

Case No. 34599

State of New Jersey v. Jonathan Clawson
Indictment for Felony (Crossing Enemy Lines; on December 25, 1776, Jonathan
Clawson is accused of leaving Piscataway for New Brunswick, then in possession of
the enemy, returning to Piscataway in a clandestine manner on June 5, 1777)
Middlesex and Morris : 1776 - 1777

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

6/27/2025

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State of New Jersey v. Jonathan Clawson

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34599	Indictment for Felony (Crossing Enemy Lines; on December 25, 1776, Jonathan Clawson is accused of leaving Piscataway for New Brunswick, then in possession of the enemy, returning to Piscataway in a clandestine manner on June 5, 1777)	Middlesex and Morris	1776 - 1777

See also: SOY00001, Morris County Oyer & Terminer Minutes, October 16-November 12, 1777, [page 33](#), and [page 49](#)

PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Clawson, Jonathan (Yeoman) (of Piscataway Township)
OFFICIAL	Paterson, William (Attorney General)
JURY FOREMAN	Horton, Elijah (Grand Jury)

34599 State v. Clawson

Mucci's

Felony (Crossing
Enemy Lines)

Morris Bay & Term.
Oct. 1777

The State } Indict. for
vs }
Jas. Clawson } Felony &c

At and before

Elijah Horton Justice

The Defendant being
arraigned, plead
guilty

The Jurors, in Behalf of the State of New Jersey, for the
Body of the County of Morris, Do upon their Oath and Affirmation swear,
That this State of New Jersey, and the United States of North America
now are and for some Time past have been at open War & Enmity with
George the Third, King of Great Britain, and that Jonathan Lawton,
late of the Township of Piscataway, in the County of Middlesex, & State
of ^{Subject of this State and} New Jersey, being an evil-disposed Person, not having any Regard for
the Duty of his Allegiance, and withdrawing that cordial Love, of that
true and due Obedience and Fidelity, which every Subject of this State ought
to bear towards the said State, and the Government thereof, after the fourth
Day of October, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, & seventy
~~seven~~ ^{eight} ~~eight~~, to wit, on the twenty fifth Day of December, in the Year
last aforesaid, did, from Piscataway aforesaid, voluntarily, maliciously, and
feloniously, go into New Brunswick, a Place then being in the Possession
of the Enemy, to wit, of the Army of the said King of Great Britain, and
did, on the fifth ~~th~~ Day of June, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand,
seven hundred, and seventy seven, voluntarily, maliciously, and
feloniously come out of New Brunswick aforesaid, as aforesaid being in the
Possession of the Enemy aforesaid, and return to Piscataway, in the County
of Middlesex, and State aforesaid in a secret and clandestine Manner,
and without any Leave, License, or Passport for that Purpose,
previously obtained from the Governor or Commande in Chief of this State
for the Time being, or from any General Officer of the Army of the
United States, or of any of the Brigadiers General of the Militia of
this State, to the evil Example of all others in the like Case
offending, against the Force of the Act of the General Assembly
in such Case made and provided, against the Peace of this State,
the Government, & Dignity of the same,

Wm. Carter,

Att. Gen.