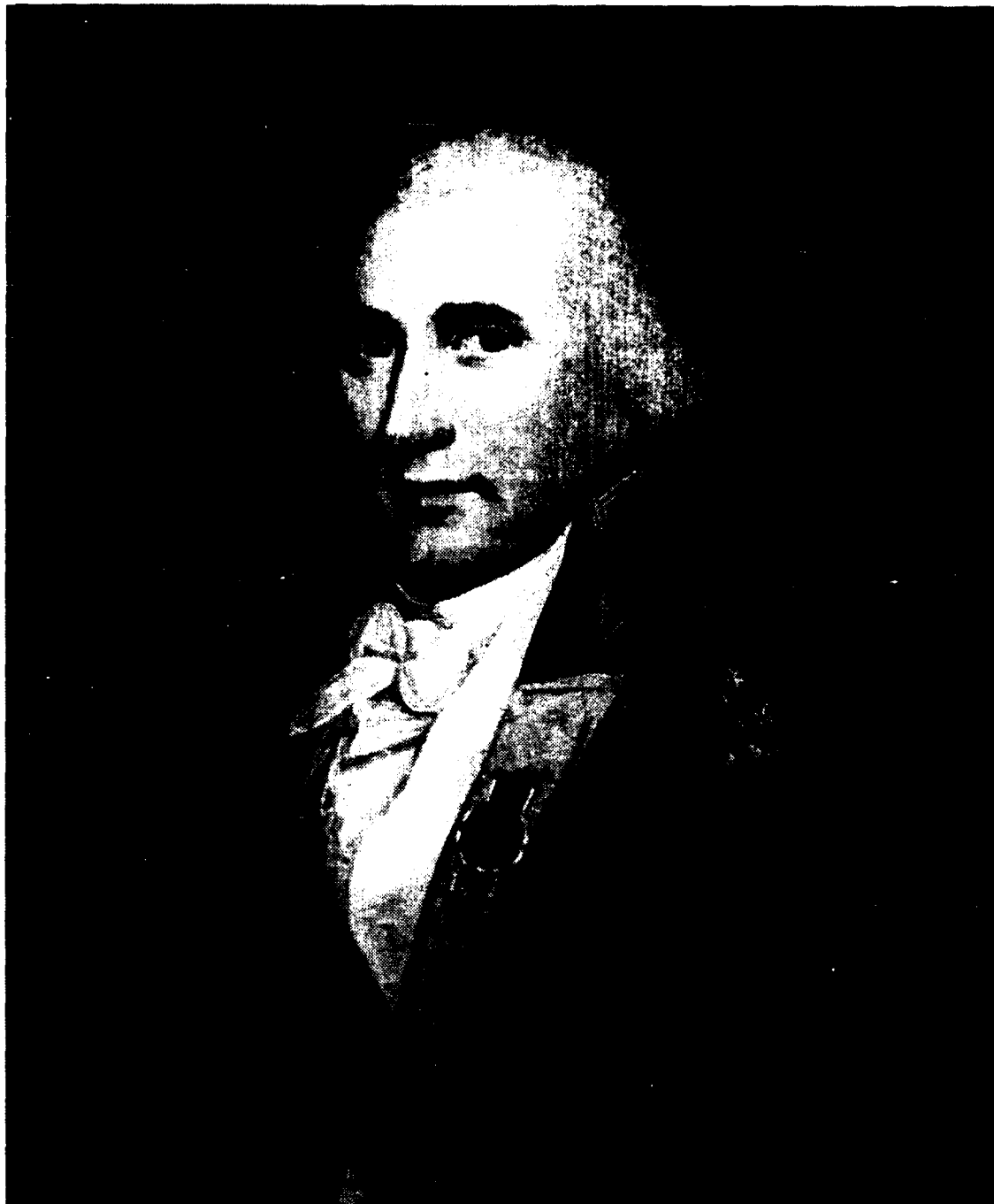


RARITAN'S REVOLUTIONARY REBEL:

FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN

Fatherless Protege of Dirck Middagh



MAJOR GENERAL FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN*

Courtesy of the Estate of Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Sr.

Compiled by:

H. KELS SWAN, M. ED., S.A.R.

Copyrighted By:

GENERAL FRELINGHUYSEN CHAPTER,

Daughters of the American Revolution

Somerville, New Jersey

• 1967 •

*The likeness of Major General Frederick Frelinghuysen, painted by an unknown artist between 1795 and 1800, appearing on the front cover of this booklet, depicts the gold medal of the Society of the Cincinnati. Frelinghuysen was one of two honorary members of the Society from New Jersey, so honored for his exemplary services performed during the American Revolutionary War. Only Continental officers were considered for regular membership; the General had served in the Somerset County Militia and the New Jersey State Troops.



Old Dutch Parsonage, Somerville, New Jersey
Birthplace of Major General Frederick Frelinghuysen

Courtesy of Gen. Frelinghuysen Chapter, DAR

This publication is affectionately dedicated to:

The Late

MRS. JOSEPH S. FRELINGHUYSEN, SR.,

Who Faithfully Upheld

The Memory of

“RARITAN’S REVOLUTIONARY REBEL”

RARITAN'S REVOLUTIONARY REBEL

FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN

Fatherless Protege of Dirck Middagh

Adopted from a Paper read by
the Compiler
before the
General Frelinghuysen Chapter
of the
Daughters of the American Revolution
at the Old Dutch Parsonage,
Washington Place, Somerville, New Jersey
on Friday, February 4, 1966.

All Rights Reserved by General Frelinghuysen Chapter, DAR

Table of Contents:

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction.	5
The Raritan Valley, Somerset County, 17th Century	5
The Raritan Valley, Somerset County, early 18th Century.	5-6
The Raritan Valley, Somerset County, American Revolution.	6
Residents of the Raritan Valley, Somerset County, American Revolution.	7-8
Characteristics of these Residents of the Raritan Valley, Somerset County.	8
Members of the New Jersey Provincial Congress from the Raritan Valley, Somerset County.	8-9
Members of the Somerset County Committee of Safety from the Raritan Valley.	9
New Jersey Militia in the Revolution during 1776.	9
Defense of the New Jersey Militia in the Revolution during 1776.	10-11
Action of the New Jersey Militia in the Revolution during 1777.	11-12
Leaders of the Revolution from Somerset County.	12
Organization of the Somerset County Militia in the Revolution.	12-13
Federick Frelinghuysen makes his appearance in Revolutionary Affairs.	13
Frederick Frelinghuysen and Dirck Middagh command the First Somerset Militia.	13-14
Biography of Frederick Frelinghuysen, Birth to Marriage.	14-15
Biography of Frederick Frelinghuysen, Revolutionary War, 1777.	15-16
Biography of Frederick Frelinghuysen, Revolutionary War, 1778.	16-17
Biography of Frederick Frelinghuysen, Revolutionary War, member of Continental Congress.	17-18-19
A Revolutionary love affair in the Raritan Valley: Elizabeth Middagh and Cornelius Vermeulen, Jr.	19-20
Frederick Frelinghuysen is forced to resign his seat in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.	20
Frederick Frelinghuysen's public service after the Revolutionary War.	20-21
Sadness comes to the Frelinghuysen and Middagh families after the Revolutionary War.	22
Biography of Frederick Frelinghuysen, close of the Eighteenth Century.	22-23
Death of Frederick Frelinghuysen in New Jersey.	23-24
Death of Dirck Middagh in New York.	24

Because of the place it occupied in the days of our nation's birth, because it was the home of the Commander-in-Chief for that one comfortable winter that he and his armies enjoyed during the struggle, this venerable Raritan Valley is properly a shrine of all Americans. But to those of our generation, who spent our childhood along the Raritan, it has especial significance. We knew in that childhood some of the grandsons and granddaughters of those whose parents carried the burden during the days that tried men's souls. Among them were gray-haired men and women we loved, and such sons and daughters could have been born only to parents of noble souls and pure hearts. So our admiration for their children brings us nearer to those noble patriots who lived along the Raritan when Washington made it his home. Of these people, we shall write, and especially of two, rather than of all who composed that gallant circle of the Continental Army who spent the winter of 1778-1779 at the Middlebrook cantonment.

But let us sketch briefly the setting of the scene. There was then no Somerville. Some have wondered why Washington, when here, addressed his letters at Middlebrook, but that was the last village with a name, as this area was approached from the east. Present-day Somerville was then open country known generally as Raritan, for it was the parish of the old Raritan Dutch Church, two miles down river. It was a community of Netherlandish blood. Seven of the eleven churches of Somerset were Dutch Reformed; two-thirds of the inhabitants attended these Dutch churches.

By the year 1683, almost the entire valley below the North Branch of the Raritan was taken up by the English and Scotch, but among them came the Dutchmen Cornelius Corson and Michael Van Veghten. Four years later, Peter Van Nest joined them, Cornelius Teunissen, Hendrick Corson, Barne Pieterse Coeyman, the father of Andries, and Dirck Middagh, son-in-law of Peter Van Nest, all were located within a mile of this spot before 1699. In that same year, Peter Cortelyou, Garret Veghte, Doras Polhemus and Hendrick Lott had located east of the Millstone River. In 1710, many more Dutchmen came to the Harlingen tract, and fifty years before the Revolution, the English and Scotch landholders had sold out almost completely and at a tidy profit to the thrifty and industrious Dutch settlers.

In 1735, forty years before the Revolution, the land on which Washington's Headquarters, the Wallace House, now stands in Somerville, was the farm of George Middagh. Next west was the home of Dirck, then came Cornelius and Tuenis, all sons of the first settler, Dirck

Middagh. West of them was the large estate of Adries Coeyman, where now is Raritan. The tract east of the Middaghs was owned by the heirs of Peter Van Nest, Jeronimus, Bernardus and their sisters. The next farm down the river just east of Peter's Brook was Cornelius Teunison's, then came Teunis Teunison's and beyond him the 800 acre tract of Michael Van Vechten, on the easterly part of which, overlooking the river, stood Raritan Church, whose records reach back to the year 1699. Next to Van Vechten was Kell's Hall, the fine estate of Cornelius Van Horne. All of these landowners were interesting personalities, men of above average education, wealth and ability. For the most part, they came from near Albany, New York.

In the interval between that period and the Revolution, these Dutchmen were good citizens and loyal subjects of the crown. Colonel Philip Van Horne, Cornelius Middagh and Colonel Matthias Ten Eyck fought in the King's Armies. But as a whole, when revolution came, while they were calm and circumspect in their approach to open rebellion, these Dutch Reformed Churches became "cradles of liberty." The muster rolls of Somerset regiments bear the same names as their membership rolls. When the legal voters were first assembled to elect a governing body for New Jersey which should rule by consent of the people alone in 1775, they elected to the Provincial Congress Hendrick Fisher and Cornelius Vermeule, both elders of old Raritan Church, and Ruloff Van Dyck of Harlingen Church. The Colonel of the First Somerset Regiment, Frederick Frelinghuysen, was a son of one and grandson of another former dominie of those churches, while Lieutenant Colonel Dirck Middagh and many of the captains and enlisted men were members also of old Raritan Church, out of which one may truthfully state that gallant regiment was first recruited.

But this is no brief for any particular race or creed. Long before the Revolution, the melting pot had been at work. Many of Dutch names already had in their veins much French, English, Scottish and Welsh blood, while many families like the Fields, Halls, Davis's, Oldens and Hutchins had lived among and intermarried with the Dutch for a century or more, spoke their language, attended Dutch churches and had their children baptized with old Dutch names.

In one respect, race lines were sharply drawn, for each doubted that the God of its fathers should be addressed in any language but that those fathers had used, so the English raised their petitions to "Our Father who art in Heaven," while the Hollanders lifted theirs to "*Ouze Vader die in den Hemel zijt*". They continued to use Dutch in the

churches only a few years after the American Revolution, for that struggle had finally made them one nation with a common tongue.

In 1778-1779, when the army was encamped along the Middlebrook, Washington's Headquarters had just been erected by the Wallaces, retired merchants of Philadelphia and new-comers to the Raritan. Old John Wallace had purchased the land in December, 1775, but died within the subsequent decade. That same year his son, Joshua Maddox Wallace, purchased a farm two miles up river, and next above the farm of Bernardus LaGrange, whose place became William Paterson's home in 1779. It was also the year the army was here that Nancy, a daughter of John Wallace, married John, the son of Dominie Hardenbergh. This house became the home of William Wallace, another son of John, so the Wallace family promptly became an active part of this community.

The next farm west of this was the home of Dirck Middagh, Lieutenant Colonel of the First Somerset, and his wife Margaret Davis. Dirck was born March 6, 1743, in the old stone homestead and married at the age of twenty-one. His house stands today at the foot of Middagh Street, just west of the old Dutch Parsonage and home of Dominie Hardenbergh, on the bluff overlooking the meadows. Its beautiful field stone is preserved behind modern wood siding. He was the third Dirck Middagh, for his grandfather and father had made their home there before him. His mother was Angelina Hall, his grandmother Catalintje Van Nest, so he was by birth essentially part and parcel of this community. Next in order going up the river was the home of Dirck's uncle, Cornelius Middagh, a soldier in the Colonial wars, who died in 1778. Then up the old river road came Samuel Staats Coeyman, John Waldron, Jacob Van Nostrand, Gerrit Roseboom, Peter Biggs and the Tory lawyer Bernardus La Grange. All of these farms fronted on the river and ran far back from it. Usually the houses were built on the top of the bluff overlooking the river at the rear with lawns running northward to the ancient road up Raritan.

Going eastward from the headquarters house of old John Wallace, the first place was the parsonage where lived the Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh and his wife the revered Dinah Van Bergh, born in Holland. She had married first the Rev. John Frelinghuysen and was the mother of Colonel Frederick. There were now in the family seven young Hardenberghs, of whom the youngest, Lewis, was only four. Here Colonel Frederick Frelinghuysen grew to manhood, he and Lieutenant Colonel Dirck Middagh having been immediate neighbors.

Dominie Hardenbergh now owned most of the large Van Nest tract reaching over to Peters Brook. The farm of Cornelius Bogart lay north of the road, opposite the parsonage, and at the east side of the road to Pluckemin, the present Mountain Avenue in Somerville. East, along the road, was Cornelius Tunison's tavern, while Philip Tunison's farm occupied all south of the River Road from the present South Bridge Street east to Peters Brook.

East of Peters Brook came the farms of Abraham, Folkert and Cornelius Tunison, then Colonel Matthias Ten Eyck, whose wife was Neltjie, sister of all the Tunisons mentioned. Next was Dirck Van Veghten's large tract, then the estates of John and Colonel Philip Van Horne which border on the Middlebrook. There was also John Logan who lived on a small farm just west of Philip Van Horne's house. Such was this community along the Raritan Valley during the American Revolution. These were large farms and prosperous farmers. One is prone to underestimate their culture and abilities. How they obtained their education, we can only surmise, but many of them wrote well both in English and Dutch, and their composition was clear and forceful. They had less to read, but more time to reflect than we have and, as a consequence, perhaps came to sounder conclusions and a more rational philosophy of life. Scant justice has been done them and their homeland because of their own inherent modesty and dignity, because they were people of deeds rather than words and because those sectional jealousies of which Washington complained still lived among those early writers who recorded American history. Thoughtful, well-to-do citizens, such as they were, are not the first to rebel against established government.

Hendrick Fisher, however was at the very forefront, for he was a member of the Congress of all the Colonies meeting at Albany, New York, in 1765 to take action against the ruinous Stamp Tax legislation passed in England. But although slow to anger, after the conflagration broke out at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, old Somerset calmly but resolutely drew her sword from its scabbard, and it remained unsheathed until her country was free from tyranny. After April 19, 1775, it was Hendrick Fisher, whose house stands just south of South Bound Brook, who signed the call for the Provincial Congress of May, 1775. As President of the first Board of Trustees of Queens College, now Rutgers — the State University, just a few years earlier, Fisher became President of this Congress, Jonathan D. Sergeant, William Paterson and Frederick Frelinghuysen, its secretaries. As a result, four Somerset men were officers of Provincial Congress. When it adjoined three Somerset men, Fisher, Frelinghuysen and Peter Schenck, were among the

fourteen appointed to the Committee of Correspondence. The next Provincial Congress after Bunker Hill also appointed a Committee of Safety of eleven members, of whom five were Somerset men and three more, or a total of eight, were from the Raritan Valley. Nothing shows better the leadership of this valley than this very large proportion of representation.

The personnel of the Somerset County Committee of Safety, elected in 1775, is also revealing. The Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, President of the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, was chairman, Jacob Bogart, John Gaston, Gisbert Bogart, Gabriel Ogden, Garret Voorhees, Cornelius Vermeule, Thomas Berry, Stephen Hunt, Rowland Chambers, Matthew Ten Eyck, William Annin, Ruloff Van Dyck, Jacob Bergen, Hendrick Van Middlesworth, Lucas Voorhees and Ebenezer Tingley were members. Among these were many men over sixty years of age, men wise in council, and many others, younger who bore the heat and burden of conflict on the battlefields of later years. This county committee, aided by younger men acting as scouts, checked loyalist activities. It organized the militia and collected munitions of war, forwarding them to points most in need. It speeded up industries in which it was seconded by the women — for most of the spinning, weaving, tailoring and preparation of dressings for the troops was done in the homes. The committee also established markets where the raw material and implements of manufacture would be exchanged.

New Jersey sent three battalions north under Colonels Maxwell, Winds and Ogden early in 1776 to aid the beleaguered Massachusetts men. In their absence, the British came in force to New York. Then, in August, followed the Battle of Long Island where the untrained, poorly equipped patriot forces were pitted against twice their numbers, and those the finest troops of their times. Many Jerseymen including many Somerset men were with their own General Stirling in that desperate stand on Brooklyn Heights, and for days afterward wounded men crept back here to their homes, others fought their last fight there. But this was only a part of the price New Jersey paid for the rashness of that campaign. November 19th, the great retreat across New Jersey began at Hackensack. Ten days later Washington was at New Brunswick and at his heels came the British and Hessians, burning and ravishing. Then followed, for all the country east of the First Watchung Mountain and the Millstone River, a period of dire distress and peril.

Embittered by his reverses, Washington for a moment complained that the Jerseymen were not rallying to his support. A month later, and to the war's end, he was loud in his praise of the Jersey Militia, and well he might be, as we shall soon see. But detractors of New Jersey have often seized upon his one letter of complaint. They have even quoted Joseph Galloway, a renegade from the patriotic cause, a politician who, after he had fled to London, attempted to discredit Sir William Howe, the British Commander, a brave, seasoned and able soldier. Galloway charged Howe as follows:

. . . When he passed through New Jersey and drove the panic struck Rebels out of that country, no step was taken to embody and arm the friends of (English) government, who were ready and anxious to be employed in disarming the disaffected, in restoring the province to his Majesty's peace and in defending it when the army should proceed in its other necessary operations . . .

But why do they not quote Howe's answer? Listen to what he says:

. . . I never heard before of the readiness and anxiety here expressed — nor could I — for that part of New Jersey through which Earl Cornwallis marched, from Fort Lee to Trenton, was almost destitute of male inhabitants, a few excepted, who remained to fire upon the King's troops as they passed. The idea of employing people of this description in disarming the disaffected, in restoring the province to peace and in defending it is too glaringly absurd to deserve further comment . . .

Did space permit we could quote Washington, Knox and a score of others to refute their charges. But let us see if all who deserted Washington's standard were Jerseymen. At Long Island, he had 17,000 men. As already noted, his losses down to the fall of Fort Washington were 7,000 men, but there were some accessions and he should have crossed the Hudson with fully 6,000 men in addition to Lee's army. At Hackensack however, he had but 3,000; at New Brunswick, he reported 4,000, of whom 1,500 were Jerseymen. On December 8th, across the Delaware River, he still had his 2,500 Continentals from all the other states, but 1,000 Jersey troops were then with him, while 2,000 Pennsylvania Militia had joined him to defend their own state. At New Brunswick, he had sent three battalions of Jersey Militia toward Morristown to protect the country from marauders. At Princeton, he had with him militia from Middlesex and Somerset, and he sent back some Somerset companies to establish winter quarters and set-up a line of defense. From this recital, it is abundantly clear that more soldiers from New Jersey had been with him on the retreat than all the other states combined had furnished, and this notwithstanding Jersey had sent some 1,800 men on the Northern

expeditions, notwithstanding they were needed to protect their own homes and loved ones from dire peril.

Some have claimed, in answer to this, that many Continentals were with the army of General Charles Lee, who failed to join Washington at this time. Now Lee did have some 4,000 men when he reached Morristown, but a part of these were Jerseymen. After his capture at Basking Ridge, Sullivan led these troops to join Washington across the Delaware and even after they joined him, Stirling's reports indicate that there were only 3,000 Continentals. The army of 17,000 had melted away, and the only accessions had been the 4,000 New Jersey and Pennsylvania Militia.

No! Jerseymen did not desert Washington in 1776. He sent some of them westward to protect their own country. Howe told the exact truth. Jerseymen did not repeat the mistakes of Long Island and Fort Mifflin. They did the only wise and prudent thing. They retreated westward to prepare for a guerrilla warfare to strike, retreat and strike again, which alone could succeed against such odds as they faced. As early as December 17th, while Washington was still on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, and shortly before his victory at Trenton, the Jerseymen, following this plan of guerrilla warfare, struck at Springfield and defeated the enemy. January 5, 1777, the same day that Washington's army reached Pluckemin and the relative safety of the Somerset Hills after the Princeton battle, they struck again at Springfield, Newark, Elizabethtown and Rahway. Two days later, they had driven the enemy out of Essex County and established a firm line of defense running from Rahway to Plainfield, thence to Bound Brook and up the Raritan and Millstone to Princeton. Thereafter, Woodbridge, Piscataway and Franklin Townships were over-run by the enemy, but the rest of Somerset and all of New Jersey west of the First Watchung Mountain were protected.

Furthermore, the Jerseymen during the next six months, at Millstone, at the Blue Hills, and in a score of minor battles and skirmishes along this line of defense, and in Piscataway, protected Washington's little, forlorn army of three or four thousand troops against an enemy many times its numbers at Amboy and New Brunswick. Such was New Jersey's splendid answer to the complaint that she was not rallying to Washington's support. Later at Springfield, the Commander-in-Chief stated that if all the militia were equal to that of New Jersey, he would need no Continentals. They, who would ignore the important part taken by the Jersey Militia, would have future generations believe that this

splendid British and Hessian Army of 17,000 men were scared out of New Jersey by the mere presence of an ill-equipped, ill-fed Continental Army of only one-third their numbers, an army which barely, at anytime after Princeton, met them on the field of battle before they evacuated the state.

The Jersey Militia was not a mob! It was an organized army under Major General Philemon Dickinson. It was equipped and paid by the state. At the Battle of Short Hills in June 1777, so near as can be determined, the Jersey Militia furnished some 8,000 men, more than the entire Continental Army. In 1776, when her peril was greatest, Massachusetts had under arms 25% of her military strength, while New Jersey had 37%, relatively one-half more. Massachusetts paid from her own treasury only one-fourth, New Jersey two-thirds of her troops. We honor Massachusetts for her part in the struggle, but should we honor New Jersey less? It is said that many Jerseymen flocked to the British standard after 1776. Lorenze Sabine estimates that in the thirteen colonies, there were from 25,000 to 50,000 Tories bearing arms. Of these, New Jersey furnished but 1,100, so far as is known, and of these, few from Somerset and the Raritan Valley.

No section of New Jersey turned out a larger proportion of her fighting strength than old Somerset. She bore herself nobly. She had her full share of illustrious men at this period. Among these were two signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Witherspoon and Richard Stockton of Princeton, while John Hart of Hopewell, right on her borders, was a third. William Paterson, later governor and a member of the Constitutional Convention, lived on a farm less than two miles up the Raritan from the John Wallace house. Frederick Frelinghuysen, the subject of this compilation, was another illustrious son of Somerset. Then there was William Alexander, the Earl of Stirling, who lived at Basking Ridge, one of the Commander-in-Chief's ablest and most trusted generals. This remarkable man not only fought throughout the war performing signal service at Long Island, at Trenton, at the Battle of the Short Hills, at Monmouth and on many other fields, but meanwhile he operated his iron works at Hibernia, supplying the army with badly needed cannon and other munitions of war. He began his war experience in Somerset as Colonel of the First Somerset Regiment and that gallant regiment was under his command in many of the battles in which he participated.

As early as May, 1775, Somerset County organized two battalions. Of the second, Peter D. Vroom eventually became Lieutenant Colonel

on September 9, 1777. It fought at the Battle of Germantown where Vroom was wounded and Lieutenant John Brokaw was killed. Colonel Vroom resided along the south bank of the Raritan River about two miles above present-day Somerville. The first Somerset regiment was organized with Lord Stirling commissioned its Colonel on October 4, 1775. The following February, after Stirling was transferred to the Continental Army as Brigadier General, Stephen Hunt became Colonel, Abraham Ten Eyck, Lieutenant Colonel and James Linn and Dirck Middagh, Majors.

In the same month of February, 1776, we first find Frederick Frelinghuysen an officer. The Provincial Congress at New Brunswick had requested a battalion of minute men to defend New York. Charles Stewart was to be Colonel and Frelinghuysen a Major, but Somerset had sent all her powder to Colonel Winds at Amboy where he was preparing his battalion for the Northern Expedition, so there was none for the minute men and they disbanded. What a fortunate day for old Somerset not to have lost her Frelinghuysen to the colony as a minute man! Instead, Stirling took command at New York on March 1, 1776. Although New Jersey had her own long shoreline to defend, he had 700 Jersey troops with 1,500 from New York and Connecticut. On June 3rd, acting on a call for 3,300 more men from New Jersey, a battalion of three Somerset and five Hunterdon companies under Colonel Stephen Hunt and Lieutenant Colonel Johnston joined Stirling. Until May, Frelinghuysen had been a Captain in the Eastern Battery of Artillery, but now he joined the First Somerset Militia and we find him at Long Island where Colonel Johnston and many other Jerseymen under Stirling fought their last battle. Here Somerset men followed Washington in the great retreat across New Jersey, then back to Trenton and Princeton where they again fought. Among those sent back by Washington to protect their homes was the company of Captain Gavin McCoy of the First Somerset.

We come to the time of the establishment of the line of defense before mentioned, which protected all of Somerset County with the exception of Franklin Township. Franklin, together with Piscataway and Woodbridge in Middlesex, now suffered as no other region suffered during the conflict. They were sacked by the British and even by their own troops, who stripped them in order to curtail the enemy's supplies.

We also come to the time in February, 1777, when the gallant First Somerset was commanded by Colonel Frederick Frelinghuysen and

Lieutenant Colonel Dirck Middagh, two outstanding figures in Somerset during and after the Revolution. As we have indicated, these two had grown-up together, Middagh just west and Frelinghuysen just east of the Wallace House in Somerville. Frelinghuysen was born at Raritan on April 13, 1753, in the Dutch Reformed Church parsonage built by his parents, and there he resided as a youth until he attended the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. His early advantages scarcely could have been greater: descent from a father and grandfather of marked ability and character and from a mother truly remarkable and cared for as well by a step-father of unusual character, the Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh. With these parents, Frelinghuysen shared his developing years with seven half-brothers and sisters as well as with his neighbor to the west, Dirck Middagh, ten years his senior, who became his trusted lieutenant in the First Somerset and his devoted lifelong friend. Since Frederick lost his father when he was but one year old and his stepfather was more interested in theology than either the law or political revolutions, the compiler elects to believe that the older Dirck served his younger neighbor both as an older brother and a young father; in short, Frelinghuysen was Middagh's protege.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton in the Class of 1770 at the age of seventeen, Frelinghuysen knew the Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, Dr. Samuel Spring and the future President of the United States, James Madison, as fellow-students. Always showing an interest in the progress of his native America, he delivered an oration at the commencement exercises on "the utility of American manufactures." The subsequent year found Frelinghuysen serving as one of Queens College's first pair of tutors at New Brunswick. At this time, he entered upon the study of the law, reading with John P. Stockton and the future New Jersey Governor, William Paterson. Very receptive to this discipline, Frelinghuysen was admitted to the New Jersey Bar shortly after his twenty-first birthday in 1774. His new-found interest so occupied his time and attention that he left Queens College for the private practice of law the following year. We at once find him at the age of twenty-two among the local leaders of the revolutionary movement, many of them lawyers and officeholders. Living again at Raritan, he organized an artillery company and became its captain. Frelinghuysen later credited his love of liberty to the teaching of Doctor Witherspoon at Princeton from whom he had "learned patriotism as well as Greek." Although rejecting theology for the study of law, against the desires of his parents, and taking an increasing interest in the public events of the period, young Frelinghuysen still had time to devote to a certain young lady

of Millstone. The New York *Journal* of January 26, 1775, records the following social news item:

... On Tuesday, 10th instant at Millstone, in Somerset, Mr. Frederick Frelinghuysen, Professor in Queen's College, was married to Miss Gitty (Gertrude) Schenk, daughter of Hendrick Schenk, Esq., deceased, late merchant in that place; a young lady of a truly amiable character . . .

Frelinghuysen had little time at his new Millstone home with his new wife, for we find him with his friend and neighbor, Dirck Middagh, fighting with their regiment at the Blue Hills post, at Bound Brook, at Van Nest's Mills and at Millstone during those dark days of 1777, when the Jerseymen were defending their lines and protecting Washington's Army at Morristown and at Middlebrook Heights. In August, they joined Sullivan's attack on Staten Island. Sullivan ordered, on August 21st, 1,000 Continentals to march from Hanover to the Island to punish the enemy where Howe had left 3,000 men. The Jerseymen succeeded, but Sullivan's plans miscarried and he lost through failure of his boats to meet him to carry the troops over on his return to Blazing Star ferry. Immediately after this, Frelinghuysen sent Middagh with a confidential verbal report to Governor Livingston of New Jersey along with a covering letter, expressing his deep dissatisfaction with Sullivan's conduct of the expedition. Sullivan was immediately ordered to join the main army at Wilmington, Delaware, and the protection of the State of New Jersey was again left to its Militia. Inasmuch as this covering letter from Frelinghuysen to Livingston is one of very few that is extant from the period of the Revolution and since it reveals so vividly the soldier's personality and character as well as his firm grasp of the military scene in New Jersey, the compiler feels justified in quoting a major portion of a copy sent to him by the owner of the original, the New Jersey Historical Society, with his thanks for that permission:

Raritan, August 25, 1777

Dear Sir,

. . . Col. Middagh waits upon your Excellency and will represent to your Excellency several things concerning which I have not time to write. In particular the Colonel will acquaint your Excellency with the circumstances of the affair on Staten Island, for I suppose my letter on that subject, having been sent to Morris (town), is not received. The principal matter on which I am so desirous of conversing with your Excellency is the unhappy situation of our State. The continental troops are all to march towards Philadelphia this morning, the Militia who have turned out are a trifling number, the enemy are encouraged and irritated. The consequences I fear will

be fatal to that Country, nay I have reason to believe that the Enemy will not lay idle after the removal of our continental troops. Is it not in your Excellency's power to prevail on Genl. Sullivan to have one of the Jersey Regiments? (remain behind here). If so, it is the only means I believe which can be used for the salvation of that Country. I must certainly fall a prey to the Enemy with my little party, if the Enemy chance to come over, and we attempt to drive them back. I fear much the loss of Character; but I am most concerned for the poor Inhabitants and their property. On this however I am determined to exert my utmost abilities for the defence of this State, and I trust I shall not be blamed for any of my future conduct by those who are acquainted with my situation. . . . Your Excellency's directions respecting such rations as Col. Middagh will mention, I hope will be immediately forwarded, especially respecting the getting of Ammunition.

. . . I dare say the account of Genl. Sullivan's conduct in the Affair of Staten Island will cause your Excellency some uneasy sensations. I wish I may be wrong in my opinion, but I seriously believe that upon Enquiry nothing but the most unpardonable Neglect will be found the Cause of our Loss.

*(I send by Col.
Middagh 3 letters
which I received
last night.)*

*I am,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedt
Most Humble Servt.
Fredk. Frelinghuysen*

On September 6, 1777, Frelinghuysen and Middagh fought at Second River and on the 15th at Elizabethtown, where Captain Francis Locke of their regiment fell. When the enemy occupied Philadelphia, they went to the assistance of South Jersey. In November, they fought at Timber Creek and Haddonfield under Lafayette, who wrote, "I found the militia above all expectations I could have formed of them." They and the First Somerset remained on guard all through that winter and the following spring in Gloucester County, while the enemy occupied Philadelphia. The next June, the evacuation and the march of the enemy across New Jersey led to another series of battles, and the First Somerset under Frelinghuysen, the Second Somerset under Colonel Hendrick Van Dyck, and the First Middlesex under Colonel John Webster fought on the 24th at Crosswicks Creek, saving Trenton and the country about from rapine and destruction. This was but a part of the running fight from Camden to Monmouth Court House, where it culminated in that fierce battle on the burning sands of Monmouth. In that latter battle, fought all the militia of the Raritan Valley. The First and Second Somerset, the First and Second Middlesex and the First Essex were there in Philemon Dickinson's division. They gave a good account of themselves and received the thanks of Washington. Stirling did much to save

the day after Charles Lee's strange retreat. Among those who made the supreme sacrifice, there was Michael, the son of Benjamin and Margaret De Groot Field, a gallant youth not yet twenty years old and related to many Somerset families. In September, the First Somerset was again fighting in Bergen County. Soon after this, Frelinghuysen was elected by the New Jersey State legislature a delegate to the Continental Congress and was a member of that body again in 1782 and 1783. Forced by this election to resign from the Somerset County Militia to attend the Philadelphia sessions, Dirck Middagh succeeded to the command. By late winter, Colonel Middagh, who stood much in the relation of an elder brother to Frederick Frelinghuysen, received a splendidly revealing letter from the delegate reflecting his dislike of the atmosphere of the Congress. This unique document is quoted in its entirety:

Philadelphia, February 16, 1779

Dear Sir,

This day I have received your kind favor of the 11th instant, for which I cordially thank you. I cannot yet believe myself in the place which is proper for me. I feel shackled. I feel always ridiculously hampered; I don't feel like Frelinghuysen, as you are pleased to express yourself. I would rather, Sir! drink sand and water in the desert of Monmouth in the character of a Colonel of the First Somerset Regiment, than to drink wine in Philadelphia in the character of a Delegate of New Jersey, — because Sir, in the first case I should think myself in some measure qualified, but in the latter totally inadequate. But I suppose you will say this is mere modesty. I shall therefore postpone the proof of it until I see you at the Captain's, (Cornelius Vermeule) which I hope will soon be. I cannot yet give you the good news which has made people so very curious in this place, and as I am told in the country, I wish it was in my power to make you happy with some extraordinary tidings, but, Sir, I must request you to wait with patience, and not to raise your expectations too high, for fear of disappointment. I am glad to hear of the Browns doing well, I expect things will soon be so cheap and that I shall make such a fortune and get so proud in this place that next summer the Browns will have to roll me along in a coach, a Chariot or some such Grandee Thing; so I hope you will spare no pains to fit them for such exalted business. Jokes aside, I trust the time of our deliverance is not very distant and I hope Peace, a Happy Peace will before long take the place of distressing, desolating wars; when you and I will again set some store by our property and take pleasure in the enjoyment of it. In the meantime, let us do our Duty, and by our Influence and Example strive to check the growth of present prevailing evils. Farewell my Friend, and let Virtue be your Guide. My compliments to all Friends. Rest assured of the friendship of

Your

Frelinghuysen.

Philadelphia Feb. 16. 1779

This day I have in kind favour of the 11th instant, for which I ardently thank you — I cannot yet allow myself in the Place which is proper for me — I feel shackled. I feel always ridiculously hampered; I don't feel like Frelinghuysen, as you are pleased to express yourself — I would rather, sir, drink sand & water in the deserts of Monmouth in the Character of a Colonel of L^t. Foot Soldiers Regiment, than to drink Wine in Philadelphia in the Character of a Delegate for New Jersey — Because, sir, in the first Case I should think myself in some measure qualified, but in the latter totally inadequate — but I suppose you will say this is mere modesty, I shall therefore postpone the Proof of it until I see you at the Captains, which I hope will soon become, as I cannot yet give you the good news, which ~~Madame~~ great has made People so very curious in this Place, & as I am told, in the Country — I wish it was in my power to make you happy with some extraordinary tidings; but sir, I must request you to wait in Patience, & not to raise your expectations too high, for fear of disappointment — I am glad to hear of the Browns doing well, I expect things will soon be so cheap, & that I shall make such a Fortune, & get so proud at this Place, that next Summer the Browns will have to roll me along in a Coach, a Ghaiat, or some such Grand Thing; so that I hope on ~~with~~ spare no pains to fit them for such exalted business. — Jokes aside, I trust the Time of our Deliverance is not very distant, & I hope Peace a happy ^{Peace} will ~~soon~~ long take place of distressing, desolating Wars; when you & I will again sit some Store by our Property, & take Pleasure in the Enjoyment of it. — In the mean Time let us do our Duty, & by our Influence & Example strive to check the growth of the present prevailing evils — I am well, my Friend, let Virtue be your Guide — My Compliments to all Friends — ~~Remain~~ ^{the} Friendship of your Frelinghuysen.

Autograph letter signed, Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 16, 1779,
from F. Frelinghuysen to D. Middagh.

Courtesy of the Compiler

That was a winter when the Congress was indulging in much petty politics. Washington, who was headquartered at the Wallace House, knew there was over-confidence in the result of French intervention. Lafayette, himself, had great plans for ending the war which never had the approval of Washington and which were impracticable. It was difficult to get action by Congress, such as the military situation really demanded. The troops were not being paid. It is to this situation that Frelinghuysen refers in this letter to Middagh. He expresses his dislike for Congress and its petty politics when he says "I feel shackled, I feel ridiculously hampered, I don't feel like Frelinghuysen, as you are pleased to express yourself. I would rather, Sir! drink sand and water in the desert of Monmouth in the character of a Colonel of the First Somerset Regiment, than to drink wine in Philadelphia in the character of a Delegate of New Jersey."

There have been pleasing descriptions of the life of the American Army at the Middlebrook encampment which we need not review. Nor shall we pursue the history of the gallant First Somerset. It fought on many fields until the very end of the Revolution. We wish to reveal a more intimate glimpse into the lives of these two leaders of that regiment for the compiler believes it is from such glimpses that one obtains a richer knowledge of the past of this region. The manner in which Frelinghuysen closes his warm letter to Middagh, "Rest assured of the friendship of your Frelinghuysen" was no mere empty form, for he and Middagh had fought on many fields together. That brings men close to each other even when they have not been boyhood friends in a rural community. But for many years before, as well as after this letter was penned, Middagh had been as an elder brother to the fatherless Frelinghuysen. This, one can not overstate too often! Proud of him, he gave freely his confidence, devotion and support in all his undertakings until death parted them.

General Washington was not unmindful of his neighbors in Raritan. Dominie Hardenbergh and his good wife stood high in his esteem. In this winter of 1778-1779, Colonel Middagh had three young daughters, Elizabeth, Angelina and Judith. Elizabeth the eldest, was fourteen years old. Tradition notes she loved nice clothes and believed they were made to be worn; also, she was scarcely one of those stately, demure maidens that Wallace Nutting formerly painted to decorate his colonial porches! For her times, she was modern, and we may be sure she had no trouble to find her way past the guards at the Wallace House in Raritan and to the side of George and Martha Washington. Nor did she stop there, for we know she tripped her way right into their hearts. We are told that

she did the same thing a little later with young William Wallace, but however that may be, she gave her own hand and heart to a young soldier in her father's regiment, Cornelius Vermeule, Jr., a son of her beloved father's life-long friend. They plighted their vows at her home in Raritan February 14, 1781, and the Washingtons sent her a wedding present which was the talk of old Somerset for many a day. To this sprightly lady, Elizabeth Middagh Vermeule, and her deep love for her father, we owe the preservation of the 1779 letter from Frelinghuysen to Middagh.

Congressman Frelinghuysen resigned from the Continental Congress less than three months after this letter was written and resumed command as Colonel Frelinghuysen of his First Somerset Regiment. A colleague of Frelinghuysen's from New Jersey at the Philadelphia Congress complained in a letter to Governor Livingston on March 25, 1779, that "some of the delegates from our state (New Jersey) . . . take upon them to leave Congress when they please and without leave, by which the state in course is not represented." Delegate John Fell continued, "Last Saturday Dr. Witherspoon went home without ever saying one word to me on the occasion, and this day Colonel Frelinghuysen went away in the same manner." In a letter dated April 29, 1779, Frelinghuysen wrote to Caleb Camp, Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, requesting to be "excused from the further attendance at Congress," saying that he had accepted these duties with reluctance, that they were too important for his age and abilities, that attendance had been at much expense, and that much absence had been embarrassing, but "I am determined not to complain till the last farthing of my little property is spent in the service of my country . . . I shall only say that I shall be ready at all times to give an account of my conduct to those who appointed me." As noted earlier, he served another term, however, in 1782-1783, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1793, and resigned therefrom in 1796. Through the years, Frelinghuysen held his high place among the people of the Raritan Valley and of the State, trusted, respected, honored, but modest and unabashed in the political arena with no great liking for public life and with little personal property to sustain it. (For a fuller account of Frelinghuysen's public service in civil and military affairs, see appendices "A" and "B" at the end of this compilation.) On November 9, 1796, Frelinghuysen noted upon his resignation from the Senate of his beloved country, caused by his duty to his large family and by the unforeseen and growing sacrifice of private interests, "I cannot, Sir, in justice to my feelings conclude this letter without expressing my sincere and lively gratitude for the confidence placed in me by my fellow citizens. A gratitude which it shall be the study of the

THE STATE OF NEW-JERSEY.

TO *Frederick Frelinghuysen* Esquire, GREETING:

THE Council and Assembly, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Integrity, Prudence and Ability, have, at a Joint-Meeting, appointed you the said *Frederick Frelinghuysen* to be Clerk of the Court of General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, and Clerk of the County-Court, or Inferior Court of Common-Pleas, for the County of *Somerset* in this State: You the said *Frederick Frelinghuysen* are, therefore, by these Presents, commissioned to be Clerk of the said Courts of General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, and Inferior Court of Common-Pleas, for the said County of *Somerset* to have, hold and enjoy, the said Office with all Powers, Privileges, Fees, Perquisites, Rights and Advantages, to the same belonging or appertaining, for and during the Time limited in the Constitution.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, the Great Seal of the State is hereunto affixed.

WITNESS *Richard Howell* Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of *New-Jersey*, and Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor and Ordinary in the same, at *Trenton* the *Twelfth* Day of *November* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and *ninety nine*

By His Excellency's Command,

John Beatty Secy

R. Howell

Frederick Frelinghuysen's Somerset County Clerk Commission
signed and sealed by Governor Richard Howell of New Jersey,
dated November 12, 1796

Courtesy of the Compiler.

remainder of my life to evince by a persevering attachment to their rights and privileges." That Frelinghuysen sincerely meant what he wrote in this resignation letter is evidenced by his re-appointment only three days later for the third time in fifteen years to the office of Somerset County Clerk.

In 1794, Frelinghuysen lost his wife, Gertrude Schenck. At almost the same time, Middagh lost his youngest daughter, Judith, whom we know, from the pen of her loving nephew, Derrick Vermeule, to have been the pride and joy of the family. About this time, three little boys often played together about the old stone house in Raritan. They were Theodore, the motherless son of Frelinghuysen, little Derrick Vermeule and his brother, Cornelius III, the grandsons of Colonel Dirck Middagh. Through their lives they perpetuated to the third and fourth generation a friendship which began with the first settlers. New Jersey is today peopled largely by those who know next to nothing of her traditions, but still one finds among her most loyal and useful citizens, many descendants of those who helped to lay her very foundations. For example, in 1845, in the City of New York, Theodore Frelinghuysen had become Chancellor of the University and Cornelius Vermeule a pastor of Harlem Church, and we find their names signed together upon the first petition for an International Court of Arbitration. These two friends, sons and grandsons of the warriors of the old First Somerset who had played together along the Raritan, had lived to see a vision of world peace, a vision which, even a century later, is still fleeting.

But we have come to a time where we find the shadows gathering about the lives of our two Colonels of the First Somerset. Both had devoted eight long years entirely to their country's service. In consequence, they had suffered sorely in their private fortunes. In 1795, Dirck Middagh sold his home in Raritan to pay his debts and a year later, when fifty-three years old, he left for the distant lake country in New York, to begin life anew.

This was a time of bitter party feeling. Washington, himself, was the victim of vindictive partisan abuse. Frelinghuysen also came in for his share. He was charged with irregular attendance at the Congress. It was not easy for him to give all the time that his country demanded of him, for from the age of twenty-one, for twenty years, he had little opportunity to even lay the foundations of a personal estate. He was aggressive and could ill brook this and other unfair criticism. But Middagh suffered likewise and it wounded him still more deeply, for he was not in office, was proud, sensitive and retiring, and the cruel partisan shafts were aimed at him solely because he was the loyal friend and staunch supporter of Senator Frelinghuysen. How much it hurt him is evidenced by a letter he wrote from Ovid, New York, on March 12, 1804, to his brother-in-law, Peter Davis, and Jane, Peter's wife, who was a daughter

of Colonel Matthias Ten Eyck. It is a family letter, but it represents a link with the past of Somerset County and it portrays Middagh's character. It concludes with the following words:

. . . . With our wishes of God's blessings and our loves to you and all yours; your respected Mother; Uncle Isaac and family; Colonel Van der Veer and his; Mr. Van Veghten and his; in short to all friends and acquaintances, General Frelinghuysen not excepted, for whom I've suffered much reproach and know not but I do still, for I cannot bear stigmatizing . . .

Let no one conclude that Middagh was soured in spirit, for his letter breathes his deep affection for his old home and neighbors, including Frelinghuysen, a gentle submission to God's will and a kindly interest in his new neighbors at Ovid.

Their critics were not so numerous, nor were they representative of this county or state, but while fighting in the Revolution these two devoted leaders of the First Somerset, who had been actuated by the highest of ideals, had heard only the plaudits of their countrymen. The aftermath of the struggle had brought to some of them a sordid reaction and a spirit of carping, partisan criticism. Mainly this came, as it always does, from those who had borne no equal part in the struggle, and was the first of a consciousness of their own inferior deserts.

The victims felt stifled in such an atmosphere. Skilled as they were in open warfare, Frelinghuysen and Middagh knew not how to parry the covert thrust of the political assassin. The "stigmatizing" burned deep into the proud soul of Colonel Dirck, and so with head erect and conscience clear the old soldier departed to pass the gloaming of his life in the pure, sweet atmosphere of a new country, close to nature and nature's God in Seneca County, New York. The fervent prayers and good wishes of the very best of old Somerset went with him, and not a few of his friends accompanied him thither.

But the good that such men do lives after them. When they have passed from earth, envy and malice die, love and gratitude burn brighter. Just a month and a day from the date of this letter, General Frederick Frelinghuysen was gathered to his fathers. He was but fifty-one years old. It has been noted that he had a presentiment that he would die on his fifty-first birthday; and so it was, for he died April 13,

1804. He was a trustee of Queens College from 1782 until his death. He had delivered an "Oration on the Death of the Father of his Country" on February 22, 1800 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, which was published shortly thereafter, his only published work except for several letters drafted by him during the Revolutionary conflict and printed posthumously. This helps to account for the dearth of primary source materials and the absence of published biographies on Frelinghuysen.

In the family graveyard near present-day Manville on the road from Millstone, lies an old-fashioned tombstone with the following "strictly correct" inscription carefully engraved upon its surface:

. . . Entombed beneath this stone lie the remains of the Honorable Frederick Frelinghuysen, Esq. Major General of the Military Forces, and Representative in the General Assembly of this his native State. Endowed by nature with superior talents he was beloved by his country. From his youth, he was entrusted with her most important concerns. Until his death he never disappointed her hopes. At the Bar he was eloquent. In the Senate he was wise. In the Field he was brave. Candid, Generous and Just he was ardent in his friendship, constant to his friends. The patron and protector of honorable merit, he gave his hand to the young, his counsel to the middle aged, his support to him who was feeble in years. To perpetuate his memory his children have raised this monument, a frail memorial of their veneration for his virtues, and of their grief for the loss of so excellent a father . . .

When the news came to Dirck Middagh after the sun had set beyond the waters of the serene Seneca Lake, he sat and dreamed in the gloaming. Forgetting all the reproach, as the shadows lengthened, he saw once more this, his boyhood home on the Raritan, and the Dominie's son, the little fatherless boy he first knew, the lad he took with him to fish in his Indian canoe or gather wild plums on the banks of the Raritan River, the grown young man of whom he had been so proud when he returned from the College of New Jersey at Princeton. Then suddenly once more the alarm beacons flashed along the Watchung Mountains and the bugles of the First Somerset sounded their call to arms. Once more he and Frelinghuysen heard only the plaudits of their grateful countrymen as they led their regiment down the Raritan to meet the enemy.

Thirteen months later, during May, 1805, Colonel Dirck Middagh also was gathered to his fathers, the result of a fatal injury sustained from his horse in his beloved Seneca County, New York. He had spent the last year of his sixty-two reviewing his mentorship of Raritan's Revolutionary Rebel.

APPENDIX "A"

PUBLIC OFFICES — CIVILIAN

- 1774 — Admitted to Colonial New Jersey Bar.
- 1775- — Chosen a member of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey. Appointed to the "Committee of Public Safety."
- 1776 — Again chosen a member of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey.
- November 6, 1778 — April 29, 1779 — Elected a delegate, on joint ballot of the New Jersey Legislature, to represent the State in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.
- 1781-1784 — Appointed County Clerk of Somerset County.
- 1782-1783 — Re-elected a delegate to represent New Jersey in the Continental Congress.
- 1784-1785 — Member of New Jersey State Assembly.
- 1787- — Member of New Jersey State Convention of 1787.
- 1787-1789 — Re-appointed County Clerk of Somerset County.
- 1787-1793 — Appointed Surrogate of Somerset County.
- 1791-1792 — Member of New Jersey State Legislative Council (Senate since 1844).
- March 4, 1793 — November 12, 1796 — Elected to the United States Senate at Philadelphia. Resigned in 1796 due to "domestic bereavements and family claims."
- November 12, 1796 — October 28, 1799 — Re-appointed County Clerk of Somerset County.
- 1799- — Judge of Somerset County.
- 1800-1803 — Member of New Jersey State Assembly.
- 1802-1804 — Member of Board of Trustees, College of New Jersey, Princeton New Jersey.

APPENDIX "B"

PUBLIC OFFICES — MILITARY

1775-1776 — Captain of "Minute Men" from Somerset County.

February 15, 1776 — February 22, 1776 — First Major in Colonel Charles Stewart's Battalion of "Minute Men" detached for service in New York under Major General Charles Lee of the Continental Army. Order countermanded on latter date.

March 1, 1776 — before April 20, 1776 — Captain of Eastern Company of Artillery in New Jersey State Troops. Resigned previous to latter date.

June 10, 1776 — Appointed Deputy from Somerset County to Convention of New Jersey.

Summer of 1776 — Served in Hunterdon County arresting insurgents.

November, 1776 — Served as Aide-de-Camp on the staff of Brigadier General Philemon Dickinson.

December, 1776 — Joined the American Army as a volunteer on their retreat across the Delaware River.

December 21, 1776 — Directed by General Washington to return to New Jersey and assemble the State Militia.

February 1, 1777 — Colonel of First Regiment of Somerset County Militia. (Vice-Colonel Stephen Hunt vacated commission.)

February, 1777 — Served in Bergen and Essex Counties.

June 5, 1777 — Appointed Commissioner of Forfeited Estates in Somerset County.

June, 1777 — Commanded a detachment of militia in Bergen County.

August — September, 1777 — Commanded detachments of militia from Sussex, Essex, Middlesex and Morris Counties stationed at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

June, 1778 — Commanded his regiment under Major General Philemon Dickinson during the retreat of the British Army across New Jersey.

June 24, 1778 — At Battle of Crosswick's Bridge, New Jersey.

June 28, 1778 — At Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey.

June 1, 1779 — June 21, 1779 — Commanded detachments of militia from Morris and Somerset Counties stationed at Hackensack and New Barbadoes, New Jersey.

After June 2, 1779 — Colonel of detachments of militia levied from several counties to service in defense of frontiers of the State of New Jersey under Act of June 2, 1779. (Vice-Colonel John Neilson declined). Frelinghuysen declined on account of ill health.

September 29, 1779 — October 28, 1779 — Commanded detachments of militia from Somerset and Sussex Counties at Minnisink, New Jersey.

June 7, 1780 — June 14, 1780 — Commanded his regiment in alarm at Springfield, New Jersey.

After January 6, 1781 — Appointed Commissioner to investigate uneasiness among enlisted men of the New Jersey Continental Line and fix the amounts due them for depreciation of pay under Act of January 6, 1781.

May 31, 1786 — In service as Colonel of First Regiment of Somerset County Militia.

October 10, 1794 — December 23, 1794 — Enrolled as Major General of New Jersey Detached Militia for three months. Discharged on latter date. Frelinghuysen was appointed to the command of the Legion, leading the van of the Army during the Pennsylvania Insurrection of 1794. Thomas Henderson, Vice-President of State of New Jersey, in letter dated Sept. 24, 1794, authorized Frelinghuysen to recruit two hundred men (not over fifty to be assigned to the cavalry) to march to Western Pennsylvania during the autumn of 1794. (Original letter in Princeton University Library, Moore Collection of Autographs.)

