

Case No. 37484

State of New Jersey v. Ann Parker (Daughter of Thomas Parker)
Indictment for Seditious Words (on May 10, 1778, at Lower Freehold, Ann Parker, in
discourse with Michael Sweetman, is accused of uttering seditious words, comparing
Continental money to "old Almanack leaves", and defying the Oath of Allegiance)
Monmouth : 1778

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

4/22/2025

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On May 10, 1778, at Lower Freehold, Ann Parker is accused to have said the following: "The Continental money is not better than old Almanack Leaves and I wish the inventors of it were in Hell and the money too. The Oath of Allegiance administered by the Rebels is not binding. If I be called upon by the Rebels I would take it rather than go to Gaol and swear all the damn'd Rebels to Hell and back again, and not think myself bound by their oaths."

See also: [SOY00001-Monmouth County Oyer and Terminer Minutes, June 3-20, 1778, page 13](#)

PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Parker, Ann (of Lower Freehold; Spinster; Daughter of Thomas Parker)
NAMED IN CASE	Parker, Thomas (Father of Ann Parker)
NAMED IN CASE	Sweetman, Michael
OFFICIAL	Paterson, William (Attorney General)
JURY FOREMAN	Forman, David

37484 The State v. Parker

Donmouth

Seditious words

⁺ Monmouth Eyes & Teeth.

June 1770.

The State } Indict Jan

v.

Ann Parker, Daught. } Sentenced
of Tho: Parker } Words.

A true Bill

David Norman Towne

The Jurors, in Behalf of the State of New Jersey, for the Body
of the County of Monmouth, upon their Oath present, That Ann Parker
(Daughter of Thomas Parker) late of the Township of Lower Township in the
County of Monmouth & State of New Jersey, being a pernicious and
disaffected Woman, and a Person of a turbulent & seditious
Disposition and Conversation, and evil living, practising, and falsely,
maliciously, advisedly, and seditiously intending to discourage, terrify,
and deprive the good Subjects of their State, and to dispose them
to favour the Pretensions of the Enemy, and to alienate the
Affections of the People from the present Government, for the
Said Ann Parker, on the tenth — Day of May — in the Year
of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and seventy eight at Lower
Twp in the County of, having discoursed then and there with
certain Michael Sweetman, then being a Subject of this State,
concerning the honourable Congress of the United States of America,
and the Paper Bills of Credit emitted by the said Congress, and
concerning the Oath of Allegiance by Law established in this
State, and the Administration of the said Oath, and also con-
cerning the present War waged and carried on by the King of
Great Britain against this State and the said United States,
in the Presence and Hearing of the said Michael Sweetman, and of several
other Subjects of this State then and there being present, did falsely,
maliciously, advisedly, and seditiously say, assert, affirm, pronounce, &
with a loud voice declare these false, malicious, seditious, and
obprobrious English Words following, that is to say, The Continental
Money (meaning the Paper Bills of Credit, emitted by the honourable
Congress the said United States,) is not better than old Almanack
Leaves, and I (meaning the said Ann Parker) with the Jurors
of it (meaning the said Bills of Credit) were in Hell and the Money too.

The Oath of Allegiance administered by the Rebels (meaning the
high Subjects of this State, acting in Opposition to the said King of
Great Britain, and on that Account termed Rebels by the
said Am. Parker, is not binding: if I (again meaning the
said Am. Parker) be called upon by the Rebels (again meaning
the high Subjects of this State, ~~and~~ meaning the said Am. Parker)
would take it (meaning the Oath of Allegiance) rather than go
to God and swear all the damn'd Rebels (meaning the
high Subjects of this State) to hold and back again, and not
think myself (again meaning the said Am. Parker) bound
by their Oaths: to the evil Example of all others in the like
Case offending, against the Form of the Act of the Council
and General Assembly in such Case made and provided,
against the Peace of this State, the Government, and
Dignity of the same —

W. Parker, Att. Genl.