

Case No. 34132

State of New Jersey v. James Barratt  
Indictment for Treason (on December 18, 1777, and during the continuance of the war,  
James Barratt is accused of traveling to Staten Island and entering into the service of  
King, returning on May 1, 1783)  
Cumberland : 1783

New Jersey State Archives  
Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Case Files, 1704 - 1844 (SSV00001)

6/16/2025

**Supreme Court Case Files : Case # 34132**  
**State of New Jersey v. James Barratt**

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<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dates</u>
34132	Indictment for Treason (on December 18, 1777, and during the continuance of the war, James Barratt is accused of traveling to Staten Island and entering into the service of King, returning on May 1, 1783)	Cumberland	1783

In the examination of James Barrat, he states the following: On or about December 18, 1777 he left Cumberland County with Caleb Barrat, boarding the British frigate "Bruan", on Delaware River. From there he went to Philadelphia, then in the possession of the British, and joined Captain Caford's Company of New Jersey Volunteers. About a week to ten days later Barrat went with the Company to Staten Island, after which he served garrison duty as a soldier there, at New York, and on Long Island. He says he servered under General Skinner, and Colonel De Lancey until April 29, 1783, when he deserted and returned to Cumberland County.

See also: SOY00001, Cumberland County Oyer & Terminer Minutes, June 3-6, 1783, [page 11](#)

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PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Barratt, James (Labourer) (of Hopewell Township)
NAMED IN CASE	Barratt, Caleb ([Calob]; Left with James Barratt in 1777 to join the enemy)
NAMED IN CASE	Bruan (British Frigate on the Delaware River in 1777)
NAMED IN CASE	Caford, [Unrecorded] (Captain) (of the British Company of New Jersey Volunteers)
NAMED IN CASE	De Lancey, [Unrecorded] (Colonel) ([Deleansey])
NAMED IN CASE	Skinner, [Unrecorded] (General) ([Skiner])
OFFICIAL	Bloomfield, Joseph (Attorney) (on behalf of the State in the absence of the Attorney General)
WITNESS (SIGNING)	Holme, Benjamin (on Examination of James Barratt)
JURY FOREMAN	Wheaten, Isaac

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Cumberland

High Treason

1783, June 6. This  
Indictment was read  
to the Grand Jury  
on the 7. of June  
of my being found  
as heretofore.

Cumberland - York County  
June 9. 1783.

The State } Indictment  
agts }  
James Barrat } for  
High Treason

A True Bill

Lucas Wheaton Justice

The Jurors & Jurymen in behalf of  
The State of New Jersey for the Body of the County of  
Cumberland upon their respective Oaths and  
Affirmation, **PRESIDE** that this State of New  
Jersey & the United States of America for some  
time past have been at open War & Amity  
with George the Third King of Great Britain  
and that James Barrat, late of the Township  
of Hopewell, in the county of Cumberland Labourer  
being a Subject of the said State, not having  
the fear of God in his heart, nor having any  
regard for the duty of his Allegiance, but  
being moved & seduced by the insinuations  
of the Devil, as a false Traytor & Rebel  
against the said State of New Jersey, and  
the Government thereof, entirely withdra-  
ing that cordial Love, that true Obedi-  
ence, Fidelity & Allegiance which  
every Subject of this State should & might  
ought to bear towards the said State, and the  
Government thereof, and also devising, and  
as much as in him lay, most wickedly  
& traitorously intending to change & subvert  
the true Government of this State duly &  
legally established under the authority  
of the People thereof, and to reduce & render  
the same subordinate to & dependant  
upon the Crown of Great Britain, He the  
said James Barrat, after the fourth day  
of October in the Year of our Lord One  
thousand seven hundred & seventy six  
to wit, on the Eighteenth day of December  
in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven  
hundred & seventy seven, during the continuance of  
the War of. from the Township of Hopewell



Examination of  
James Barrott  
Now in Jail

James Barrott on his Examination Confesseth and Saith,  
that on or about the eighteenth Day of December in year  
of our Lord 1777, he Left the County of Cumberland with  
Calob Barrott and went on board the Oruan Frigate belong-  
ing to the King of Great Britain then lying in Delaware  
River of against Stow Creek, and proceeded from thence  
to Philadelphia, then in possession of British, the next day  
after he arived in Philadelphia he enlisted in Capt. Caford's  
Company of New Jersey volunteers, in a week or Ten dayes <sup>after</sup> went  
with the said Company by water to Staten Island which place  
New York & Long Island he has Done Garrison Duty as a Soldier  
under the Command of General Skinner and after him Col.  
Commedant Deleansey untill the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1783 when  
he Deserted his Corps and Came into Cumberland County  
New Jersey where he arived the 3<sup>d</sup> Day of May 1783  
and further saith not

Examind this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May  
1783 before me

Benj<sup>n</sup> Holme

James Barrott