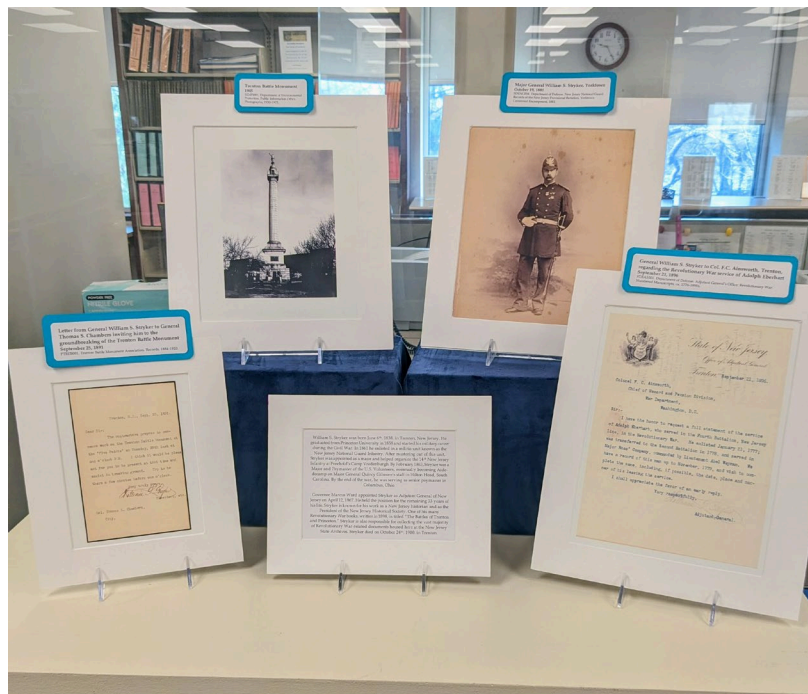
New Jersey State Archives Mini Exhibits

General William S. Stryker

January 2026

William S. Stryker was born June 6th, 1838, in Trenton, NJ. He graduated from Princeton University in 1858 and started his military career during the Civil War. In 1861, he enlisted in Company A of the New Jersey National Guard Infantry. After mustering out, Stryker was appointed as a major and assisted in organizing the 14th New Jersey Infantry in Freehold's Camp Vredenburg. By February 1863, he was serving as a Major and Paymaster of the U.S. Volunteers, and later became Aide-de-Camp on Major General Quincy Gilmore's staff in Hilton Head, South Carolina. By the end of the war, he was serving as senior paymaster in Columbus, Ohio.

Governor Marcus Ward appointed Stryker Adjutant General of New Jersey on April 12, 1867 – a role he held for the remaining 33 years of his life. Stryker is well known for his work as a historian of New Jersey and as the president of the New Jersey Historical Society. His publications on the Revolutionary War include a book entitled *The Battles of Trenton and Princeton* (1898). Stryker is also responsible for collecting the vast majority of Revolutionary War related documents housed here at the New Jersey State Archives. Stryker died on October 24th, 1900, in Trenton.





Major General William S. Stryker, Yorktown, October 19, 1881

SDENG004. Department of Defense. New Jersey National Guard. Records of the New Jersey Provisional Battalion, Yorktown Centennial Encampment, 1881.



State of New Jersey.

Office of Adjutant General.

Trenton. September 21, 1896.

Colonel F. C. Ainsworth,
Chief of Record and Pension Division,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to request a full statement of the service of Adolph Eberhart, who served in the Fourth Battalion, New Jersey Line, in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted January 21, 1777; was transferred to the Second Battalion in 1778, and served in Major Ross' Company, commanded by Lieutenant Abel Weyman. We have a record of this man up to November, 1779, and wish to complete the same, including, if possible, the date, place and manner of his leaving the service.

I shall appreciate the favor of an early reply.

Very respectfully,

William S. Stryker
Adjutant-General.

General William S. Stryker to Col. F.C. Ainsworth, Trenton, regarding the Revolutionary War service of Adolph Eberhart, September 21, 1896

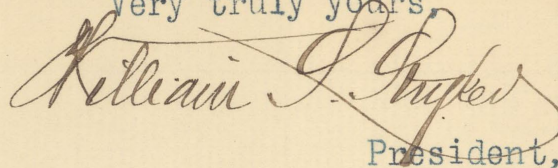
SDEA1001. Department of Defense. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Numbered Manuscripts, ca. 1776-1890s.

Trenton, N.J., Sept. 25, 1891.

Dear Sir:

The contractors propose to commence work on the Trenton Battle Monument at the "Five Points" on Tuesday, 29th inst at one o'clock P.M. I think it would be pleasant for you to be present at that time and assist in breaking ground. Try to be there a few minutes before one o'clock.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William S. Stryker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "President, etc.".

President, etc.

Col. Thomas S. Chambers,
City.

Letter from General William S. Stryker to General Thomas S. Chambers inviting him to the groundbreaking of the Trenton Battle Monument, September 25, 1891
PTREB001. Trenton Battle Monument Association. Records, 1884-1920.



Trenton Battle Monument, 1945

SENPI001. Department of Environmental Protection. Public Information Office. Photographs, 1930-1975.