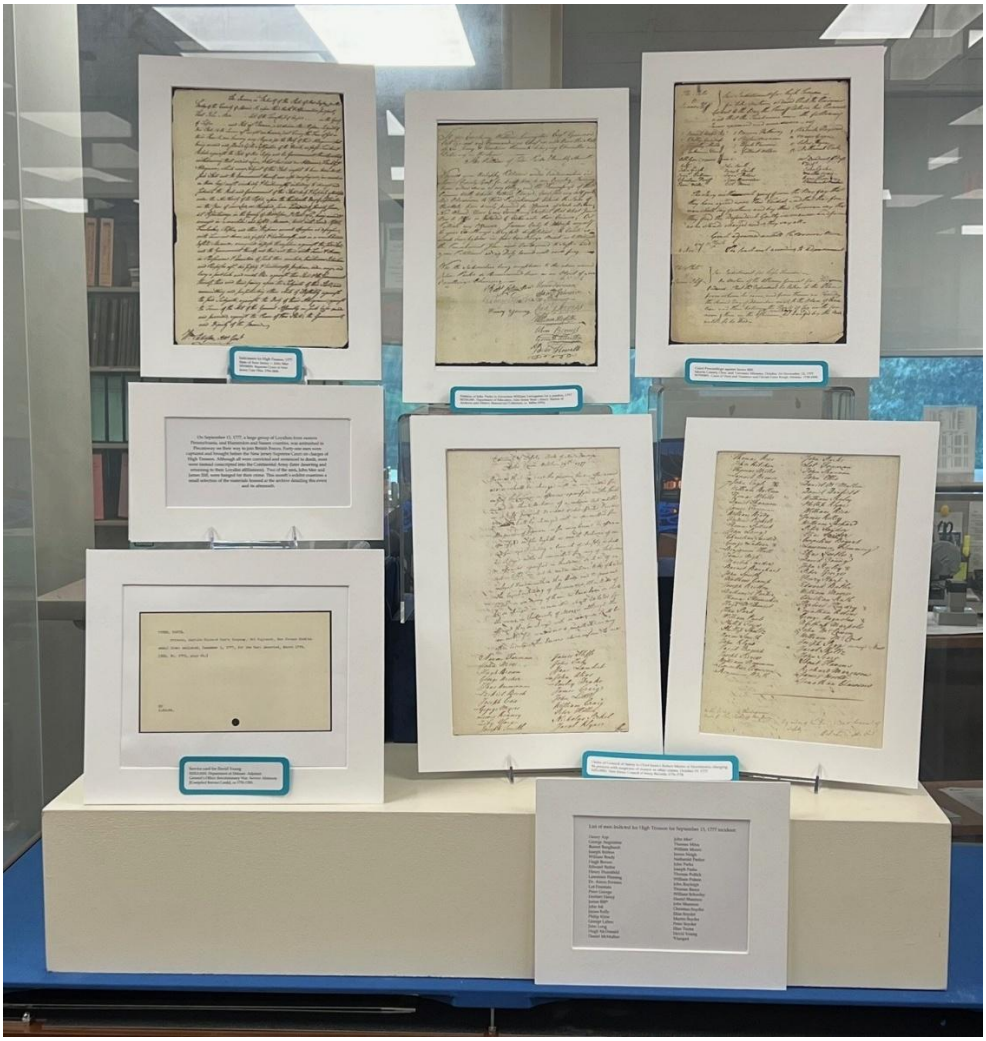
New Jersey State Archives Mini Exhibits

1777 Piscataway Skirmish

September 2026



On September 13, 1777, at Piscataway, a large group of loyalists from Eastern Pennsylvania, Hunterdon, and Sussex County, was ambushed on their way to join the British Forces. Of this group, 41 were captured and brought to trial by the New Jersey Supreme Court for High Treason. After their trials (and many pleas for pardons) only two were hung – John Mee and James Iliff. While all were convicted and sentenced to be hanged, most of the others were conscripted into the Continental Army, where they later deserted and defected back to their loyalist roots. This month's exhibit examines a small selection of the materials housed at the New Jersey State Archives detailing this event and its aftermath.

List of indictments for high treason for September 13, 1777 incident:

Henry Arp
George Augustine
Barnet Banghardt
Joseph Britton
William Brady
Hugh Brown
Edward Butler
Henry Dunnfield
Lawrence Fleming
Dr. Aaron Forman
Lot Freeman
Peter George
Herbert Henry
James Iliff
John Ink
James Kelly
Philip Kline
George Laban
John Long
Hugh McDonald
Daniel McMullen
John Mee
Thomas Miles
William Moore
James Neigh
Nathaniel Parker
John Parks
Joseph Parks
Thomas Pollick
William Polson
John Rayleigh
Thomas Reece
William Schooley
Daniel Shannon
John Shannon
Christian Snyder
Elias Snyder
Martin Snyder
Peter Snyder
Elias Teeter
David Young

Petitions for Pardons:
Barnet Banghardt – petition on behalf of
Lot Freeman
Dr. Aaron Forman
Dr. Aaron Forman – letter to brother
Dr. Aaron Forman – petition on behalf of
James Iliff – October 1777
James Iliff – November 1777
James Iliff – 1777 n.d.
John Long – petition on behalf of
John Mee
John Mee – petition to be held as a prisoner of war rather than a traitor
John Mee – petition on behalf of
John Parks
Thomas Reece
Daniel Shannon Jr. and John Shannon
Christian, Elias, Martin, and Peter Snyder – petition on behalf of
David Young – petition on behalf of

Oyer and Terminer Minutes, Morris County. October 16-November 12, 1777

Council of Safety materials mentioning those indicted in this incident:

Affidavit of Jonathan Palmer against Nicholas Pickle, William Graig, Andrew Pickins, and others. September 17, 1777

List of Prisoners from Philadelphia and N[ew] Jersey, October 1777

Order of Council of Safety to Chief Justice Robert Morris at Morristown, charging 94 persons with suspicion of treason or other crimes. October 19, 1777

Robert Morris, John Carle, David Thompson, Benjamin Hallsey, and John Brookfield, Justices and Commissioners of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Morris County to William Livingston.
[Regarding evidence and information against those convicted of treason] November 12, 1777

Robert Hoopes to William Livingston in support of Daniel Shannon, John Shannon and Barney Banghast, Belvidere. November 16, 1777