

Case No. 37910

State of New Jersey v. William Roberts
Indictment for Seditious Words (on November 10, 1780, at Salem, William Roberts is
accused of uttering seditious words)
Salem : 1780 - 1782

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

9/25/2025

Supreme Court Case Files : Case # 37910
State of New Jersey v. William Roberts

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dates</u>
37910	Indictment for Seditious Words (on November 10, 1780, at Salem, William Roberts is accused of uttering seditious words)	Salem	1780 - 1782

On November 10, 1780, at Salem, William Roberts was heard to say: "Damn the Congress Money and them that made it".

See also: SOY00001-Salem County Oyer and Terminer Minutes, November 5-27, 1780, [page 12](#); and, SOY0001-Salem County Oyer and Terminer Minutes, June 11-13, 1782, [page 6](#), and [page 8](#)

PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Roberts, William (Laborer) (of Mannington)
OFFICIAL	Bloomfield, Joseph (Attorney) (for the State of New Jersey)
JURY FOREMAN	Carney, Thomas (Grand Jury)

37910 State v Roberts

Salem

Indictment for
Seditious
Words

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Salem Oyer & Terminer
Novem^r. 1780.

The State } Indictm^t.
to } for
William Roberts } Treason
Wads-

37910
A true Bill.

Thomas Carney Foreman

June 12: 1782
D. charged - Pleaded
Guilty &c.

Fined £10⁰⁰

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Salem County The Jurors & Affirmants in Behalf of the
State of New Jersey for the Body of the County
of Salem upon their respective Oaths an
affirmations Do present that William
Roberts late of Mannington in the County
of Salem aforesaid labourer being a tur-
bulent & seditious Man and contriving
and fraudulently intending the good
Subjects of this State to incite and move
to Hatred and Dislike of the Government
happily established under the Authority of
the People thereof on the tenth Day of Novem-
ber in the Year of our Lord One thousand
Seven Hundred and eighty at ~~Mannington~~ ^{Salem}
~~aforesaid~~ in the County aforesaid and
within the Jurisdiction of this County aforesaid
Court in the presence & hearing of divers good Subjects
of the said State with whom the said William was then
then talking of & concerning the Honourable the Congress
of the United States of America & of concerning the Bills of
Credit emitted by the said Congress, unlawfully, maliciously
advisedly, seditiously & contemptuously, did, publish pronounce
utter & declare, with a loud Voice these English Words following
(to wit) "Damn the Congress Money" (the Bills of Credit emitted &
made Current by the Honourable the Congress of the United States
of America, meaning) "and them that made it." (the said Congress
of the United States of America, who emitted & made Current the

the said Bills of Credit meaning) to the manifest Encouragement
of Disaffection Tumults & Disorders in the said State to the great
Scandal & Contempt of the Laws & Government thereof to the
evil Example of all others in the like Case offending against
the Form of Act of the Council & General Assembly in such Case
made & provided & against the Peace of this State the Governm.
Dignity of the same -

John J. [unclear] of State
in the presence of [unclear]