

Case No. 37504

State of New Jersey v. John Pancas
Indictment for Seditious Words (on December 24, 1777, at Upper Freehold, John
Pancas, in discourse with Lewis Fenton, is accused of uttering seditious words)
Monmouth : 1778

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

8/7/2025

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State of New Jersey v. John Pancas

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dates</u>
37504	Indictment for Seditious Words (on December 24, 1777, at Upper Freehold, John Pancas, in discourse with Lewis Fenton, is accused of uttering seditious words)	Monmouth	1778

On December 24, 1777, at Upper Freehold, John Pancas, in discourse with Lewis Fenton, was heard to say: “ I have a good deal of Cyder and Whiskey to treat my friends with [meaning British troops and other disaffected citizens] when they shall come through and I hope that they will come through soon and, then I will get clear of the Rebels and live in Peace.”

See also: SOY00001-Monmouth County Oyer and Terminer Minutes, January 20-February 7, 1778, [pages 7-8](#), and [page 19](#)

PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Pancas, John (Yeoman) (of Upper Freehold)
NAMED IN CASE	Fenton, Lewis
OFFICIAL	Paterson, William (Attorney General)
JURY FOREMAN	Tapscott, William (Grand Jury)

37504 The State v. Pallas

Monmouth

Seditious words

Worcester Cour and
Term. Jan. 1778.

The State
vs } Indict. per
John Pincus } District Clerk.

Attac Bill.

William Sappott Townman.

The Defendant being
charged, pled Not
Guilty & and put
himself on his country

W. L. G.

W. L. G.
W. L. G.

The Jurors, on Petition of the State of New Jersey, for the
Body of the County of Monmouth, upon their Oath presented, That John
Cancer, late of Upper Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, and State
of New Jersey, being a pernicious and disaffected Man, and a Person of a
turbulent Mind and seditious Disposition and Conversation, and
contriving, practising, and falsely, maliciously, advisedly, and
seditiously intending to terrify and separate the good Subjects of
this State, and to dispose them to favour the Pretensions of the
Enemy, and to alienate their Affections from the present Government
duly and lawfully established under the Authority of the People,
in the said John Cancer, on the twenty fourth Day of December, in the
Year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and seventy seven,
at Upper Freehold aforesaid, in the County aforesaid, having discourse there
with a certain Lewis Tenton, then being a Subject of this State,
concerning the said State of New Jersey, and the United States of North
America, and the present War waged and carried on by the King
of Great Britain against this State, and the said United States, and
concerning the good People of this State, and the Troops & Soldiers in
the Service of the said King, in the Presence & Hearing of the said
Lewis Tenton, and of divers other Subjects of this State, then and there
being present, did falsely, maliciously, advisedly, unlawfully, and
seditiously say, assert, affirm, pronounce, and declare these false,
malicious, seditious, and opprobrious English Words following,
That is to say, I meaning the said John Cancer have a good
Deal of Power & Whistney to treat my (meaning the said John Cancer's)
Friends with (meaning the aforesaid Soldiers of the said King, and certain
disaffected Subjects of this State, who, regardless of the Duty of their
Allegiance, had gone over to and joined the Army of the said King.)

when they (again meaning the Soldiering and disaffected Persons ap.^d)
shall come through (meaning ^{through} the said County of Monmouth) and
(again meaning the said John Pearce) hope that they (again
meaning the ap.^d Soldiering and disaffected Persons) will come through
(meaning through the County of Monmouth ap.^d) soon, and then
& (again meaning the said John Pearce) will get clear of the
Rebels (meaning the huge Subjects of this State acting in Opposition
to the said King of Great Britain, and on that account termed
Rebels by the said John Pearce) and live in Peace; to the
evil Example of all others in the like Case offending, against
the Form of the Acts 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. —

Wm. Carter,
Att^y Gen.