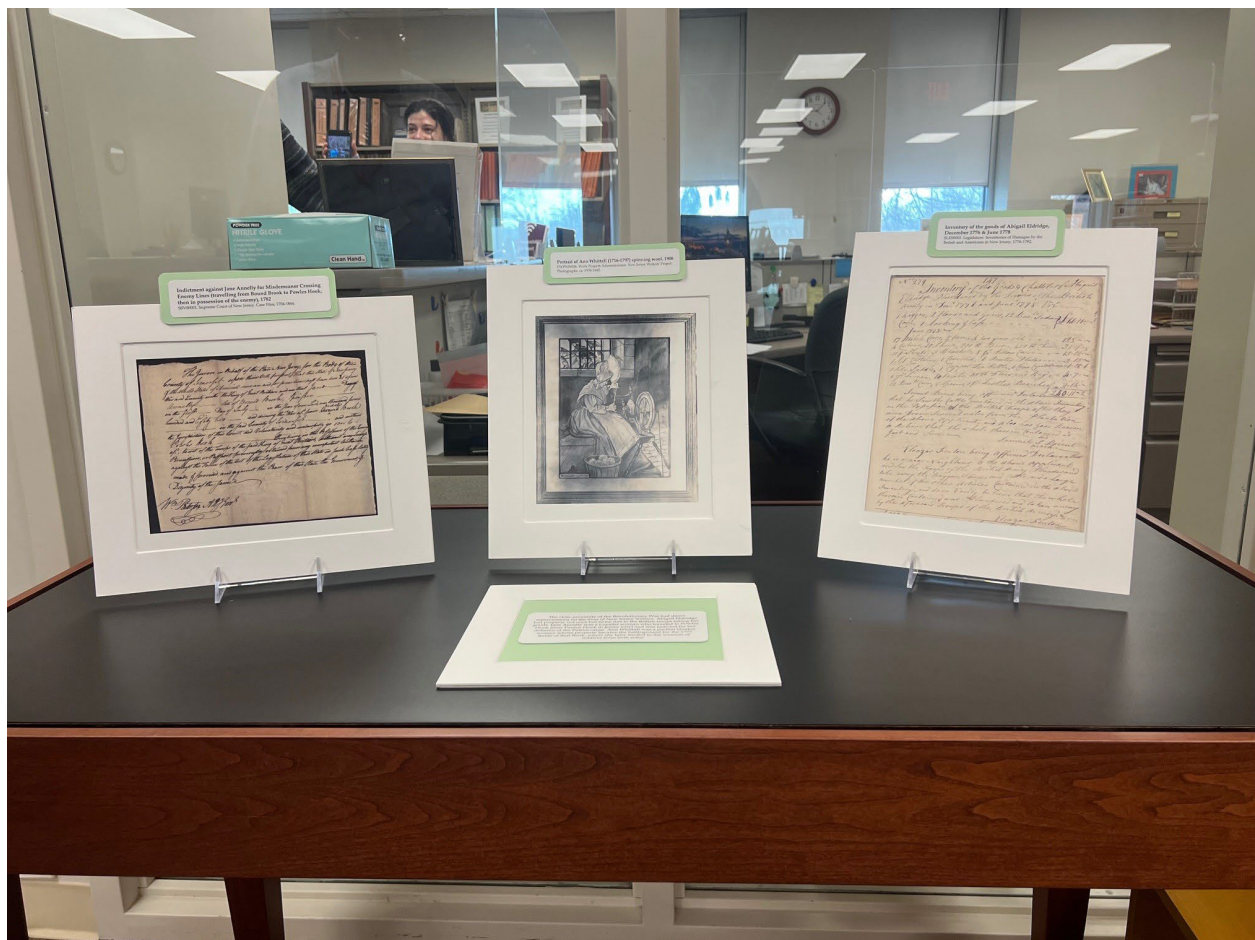


New Jersey State Archives Mini Exhibits

Women's Roles in the Revolution

March 2026

The Revolutionary War had direct repercussions on the lives of New Jersey women. Abigail Eldridge had property seized not once but twice by British troops. Jane Annelly, a Loyalist, traveled to Powles Hook (now part of Jersey City) and was indicted for openly defying the Patriot cause. Ann Whittall, a pacifist Quaker, witnessed her land become the battleground for the 1777 Battle of Red Bank, after which she tended to the wounds of soldiers from both sides.





Portrait of Ann Whittall spinning wool, 1906

FWPNW026. Work Projects Administration. New Jersey Writers' Project. Photographs, ca. 1935-1942.

N^o 279 ¹⁴⁷
 Inventory of the Goods & Chattels of Abigail
 Eldridge Plundered by the Troops of the British
 Army in Dec^r 1776 and June 1778. Viz.
 1 Waggon, 2 Horses and gears, 12 Bus.^{ls} Indian Corn, 1 Looking Glass. ----- \$16:11.
 June 1778. -----
 17 Milch Cows, 2 Oxen, 4 two years old ----- 128.
 4 Calves, 20 Sheep, 200 lb Bacon, 450 lb Cheese 31:10:8
 10 p^{ts} Sheets, 3 Blankets, 8 p^{ts} Pillow Cases ----- 15:12.
 1 Set Curtains, 1 Coverlid, 6 Pewter Plates ----- 5:13.
 1 Side Saddle, 1 Copper Tea Kettle, 6 China Cups & Saucers 12:6
 6 yd^s Linen, 60 Yards, 25 lb Flour and Bag ----- 4:7.
 12 Bus.^{ls} Corn, 8 Spoons, 1 p^{ts} Leather Breaches ----- 2:11.
 ----- 240:11:2
 Samuel Briant being affirmed Declares
 that he saw the Cattle mentioned in the above Inventory
 in the Possession of the British Troops, after they
 were drove several miles from the Plantation
 of the above Applicant, and also has good Reason
 to believe that the whole therein contained is
 just and True. ----- Samuel S Briant
 marks
 Eleazar Denton being Affirmed Declares, that
 he is a near Neighbour to the above Applicant
 and saw the Troops of the British Army Plunder and
 take away the Waggon, Horses and Cattle, and a Large
 number of the other Articles contained in the above
 Inventory, and does verily believe that the whole
 therein contained was Plundered and taken away
 by the aforesaid Troops of the British Army. -----
 Eleazar Denton

Inventory of the goods of Abigail Eldridge, December 1776, June 1778

SLE00003. Legislature. Inventories of Damages by the British and Americans in New Jersey, 1776-1782.

Newark July 9th 1777

The Commissioners are much Impeded in their
Business on Account of the Long Moment that remain
with us, they send the goods & conceal every thing they
possibly can from them, which gives them a great deal
of Trouble. There is one James O'Brien & his Wife
that have been great Plunderers & Concealers of goods, &
when called on for any thing, they pretend to have leave
to go among Christians, & not be detained among Bontes
as they call us in this Town, - pray make an order to send
them to their Christian Friends, meaning our Enemies.

List of Ladies whose Husbands are with
the Enemy

Mary Kingland, Mary Stager, Fidia Riker, Frontia
Antest, Sarah Vanabrant, Mary Trunfield, Elizabeth
Housh, Martha Hicks, Notable Woodruff, Letitia
Van Riper, Susan Wicks, Aulta Van Riper, Mary
Vanabrant, Jane Drummond, Sarah Sayers, Anna
Sayers, Margaret Nichols, Elizabeth Brown, Sarah
Crawford, & Abigail Ward.

By sending the above Women after their Husbands, will
be an Advantage to the State, and save the Commissioners
a Great Deal of Trouble

I am &c Your most Obed^t Serv^t

Serv^t

Jos. Hedden Junior

Joseph Hedden Jr. to William Livingston regarding Tory women,
Newark, July 9, 1777

SZSAF001. New Jersey Council of Safety Records, 1776-1778.

The Jurors, in behalf of the State New Jersey, for the Body of this
 County of Somerset upon their Oath present that this State of New Jersey
 of the United States of America now are and for some time past have been at open
 War and Enmity with the King of Great Britain, and on that said Day of
 Annally late of Bound Brook, Sheriff on the first Day of July in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven
 hundred, and Eighty two and during the War as from ^{midst} Bound Brook
 in the said County of Somerset and within
 the Jurisdiction of this Court, did Voluntarily and unlawfully go over to
 Powles Hook ^{then being in the Possession of the Enemy}
 as to wit of the Troops of the said King of Great Britain, without any License
 Permission, or Passport previously obtained from any competent Authority,
 against the Form of the Act of the Legislature of this State in such Case lately
 made & provided, and against the Peace of this State, the Government &
 Dignity of the same

Wm. Patterson Atty Gen.

[Indictment against Jane Annely for Misdemeanor Crossing Enemy
 Lines \(travelling from Bound Brook to Powles Hook, then in possession
 of the enemy\)](#)

1782

SSV00001. Supreme Court of New Jersey. Case Files, 1704-1844.