

Case No. 39472

State of New Jersey v. Timothy Wade
Indictment for Seditious Words (on October 10, 1781, at Elizabeth Town, in discourse
with John Davies, Timothy Wade is accused uttering seditious words)
Essex : 1782

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

12/11/2025

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<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Case Type</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dates</u>
39472	Indictment for Seditious Words (on October 10, 1781, at Elizabeth Town, in discourse with John Davies, Timothy Wade is accused uttering seditious words)	Essex	1782

On October 10, 1781, at Elizabeth Town, Timothy Wade, in discourse with John Davies, was heard to say: "Damn the Laws an them that made them".

See also: [SOY00001-Essex County Oyer & Terminer Minutes, June 17-July 1, 1782](#), page 13; and [SOY00001-Essex County Oyer & Terminer Minutes, September 17-October 3, 1782](#), page 18

PLAINTIFF	State of New Jersey
DEFENDANT	Wade, Timothy (Yeoman) (of Elizabethtown)
NAMED IN CASE	Davies, John ([Davis])
EVIDENCE (WITNESS CALLED)	Woodruff, Josiah (on behalf of Timothy Wade; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
OFFICIAL	Boudinot, [Unrecorded] Jr. (Attorney) (for the State of New Jersey; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
OFFICIAL	Paterson, William (Attorney General)
JUROR	Baldwin, Amos (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Baldwin, Joseph (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Baldwin, Joseph (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Ball, Joseph Jr. (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])

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JUROR	Crane, Aaron (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Harrison, Jonathan (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Harrison, Simon (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Obrien, John 3rd (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Tucker, Jacob (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Ward, Abner (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JUROR	Ward, Elliot (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])
JURY FOREMAN	Banks, David (Grand Jury)
JURY FOREMAN	Harrison, Caleb (Petit Jury; [detail from SOY00001-Essex O&T Minutes, Sep-Oct 1782, p. 18])

39472 State v. Wade

Essex

Seditious Words

Essex County Term.
June 1702

The State } Indictm
vs } for
Timothy Wade } seditious
words.

A true Bill

David Banks, Foreman

The Defendant being
charged pleaded Not
Guilty &c

It is ordered

Wm Paterson

Wm Gerst

John Davis

The Jurors in Behalf of the State of New Jersey for
the Body of the County of Essex upon their Oath Demand, That
Timothy Wade late of Elizabeth Town — in the same County
of Essex Geoman being a pernicious & disaffected Man, and a
Person of a turbulent Mind & seditious Disposition & Conver-
sation, & contriving, practising, and falsely, maliciously, ad-
visedly & seditiously intending to terrify, discourage and dis-
unite the good Subjects of this State to dispose them to favor
the pretensions of the Enemy and to alienate the Affections of
the People from the present Government, on the tenth Day
of October in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hun-
dred & Eighty One at Elizabeth Town — in the same County
of Essex having Discourse then & there with a certain John
Davies — a Subject of this State, of and

concerning the Laws of this State and the Government there-
of. in the Presence and Hearing of the G^d John Davies —

of divers other Subjects of this State then & there
being present. did falsely, maliciously, advisedly, unlawfully
and seditiously, say, assert, affirm, pronounce, and with a
loud Voice declare these false, malicious, seditious, and op-
probrious English Words following, that is to say; Damn
the Laws (meaning the good and wholesome Laws of
this State) and them that made them (meaning the Hon-
orable the Legislature of this State,) to the evil Example
of all others in the like Case offending. against the Peace
of this State, the Government & Dignity of the same —

Wm Patterson

Att^y Gen^l