

HONORING CUDJO BANQUANTE!

African • Enslaved • Soldier • Business Owner

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



EXCERPT OF *THE BATTLE OF COWPENS*, PAINTING BY WILLIAM RANNEY IN 1845

COVER:
"HEAT OF THE BATTLE" BY JOHN PHILLIP OSBORNE (2024)
DEPICTS CUDJO BANQUANTE FIGHTING
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
AT THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH, JUNE 28, 1778



JERSEYHISTORY.ORG/CUDJO

HONORING CUDJO BANQUANTE!

TODAY WE HONOR THE HEROIC, PATRIOTIC, AND TRAIL-BLAZING LIFE OF CUDJO BANQUANTE. HIS REVOLUTIONARY WAR MILITARY SERVICE DEMONSTRATES HOW THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM WAS ACHIEVED BY A DIVERSE GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH FREEDOM AND LIBERTY FOR ALL AS THEIR GOAL. HIS ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEMONSTRATES HIS TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT. HIS DETERMINATION AGAINST SOUL-CRUSHING OBSTACLES IS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US.

EMCEES: CARRIE EFINGER AND LINDA CALDWELL-EPPS, PH.D.

Musical Prelude	Akuma Cultural Education, on Chambers Plaza (weather permitting)
Royal Procession	Akyem Royalty proceed into the room to traditional music
Procession of Flags	Irvington High School and Hillside High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Invocation	Rev. Timothy L. Adkins-Jones, Ph.D, Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, Newark
Star-Spangled Banner	Pat Sanftner, State Historian, NJDAR
God Bless our Homeland Ghana	Stacey Baffour-Danso
Lift Every Voice and Sing	Kylin Tisdale, Student
Posting of Colors	
Opening Remarks	Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps, Founder and CEO, 1804 Consultants
The Occasion	Dr. Zachary Yamba, President Emeritus, Essex County Community College
Welcome to Newark	Ras Baraka, Mayor of Newark NJ
Welcome to NJPAC	John Schreiber, President and CEO, New Jersey Performing Arts Center
Introduction of Dignitary Attendees . .	Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps
Newark Historical Context	Dr. Tim Crist, President, Newark History Society
NSDAR President General Message . .	Nina Hoban, Regent, Morristown Chapter DAR

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Oh say, can you see
By the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright
stars
Through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there
O say, does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the
home of the brave

GOD BLESS OUR HOMELAND GHANA

God bless our homeland Ghana,
And make our nation great and strong,
Bold to defend forever
The cause of Freedom and of Right;
Fill our hearts with true humility,
Make us cherish fearless honesty,
And help us to resist oppressors' rule
With all our will and might for evermore.
And help us to resist oppressors' rule
With all our will and might for evermore.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new
day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn
had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our
fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with
tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our
bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus
far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met Thee,
Our hearts drunk with the wine of the
world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Welcome by DAR Diane Waugh Oliver, State Regent, New Jersey DAR

Cudjo Banquante Biography Kofi Ayim, Author

Black Soldiers of the Revolution Noah Lewis, Historic Reenactor

Cudjo's Legacy: Descendants Carrie Efinger, Honorary Regent, Morristown DAR &
National Vice Chair, DAR Good Citizens

Appreciation by Descendants Nikita Taylor, descendant

Music and Dance Performance Akuma Cultural Education

Procession to the Marker Site Musical procession by Akuma Cultural Education

Music and Dance Performance Akuma Cultural Education at Marker Site

Unveiling of Historic Marker

Traditional Libation Ceremony Dr. Kofi A. Boateng, Managing Consultant, W.E.B Du Bois
Museum Foundation and Executive Director,
Sickle Gene International Foundation

Patriot Memorial Service Gayle Loftis, Esq., Organizing Secretary, New Jersey DAR

CHAPLAIN: We gather to recall the men and women who imperiled their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to form these United States of America.

ALL: Let us always remember

CHAPLAIN: We recognize their boldness, their courage, their character. We honor their vision, their selflessness, their resolve.

ALL: Let us forever respect

CHAPLAIN: As the descendants of ordinary men and women who achieved extraordinary things, we salute their determination to forge a democracy within a republic, and we recommit to our fundamental responsibility to fulfill our obligations as active, engaged citizens.

ALL: Let us pledge patriotism

CHAPLAIN: Let us then each in turn, speak aloud the name of one patriot to whom we wish to honor today, Cudjo Banquante.

ALL: Cudjo Banquante

CHAPLAIN: "E Pluribus Unum," from many one – Let us remember that just as our ancestors united to found a nation, so must we strive to both serve and unite our beloved country in order to fulfill its perpetual destiny as a beacon of freedom-loving people everywhere on earth

Taps. Valentine Koltunowicz, Buglers Across America

Closing

Please stay and mingle afterwards to enjoy more authentic African drumming and dancing, meet Black Revolutionary soldier Ned Hector portrayed by Noah Lewis, and chat with reenactors of the 3rd New Jersey Regiment "Jersey Blues," Cudjo Banquante's military unit.

Also visit our reception on the second floor of 2 Center Street, directly across the street from NJPAC, for some refreshments and snacks.

SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS

REV. TIMOTHY L. ADKINS-JONES, PH.D.: Currently pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, Rev. Adkins-Jones has also served congregations in Massachusetts and Connecticut. He serves on the non-partisan, multi-faith Clergy Caucus for Faith in New Jersey, which seeks social and economic change through policy and relationships. He serves his alma mater Amherst College as the Graduate Fellow for the Herminia T. Gardner Christian Workshop Series.

KOFI AYIM, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN: After a career as an engineer, Mr. Ayim has devoted himself to preserving and sharing the heritage of the Ghanaian and Akan cultures. He has authored three books, including *Jack Cudjo: Newark's Revolutionary Soldier & First Black Businessman*.

STACEY BAFFOUR-DANSO: With a degree in liberal studies and psychology, Ms. Baffour-Danso has honed her vocal skills by performing at many events. She dreams of a long-lasting music career

RAS BARAKA, MAYOR, NEWARK, NJ: Mr. Baraka is a native of Newark and now serves as the city's 40th mayor. His administration is known for reducing the city's crime to its lowest levels in five decades, addressing affordability while maintaining steady growth, reducing unemployment, returning local control of schools, and replacing lead water service lines across the city. Mr. Baraka also serves as President of the NJ Urban Mayors Association, Executive Board Member for NJ League of Municipalities, Co-Chair of the National League of Cities Reimagining Public Safety Task Force, U.S. Conference of Mayors Vice Chair for Ports, Transportation and Communications Committee, and member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee. He has published an audible memoir, *The Book of Baraka* and an EP, *What We Want*, and he appeared on the Grammy-award winning album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*.

DR. KOFI A. BOATENG: Dr. Boateng, Ph.D. and Certified Public Accountant, is Managing Consultant to the W.E.B. Du Bois Museum Foundation (USA/Ghana) and Executive Director of the Sickle Gene International Foundation.

DR. LINDA CALDWELL-EPPS, PRESIDENT AND CEO, 1804 CONSULTANTS: Dr. Epps has more than 45 years of experience with educational and cultural institutions, including as President and CEO of the New Jersey Historical Society. She devotes her work to preserving Black history of New Jersey. She serves on many boards of cultural organizations and is a founding member of the Sankofa Collaborative. Dr. Epps was awarded the Richard J. Hughes Award for 2024 recognizing outstanding lifetime achievement in the field of New Jersey history.

SFC (RET.) HARVEY CRAIG, JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS INSTRUCTOR, IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: After a 20+ year career in the U.S. Army, Sgt. Craig now focuses on educating high school students on using principles of leadership, military science, and other disciplines through the JROTC program. His program currently serves more than 200 cadets, and has maintained its Honor Unit with Distinction (Gold Star – HUD) for many years.

MSG (RET.) LOUIS DIAZ, JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS INSTRUCTOR, HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL: After a 20+ year career in the U.S. Army, Sgt. Diaz now focuses on educating high school students on using principles of leadership, military science, and other disciplines through the JROTC program.

CARRIE EFINGER, NATIONAL VICE CHAIR, DAR GOOD CITIZEN COMMITTEE, EASTERN DIVISION: An active DAR member for more than 30 years, Ms. Efinger has held numerous offices and chaired many committees at the Chapter, State, and National level. She was awarded recognition as State Outstanding Junior, New Jersey Outstanding Chapter Regent, and Honorary Chapter Regent. An

accomplished seamstress of authentic reproduced Revolutionary War era clothing, some of her work has been on display at the Smithsonian American History Museum, the Museum of the American Revolution, several House museums, and at reenactments.

VALENTINE KOLTUNOWICZ: Mr. Koltunowicz is an oil and energy professional who volunteers for the Buglers Across America, an organization of 3000 bugler volunteers across the United States whose mission is to provide a live rendition of Taps at ceremonies in honor of veterans.

NOAH LEWIS, LIVING HISTORIAN: Mr. Lewis helps others appreciate the contributions of Black people to the freedom of all Americans by portraying Revolutionary soldier Edward “Ned” Hector. His living history performances captivate audiences at schools and public events. He has recently published the book, *Edward ‘Ned’ Hector, Revolutionary War Hero - Time Traveler*.

GAYLE LOFTIS, ESQ.: A DAR member for more than 10 years, Ms. Loftis is an attorney and judge in the state of New Jersey.

DAVID NYADEDZOR, DIRECTOR AND MASTER DRUMMER, AKUMA CULTURAL EDUCATION: Akuma Cultural Education shares African culture through performances and workshops of authentic African drumming and dancing. Mr. Nyadedzor is also a West African drumming instructor at Creative Arts Academy and the Syracuse University Community Folk Art Center.

DIANE WAUGH OLIVER, STATE REGENT, NEW JERSEY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A DAR member for more than 30 years, Ms. Oliver has served many chair and officer roles at the Chapter, State, and National level. She serves currently as the State Regent of New Jersey. She is a retired adjunct professor of psychology.

PATRICIA SANFTNER, STATE HISTORIAN, NEW JERSEY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Ms. Sanftner has been a member of DAR for more than 25 years. She has served the society at the Chapter, State, and National levels, including serving twice as the New Jersey State Historian. She spent 35 years in theater, television, and film and served 15 years as an adjunct professor.

JOHN SCHREIBER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: Mr. Schreiber has led NJPAC through a period of strong growth and evolution since taking the helm in 2011. He has a long career in film production, entertainment marketing, and event production.

NIKITA TAYLOR, DESCENDANT OF CUDJO BANQUANTE: Ms. Taylor is a mental health professional and advocate for at-risk families and youth. She demonstrates and brings to life how Cudjo Banquante’s spirit of excellence, perseverance, and humble service has been practiced and passed down through the generations of descendants.

KYLIN TISDALE, STUDENT: Kylin Tisdale is in the sixth grade at Edison Middle School in West Orange. He is the youngest of six children, the son of Dorian and Tracey Tisdale. His favorite hobby is traveling with his parents. He also enjoys reading, art, and playing football. He enjoys spending time with his family and learning about his family history. He wants to be a funeral director and continue the legacy of his family business.

DR. ZACHARY YAMBA, PRESIDENT EMERITUS, ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Dr. Yamba served the college for 42 years, joining the college when it opened in 1968 as a member of the humanities faculty, then serving as Dean of Faculty before his appointment as president. He is a founding member of the Presidents’ Round Table, an affiliate of the National Council on Black American Affairs of the American Association of Community Colleges, and a board member of several cultural institutions.

THE STORY OF CUDJO BANQUANTE (BAKWANTE)

“Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero.” — African Proverb

by Kofi Ayim

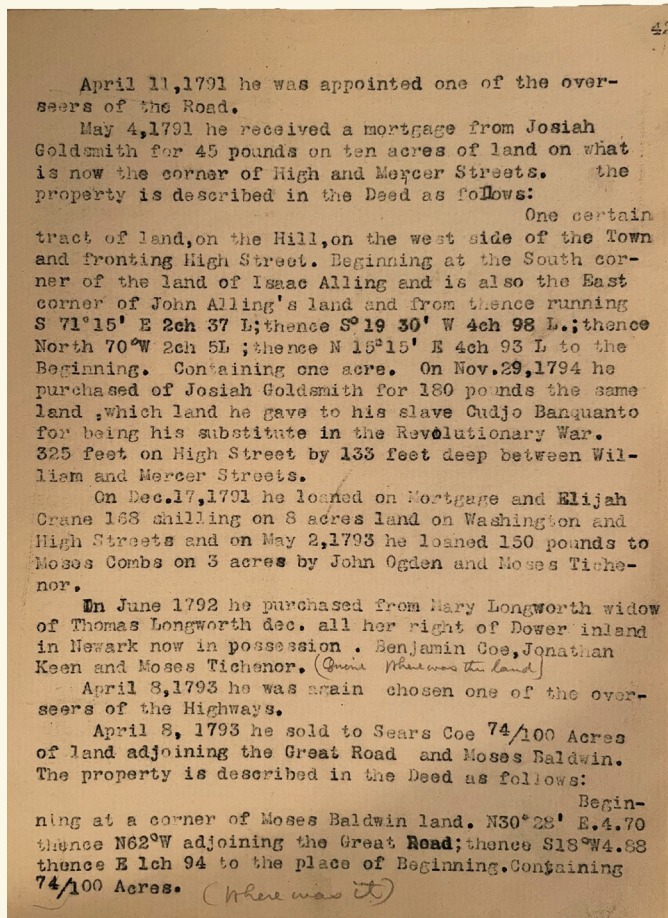
The Akan name “Cudjo” is a dialectical variation of “Kwadwo” a soul name given to a boy born on a Monday. Records within Akan Kingdoms in the Gold Coast and traditional areas in present day Ghana show that the name “Bakwante” has exclusively been utilized by Akyem Abuakwa royalty. In fact, the 14th *Okyenhene* (King of Akyem Abuakwa) was called Bakwante Agyeman. He died in 1742. Apinaman, another town in the Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Area also had a Bakwante traditional ruler in 1837. And then there’s a Bakwante Agyeman, *Abontendomhene* (community Organizer chief) of Kyebi, the administrative capital city/town of Akyem Abuakwa.

We do not factually know how Cudjo was captured into slavery, but we have theorized some possibilities based on historical facts. These include as a war captive in the Akyem-Asante wars of 1742, 1752 and 1765. A later scenario (not captured in the book) is more compelling. After the Akyem-Asante war of 1717, the Akwamu under Akonno refused to surrender Akyem women, children, and royals who had been sent to Akwamu for safekeeping during the war. The Akwamu king Akonno sold several of his guests to European slave merchants (*Asante and its Neighbours 1700-1807* J.K. Fynn, Page 68).

One thing is crystal clear though: Cudjo did not land in the New World voluntarily.

Like several Africans, Cudjo Bakwante became a victim of the transatlantic slave trade in the 18th century, but unlike several of his fellow Africans whose stories are buried in oblivion, Bakwante’s story has been unearthed and succulently, yet painfully narrated by a Ghanaian author, Kofi Ayim, in his maiden book, *Jack Cudjo: Newark’s Revolutionary Soldier and First Black Businessman*. The book was published in December 2011.

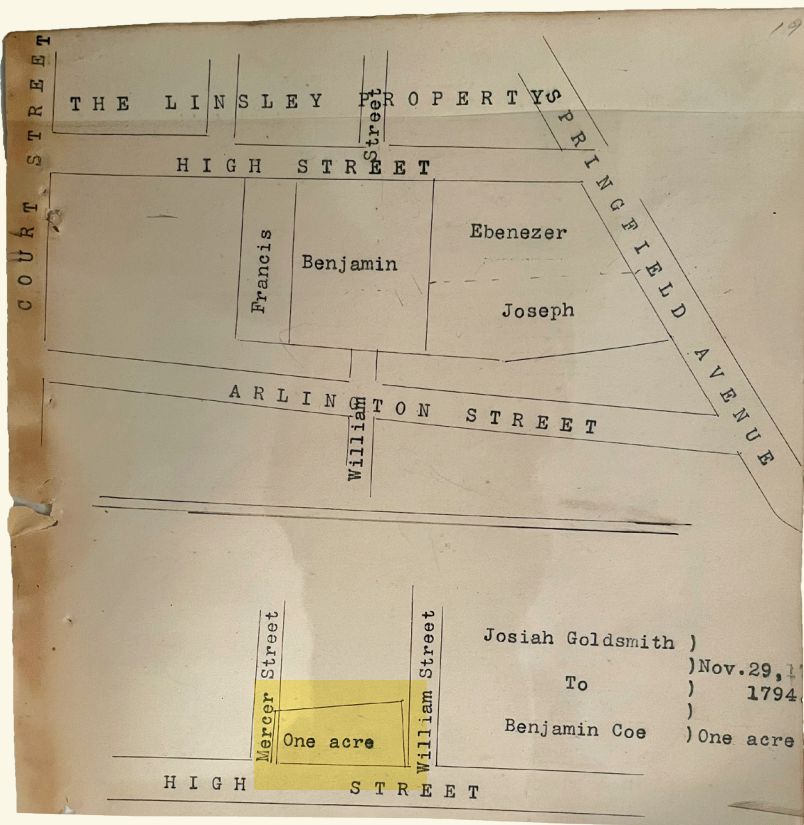
The stories of so many enslaved people in the so-called New World is fragmented and may never be told for lack of proper documentation and recordkeeping. However, contemporary trends in information gathering have been enhanced with



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“COE FAMILY GENEALOGY COLLECTION”

technology and other research tools, so much so that the once hitherto buried stories of slaves in the U.S. are painstakingly being unearthed.

How Cudjo was transplanted in Newark, New Jersey is not known, but his exploits as a slave of Benjamin Coe, one of Newark’s wealthiest citizens, is well documented. During the American Revolutionary War, he deputized for his slave master on behalf of the patriots and became a soldier. He was known to have fought in the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777 outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777, in Pennsylvania, the Battle of Monmouth, defended Elizabethtown Point in 1778, guarded Paulus Hook (present day Jersey City) in 1779, served in General Sullivan’s Expedition in 1779, and took part in the final and winning Battle of Yorktown in Virginia in 1781.



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"COE FAMILY GENEALOGY COLLECTION"

After the war, Cudjo was given his freedom and an acre of land by Benjamin Coe V at the corner of High and Mercer streets in Newark, New Jersey. That area was referred to as "Guinea" (apparently because it was resided by black people mainly from the Gulf of Guinea or Guinea Coast).

For his accomplishments in the war, and contributions to early development of Newark, Cudjo's name is included in a commemorative plaque of some 1,386 on the front side lawn of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. It is interesting to note that his name is the only one asterisked on the plaque with the inscription: "former slave who fought bravely in the American Revolution and was awarded land in Newark for his military service."

The opening statement of his Last Will and Testament reads...

"IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN:

I, Cutjoe Banquentue (alias Jack Cutjoe)..."

Once a royal/prince, always a royal/prince.... even in death!

—By Kofi Ayim, Accra, Ghana, March 13, 2024

It was after gaining his freedom that Cudjo engaged in the flower business and developed a plant nursery. He was said to have been an exceptional gardener and sold "fancy and exotic" plants and flowers to wealthy residents, according to the late Newark City historian Charles Cummings. As a tribute to his knowledge in flowers and nature, the City of Newark held an Arts and Flowers Festival in his honor on June 10, 1995.

Cudjo laid claim to his princely/royalty in faraway Africa, for Joseph Atkinson, one of Newark's foremost historian and author in his *History of Newark, New Jersey*, published in 1878 wrote on page 117: "There was something about the bearing of Cudjo which gave strength to the claim advanced by him that he was of royal African lineage." (Remember Cudjo died in 1823 and Atkinson published his work in 1878, the latter may have personally seen the former in his last years).

In a publication in the *Newark Daily Advertiser* of April 8, 1864, a writer describing freed slaves with a degree of wealth said about Cudjo: "Next below Michael was a negro family by the name of Cudjo; they owned their house and lot. The patriarch of the family was a native African; he had been a slave to Benjamin Coe. In the Revolutionary War he took the place of his master in the ranks as a soldier, for which service Mr. Coe gave him his freedom. He died at a very advanced age, leaving a family of children. He made claim to royal blood, being, as he said, the son of an African king. He was a quiet, orderly man. Whether his descendants become extinct or have gone to Africa to claim their prerogative to royal right, is not known — the name is not known among us. That neighborhood was known by the name of "Guinea."

Cudjoe
Bakwante
Will
Newark

N^o 77
In the name of God Amen. I Cutjoe Banquante (alias Jack Cutjoe) of the Township of Newark in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey being of sound mind and good memory do make this my last will and Testament in manner and form following (Viz) I do give and bequeath to my well beloved wife Mary Cutjoe during her natural life all my real Estate consisting of one house and lot in High Street Bounded South by ~~Moses Baldwin~~ Mrs. Mercers West by ~~Edw. Moses Baldwin~~ North by ~~Moses Baldwin~~ and East by said High Street - also all my moveable property of whatever kind or sort whatsoever - And it is my will that the said said property on the death of my said wife shall be equally divided between my two youngest sons Peter and Joshua to them their heirs and assigns forever - And I do hereby constitute and appoint my well beloved friends David Hoags and Johnson Ward Executors of this my last will and Testament and I do hereby revoke and make void all other former Wills by me made and acknowledge this and no other to be my true ~~last~~ Will and Testament - Given under my hand and seal this fourteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty -
Signed Sealed and delivered
in presence of
Thomas Christie
Jonas X Cutjoe
Margaret Christie
his
Cutjoe Banquante
Jack X Cutjoe
mark

Funerals
24
1823
Jan 3 Buried by the Rev. Mr. Bruce Edwards Livingston Dover aged 10 months 29 days
Jan 10 Buried by the Rev. Mr. Hillyer in the morning the Rev. Mr. Helen pastor of the John Blacks - at Newark aged 4 years
Feb 15 Buried by the Rev. Mr. Edwards at Dover aged 1 month 10 days
Capt. Le Conte
March 5th Buried Jack Cutjoe a black aged probably about 100 years
27th Buried Mr. Catharine Sophia Harris aged about 55
Buried Mrs. Mercer
May 22 Buried Miss Margaret Ogden aged 2 years
June 29th Buried James Burnett aged about three years
July 11th Buried by the Rev. Mr. Jones in my absence Henry Thomas (D) taken sick about 9 months
July 11th Buried by the Rev. Mr. Jones in my absence Henry Thomas (D) taken sick about 9 months
July 13th Buried by the Rev. Mr. Jones in my absence Jack Mary Burnett aged about 8 months
August 14th Buried at Newville Capt. Jacob Hunt in his 40th year
Oct 30th Buried Capt. Montgomery a Colored man
Dec 23 Buried Mr. Margaret widow of Isaac Hudson aged 70 years
April 4th 1824 Buried Mr. Henry Hoochman aged 70 years
about 65 years
April 14th Buried Mr. Elizabeth Wilson, consort of Andrew Wilson, aged about 37 years

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
MG 882 "TRINITY CATHEDRAL IN
NEWARK PAPERS"

In late 2022, the Morristown Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), in its continual search of descendants of Revolutionary War heroes, contacted Kofi Ayim about the story of Jack Cudjo. After going through rigorous scrutiny, the Washington D.C.-based DAR leadership of the more than 125-year-old organization with over 1,000,000 members approved a marker for Cudjo, to honor him as a true patriot of the Revolutionary War. Months of collaborative efforts of the Morristown Chapter of the NJDAR with the New Jersey Historical Society, the Newark Historical Society and other stakeholders has brought us here today to celebrate a true American patriot Jack Cudjo Bakwante based on the work of Mr. Kofi Ayim.

We do not know for sure where Cudjo Bakwante was buried but we know that he, amongst others, were buried at the environs of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), where we gather today. His

death, recorded in a handwritten format in a ledger of the Trinity Church by the Rev. Henry Powers reads: "Buried Jack Cudjo, a black aged probably about 100 years." Cudjo was buried on March 5, 1823.

Like so many enslaved people, he was mostly referred to as Jack, a name indubitably acquired in his foreign sojourn. In the white community, he was "Jack," pushing "Cudjo" to an assumed last name. However, to himself, family, and friends in his community, he would have been known as Cudjo, his original name. After his manumission, Cudjo employed the Sankofa principle by insisting on his given names at birth, "Cudjo Bakwante" (Cudjo was invariably written in documents as Cuajor, Cutjoe, Cuga, etc., while Bakwante sees variations like Banquante, Bacontin, Baquentyn, Banquanty), shying away from his acquired "Jack Cudjo". That's a typical peacock-pride feature of an Akyem Abuakwa prince/royalty.

Newark as it Was—No. 19.

Mr. Edron:—Leaving Uncle John and Aunt Martha Ward reposing quietly in their graves—where I trust no sacrilegious hand, political authority or fraudulent breach of trust will disturb their ashes, as the graves of their ancestors were desecrated—we wend our way to the western part of the town. Sixty years ago High street was the most western avenue running parallel with Broad street. Improved farms lay west of it to the first hill beyond, from whence to the Orange line the greater part of the land was covered with forest trees. North of Nesbitt street, and west of High, near the quarries, were some few old dwellings, of which I have no "data." At the north end of High street as extended, and on the north side of Mill Brook, stood the old grist mill and the miller's house opposite, both built of stone. Sixty years ago a family by the name of Keen, occupied the house; the father of the family was the miller. The lot on which the mill was built was originally set off as the miller's lot. As but a small part of the present population of Newark have the most remote idea of the difficulties, that the first settlers of the town had to contend with, I refer them to Jno. F. Stearns' history of the First Church, page 34, for the history of the "Old Corn Mill." The manner described by him of carrying a grist to mill at that early day, was not altogether out of use within the recollection of the writer. From the Mill Brook on High street, to the intersection of High with Clinton avenue, there were but 14 buildings—the first on the N. W. corner of High and Orange streets, known as the James R. Smith residence, since known as the A. C. M. Pennington place. It was considered one of the most elegant residences in the town.—On the S. W. corner of High and Orange sts., is an ancient stone house, which has probably been built between one and two centuries.—Below Morton's Brewery was an old house and two other small ones on the opposite side. On the S. W. corner of Nesbitt and High streets stood a house belonging to Abner Ward.—About 1808 or 1809 the house was burned down.

Mr. Ward owned a negro man who was so notoriously bad, that he had put on his neck an iron collar, with iron horns protruding from two sides of it. Abner Ward had a son-in-law by the name of Stephen Wheeler, who was a coach maker. Meeting with an opportunity with a southern customer to whom he had sold a carriage, to make sale of the negro, he did so, and the negro was taken to the State of Georgia. In 1820 the writer was walking in Broad street in Augusta, Ga., (on a Sabbath day) in company with a gentleman who formerly resided in Newark. On the opposite side there were three genteelly dressed negro men, to whom the gentleman with whom I was walking called my attention; and pointing out one of them by his dress, asked me if I knew him. I told him that I had made no acquaintances of that kind. He then called my recollection to the negro owned by Abner Ward, who wore the iron collar with horns, and said that was the negro. I inquired of him whether he had ever asked the negro if he wished to return north, he said that he had, and that the negro replied that he should like to go north to see how the four negroes got along, but that he never wanted to live among them.

The first building below Nesbitt street is the Nelson mansion, built by G. Nelson, (either an Englishman or Scotchman) about 1805 or 1806. Its situation to the passer by presents a splendid appearance, but no person can realize the beauty of its locality, or the splendid panoramic view from its roof, (would it not complete not only its appearance, but the view of its surroundings if it had an observatory built upon it?) without the pleasure of enjoying it. Opposite to the Nelson property and between Le North and South Orange roads was a brewery, which was afterwards converted into a salable iron foundry, and was burnt down some 30 years ago. On the southeast corner of High and South Orange avenue, stands the house built by Asaither Dod, and on the opposite corner the house and grounds belonging to the estate of the late John Ogden, Esq. The property was purchased by him with the build-

ings, fences and grounds in rather a dilapidated state. He improved the buildings, fences, and grounds, and made it one among the elegant country seats of our city. On the west side of High below William street there were three small dwellings, occupied by colored families. The first was owned by Johnson Ward and was a tenant house; the next below was owned by a small mulatto man, by the name of Michael Waddell. He was a Virginian negro, and a servant to General Washington, whom he accompanied in some of his campaigns. He left Gen. Washington and settled in Newark, and married a light mulatto woman by the name of Rachel. They were both remarkably religious and exemplary Christians, and were highly respected. Next below Michael was a negro family by the name of Cudjo; they owned their house and lot. The patriarch of the family was a native African; he had been a slave to Benjamin Coe. In the Revolutionary War he took the place of his master in the ranks as a soldier, for which service Mr. Coe gave him his freedom. He died at a very advanced age, leaving a family of children. He made claim to royal blood, being, as he said, the son of an African King. He was a quiet, orderly man. Whether his descendants have become extinct, or have gone to Africa to claim their prerogative to royal right, is not known—the name is not known among us. That neighborhood was known by the name of "Guinea."

Opposite Court street stands an old dilapidated building known as the Orphan Asylum. In its early day, it was considered one of the most slightly and elegant places in the country. It was surrounded with poplars, and the grounds were interspersed with elms, and the gardens filled with a great variety of native and exotic fruits and flowers. It was the admiration of all strangers. I have no "data" of who built it; my first recollections of it are when Scriba owned and occupied it. It was previously owned and occupied by an Englishman by the name of Herriot, who expended a large amount of money, in laying out and ornamenting the grounds with flowers, shrubbery, ornamental and fruit trees. Among them were imported apple trees, which were planted in his garden and trained into "espalliers." His exotic apples proved to be nothing more than the common apples of our country, but they were propagated in "Huglish" and of course must produce superior fruit. Geo. Scriba the owner after Herriot was a German, and a highly respectable gentleman. He being a large landed proprietor in Western New York, his interests rendered it necessary for him to remove there, after which the place remained unoccupied for some considerable time. It was subsequently owned and occupied by Wm. Wallace, afterwards by Ralph Clay—both Georgians. Afterwards, for short periods by a number of gentlemen, and during the time it gradually became dilapidated. It was subsequently purchased by Mrs. Van Cortlandt. After her death it was occupied a small portion of the time, and was lastly occupied by the Orphan Asylum Society, and is now in a complete state of dilapidation. From this point to the intersection of High street and Clinton avenue, and from Court street down Washington to the intersection, and also on the west side of High street, were continuous orchards, pasture and farming lands, no roads intervening, but the one now known as Spruce street. There is perhaps no city or town in this country, that the plat upon which it is built, and its surroundings, equals the city of Newark. High street on the hill on the west part of the city, and the hill running the whole length of the city, and continuous some miles beyond both its northern and southern boundaries, and at an elevation of some 70 feet above the level of the city, and about 100 above tide water, from any point, presents the most varied, picturesque and panoramic views of any like elevation in the country. The city of Newark is at your feet, and in the distance the steeples of New York, Elizabeth and Bergen, fields, rivers and meadows. Country residences, too, strike the eye of the stranger with surprise. I have seen much of the United States, but in all my travels I have never seen any part of the country that can bear any comparison with Newark and its surroundings, for its pleasant and slightly localities for country residences.—A drive from the southern part of the city through High street, and to the village of Belleville, and across the bridge, along the river road down to Newark bridge, perhaps cannot be equalled, or at least not excelled in the United States, presenting at every step the most desirable points for retired country residences. Although in the habit of walking along High street, from my boyhood days, there is that variety and freshness in the panoramic views from it, that add new pleasures to the scene.

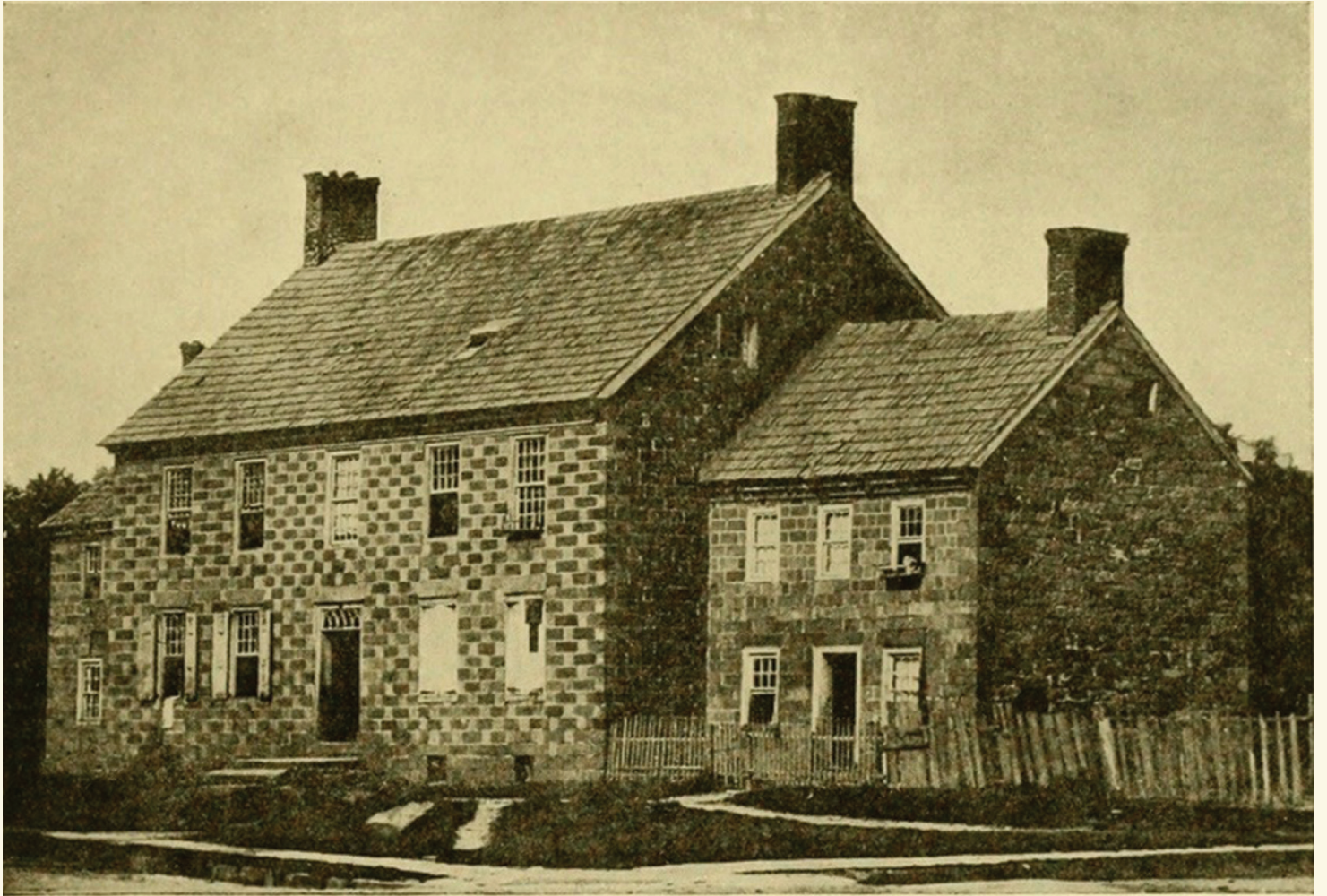
MONS ANON.

Newark, April 4, 1864.

Christians, and were highly respected. Next below Michael was a negro family by the name of Cudjo; they owned their house and lot. The patriarch of the family was a native African; he had been a slave to Benjamin Coe. In the Revolutionary War he took the place of his master in the ranks as a soldier, for which service Mr. Coe gave him his freedom. He died at a very advanced age, leaving a family of children. He made claim to royal blood, being, as he said, the son of an African King. He was a quiet, orderly man. Whether his descendants have become extinct, or have gone to Africa to claim their prerogative to royal right, is not known—the name is not known among us. That neighborhood was known by the name of "Guinea."

Opposite Court street stands an old dilapidated building known as the Orphan Asylum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CUDJO BANQUANTE, SEE A SHORT BIOGRAPHY ONLINE AT WWW.JERSEYHISTORY.ORG/CUDJO OR READ A FULL BOOK ABOUT HIM, *JACK CUDJO: NEWARK'S REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER AND FIRST BLACK BUSINESSMAN* BY KOFI AYIM, AVAILABLE AT KOFIAYIM.COM OR ON AMAZON.



THE COE HOMESTEAD, REPLACING A STRUCTURE BURNED DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, STOOD IN NEWARK INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

SOLDIER NEEDED TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH HIS ENLISTING OFFICER'S NAME (IN CUDJO BANQUANTE'S CASE, LT. EDMUND THOMAS). "JN" IS SHORT FOR JOHN (OR "JACK"), AND "KUGO" IS ONE OF MANY PHONETIC SPELLINGS FOUND IN RECORDS OF HIS NAME. CUDJO.

[illegible]

4 cards

C

Est'd.

New Jersey Continental Line.

NAME

Dugo, Thomas John

Residence

County

Born

Ref.

MS. Number 3705.

B
R
M

141

A Return of Men Enlisted by Captain Peter Dickerson and Officers of his Company in the 3d Regiment of New Jersey Commanded by Col. Eline Dayton, and dated Morris Town, May 21, 1777:

Name, Thomas John Dugo; By whom enlisted, Lieut. Thomas; Date of Enlistment, March 22, 1777; Where enlisted, Morristown; Place of abode, uncertain.

C _____ Est'd. ☐ B
M
New Jersey Continental Line.

NAME Duge, Thomas John

Residence _____ County _____

Born _____ Ref. N.J. Line, page 65.

A return of Privates of the Third Jersey
Regiment, 1777:
Date of enlistment, March 22d, 1777; By whom
enlisted, Lieut. Thomas.

67

B
R
M

C

Est'd. ☐ ☐

New Jersey Continental Line.

NAME Cugo, John

Residence _____ County _____

Born _____

Ref. Printed Roster, page 177.

John Cugo. Private, Captain Dickerson's
company, Third Battalion, Second Establishment.
(Same as Thomas Cugo. Correct Name
Thomas John Cugo. See m roll.)

5

C _____ Est'd. B
R
M

New Jersey Continental Line.

NAME Cugo, Thomas

Residence _____ County _____

Born _____ Ret/Printed Roster, page 177.

Thomas Cugo. Private, Captain Dickerson's
company, Third Battalion, Second Establishment.
(Same as John Cugo. Correct name Thos. John
Cugo. see m.roll.)

CP

IN THE LATE 1800S, MUSTER ROLLS AND PAYROLLS FOR NEW JERSEY'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS WERE ORGANIZED AND COMPILED BY THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL, WILLIAM S. STRYKER. STRYKER'S ORIGINAL RECORDS ARE HELD AT THE STATE LIBRARY OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY IN TRENTON, NJ AS REVOLUTIONARY WAR SLIPS, SINGLE CITATIONS OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MATERIALS.

“EXOTIC AND FANCY PLANTS”

Cudjo Banquante is said to have grown “exotic and fancy plants” for his business.

What was considered exotic and fancy in the late 1700s and early 1800s, when Cudjo’s business thrived?

Some popular plants from this era were considered exotic because they were introduced into North America from far-away places. From Persia came Lilacs, and from China came Peonies and Rhododendrons. Trees were a significant part of landscaping, including productive fruit trees as well as ornamentals. Weeping Willow and Tree of Heaven/Ailanthus were introduced from China.

Enslaved Africans often brought with them seeds from food crops native to their culture, and fruits and vegetables brought from Africa flourished in America largely because enslaved Africans planted their own

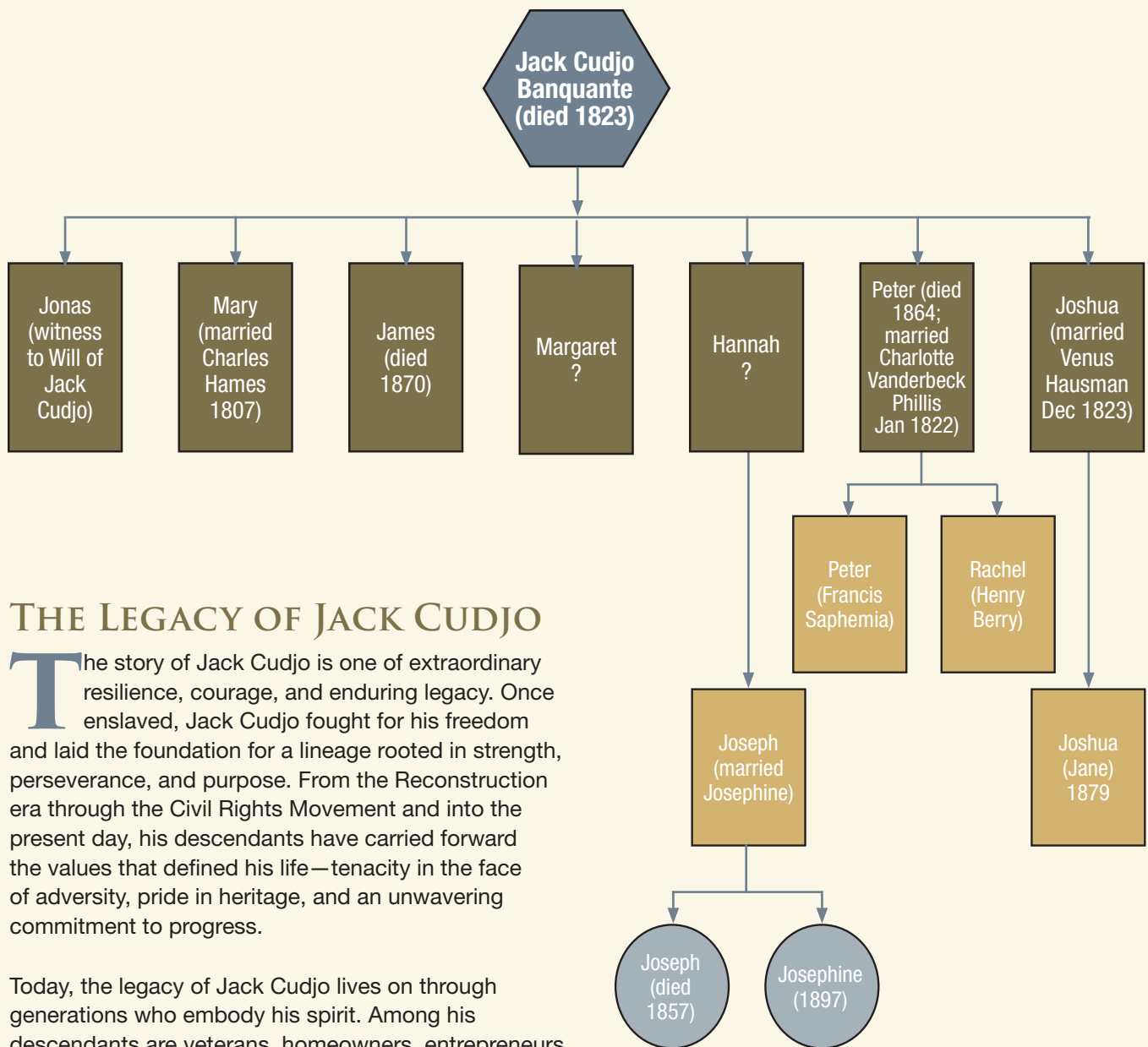


gardens. Cudjo Banquante might have grown some of these plants from imported or harvested seeds to sell in his horticulture business. Food crops indigenous to Africa that continue to be important in our diets today include black-eyed peas, leafy greens, okra, yams, watermelon, some peppers, and grains such as sorghum and millet. The base ingredient of cola is the kola nut, which is indigenous to Africa, as is coffee, rooibos, and shea.

Another clue about Cudjo Banquante’s plants comes from a description of the extensive gardens of his next-door neighbor, George Scriba. Given their close proximity, surely Scriba or his predecessor on the property procured many plants from Cudjo Banquante. A reminiscent article, “Newark as It Was – No. 19,” published in Newark’s Daily Advertiser on April 8, 1864, described Scriba’s garden:

“Opposite Court Street stands an old dilapidated building known 60 years ago as the “Scriba House,” lately known as the Orphan Asylum. In its early day, it was considered one of the most sightly and elegant places in the country. It was surrounded with poplars, and the grounds were interspersed with elms, and the gardens filled with a great variety of native and exotic fruits and flowers. It was the admiration of all strangers. I have no “data” of who built it; my first recollections of it are when Scriba owned and occupied it. It was previously owned and occupied by an Englishman by the name of Herriot, who expended a large amount of money, in laying out and ornamenting the grounds with flowers, shrubbery, ornamental and fruit trees. Among them were imported apple trees, which were planted in his garden and trained into “espaliers.” His exotic apples proved to be nothing more than the common apples of our country, but they were propagated in “Hinglish soil,” and of course must produce superior fruit.”

DESCENDANTS OF CUDJO BANQUANTE



THE LEGACY OF JACK CUDJO

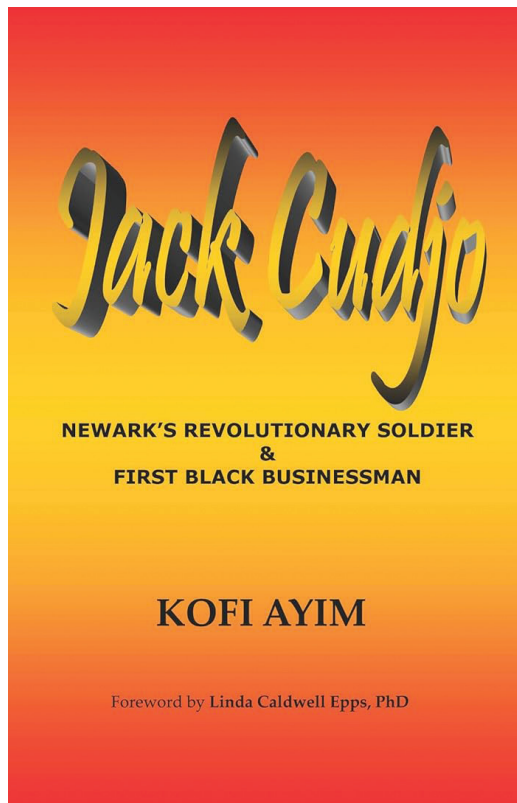
The story of Jack Cudjo is one of extraordinary resilience, courage, and enduring legacy. Once enslaved, Jack Cudjo fought for his freedom and laid the foundation for a lineage rooted in strength, perseverance, and purpose. From the Reconstruction era through the Civil Rights Movement and into the present day, his descendants have carried forward the values that defined his life—tenacity in the face of adversity, pride in heritage, and an unwavering commitment to progress.

Today, the legacy of Jack Cudjo lives on through generations who embody his spirit. Among his descendants are veterans, homeowners, entrepreneurs, and stewards of the land who continue the family's tradition in plant science, farming, and agriculture. Their lives reflect the nobility, acuity, and perseverance that have been passed down through the decades.

Cudjo Bakwante not only blazed a trail for his family but set a standard of excellence and integrity that continues to inspire. As we honor this legacy during today's celebration, we recognize that the fabric of Jack Cudjo's spirit remains interwoven into the lives of his descendants—a living testament to the power of legacy, love, and unwavering determination.

—Descendant Nikita

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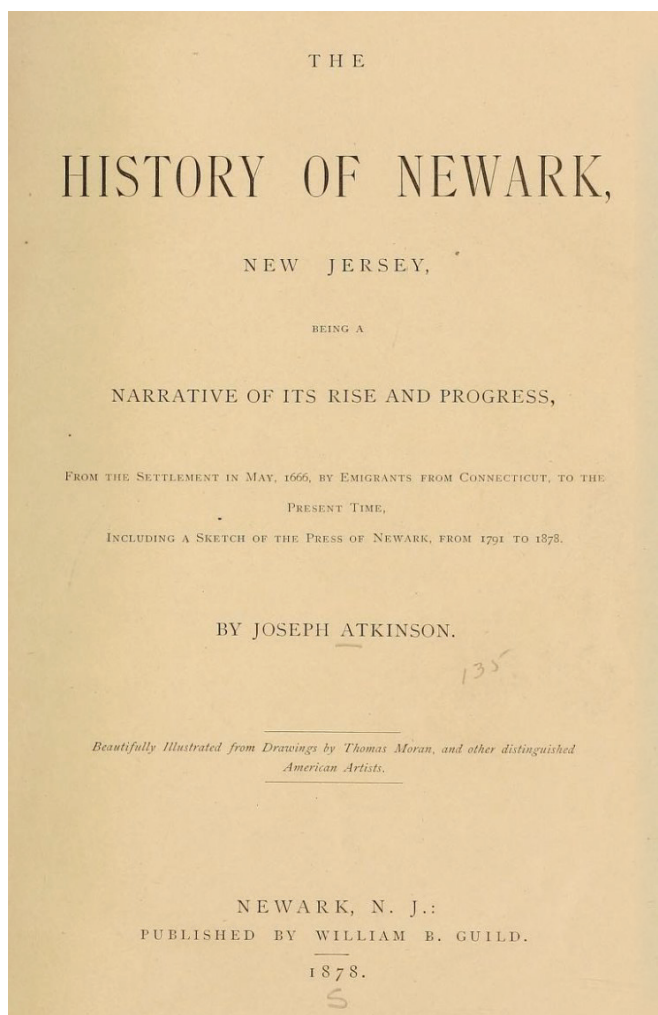
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MORE NEWARK HEROES—CUDJO, THE BLACK PATRIOT. 117
distinguished religious and political writer, who did much to advance the cause of freedom in the Revolutionary period."

The Beaches, by Josiah, who was shot in the engagement near Scotch Plains, June 26th, 1777; and by Zophar, who served first as a sailor and then as a soldier.

The Cranes, by Jonas, who was mortally wounded while making a gallant "forlorn hope" assault on Fort Delancey, at Saltersville, a post on Newark bay held by the British.

The Condit's, by Colonels David and Ebenezer.

The Hayeses, by Major Samuel, "a true whig, vigilant and active 'in the times that tried men's souls.'"

The Wheelers, by Captain James, who died on March 12th, 1777 having served with distinction in the Revolutionary army, and who, as a descendant of Newark, was "worthy of a more honorable monument than the edifice stealthily and illegally erected on the burial place of the family."

Nor should the Revolutionary annals of Newark omit mention in this patriotic connection of yet another name worthy of local fame—that of Cudjo. Cudjo was a black man, a slave owned by Benjamin Coe. He entered the army as a substitute for his venerable master, and it is possible may have been one of the seven hundred black American patriots who imperilled their lives for their country at the battle of Monmouth—bravely fighting side by side with the whites. For his services in the field Cudjo was given, by Mr. Coe, his freedom and nearly an acre of ground on High street, near Nesbitt. There was a something about the bearing of Cudjo which gave strength to the claim advanced by him that he was of royal African lineage.

The space from Lexington to Yorktown is dotted with daring and interesting exploits of Jersey militia and minute-men in the immediate neighborhood of Newark. The central figure of quite a

BLACK SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

People of color played an integral part in early American history, including the American Revolution. At the start of the Revolution, about 500,000 African-descended people lived in the Colonies, comprising almost 25% of the total population. About 450,000 (90%) of these were enslaved. The remaining 10% were free, with the same legal rights as any free person of the time.

African-descended soldiers played an important role in securing our nation's freedom. About 5,000-8,000 African-descended soldiers served in the Continental Army, most of them integrated right into the main army. Even more served in state militias and naval forces. By the end of the war, about 10% of the Continental army would be people of color.

These soldiers joined for various reasons: some may have joined for similar reasons to their European-descended counterparts, others were enslaved and compelled to join on behalf of their enslavers, and others joined to escape enslavement.

The First Rhode Island Regiment is the most famous unit that included African-descended soldiers. This regiment actively recruited African-descended soldiers, offering them a rare opportunity to fight for their freedom and for that of the nation. The regiment's

bravery and effectiveness in battle, particularly during the Siege of Yorktown, demonstrated African-descended soldiers' indispensable contributions and sacrifices in the struggle for independence.

It is important that we recognize the courage and sacrifices of African-descended patriots during the Revolutionary War, and the full breadth of their contributions. Their stories demonstrate the indomitable will for freedom which transcended race and circumstance.



AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT THE SIEGE OF YORKTOWN, PAINTED IN 1781 BY FRENCH SOLDIER AND EYEWITNESS, JEAN-BAPTISTE-ANTOINE DEVERGER

NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Strategically located between New York City and Philadelphia, New Jersey saw more revolutionary action and activity, over a longer period of time, than any other colony. It was the site of over 600 battles, skirmishes and acts of war; today there are over 150 historic sites to explore.

New Jersey was the place where the most important moment of the war, ‘the Turning Point of the Revolution,’ took place. It was here at Christmastime in 1776 where Washington crossed the Delaware, and over ‘Ten Crucial Days,’ won two battles in Trenton and a third in Princeton, and saved the Revolution.

George Washington spent one-quarter of his time as General leading troops in New Jersey. We can truly say, “Washington slept here,” more than in other other state.

New Jersey saw both the coldest moment of the war — at Morristown in the winter of 1779-1780 — and the hottest moment — the long battle of Monmouth in June 1778.

Of all the Governor’s Houses in the 13 colonies, only one still stands, in Perth Amboy, NJ.

New Jersey was revolutionary from beginning to end. From January, 1774, when students at Princeton burnt the college’s tea in support of the patriots who dumped tea into Boston Harbor, to 1783, when the Treaty of Paris ended the war, New Jersey was a constant witness to conflict, struggle and victory.

No other colony then, and no other state now, can make that claim. Which makes New Jersey the ‘Crossroads of the American Revolution.’

BATTLES AND SKIRMISHES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN NEW JERSEY

AMSBY

NEWARK

NOV 28-76
JUN 5-77
FEB 23-77
MAR 8-77
APR 12-77
SEP 12-77
JUN 27-77
JAN 30-80
MAR 12-81
SEP 23-81
MAR 14-82

BERGEN AREA

JUL 18,21,22-76
AUG 26-76
SEP 18-76
JUL 17-80
NOV 21,29-81
MAR 29-81
AUG 21-81
MAY 29-82
JUN 2-82

SPRINGFIELD

DEC 17-76
JAN 5-77
FEB 1-77
JUN 7-77
JUL 2-77
AUG 2-77
SEP 2-77
OCT 2-77
NOV 2-77
DEC 2-77

STATEN ISLAND

FEB 19-76
JUL 4,24-76
OCT 13-76
NOV 17-76
SEP 14-77
FEB 5-78
MAY 18-79
APR 15-80
MAY 30-80
APR 10-81

NEW BRUNSWICK

DEC 13,17-76
JAN 17-77
FEB 15,26-77
MAR 13,19,20,24-77
APR 22-77
JUN 25-79
FEB 25-79
JUN 12-79
OCT 26-79
JAN 9-82

PARAMUS

DEC 16,27-76
APR 22-77
MAY 12-77
JUN 16-77
APR 13-77
MAY 18-79
MAY 26-79
OCT 28-79
MAR 12-81

BOUND BROOK

JAN 6-77
FEB 6-77
APR 13-77
MAY 26-77
OCT 28-79
MAR 12-81

CLDSTER

APR 21-77
MAR 29-77
APR 28-79
MAY 10-79
MAY 25-80
JUN 8,17-80
JUL 21-80
MAR 12,13-81
SEPT 12-81

ELIZABETHTOWN

AUG 23-76
JAN 5-77
FEB 18,24,27-77
MAR 6-77
SEPT 14,15-77
FEB 25,27-79
JUN 12,18-79
OCT 14,27-79
JAN 25,30-80
FEB 10-80
MAR 24-80
APR 23-80
APR 7-77

PRIORS MILL

MAY 10,15,16-76
JUN 17-79
AUG 25-80
OCT 14,27-79
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FEB 10-80
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QUIBLETOWN

JAN 16-77
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QUIBLETOWN

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APR 7-77

SPARKTOWN

JAN 5-77
FEB 23-77
MAR 8-77
APR 12-77
SEP 12-77
JUN 27-77
JAN 30-80
MAR 12-81
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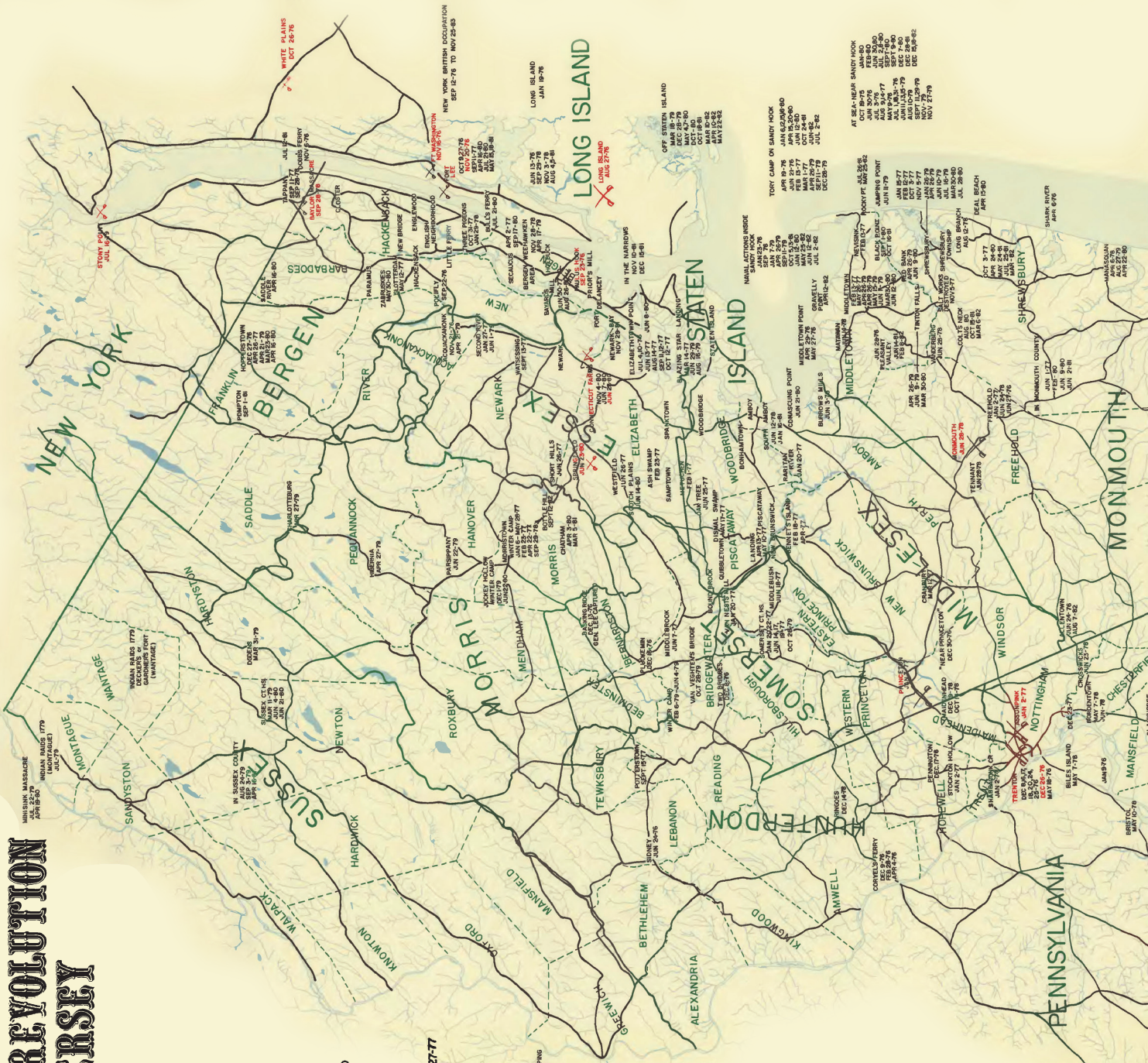
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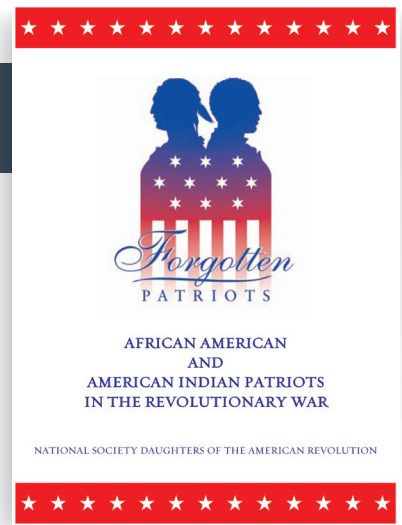
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SOME REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS OF COLOR IN NEW JERSEY

For decades, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has worked to identify African Americans, Native Americans, and individuals of mixed heritage who supported the struggle for independence during the American Revolution. The research is available online in *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War*, (<https://www.dar.org/library/forgotten-patriots/forgotten-patriots-book>)

The following list of New Jersey Patriots of Color is extracted from this publication. This list represents a small percentage of the thousands who served, but whose stories have been lost.



ANDREW, African American, Teamster, no residence given

ARRAY, JAMES, African American, Soldier, Hunterdon Co.

BARD, CUFFEY, African American, Fifer, no residence given. His daughter was Silvia Dubois, whose biography was written by C. W. Larison and titled "Silvia Dubois, A Biography of the slave who whipt her mistress and gained her freedom."

BLACK, POMPEY, African American, Soldier, no residence given

BROTHERTON INDIANS (number unknown) working at the Atsion Company's milling and foundry works, in Atsion, Burlington Co. near their reservation.

BUSTILL, CYRUS, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"), "Baker of the Revolution," Burlington Co.

CASAR/CAESAR/SEASER/CESER, JAMES, African American, Soldier, no residence given CASAR/CASOR/CAESAR/CAEZAR/CASER/CESAR/CESER/CEZAR/CEASAR/CAESOR/COESAR, JOHN, African American, no residence given

CATO, African American ("Negro"), Woodbridge, Middlesex Co.

CATO, HENRY, Indian, Soldier, no residence given

CATO, JOHN, African American, Soldier, no residence given

CEASAR, African American, Teamster, no residence given

CEZAR/SEZAR, THOMAS, African American?, no residence given

CHARLTON, SAMUEL, African American, Soldier, no residence given

CHEEKS, JOHN, no residence given

CROMWELL, OLIVER, Mixed descent ("Mulatto"/Indian), soldier/drummer, Burlington Co. [It is possible that Cromwell was of part Indian and part African descent. The 1850 federal census for Burlington Co., N. J., lists Cromwell with some of his family as a mulatto age 97 and as "Drummer in the Revolution" in the occupation column. New Jersey state military records list Cromwell as an Indian.]

CUDGO/CUDJO, JACK/ JOHN/THOMAS CUDJO (CUDJO BANQUANTE), African American, Soldier, substitute for his master Benjamin Coe, Newark, Essex Co.

CUFF, NEGRO, African American, Soldier, no residence given

CUFF, NEGRO, African American, fifer, no residence given

CUFFEE, AMOS, African American, Middlesex Co.

CUFFEE/CUFFEY, WILLIAM, Indian, Soldier, Monmouth Co.

DELENS, PERO, (deserted)

DICK, African American, Teamster, WSS:861, no residence given

DILLAP, JAMES, Indian, Cumberland Co.

EDWARDS, LUCRETIA, African American, officer's servant, no residence given

EVANS, JOHN, African American, Soldier, no residence given [Note: Not the same man as DAR established patriot.]

FORTUNE, THOMAS, African American, spy, no residence given

FRANK, African American ("Negro"), patriotic service, Salem Co.

FRANCIS, JACOB, African American, Soldier, Cont.
Line N.J. & Mass., Hunterdon Co.

FRANCIS, WILLIAM JOSEPH, African American,
Soldier, no residence given

GIZZE, Indian, Private, no residence given

GUY, JOHN, African American (“coloured man”),
Soldier, Hunterdon Co.

HILL, HENRY, African American, Soldier, no
residence given

HOLMES, WILLIAM, Indian, Soldier, Reading/
Monmouth Co. [Note: Not the same as DAR
established patriot pensioned under W429.]

JACK, African American, Teamster, no residence given

JACOB, FRANCIS, African American, Hunterdon Co.

JOHNSON/JONSON, CATO, African American,
Soldier, no residence given

MARTIN, THOMAS, African American, Soldier,
Woodbridge

MOLAT, GIDEON, Monmouth Co.

MURRAY, MARK, Mixed descent (Swedish and
Lenape or Siconesse Indian), Gouldtown,
Cumberland Co.

NED, African American (“Negro”), patriotic service,
(enslaved man of ___ Abbot], Salem Co.

NEGRO, CATO, African American, no residence given

NEGRO, DICK, African American, no residence given

PEACOCK, ADJOIYAK, no residence given

PIERCE, ADAM, Mixed descent (African and
European; “mulatto”), Private, Gouldtown,
Cumberland Co. [Note: DAR established patriot.]

PIERCE, ANTHONY, Mixed descent (African and
European; “mulatto”), Gouldtown, Cumberland Co.

PIERCE, RICHARD, Mixed descent (African and
European; “mulatto”), Gouldtown, Cumberland Co.

POMP, CAESAR, African American, Teamster, no
residence given

PRIME, African American (enslaved man of Loyalist
Absalom Bainbridge), Somerset Co.

PRIME, African American (“Negro”), patriotic service,
Salem Co.

PRIME, BLACK, African American, no residence
given

PRINCE, African American (“Negro”), Somerset Co.

QUASH, African American (“Negro”), patriotic service,
Salem Co.

RAY, JAMES, African American, Soldier, no
residence given

SEASAR/SEASOR, JAMES, African American,
no residence given

SIMONSON, SAMUEL (aka SAMBO, NEGRO),
African American, Soldier, Somerset Co.

SUTPHIN, SAMUEL, African American, Soldier,
Somerset Co.

**SWANSON/SIMONSON, SAMUEL (or NEGRO
SAMBO)**, African American, Soldier, no
residence given

TITUS, NEGRO, African American, no residence given

TOBY, ISAAC, drummer in Dayton’s New Jersey
Battalion and in 3rd New Jersey Regiment

TOM, Indian, no residence given

TOMSON, AMOS, African American, no
residence given

WARNER, CUFF, African American, no
residence given

WILL, African American, Teamster, no residence given

WILLIAMS, PETER, African American, Soldier,
Woodbridge, Middlesex Co.



VARNUM'S BLACK REGIMENT, BY
FRANK QUAGAN (PHOTO: VARNUM ARMORY
MUSEUM, GREENWICH, RI)

AKYEM ABUAKWA KINGDOM

The Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Community is in the area of Okyeman, which lies on the western part of Ghana's Eastern Region and extends from the Jejeti and Kankang in the north to Adeiso in the southwest. The traditional area covers a total of 105,000+ hectares and has an estimated population of about two million, constituting about ten percent of Ghana's population.

Okyeman is one of the most powerful kingdoms within the Akan traditional system in Ghana, comprising 801 towns and villages which are organized into five Divisions (Adonteng, Oseawuo, Nifa, Benkum, and Gyasi). The traditional system of government in Okyeman is one of the most sophisticated in Ghana, with a government structure led by the King (Okyenhenne) and three councils of elected chiefs, sub-chiefs, councilors, and elders. The Councils correspond to the executive, state, and county councils of western government.



HIS ROYAL MAJESTY
OSAGYEFUO AMOATIA OFORI PANIN



THE KING OF OKYEMAN
(AKYEM ABUAKWA KINGDOM)
GHANA





ATEWA FOREST RESERVE, IMAGE FROM KEYBIODIVERSITYAREAS.ORG

Okyeman is one of the richest areas of natural resources in Ghana, including mineral resources, forest estate, and biodiversity. It is home to the country's largest state-owned diamond firm. At one time there were 27 gold and diamond concessions in the area. In addition, the area has considerable bauxite and kaolin deposits.

The historical appellation of Okyeman, "Kwaebibirem" (meaning the dense forest) validates the past extent and condition of forest lands in this traditional area. Even now, Okyeman controls a significant portion of Ghana's remaining forest and protects them as forest reserves and sacred groves (patches of forest set aside as sacred and strictly protected by customary laws). These forests are characterized by tall trees exceeding 150 feet with an upper canopy of deciduous and evergreen species. Isolated hills within this forest are rare Upland evergreen forest on which live globally important biodiverse flora and fauna.

The Atewa and Nsuensa Forest Reserves are classified as Globally Important Bird Areas and important watersheds. They include steep hills that are the last remains of the Tertiary peneplain on which grow bovals (unique meadows), swamps, and thickets on ancient bauxite-rich soil.

The Akyem Abuakwa Traditional Council is led by His Majesty Osagyefuo Amoatia Ofori Panin. Osagyefuo has been very active in the campaign to save, maintain, and develop the environment. He has stressed the importance of agro-forestry schemes to ensure sustainable development. He championed environmental causes by creating Okyeman Environment Foundation and funding the Forest Plantation Development Fund. He created the Community Environment Protection Brigade to encourage direct participation of communities.

GHANA HISTORY AND CULTURE

Formerly known as the Gold Coast, the Republic of Ghana is a country in West Africa. It abuts the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean to the south, sharing borders with Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, and Togo in the east. Ghana covers an area of 92,497 square miles, spanning diverse biomes that range from coastal savannas to tropical rainforests. With over 32 million inhabitants, Ghana is the second-most populous country



MAP OF WESTERN AFRICA SHOWING GHANA, FROM BRITANNICA.COM





STREET SCENE IN GHANA, IMAGE FROM GETTY IMAGES

in West Africa. The capital and largest city is Accra; other significant cities include Kumasi, Tamale, and Sekondi-Takoradi. Gold, cocoa, and more recently oil are the cornerstones of Ghana's economy and have helped fuel an economic boom.

The earliest kingdoms to emerge in Ghana were the Kingdom of Dagbon in the north and the Bono state in the south, with the Bono state existing in the area during the 11th century. The Ashanti Empire and other Akan kingdoms in the south emerged over the centuries. Beginning in the 15th century, the Portuguese Empire, followed by other European powers, contested the area for trading rights, until the British ultimately established control of the coast by the 19th century. Following over a century of colonial resistance, the current borders of the country took shape, encompassing four separate British colonial territories: Gold Coast, Ashanti, the Northern Territories, and British Togoland. These were unified as an independent dominion within the Commonwealth of Nations. On 6 March 1957, Ghana became the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to shake off colonial rule and achieve

sovereignty. Ghana subsequently became influential in decolonization efforts and the Pan-African movement.

Ghana is a multi-ethnic country with linguistic and religious groups; while the Akan are the largest ethnic group, they constitute a plurality. Most Ghanaians are Christians (71.3%); almost a fifth are Muslims; a tenth practice traditional faiths or report no religion. Ghana is a unitary constitutional democracy led by a president who is head of state and head of government. For political stability in Africa, Ghana ranked seventh in the 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance and fifth in the 2012 Fragile States Index. It has maintained since 1993 one of the freest and most stable governments on the continent, and it performs relatively well in healthcare, economic growth, and human development, so that it has a significant influence in West Africa and Africa as a whole. Ghana is highly integrated in international affairs, being a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, African Union and a member of the Economic Community of West African States, Group of 24 and Commonwealth of Nations.

ADINKRA: SOME AKAN SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANING IN RELATION TO CUDJO BANQUANTE

Adinkra are visual symbols that represent concepts, proverbs, and aphorisms. They originate from the people of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and are saturated with meaning, serving as a concise way to convey deep truths in visual form. Adinkra have come to represent the richness of Akan culture in particular and African culture in general. They are now globally recognized for their profound cultural significance, gracing logos, clothing, furniture, architecture, and more. Below are some popular adinkras, with a perspective of how they relate to Cudjo Banquante.



Gye Nyame (meaning Except God)

An Akan symbol expressing the omnipotence of God. In the abstract form, the symbol is a clenched fist with a forefinger pointing skyward. Akyerekwan nsateakoro, as the forefinger is known in the Akan language, is the single directional finger, the one and only omnipotent God that leads and points the way.

Cudjo Banquante's adversities and triumphs are exemplary examples that nobody can change the destiny of a fellow human being... except God!



Sankofa (meaning Go Back and Retrieve It)

Sankofa is a mythical bird turning its head backward to retrieve something of value. Literally, Sankofa means it is not taboo to go back and retrieve what one might have left behind. There is wisdom in learning from past experiences to build for the future.

Captured from Africa and enslaved in Newark, New Jersey, Cudjo Banquante did not forget his cultural roots and his primary identity. Once freed, he insisted that his name was Cudjo Bakwante (often spelled Banquante in New Jersey), as evidenced by his last will and testament.



Dwennimmen (meaning Ram's Horns)

A symbol of strength (of mind, body, and soul), humility, wisdom, and diligence, and endurance. The ram knows "when to hold on, when to fold up, when to walk away, and when to run" to survive.

Like the ram, Cudjo Banquante marked his time in slavery and post-enslavement with bravery, dexterity, and hard work to thrive and become a celebrated American hero.



Nkyinkyim (meaning Twisting But Unbreakable)

Twisting, but unbreakable. This symbol represents the tortuous nature of life and the dynamism required to thrive.

Unbreakable as he was, Cudjo Banquante survived the rigors of life as an enslaved person, substituted for his owner as a soldier in many Revolutionary War battles, gained his freedom at an advanced age, and beat all odds to become the respectable person we honor today.



Denkyem (meaning Crocodile)

A symbol of adaptability and cleverness. The crocodile lives both on land and in water, yet it does not drink water and it breathes air.

Haughtiness, naughtiness, and a big ego are typical characteristics of royalty. But Cudjo Banquante, an Akyem royal enslaved in a foreign land, learned how to adapt to his new environment and status to survive and thrive.



Adwo (meaning Calmness)

A symbol for peace, tranquility, and quiet.

Cudjo Banquante's respectable and calm nature were acknowledged by 19th century Newark historians and local newspaper reporters.



Akoko Nan (meaning the Leg of the Hen)

A symbol for discipline coupled with care and nurturing. When the mother hen steps on its chicks, it is not an attempt to kill them, but rather to protect them from impending danger.

This motherly (or rather fatherly) love is demonstrated by Cudjo Banquante when he protected his family, willing his properties to his wife and two youngest children.



Aya (meaning Fern)

A symbol of endurance, independence, defiance against difficulties, hardiness, perseverance, and resourcefulness.

Sounds familiar with Cudjo Banquante's sojourn in his new world?



Mate Masie (meaning I Have Kept What I Heard)

A symbol of wisdom, knowledge, and prudence.

Cudjo Banquante heard it all.... from the grapevines, the fields, and the house... and utilized the information as tools for survival.



Woforo Dua Pa A (meaning When You Climb a Good Tree)

A symbol of support for good causes and good deeds supported by the community.

By his good deeds, Cudjo Banquante courted support, dignity, and respect in Newark N.J. Our gathering here to honor a true patriot of Newark, and indeed the U.S., is a testament to the good tree (or flowers) that Cudjo nurtured in the annals of the history.

HONORING CUDJO BANQUANTE!

FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

APRIL-MAY 2025

SEMI-PERMANENT EXHIBITS:

Newark Museum of Art, 49 Washington Street: Learn more about slavery in New Jersey and Black soldiers of the American Revolution, take a special tour dedicated to the stories and ideals of the American Revolution.

New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place: Learn more about Cudjo Banquante's life through records and artifacts held at the Society. The exhibit will be available starting on April 30 through September.

Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street: See a special display of plants of the 18th-19th century that Cudjo Banquante might have sold, on the beautiful conservancy grounds that offer an oasis of natural beauty right in Newark.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

**Saturday, April 19
2:00PM**

Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street

Showing of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's documentary, "Black Patriots: Heroes of the Revolution." From the initial sparks of revolution in Boston to the climactic Siege of Yorktown and beyond, this film paints a comprehensive picture of the African American experience during the Revolutionary War and shares the story of the war within the revolution through the eyes of some of the most crucial and significant African American figures of our country's founding. Free and open to the public.

ADINKRA WORKSHOP

**Saturday, April 26
1:00PM**

New Jersey
Historical Society
52 Park Place

Family-friendly adinkra-making workshop with retired art teacher Alicia Robinson. Adinkra are visual symbols that represent concepts and proverbs, offering a concise way to convey deep truths in visual form. They originate from the people of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, and have come to represent the richness of Akan culture in particular and African culture in general. They are now globally recognized for their profound cultural significance, gracing logos, clothing, furniture, architecture, and more. At this workshop, learn about adinkra and their stories and make your own to take home. Free and open to the public.

CONCERT AND OPENING RECEPTION

**Sunday, April 27
12:00-3:00PM**

Newark Museum of Art
49 Washington Street

"Cudjo Banquante: Celebrating Newark's Revolutionary Hero"
A day of music, art, and history honoring Cudjo Banquante, with an original musical performance by MacArthur Award-winning composer Courtney Bryan. With Joshua Stewart (tenor voice) and Damian Norfleet (baritone voice). Featuring the debut of "Heat of the Battle," John Phillip Osborne's painting of Banquante at the Battle of Monmouth, on long-term view at the Museum. The event is open to the public and free with Museum admission but registration is required.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

**Tuesday, April 29
6:00PM**

Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street

Genealogy workshop. Every family has interesting stories, and learning about the lives, contributions, challenges, and sacrifices of your ancestors opens a window to learn about yourself. Genealogists will guide attendees through sources and tools to research their family ancestry. Free and open to the public.

Most events are free and open to the public.
Some events require registration.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Wednesday, April 30
5:00PM

New Jersey Historical Society
52 Park Place

Showing and discussion of the NJ PBS film “The Price of Silence: The Forgotten Story of New Jersey’s Enslaved People.” This film fills a gap in Garden State history by sharing the little-known legacy of slavery across New Jersey. There will also be an opening reception for the Society’s special exhibit about Cudjo Banquante starting at 5:00 PM, and the movie will start at 5:45 PM. Free and open to the public.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Thursday, May 1
6:00PM

Bethany Baptist Church
275 W. Market Street

Panel discussion on “Rise Up Newark: The 1967 Rebellion.” Join noted scholars Vickie Donaldson, Richard Roper, and Junius Williams to discuss the causes and impacts of one of the most significant events in Newark’s history. Ms. Donaldson is the Social Services Director of Homeless Programs for the City of Newark. Mr. Roper is a public policy consultant and former director of the Planning Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Mr. Williams is a nationally recognized attorney, musician, and educator who has been at the forefront of American civil rights and human rights movements. Free and open to the public.

ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

Thursday-Friday, May 1-2
All Day

Two locations

Academic symposium, “Revolution to Reparations,” sponsored by Rutgers University Newark and the Newark History Society. Panelists comprised of noted scholars and activists will discuss African-American History in Newark. This event is free and open to the public, registration is required. Day 1 (May 1) is at **Express Newark, 54 Halsey Street**. Day 2 (May 2) is at the **Paul Robeson Campus Center, Essex Room, at 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd**.

GUIDED BUS TOURS

Friday, May 2 and
Saturday May 3

Meet at Greater Newark
Conservancy, 32 Prince Street

Guided bus tours of Cudjo Banquante-related sites and other notable Black history locations in Newark, starting and ending at the Greater Newark Conservancy. Friday, May 2 (2 tours, 10:00AM and 2:00PM) and Saturday May 3 (1 tour, 2:30PM). Free and open to the public, registration is required. More information and registration at cudjobanquantebustours.eventbrite.com.

MARKER UNVEILING

Saturday, May 3
11:00AM-2:00PM

New Jersey Performing
Arts Center (NJPAC)
1 Center Street

Ceremony to unveil historic marker in honor of Cudjo Banquante. Afterwards, stay and enjoy authentic African drumming and dancing and mingle with Black Revolutionary soldier Noah Lewis and Revolutionary soldier reenactors from the 3rd NJ Regiment at Chambers Plaza of NJPAC (indoors if bad weather). Registration will be required for indoor portion of ceremony.

AFRICAN DRUM AND DANCE WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 3
5:00PM

Military Park (to be confirmed)
(In the event of inclement weather,
the workshop will be held indoors
at the New Jersey Historical
Society, 52 Park Place)

Join (or just listen and watch) a public workshop dedicated to the art of West African drumming and dancing. Learn about the relationship between music and dance, and how the shared and syncopated rhythm is a common language. In this workshop, you’ll experience first hand the joy and vitality of rhythms rooted in Africa.

JAZZ VESPERS

Saturday, May 3

4:00PM

Bethany Baptist Church
275 W. Market Street

Jazz Vespers combining jazz music with worship. A special discussion with musical examples demonstrating the influence of African music on American gospel and jazz by Wayne Winborne, Executive Director of Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, will begin at 4:00 PM. At 6:00 PM will be a performance by GRAMMY® winning pianist Arturo O'Farrill, a prolific musician, composer and passionate promoter of Latin music and its cultural heritage. Free and open to the public. www.njpac.org/event/arturo-ofarrill-bethany-jazz-vespers/

CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday, May 4

Old First

Presbyterian Church
820 Broad Street

11:00AM;

Trinity Episcopal Church
608 Broad Street

10:00AM

Attend the regular weekly Sunday service at one of the churches where Cudjo Banquante worshipped. The congregations have been in continuous operation ever since, and in fact both buildings are the same buildings where Cudjo Banquante walked. This is your opportunity to give thanks to Cudjo Banquante and all those who suffered and sacrificed to give us our freedoms and independence during the American Revolution and in many struggles since. Free and open to the public. He first worshipped at the Old First Presbyterian Church at 820 Broad Street. The building dates from 1791. Attend the weekly Sunday service there at 11:00 AM. Late in life Cudjo Banquante worshipped at Trinity Episcopal Church at 608 Broad Street. He was buried by this church's pastor in their burying yard. The building dates from 1806. Attend the weekly Sunday service there at 10:00 AM.

OPERA PERFORMANCE

Sunday May 4

Performance of *Bumpy Johnson* by Newark-based opera company, Trilogy, with special elements to honor Cudjo Banquante. For more information and to buy tickets, see the Trilogy website, www.trilogyaoc.com.

STUDENT OUTREACH

Ongoing

Enrichment activities at local public and charter schools, jointly developed with the Amistad Commission. Curriculum components for grades 4-12 will be launched in time for the 2025-2026 school year.

Want to learn more?

Visit the Cudjo Banquante exhibit

at the New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place

Take the self-guided tour at the Newark Museum of Art, 49 Washington Street, including artifacts of Cudjo Banquante's "owner" Benjamin Coe and a beautiful depiction of Cudjo Banquante in battle painted by renowned artist John Phillip Osborne

Visit the exhibit at the Greater Newark Conservancy, 32 Prince Street, including a display of flowers and plants that Cudjo Banquante probably sold in his horticulture business

Visit the Newark Public Library to begin discovering your family history and learn how to tackle the special challenges of researching early Black Americans

“REVOLUTION TO REPARATIONS: THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN NEW JERSEY” HISTORY SYMPOSIUM AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEWARK MAY 1-2, 2025

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, May 1, 2025

9:30-10:15am Coffee, pastries

10:15am Welcome

Linda Caldwell Epps, Newark History Society
Chancellor Jeffrey Robinson, Rutgers University
President Jonathan Holloway, Rutgers University

10:30am-12pm

PANEL 1: Recovering and Preserving New Jersey's Black History

Panel Chair: John Johnson, Jr., St. Peter's University
Panelist: Guy Weston, Timbuctoo Village, Westampton
Panelist: Gilda Rogers, Thomas Fortune House, Red Bank
Panelist: Breanna Moore, University of Pennsylvania

12-1:30pm Lunch and Plenary Speaker:

Melissa Cooper, Rutgers University, Newark:
“Marion Thompson Wright's Search for
New Jersey's Black Past”

1:30-1:45pm Break

1:45-3pm

PANEL 2: Sources and Resources for Black History in New Jersey

Panel Chair: Gary B. Crosby, president, St. Elizabeth University
Panelist: James Amemasor, Rutgers, Newark
and New Jersey Historical Society
Panelist: Dale Colston, Newark Public Library
Panelist: Marjorie Crawford, Rutgers University Law School
Panelist, Teresa Vega, Independent Scholar

3-3:15pm Break, coffee, cookies

3:15-4:45pm

PANEL 3: Reimagining the Historic House

Panel Chair: Noelle Lorraine Williams,
New Jersey Historical Commission
Panelist: Elizabeth Allan, Morven, Princeton
Panelist: Amy Simon Hopwood, Ballantine House,
Newark Museum of Art
Panelist: Samuel Stephens, Trent House, Trenton
Panelist: Joe Zemla, Bernadette Rogoff,
Marlpit Hall, Middletown

Friday, May 2, 2025

9:30-10am Coffee, pastries

10-11:30am

PANEL 4: Legacy Projects

Panel Chair: Howard Dodson, Howard University
Panelist: S. Kendall Hall, Ubuntu Cultural Pavilion
Panelist: R. Isabela Morales, The Princeton and Slavery Project

11:30-11:45am . . . Break

11:45am-1:15pm . . Lunch and Plenary Speaker:

Ryan Haygood, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice:
“The Only Way Forward is Reparations”

1:15-1:30pm Break

1:30-3pm

PANEL 5: Art and Material Culture

A conversation between Nell Irvin Painter, Princeton University
and Wendel A. White, Stockton University about White's
recent exhibit and book, *Manifest/Thirteen Colonies*, which
documents African American material culture.

3-3:15pm Coffee and cookies

3:15-4:45pm

PANEL 6: Reparations and Social Justice

Panel Chair: Mark Krasovic, Rutgers University, Newark
Panelist: Jean-Pierre Brutus,
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Panelist: Dionne Ford, New Jersey Reparations Council
Panelist: Taja-Nia Henderson, Rutgers University Law School

4:45-5:45pm Reception

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

While many organizations contributed significantly to this celebration in honor of Cudjo Banquante, the project was sparked by the efforts of the Morristown Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The DAR, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

DAR members volunteer millions of service hours annually in their local communities including supporting active duty military personnel and assisting veteran patients, awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial aid each year to students, and supporting schools for underserved children with annual donations exceeding one million dollars.

As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, DAR boasts 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Any woman 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. Newark is home to the oldest DAR chapter in New Jersey, Nova Caesarea (meaning "New Jersey" in Latin). The chapter was formed in 1891.



DAR.org

NEWARK HISTORY SOCIETY

The Newark History Society aims to expand knowledge of Newark's past so that we may better understand the present. Settled by Puritans in 1666, Newark has a rich and textured history as one of America's great cities. Newark's history is worth studying and knowing not only for its intrinsic interest, but for insights into the social and intellectual forces that have shaped the American experience—including industrial innovation, political controversy, and the immigrant experience, as well as urban development, decay, and rebirth.

Founded in 2002, the Newark History Society organizes regular public programs, encourages new research, and sponsors the Newark Archives Project. Programs are free and open to the public. Events are videotaped and later posted on YouTube.



www.newarkhistorysociety.org



Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright
President General
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
1776 D Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5303

May 3, 2025

Dear members of the Morristown Chapter and the greater Newark Community,

My great pleasure is to send heartfelt greetings on the dedication of the grave of Revolutionary War Hero Cudjo Banquante. I wish that I could be there with you as you honor and remember his service to our great country. The National Society is both appreciative and fortunate to have members who so passionately promote our objectives of Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism and our commitment to honoring our ancestors, and our members are fortunate to live in communities that uphold these same values. Thank you for your faithful service to the nation that our Patriot ancestors sacrificed to create.

This important ceremony demonstrates your commitment to your community and our nation, and emphasizes Cudjo Banquante's own faithful service. This is a tremendous achievement, and I applaud your active participation in this rewarding effort.

Each of you has played an integral part in ensuring that the accomplishments, memory and spirit of our Patriot ancestors will be appreciated by future generations. Congratulations on your efforts to honor these unknown service members who gave so much for our nation.

Warmest wishes for success as you *Celebrate Stars & Stripes Forever!*

In DAR ties of service and friendship,

Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright

President General



May 3, 2025

On behalf of the New Jersey State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, I bring greetings.

Today, we celebrate the spirit of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the enduring legacy of Cudjo Banquante.

Cudjo's courage and great personal sacrifice aided in shaping our nation's foundation. May we continue to honor his memory by upholding the values of freedom, service, and equality for all.

With Kind Hearts ♥

Rejoice in our DAR Ties of Service and Friendship

*Diane Waugh Oliver
State Regent, NJDAR*

William G. Pomeroy Foundation®

DAR Revolutionary America Marker Dedication

Newark, NJ | Saturday, May 3, 2025



On behalf of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, I express my heartfelt congratulations as you honor Cudjo Banquante with a Revolutionary America historical marker. Through our partnership with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, this Pomeroy Marker celebrates and memorializes Cudjo Banquante's life and legacy as a veteran and early Black business owner.

At the Pomeroy Foundation, a core part of our mission is helping communities celebrate local history by providing fully funded grants for historical markers. Established in 2005 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Pomeroy, the Foundation is the nation's leading funder of historical markers with more than 2,600 grants awarded in 49 states and Washington, D.C. Pomeroy Markers help educate the public, encourage pride of place, promote historic tourism, and preserve history.

In recognition of the U.S. 250th, the Pomeroy Foundation and National Society Daughters of the American Revolution partnered to establish a national marker grant program to commemorate people, places, and events significant to the history of the Revolutionary War period. Through this exciting collaboration, markers with an emphasis on underrepresented voices are being researched, produced, and dedicated nationwide. The Morristown Chapter of the NSDAR has done noteworthy work resulting in the Revolutionary America marker recognizing Cudjo Banquante.

The Pomeroy Foundation extends gratitude and appreciation to the NSDAR, Morristown Chapter, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, The New Jersey Historical Society, esteemed dignitaries, and all who helped make this commemorative event possible. We know the Pomeroy Marker dedicated today will ensure that future generations know the inspiring story of Cudjo Banquante.

Thank you and congratulations from all of us at the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

Sincerely,

Bill Brower
Executive Director
William G. Pomeroy Foundation

HONORING CUDJO BANQUANTE! ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. James Amemasor

Kofi Ayim

Dr. Susan R. (Bobbi) Bailey

Teri Corso

Dr. Timothy J. Crist

Carrie Efinger

Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps

Nina Hoban

Lorna Johnson

Barima Gyansi Korie

Dr. George Robb

Nikita Taylor

Dr. Zachary Yamba



**Sophia Inclusive
Community**



Akyem Abuakwa
Traditional Council

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS AND CULTURAL PARTNERS

Thanks to the following organizations and individuals whose teamwork, financial assistance, and in-kind support made possible the celebration of Cudjo Banquante. The combined value of their support is at least \$250,000. A special thanks to the Robert Wood Foundation for their generous lead gift.



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



njpac



NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



John Phillip
Osborne

Asbjorn Lunde
Foundation

Barbara
Sandelands



ESSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS



COURTNEY BRYAN



THE NEWARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Amistad Commission
New Jersey Department
of Education

SOME WORDS OF SUPPORT

I am just in awe of the events surrounding the celebration of this remarkable man. NJ DAR — you have done an amazing job!

Anthony Startz, National Chair of Specialty Research, NSDAR

Looking forward to this event. There should be more honoring our forgotten patriots.

Gayle Loftis, Esq.,
Organizing Secretary,
New Jersey DAR

Wishing you a wonderful and successful dedication!

Suzanne M. Heske,
Historian General, NSDAR

Looking forward to a wonderful event.

Steve Tettamanti, Executive Director,
New Jersey Historical Society

Best wishes for a wonderful day!

Virginia Sebastian Storage, First Vice President General, NSDAR

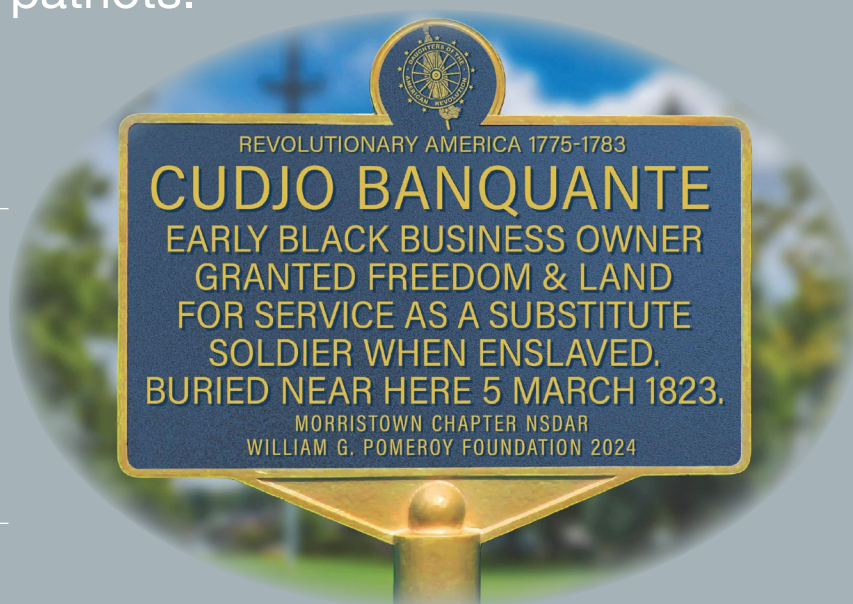
This program is very important.

Matter of what celebration of such great revolutionist!

Jerry Kansis

Congratulations to the honorary committee for putting this important project together. This is an excellent teaching opportunity to learn more about Cudjo and his contributions to his community and humanity.

Akosua



HISTORIC MARKER AT
NEW JERSEY
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)
PROVIDED BY THE
WILLIAM G. POMEROY FOUNDATION