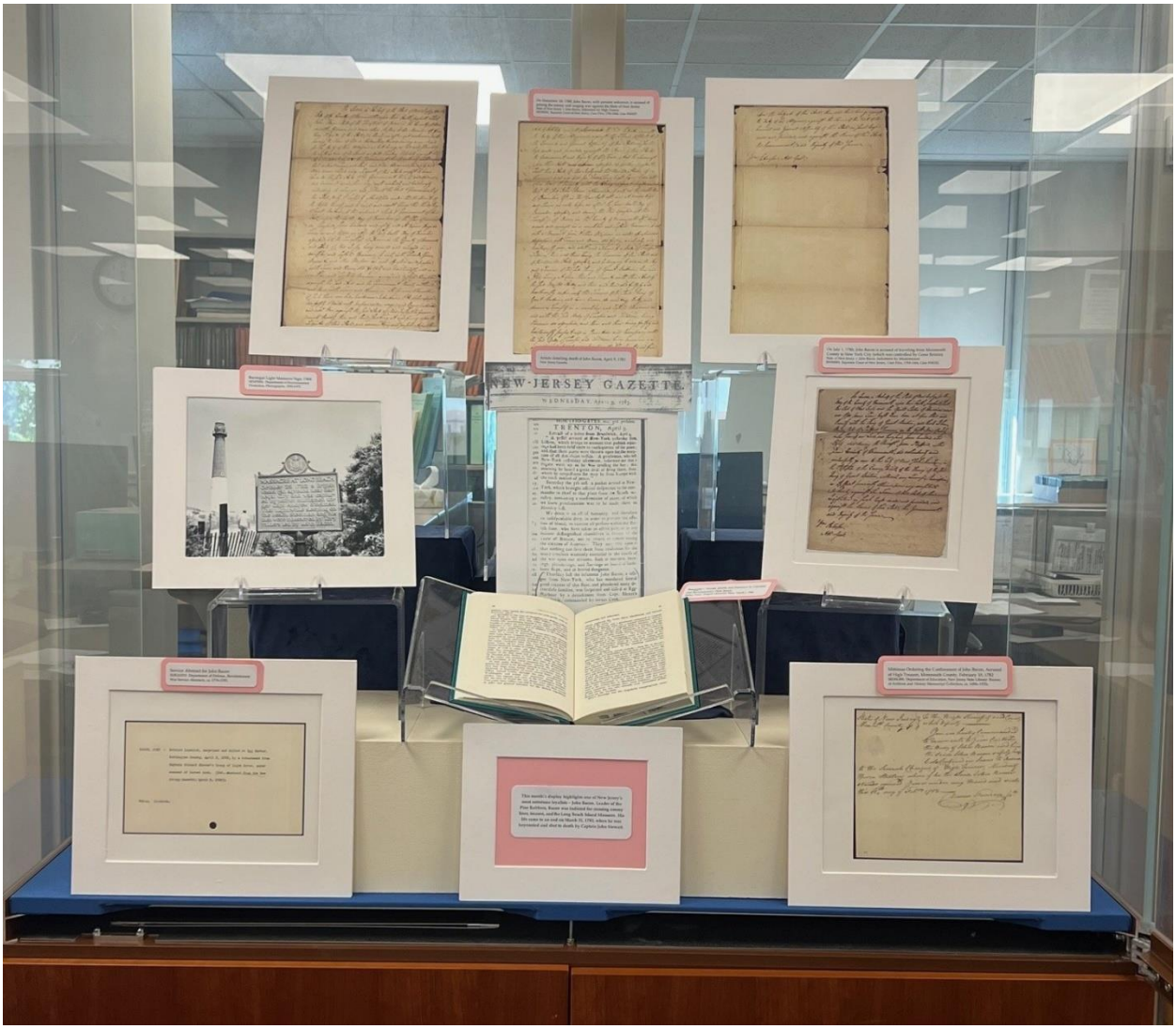
New Jersey State Archives Mini Exhibits

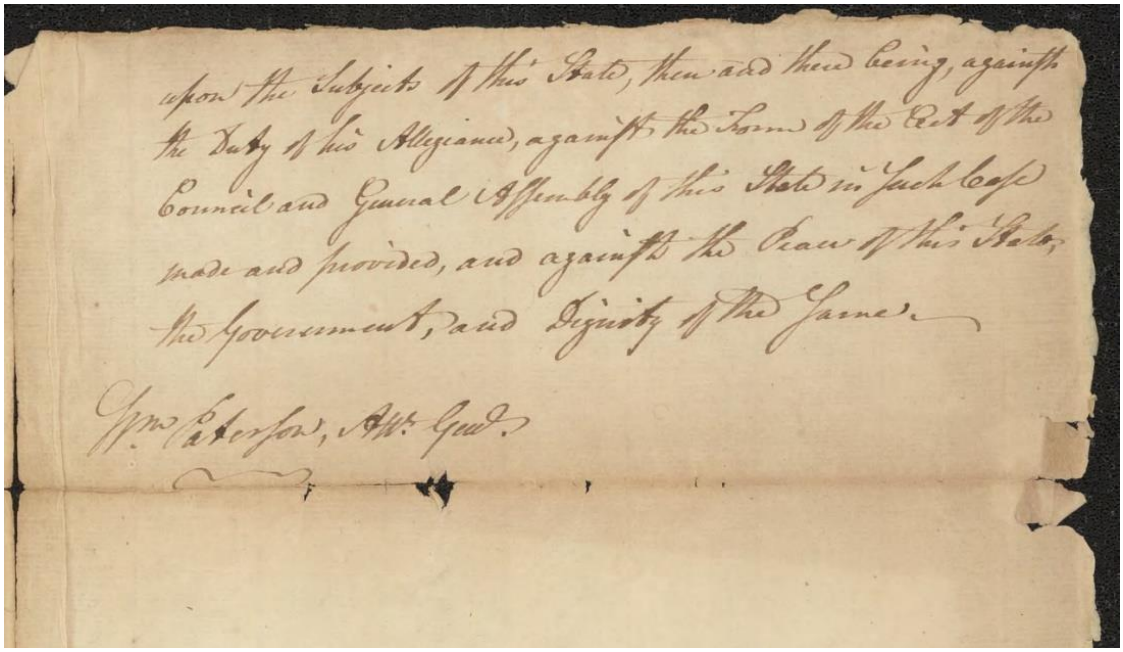
John Bacon

October 2026



This month's display is all about one of New Jersey's most famous loyalists – John Bacon. Known as the leader of the Pine Robbers, Bacon was indicted for crossing enemy lines, treason, and the Long Beach Island Massacre. He was finally tracked down by captain John Stewart on March 31, 1783. After a brief struggle, Stewart bayoneted and shot Bacon, inflicting the wounds that led to Bacon's death.

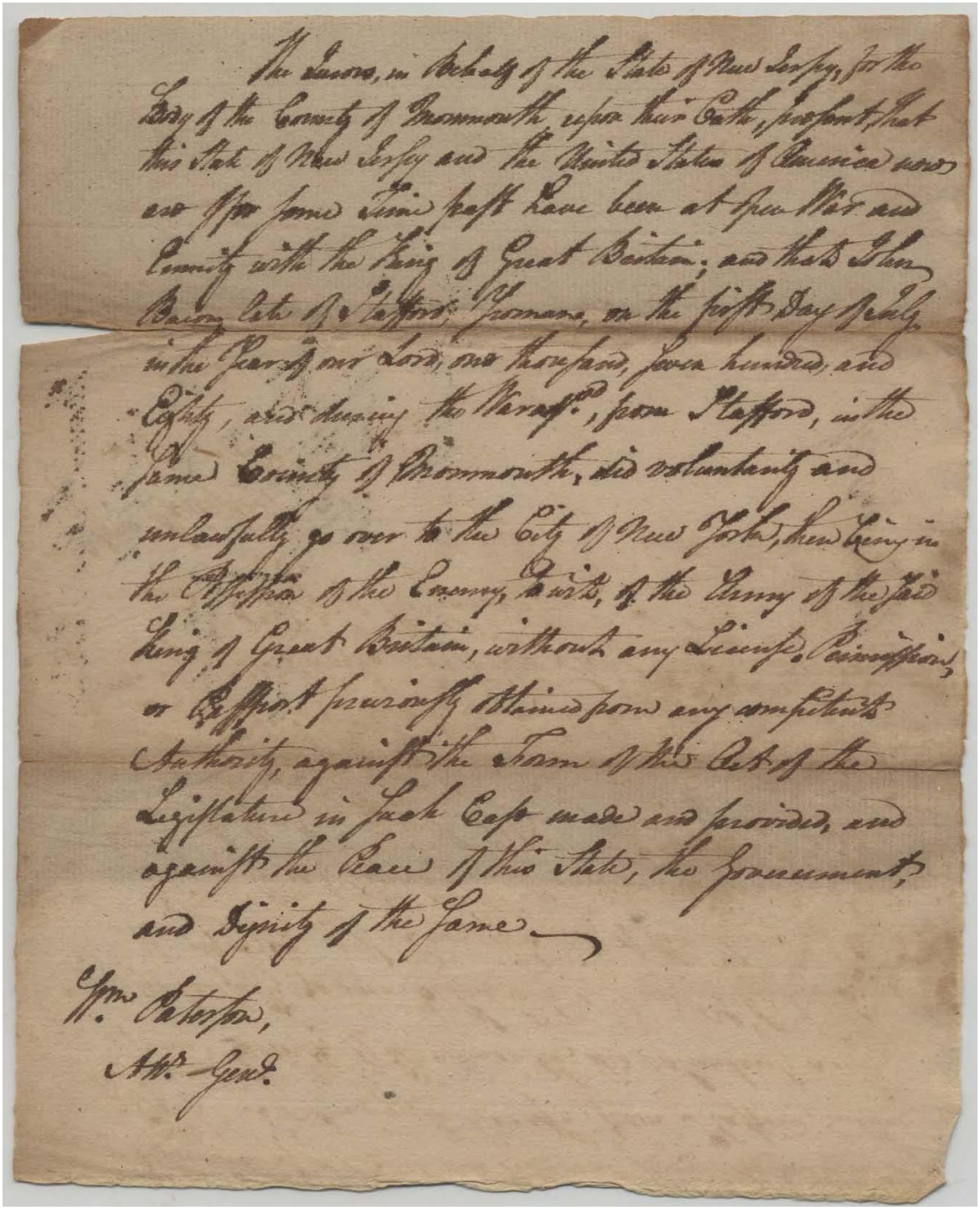
acts of Hostility against the said Subjects, against
the duty of their Allegiance, against the Form of the Act of
the Council and General Assembly of this State in such
case made and provided, against the Peace of this State,
the Government and Dignity of the same. And the Jurors aforesd.
upon their Oath and Affirmation aforesaid, do further present,
That this State of New Jersey and the United States of
America now and ever since have been at
open War & Enmity with the King of Great Britain, and
that the said John Bacon aforesaid, to wit, on the tenth Day
of December aforesd., in the Year last aforesd., and at divers Days
and Times as well before as after the same tenth Day of
December aforesaid, and during the War aforesaid, at the
Township of Dover, in the County of Monmouth aforesd., being
armed and arrayed in a warlike and hostile Manner, to wit,
with a Bayonet Gun, & other Weapons as well offensive as
defensive, with Force and Arms, did falsely, wickedly, and
traiterously join, aid, abet, and adhere to a Body of Troops &
Soldiers, then and there being, the Enemies of this State, and
of the United States aforesaid, and belonging to and in the Pay
and Service of the said King of Great Britain, then and
there being at open War and Enmity with this State &
the said United States, and then and there did falsely and
traiterously enter into the Service of the said King of
Great Britain, and bear Arms, do military Duty, and
demean himself in a warlike and hostile Manner in
and with the said Body of Troops and Soldiers, being
Enemies as aforesaid, and then and there being falsely and
traiterously present, aiding in Junction and Company with
the said Body of Troops and Soldiers, being Enemies as
aforesaid, did falsely and traiterously shoot at and fire


upon the Subjects of this State, then and there being, against
the Duty of his Allegiance, against the Form of the Act of the
Council and General Assembly of this State in such case
made and provided, and against the Peace of this State,
the Government, and Dignity of the same.

Wm Paterson, Att. Gen.

[State of New Jersey v. John Bacon]
Indictment for High Treason
"On December 10, 1780, and diverse days thereafter, at Dover Township, John Bacon, together with persons unknown, is accused of joining the enemy and waging war against the State of New Jersey"

SSV00001. Supreme Court of New Jersey. Case Files, 1704-1844. Case #34102*.



The Jurors, in behalf of the State of New Jersey, for the body of the County of Monmouth, upon their Oath, present, that this State of New Jersey and the United States of America were on the first Day of July last have been at open War and Enmity with the King of Great Britain, and that John Bacon late of Shrewsbury Township, in the County of Monmouth aforesaid, on the first Day of July in the Year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and Eighty, and during the Time aforesaid, from Shrewsbury, in the same County of Monmouth, did voluntarily and unlawfully go over to the City of New York, then being in the Possession of the Enemy, to wit, of the Army of the said King of Great Britain, without any Licence, Permission, or Passport previously obtained from any competent Authority, against the Form of the Act of the Legislature in such Case made and provided, and against the Peace of this State, the Government and Dignity of the same.

Wm. Paterson,
Att. Genl.

State of New Jersey v. John Bacon
Indictment for Misdemeanor
(On July 1, 1780, John Bacon is accused of traveling from Monmouth County to New York City, then in possession of the enemy)

SSV00001. Supreme Court of New Jersey. Case Files, 1704-1844. Case #34102.

BACON, JOHN - British Loyalist, surprised and killed at Egg Harbor, Burlington County, April 3, 1783, by a detachment from Captain Richard Shreve's Troop of Light Horse, under command of Cornet Cook. (Ref. Abstract from the New Jersey Gazette, April 9, 1783).

WSP:G. 11-26-24.

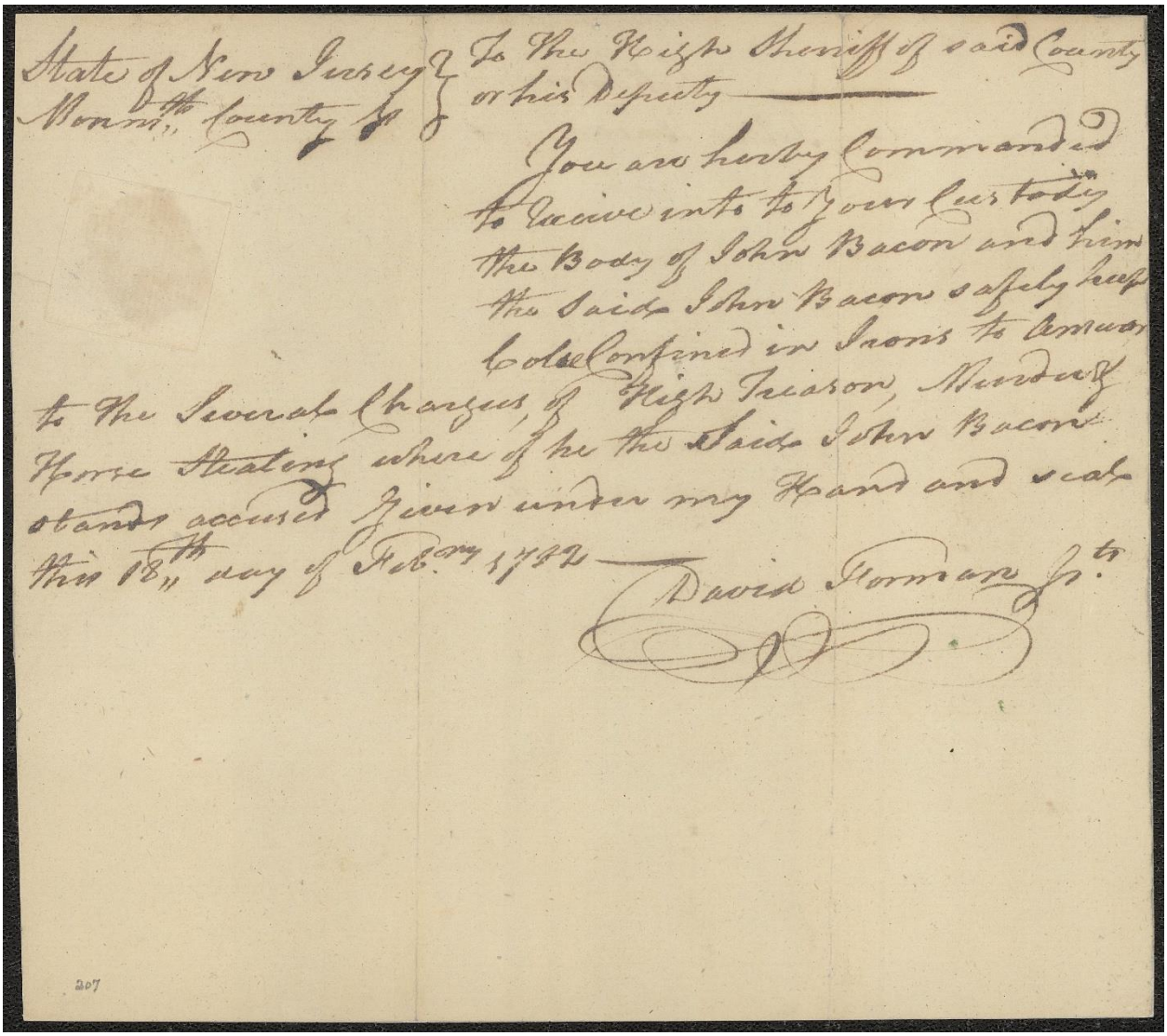
Service Abstract for John Bacon

SDEA1010. Department of Defense. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Service Abstracts, ca. 1776-1783.



Barnegat Light Massacre Sign, 1966

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



State of New Jersey
Monm.th County ss

To The High Sheriff of said County
or his Deputy

You are hereby Commanded
to receive into your Custody
the Body of John Bacon and him
the said John Bacon safely keep
& close Confined in Irons to Answer
to the Several Charges of High Treason, Murder &
Horse Stealing where of he the said John Bacon
stands accused Given under my Hand and Seal
this 18th day of Febry 1782

David Thomas Jr.

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Mittimus Ordering the Confinement of John Bacon, Accused of High Treason, Monmouth County, February 18, 1782

SEDSL006. Department of Education. New Jersey State Library: Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection, ca. 1680s-1970s.

HORATIO GATES, maj. gen president.

TRENTON, April 9.

Extract of a letter from Brunſwick, April 4,

"A veſſel arrived at New-York yeſterday from Liſbon, which brings an account that publick rejoicings had been held there in conſequence of the peace; and that their ports were thrown open for the reception of all American veſſels. A gentleman, who left New-York yeſterday afternoon, informed me that a frigate went up as he was croſſing the bay; this morning he heard a great deal of firing there, from which he conjectures ſhe may be from Europe with the confirmation of peace."

Saturday the 5th inſt. a packet arrived at New-York, which brought official deſpatches to the commander in chief at that place from the Britiſh miniſtry, containing a confirmation of peace; of which we learn proclamation was to be made there on Monday laſt.

We deem it an act of humanity, and therefore an indiſpenſable duty, in order to prevent the effuſion of blood, to caution all perſons within the Britiſh lines, who have taken an active part, or in any manner diſtinguiſhed themſelves in favour of the cauſe of Britain, not to return or remain among the citizens of America: They may rely upon it that nothing can ſave them from retaliation for the many cruelties wantonly exerciſed in the courſe of the war upon our citizens, ſuch as murders, burnings, plunderings, and ſtarvings on board of loathſome ſhips, and in horrid dungeons.

Thurſday laſt the infamous John Bacon, a refugee from New-York, who has murdered ſeveral good citizens of this ſtate, and plundered many defenceleſs families, was ſurprized and killed at Egg-Harbour by a detachment from Capt. Shreve's light horſe, commanded by cornet Cook.

Article detailing death of John Bacon, April 9, 1783

New Jersey Gazette.