

# The Genius of Liberty

by Arthur F. Mierisch

## Part 2: Tavern Talk

Five years ago, while searching old newspapers for articles about George Washington, I came across the 1799 edition of *The Genius of Liberty*. Jacob Mann edited and printed the paper from 1798 through 1810. His shop, located on South Street, was diagonally across from today's Morristown's Women's Club. The paper a no frills, four-page, four-column newspaper was issued every Thursday. Articles appearing in the paper told of the challenges that faced the population struggling to create a new government and recover economically from a long and burdensome war. *The Genius of Liberty* informed its readers about happenings in Columbia (the original name for the United States) and events around the world. The paper chronicled world events, Native American unrest, smallpox infections, lost livestock and colonial styled marriages and divorces. It advertised new stagecoach routes, clothing and other stores. The paper printed poetry, legal notices and articles about husbandry (agricultural and animal care).

Newspapers such as *The Genius of Liberty* were the only mass communi-

cation media available in 1799.

*The Genius of Liberty*, distributed to taverns was the information resource for Morristown's curious and social residents. The taverns themselves were community centers where people gathered to read and discuss the latest events. They also dined, danced, held meetings, stayed overnight or just visited and talked with their friends. In taverns, residents networked, conducted business, heard political speeches, had rousing discussions as well as dined, danced, listened to music, played cards and board games. Taverns were the social networking sites that brought people together for learning and entertainment.

In Part I of *The Genius of Liberty 1799*, I selected several national and international articles that impacted the lives of Morristown's residents. For Part II, I've included state and local articles that focus on everyday issues. To illustrate these, I've imagined Dr. Lewis Conduct, a real Morristown physician, on the evening of Thursday, July 28, closing his office. It was a busy day and he is anxious to join his friends at one of Morristown's tav-

erns. He looks forward to their company over dinner, reading the newspaper, and exchanging thoughts and opinions about the multitude of current events.

Along the right hand column appears further historical information for greater context. Also, Dr. Conduct's statements are reflections of opinions found in the editorials.

Please remember that the characters are real, and the articles are as recorded in *The Genius of Liberty*. Only Dr. Conduct's evening visit to the taverns is fictional.

With tongue in cheek, this document is historical with a slight touch of imagination.

### Before the Revolution

In the 1750s, many authors prophesized that America would be renowned for scientific and artistic advancements. One writer said, "and in a few years we shall have...Painting, Sculpture, Statuary, but first of all the Greek Architecture in considerable Perfection is among us." John Adams noted, "the observation that arts, sciences, and empire had travelled westward."

However, the coming of the Revolutionary War curtailed all artistic devel-

### Indian Queen Taverns

were popular places in the 1700s. In 1775, the Indian Queen Tavern at 6th and Market St., Philadelphia in 1775, was a meeting place for the Continental Congress. In New Jersey, New Brunswick's 1740s, Indian Queen Tavern, is now located in the East Jersey Olde Towne Village of Piscataway. Different owners changed the name from Drake's Tavern to Bell's Tavern, Bell's Hotel and the Indian Queen Tavern. Haddonfield's Indian Queen Tavern is where the New Jersey General Assembly met in 1777 to ratify the Declaration of Independence. The Blandensburg and Charlestown, Maryland Indian Queen Taverns have been preserved.

**Robert Morris**, an experienced importer/export in 1776, and a member of the Second Congress, served as chairman of the "Secret Committee of Trade." He funded the Revolution through personal contributions and by borrowing from wealthy individuals and foreign countries. He devised a covert system that smuggled war supplies from France, and created a spy network that gathered intelligence on British troop movements. After the war, Morris attempted to repay debts. He convinced others to join him in speculating in land and agricultural products. When market collapsed in 1796, armed mobs surrounded his home and demanded repayment of their investments. Morris was sent to debtor's prison and was released in 1801 by an act of Congress. The once richest man in America, died a pauper 1806.

opment. After the battle of Yorktown in 1781, while it won the war, the United States fell into a deep recession lasting into the 1790s. During that time, the new nation struggled to improve trade relationships with Europe, establish a banking system, and create a central government. Trade with England, France and Spain gradually resumed and science and the arts began to flourish. Once free of English domination (the Americans called it despotism) the creative genius of the United States blossomed. Science advanced in part through Benjamin Franklin's creative experiments with electricity and bioluminescence. Joseph Priestley discovered phlogiston (oxygen). James Rumsey, John Fitch, Robert Fulton, John Stevens and Oliver Evans, scientist-engineers, observed physical phenomena, experimented, and built steam-powered boats and automated mills. The educator Noah Webster, the playwright William Dunlap, the poet Hugh Brackenridge and the painter Charles Willson Peale, all contributed to the arts. The new Nation had many accomplishments since the Peace Treaty with England was signed in 1783.

**24 Years of Independence,  
13 Years as the United  
States**

By 1799, the new United States had recovered from the depression of 1781. The nation com-

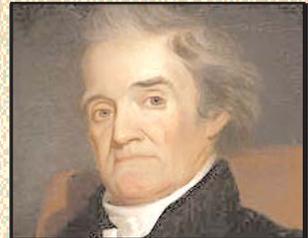
pleted its Constitution, devised a banking system, raised revenue, and improved communications by building and repairing roads and bridges. Congress, in resolving its war debt (money owed to soldiers and creditors) opened up the frontier to settlers from Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia. Commerce resumed with England though hostilities continued over the fur trade along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. Along the Pacific coast, United States sea-going merchants traded furs and ginseng with China for ceramic-ware and tea. England, "master-of-the-seas," continued confiscating United States shipping and impressing American seamen. The French, again at war with England and unhappy with George Washington's support of England, precipitated an international affair in 1798. The incident, when revealed to the American public, became known as the "XYZ Affair." The United States citizens, up-in-arms demanded an armed conflict with France. President John Adams, hoping for a peaceful solution sent a commission to France who negotiated a trade agreement French Foreign Minister, Talleyrand, and the , and a war was avoided.

During the 1790s inventors awed the public by creating steam powered boats and grist mills.

Immigrants from Europe sailed into the coastal cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Savannah.

In 1794, land speculators bought for quick resale, not for settlement, millions of acres in the newly acquired western territories. Prominent Federal and State officials, foreign and small investors, quickly joined the frenzy and bought land financed with short term promissory notes. Anxious to acquire more land, they endorsed each other's notes, trusting that the notes would be paid on time. The value of the notes was determined in advance to be the future sale price of land and agricultural products. Noted Europeans such as Talleyrand himself toured America in 1794, searching for investment property. Two years later, land sales suddenly collapsed when warring European countries decided to economize by cancelling orders for American products. Scandals soon followed resulting in many famous people going to debtor's prison.

Congress and the States continued issuing these promissory notes, redeemable in western land. Farmers and merchants quickly packed their belongings and migrated to Ohio and lands east of the Mississippi. A land rush was on! As the western territories opened, new roads and towns emerged and hostilities with the Native Americans resulted



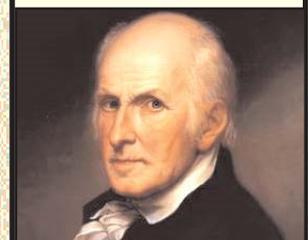
**Noah Webster** in 1793, applied for a patent for his *Speller and Dictionary*. Two years later, he founded New York's first daily newspaper the *American Minerva*.



**William Dunlap** a playwright produced over sixty plays. He managed New York's John Street Theatre (1796) and the Park Theatre (1798).



**Hugh Henry Brackenridge** a writer and a lawyer became a justice in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He published poems, and wrote *Modern Chivalry*, a fictional work. He helped establish the *Pittsburgh Gazette* in 1786.



**Charles Willson Peale** a naturalist and a painter became famous for his paintings of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Morris, John Hancock, Henry Knox and Joseph Brant.

in deadly conflicts.

While all this was going on in the wider world, Jacob Mann delivered *The Genius of Liberty* to taverns and homes in Morristown and to surrounding communities. People frequented taverns to learn such news and also to be entertained. They read the editorials, discussed the issues, checked the advertisements, argued over the husbandry column, and often recited the poetry found on the last page. After an evening of drinking, dining, and discussing the news, they returned home, probably feeling self-satisfied that they had solved the world's problems and made important decisions about matters affecting their lives. Papers were taken home for the family to read in front of the fireplace or under dim candle light.

#### A Hot, Dry Summer

As the clock quietly chimed seven-thirty, Dr. Condict sat down at his desk, slowly took off his glasses and for the next few moments thought about his busy day. He envisioned the patients that came to his office and how he helped them to feel better. There were two workmen from Joseph Prudden's brick works with broken ankles, and several men from the forges with third degree burns on the hands. The challenge of the day came when he removed a large bladder stone. At first the stone

defied such removal. The Doctor remained calm and persisted with the extraction. After fifteen minutes it was removed. The operation was a success!

The Doctor recalled other patients who suffered from severe diarrhea and dehydration. He attributed his successful treatment to the Red Peruvian bark that he prepared in the morning. As the Doctor rested, he thought about the dreaded yellow fever returning to New Jersey. He recalled June's paper reporting another breakout of the fever in Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia planned to send the Mayor and his staff to Trenton for the summer and fall. Even Walter Gibb, of New York City moved his dry goods store to Chatham for the "sickly season." Condict silently feared the dreaded illnesses again invading Morristown.

Dr. Condict arose and went over to the examination/treatment table at the other side of the room. He began cleaning his instruments starting with the lancets—small knives used for cutting away infectious material. They were rinsed in a pan of water and dried. Next, the catheter was submerged in the pan, removed and shook several times to drain any liquid remaining inside. The Doctor thought the catheter was another marvel of American genius. He silently thanked Benjamin Franklin for reporting its

design in one of his many publications. Dr. Condict emptied the bowl, rinsed it in a bucket of clear water standing on the floor near the table. He replaced the bowl in its spot on the table.

The Doctor decided to collect and rearrange the papers and books that seemed haphazardly scattered about on his desk. He carefully closed the well thumbed copies of *Poor Richard Almanack* and placed them on one corner. He then stacked and jiggled together the pages of two favorite essays; *Every Man His Own Doctor: Or, The Poor Planter's Physician*; and John Tennes's *Essay on Pleurisy*, and placed these in the bookcase behind the desk. He found these informative and extremely useful in his diagnosis of ailments. He wished that medical practitioners around the country would publish more often in the American Philosophical Society's journals. Without publication, such important medical findings would remain unknown. Benjamin Franklin, at least, published medical findings in his journals as he received them. Next, the Doctor opened the package of medications that arrived on the afternoon coach from Newark. He put into containers two pounds of Peruvian bark cut from evergreen trees grown in the Andes—when boiled and infused with wine it treated colds, diarrhea and gout—when powdered and mixed with rhubarb it

From *The Genius of Liberty*,  
Thursday, July 4, 1799:  
IMPORTANT

We are informed by a gentlemen from Philadelphia, that government has detected, and sent on to the President of the United States, some important dispatches, of a nature prejudicial to the peace and welfare, and containing insinuations highly degrading to the government of the United States, from Mr. Litton, British Minister to the presiding officer in the government of Canada.



Dr. Lewis Condict from his 1797 home at the corner of South Street and Community Place could see Jacob Mann's *The Genius of Liberty* print shop across the street. Dr. Condict, the first president of the Morris County Medical Society, became a shareholder in the Morris Aqueduct Company, a Congressman and the first president of the Morris and Essex Railroad. The home, in the late 1800s, was a hotel and today is the Morristown Women's Club and a dance studio.

From *The Genius of Liberty*,  
October 9, 1799:

For Sale,  
A QUANTITY OF,  
**RED PERUVIAN BARK**,  
Warranted of the First  
Quality.

Apply to Lewis Condict,  
Morris-Town

**Benjamin Franklin** published *Poor Richard's Almanack* from 1738 to 1758. Print runs reached 10,000 per year. *The Almanack* featured Franklin's sayings, medical advice and treatments, weather, calendar, poems, astrological and astronomical information.

helped cure malaria. Next out of the package came the Georgia rattle-snake root. Every summer, people living on nearby farms rushed to his office suffering from poisonous snake bites. The doctor using an Indian remedy, ground the root into a powder, mixed it with water and applied the mash on the bite. He often sold the root to out-of-towners who wanted to do the cure at home. The last medication out of the package, wrapped in a waxed paper, was saffron leaves. A tea made from the leaves acts as a diuretic—ideal for treating dropsy and the gout. Physicians believed that only rich male adults contacted gout.

After the medical supplies were put away, Dr. Conduct blew out the candles on his desk—it was time to visit a tavern. He slowly walked towards the door and stepped out into the hot evening air. He first thought of O'Hara's—a place where he could read the latest news and enjoy the company of his long-time friends. On the other hand, he respected Arnold's and Doughty's opinions and he easily conversed with the other military Freemasons who always gathered at the bar. If it wasn't so hot he'd consider walking down to Dickerson's in the Hollows. He knew the Campfields, Fords and Joseph Prudden would be there playing a card game. He decided on O'Hara's, nearby on the south side

of the Green.

Although tired, the doctor stepped lively out of the door. A few short steps brought him to the street. He immediately turned left and proceeded west on South Street towards the Green. He kept a close eye on the hard dirt road in front side-stepping any animal leavings in his path. Most of Morristown's streets were clean when compared to New York and Philadelphia that had neighborhoods littered with three foot mounds of trash.

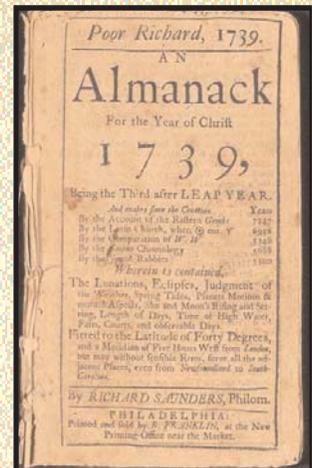
South Street was hard and dry. It brought back memories of Morristown back in '76. The air filled with excitement as children ran down the street yelling, "It's Washington." He could still hear the sound of the fifes and drums when Washington and his army slowly paraded into town. He recalled the soldiers living in Jockey Hollow and the officers, many with families, residing in homes around town. During the day, the wives shopped for food, fabrics and clothing. In the evening the officers crowded into the town taverns for rousing conversations. On weekends the officers and their wives socialized at the dances. General Washington always frequented Arnolds. He wanted the local British spies to see his army enjoying the dancing and merriment. Obviously the army felt secure in their stronghold behind the Watchung Mountains and

were not readying for an attack on New York.

And now in 1799, the town seemed just as busy. Someone new arrived every month. The doctor thought of how quickly the years passed—so many changes had taken place.

About half way to O'Hara's, Dr. Conduct, out of his left eye, caught a glimpse of someone coming towards him. It was William DeHart his neighbor who lived around the corner. They said "hellos" and "good evenings" and then continued walking towards O'Hara's. Dr. Conduct appeared to be deep in thought. Perhaps he was thinking about a leisurely meal, or tipping a few glasses of wine and discussing the current events. Nearing O'Hara's they heard rapidly moving footsteps approaching. Looking over their shoulders, they saw a devil (a *Genius of Liberty* delivery boy) running towards the Green. He carried under his arm news papers destined for delivery around town. A minute later they arrived at O'Hara's, stepped into the building and seated themselves at a table looking out on the Green. Dr. Conduct picked up a copy of *The Genius of Liberty* that a minute before was hurriedly placed on the table. He put on his glasses and began reading.

Peaking out of the corner of his eye, he saw others quietly settling into their papers. A voice from the back of the room called: "Bartender what's



**Catheters** made by local metal-smiths removed bladder stones. *Poor Richard's Almanack* recommended using wound silver wire stiffened with animal skin and covered with wax or silk. Bladder and kidney surgery was considered dangerous and not recommended for someone older than twenty.

**Poor Richard** recommended Potatoes for treating burns: "Beat or scrape Irish Potatoes to a soft pulpy Mass; mix some common Salt finely powdered and apply it cool to the Part. When it grows warm or dry apply a fresh Quantity."

Benjamin Franklin suffered from gout and bladder stones. Unable to walk or ride a horse, he invented a chair suspended between two horizontal poles. It required four men to carry him along.

Franklin hypothesized that honey and molasses used as stool softeners might also prevent bladder stones.



**Bed Bugs** are easily destroyed by pouring boiling water into the joints of the bedstead. "The old Ones are scalded to Death, and the Nits spoil, for a boil'd Egg never hatches."

for dinner?" "Hare!" he replied. Hearing this, the patrons eagerly ordered a meal, had another drink of wine and continued reading. O'Hara's patrons enjoyed this time together discussing often in heated debates the events of the week. It was a social place where people conducted business and entertained themselves. After all, where else could they be informed while having a good time?

### Taverns

Into the early years of the eighteenth century, a few enterprising colonists made and sold beer and wine in the front room of their modest two room homes—a bar room for drinking and eating, and another room for the owner and his family. As the colonies prospered, new homes had four or more rooms on one or two levels, and an attic. The ground floor contained rooms for drinking, eating, music and meetings. A kitchen, close to the bar, prepared food. Upstairs a ballroom hosted Friday and Saturday night dances and when needed, became a meeting room for fraternal and patriotic groups. Bedrooms, on the second floor, had wash basins and commodes. Rooms in the attic accommodated the owner, bartender, cook and waiters. The Trenton State Legislature, in 1784, recorded 446 places of public entertainment in New Jersey.

In the Newark records of 1666, homes

first called ordinaries became known as hostleries and later were called taverns, inns, hotels or houses. An item in a Newark paper read:

*"The Town hath chosen the sd. Henry Lyon to keep an Ordinary for the Entertainment of Travelers and Strangers, and desires him to prepare for it as soon as he can."*

The English Crown, in 1644, had regulated the taverns using a book of rules known as "The Duke of York's Laws." An excerpt read:

*"No Person or Persons shall at any time under any pretence or Colour whatsoever undertake to be a Common Victuler, keeper of a Cooks Shopp or House of Common entertainment, or publique seller of wine, Beare, Ale or strong waters by retail or a less quantity than a quarter Caske, without a certificate of his good behavior from the Constable and two Overseers...and a Lycence first obtained under the hand of two Justices of the Peace upon pain of the forfeiting of five pounds for every offence or imprisonment at the discretion of the Court."*

Laws passed in New Jersey regulated the prices of drinks and meals, and forbade gamecock fighting, carding, dicing, ninepins, tally, bowls, bil-

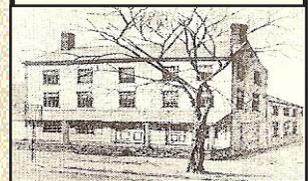
liards, shuffleboard, quoits and other board games. Local communities, however, still allowed shuffleboard, bowls, quoits, ninepins chess, dominoes, and draughts (checkers) playing in taverns or at home. In the 1700s, the colonies permitted dancing, singing, card and dicing games. Landlords were prohibited from "knowingly harboring in house, barn or stable rogues, vagabonds, thieves, beggars or masterless men or women." Drunkards could not frequent inns and taverns. Persons three-sheets-to-the-wind were escorted off the premises and penalties imposed on owners who ignored the rules. "Jersey Lightning" was served illegally in seventeenth century taverns—the Indians named the drink "firewater." Taverns having unscrupulous owners became known as "thirst taverns," "jug joints" and brothels.

Influential men often owned the taverns in the 1700s. Jacob Ford, Esq. a Morristown Justice and entrepreneur held a tavern license in 1740. His tavern, near the Ford Mansion on Morris Street served drinks and was the first location for the Morris County Court. Jacob Arnold, George O'Hara, and William Dickerson operated taverns near the Green—the part of town that became centers of Morristown's commercial, political and social activity. Arnold's Tavern located on the north western side of the Green and



#### George O'Hara's Tavern

located on the south side of the Green began as a warehouse for the Continental Army. It stored munitions, gunpowder and cannons. After the Revolution, O'Hara converted the building into a tavern and used it for dining, drinking, dancing and meetings.



#### Jacob Arnold

owned a tavern on the west side of the Green. It had a bar, dining area, ballroom and overnight accommodations for man and a barn for horses. The Tavern became the meeting place for General George Washington, Continental Army Officers, the army Masonic Lodge and civilian Freemasons.



#### Dickerson's Tavern

, on the northeast corner of Spring and Water Streets (Martin Luther King Blvd.), was near the grist mills, tannery, and forges along the Whippany River. Benedict Arnold accused of profiteering from the sale of military supplies was tried here. In 1799, Robert Norris kept the tavern. It burned in 1800.

Dickerson's Tavern, situated in the Hollows along Spring Street, served as meeting places for patriotic councils.

After the Revolution, returning soldiers established taverns and inns throughout the state. George O'Hara transformed the Continental Store House into a tavern. He served drinks, held political action meetings, hosted balls and presented musical entertainment for the public. Taverns continued to serve as part time court houses, and meeting places for freeholders.

At nine o'clock, the conversation in O'Hara's loudly turned to finding a solution to the nation's money problems. Dr. Condict was thankful for the private banking system surviving the turbulent years of the 1780s. However, he was disappointed because the nation still did not have a common currency. In 1799, the public were confused over the different paper monies, notes and coins issued by Congress, the States and even foreign governments. They depended on *The Genius of Liberty* and other papers to print conversion tables for all the different species in circulation. People remembered the instability created by Congress back in '77. Congress, not having the power to raise funds through taxation, issued paper money without backing. Several states followed suit and floated a version called "Revenue

Money." Individuals and businesses, hedging their assets, issued letters-of-credit and promissory notes based on the future value of other investments. In the 1790s, cash and letters-of-credit from Europe flooded the country in response to states selling millions of acres of land along their western frontiers—land seized from the British Crown during the Revolution, lying west of the Rockies to the Mississippi river.

A gentleman sitting in the corner quickly mentioned an article about bills of credit issued in 1783, being exchangeable "for specie." He read aloud:

*"There is in the New Jersey treasury 3861 dollars, in Jersey paper money of 1783 and 1786, and 7089 dollars, old state money of 1780 and 1781: Ordered that Messrs. Bowen, Smith and Shinn, be a committee of council, for the purpose of examining and burning said money."*

Minutes later the patrons raised a toast to New Jersey for simplifying the money.

Shortly Mr. O'Hara announced: "Dinner is served." As Dr. Condict ate, he overheard talk about several town wells going dry. He gave an "ahem" and told the group about a recent conversation he had with John Doughty, Daniel Phoenix and John Halsey. These men and ten others

envisioned a hydraulics project collecting water from Mount Washington and distributing it through pipes into homes and businesses around town. He energetically foretold of Morristown having a constant source of fresh spring water—certainly much healthier than drinking from contaminated wells. Dr. Condict said that a barn or a stable near a well is the cause of diarrhea and other ailments. Fresh running water would solve the problem!

#### County Responsibilities

During colonial times, people trusted that their English government would protect them from Native Americans, and the incursions of foreign governments. Every colony was responsible for the maintenance of roads, bridges and public buildings. After the Revolution, this responsibility was assumed by the counties.

Private investors formed Societies (corporations) to provide for-profit services to communities. In 1799, Dr. Condict became a shareholder in the Morris Aqueduct Society. Each member, known as a "proprietor," invested \$50.00, entitling them to one vote in the business.

After the New Jersey State Legislature in Trenton approved the project, trenches were dug and pipes laid. *The Genius of Liberty* reported the company's progress.

During dinner, Dr. Condict and his friends

#### Major John Doughty

born in New York City graduated from Kings College (Columbia University). During the Revolution he served as an aide to Major General Philip Schuyler and participated in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Springfield and Yorktown. In 1799, he was named President of the Morris Aqueduct Society.

#### Aaron Kitchell

born in Hanover became a member of the New Jersey General Assembly after the Revolution. Kitchell served on the Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Congress as a Democratic-Republican in the Senate.

#### Philip Schuyler,

a General in the New Jersey Militia, commanded the New Jersey Blues. His daughter Elizabeth married Alexander Hamilton.

#### William DeHart

a Lt. Colonel in the militia and a noted Essex County lawyer lived near South Street in Morristown.

**Moses Estrý** the county tax collector requested taxpayers to make payments at his home across from Dickerson's Tavern. The house is now part of The Speedwell Village Restoration Project.

From *The Genius of Liberty*, March 28, 1799:

#### Writ of Attachment

Dan Morton property is being taken over for sale by the Sheriff per the suit of Stephan Arnold unless he pays a special bail. Caleb Russell County Clerk

#### Court of Common Pleas

Insolvent debtors: James Slow, Samuel Wirts, Samuel Lacy, Mathew Degameau. The court will hear for the liberation of insolvent debtors.

October 3, 1799:

#### Orphans Court

Capt. Michael Kearney died without enough personal affects to pay his debts. Therefore the court seizes

continued reading and discussing a topic of importance—the ownership of land. They favored the proposal before the New Jersey Assembly authorizing aliens to purchase land. Several of the older men remembered how Peter Kemble brought wealth into the community and how he became a leading citizen who supported the people's outcry against taxation. Kemble, a leading Loyalist in the 1760s, had served on the Council of New Jersey's then Royal Governor, William Franklin. Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, was before the Revolution the British King's Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Jersey. Kemble soon became Speaker of the New Jersey Council and a proponent for the welfare and betterment of New Jersey residents. After the French and Indian War in 1763, the British Crown attempted to recover the War's expense by taxing the colonials. The people bitterly opposed taxes and began grumbling about even starting a revolution over it. Three years later Peter Kemble addressed Governor Franklin:

*"May it please your Excellency...We most sincerely rejoice with your Excellency on the Repeal of the Act for granting certain Stamp Duties in America...An Indemnification to those Persons who have incurred the Penalties of the late*

*Stamp Act must be considered as a further Mark of Lenity and Indulgence of our Sovereign...The Tenderness, Lenity and Considerations of His Majesty, and the Wisdom and Justice of the British Parliament, in removing the Danger that lately threatened the colonies, cannot but excite in all His American Subjects the strongest Sentiments of Loyalty."*

Peter Kemble, two years later, in 1768, became a county judge serving until 1776. His daughter, Margaret married General Thomas Gage, Britain's first Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in America. His son, Stephen Kemble, was General Gage's aide-de-camp for intelligence. 1775. Samuel Kemble, another son was General Gage's confidential secretary. Ironically historians suspect that Margaret was secretly a patriot spy who alerted Dr. Joseph Warren of Gage's troop movements around Boston.

The Morristown Court of Common Pleas confined Kemble to his home for the duration of the war. He was accused of circulating the British General Howe's offer of pardons in return for oaths of allegiance. His son Peter, however, took the American oath of allegiance. Peter Kemble and other family members are buried on the Glen Alpin

estate. In the late 1800s, the name of Mount Washington was changed to Mount Kemble and the Road to Basking Ridge became known as Mount Kemble Avenue (US 202).

Dr. Condict looked at his pocket watch—it was eleven o'clock! He thought, "Where did the time go?" There were so many problems to discuss. That week everyone was concerned about the outbreak of thievery that always followed the arrival of a new comer or someone just passing through town. Horses, pigs, chickens and other animals mysteriously disappeared. The sherriff, busy collecting taxes, probating estates and selling confiscated property, had little time or interest in catching thieves. "Now is the time for action!" was heard in the tavern.

The doctor tiring of the discussion gradually put down his paper. Looking out of the window, he saw a dim light coming from Arnold's tavern across the Green. It reminded him about running for a public office. Perhaps Arnold could help him make a decision. He decided it was time to speak with Arnold or Doughty—perhaps someone would know how to organize a campaign. He stood up, bid his friends a "good evening," walked to the door and left the building. As the door closed behind, he heard a loud conversation from inside about changing the State's Constitution. The doctor, in a hurry fought

his property and invites opinion as to why the property should not be sold to satisfy the debts.

November 11, 1799:

**COMMUNICATION**

The people of Morris-Green, will doubly exceeded their expectations more than answered, provided the Aqueduct succeeds well. The conveniences of a living spring of water by one's door can hardly be calculated: they at ones request health, pleasure, and the most extra fine utility. Next to a spring of cool water, the Poets, Orators, Historians, and even philosophers have celebrated Shades. This town, especially the green, and streets leading to it, seem only to want that ornament to render it pleasant and delightful, almost beyond description. A row of Shades, equi distantly placed, at each side of the way, about one third of the extent of fourth-street to the green-thence running round the green, and enclosing the church, would greatly beautify this already celebrated village - would render those walks exceedingly charming - would prevent that parched appearance the green makes in the heat of summer - would conduce to health - in a word, would render this one of the most enchanting scenes in nature.

November 21, 1799:

**AN AQUEDUCT**

4 miles completed. Its use will be appreciated in the next drought. The Hydraulics Co. has experience which is better than hydraulics theory. A pipe of 4 miles in length, including the various branches, has been laid down and completed.



temptation and didn't rejoin the group. He continued on his way stepping lively in the hot evening air. As he walked he recalled:

*"III. To place the rights of electors and elected upon safer and more rational principles;*

1. *By ascertaining the right of females to vote at elections or not*
2. *By excluding aliens from suffrage*
3. *By requiring more than one year's inhabitancy in all cases*
4. *By placing the right to vote upon the electors paying tax"*

Dr. Condict recalled New Jersey's Constitution, hurriedly written in '76, contained a clause saying persons worth over fifty pounds "shall be admitted to vote." At the first state wide election in 1776, the patriots used these words to eliminate people of a lower stature from voting. After the Revolution the battle for votes continued. The Federalists, in 1790, passed an act giving women voting rights. Within months the New Jersey Federalists "became concerned that the towns were voting Republican." Women voting was not in their best interest! A revision soon passed granting "free white male citizens" the right to vote. Taxpaying electors, freeholders (landowners) and wealthy aliens were the

preferred voters. Married women and people not owning land could not vote.

The full moon eerily guided Dr. Condict across the Green to Arnold's. He gave thanks for the boot scraper standing by the hitching post and quickly cleaned his boots—the road around the Green was marked with numerous soft hazards. Across from Arnold's, near the old court house, he noticed the empty pillory standing in front of the jail. He thought about the poor souls sentenced to standing in an uncomfortable position for days. They withstood the verbal abuse but suffered cuts when poked with pointed sticks, and bruises from stones hurled by unsympathetic passers-by.

He knew almost all of the military men that frequented Arnold's. They would gladly give him suggestions about running a campaign. And why wouldn't they? Even Arnold campaigned for sheriff and Jabez Campfield liked being a surrogate. The doctor felt a need to make a contribution to his country.

Entering Arnold's, Dr. Condict noticed several men at a back table playing card games. He wondered how they could see in the dim candle light. Not being in the mood for cards, Dr. Condict went directly to the parlor. There he found Arnold, the aging John Doughty and Aaron Kitchell, in quiet tones discussing the need for additional pris-

ons. They smilingly exchanged salutations.

Arnold called for an order of his best red wine and his favorite cheese, *fromage de brie*. Dr. Condict politely interrupted and immediately began talking about the need to establish a system of regulated public schools. The other men asked him to save the topic for another time.

Several men standing at the bar were talking about the President and the Vice President. They were concerned about the President John Adams, a Federalist, and the Vice President Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, having conflicting attitudes. The election of '96 was a real cat-and-dog fight. Adams was characterized as a despot who wished for an American monarchy while Jefferson was called a demagogue who wanted to further his own political career. The men at the bar at first they favored the present system where the Vice President was the losing party's candidate so that he could report the President's blunders. They suddenly changed their minds and strongly voiced: "Candidates for President and Vice President should be of the same party. The President must trust the Vice President." They went on to criticize John Adams for anonymously writing of pamphlets that defamed President Washington.

Just as the clock chimed twelve, the doctor decided to talk about run-

**Peter Kemble** born in 1704, in Smyrna, Turkey, the son of an English merchant, married a Greek woman. He studied in England before moving to New Brunswick in 1730. After becoming a wealthy businessman, he moved to Morristown in 1751, purchased land and built his Glen Alpin home in Harding. The house can be seen today along the Road to Basking Ridge (Mt. Kemble Ave.). In 1768, he was the second wealthiest man in Morris County after Henry Wick. Kemble owned 680 acres, 78 sheep, 46 horses, a herd of cows and several expensive four horse coaches.

From *The Genius of Liberty*, February 16, 1799:

**CONGRESS**  
**HOUSE OF**  
**REPRESENTATIVES,**

Mr. A. Foster laid on the table a resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution with respect to the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, by making it necessary to designate the person voted on as President, and the person voted for as Vice President.

September 5, 1799:  
**ELECTIONS**

The Republican Citizens of Morris County, are required to meet at the house of George O'Hara, on Wednesday, for the purpose of forming a ticket for the approaching election, and such other matters as may be thought advisable.

September 19, 1799:  
The following gentlemen have been nominated, to be elected, for the respective offices, at the annual election, to be held in several townships in the county of Morris, on the second Tuesday in October next, for the year ensuing.  
COUNCIL. Abraham Kitchell, Silas Condict

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.  
Abraham Kitchell,  
Silas Condict,

ning for a public office. He asked his friends for advice. All together they exclaimed: "run for what you do best, as an honest and caring physician on the Republican ticket, or go into business." They recalled last year when Abraham Kitchell ran on the Republican ticket for town councilman. Kitchell, not burdened with the public's dislike of President John Adams administration, easily beat the Federalist Party candidate.

In 1798, New Jersey required the 104 incorporated townships to elect at least two freeholders (property owners) to a township committee. At year's end the large townships had thirty to forty unpaid committee members having the power to approve financial claims submitted by members of the same committee. Freeholders executed the county's by-laws, ordinances and regulations. They raised money to purchase, build and repair poorhouses, jails, court-houses and bridges. Freeholder boards and groups, called municipal highway overseers, constructed and maintained bridges. Approvals for bridge repairs varied depending on the cost:

*Less than \$30, two freeholders and overseers*

*Between \$30 and \$150, two freeholders from the affected town and freeholders from adjoining townships*

*Greater than \$150, entire boards of freeholders from affected townships*

Individual communities shouldered the responsibility for local roads, schools and fire departments, and supported the poor. After 1796, the economy improved. Taxes were paid and New Jersey's treasury grew. Legislatures in Trenton, subsequently introduced bills authorizing the state to finance public works projects.

Sheriffs assisted the freeholders by assessing property, selling foreclosed property and the property of the insolvent deceased. They also collected taxes, conducted elections, maintained order at county meetings, acted as body guards for county officials, and made arrests. In 1796, a statute gave additional responsibilities to sheriffs:

*"the sheriff in each county in the State shall have the custody, rule, keeping and charge of the gaol [jail] or gaols within each county and the prisoners in such gaol or gaols."*

In 1798, the Freeholders financed and operated penal institutions. Criminals and disorderly persons received a maximum of six months of hard labor. Workhouses and almshouses also under the jurisdiction of the Sheriffs employed the poor. Prostitutes were sent to debtor's prisons. Paupers stayed in private

homes, if available—otherwise it was off to a workhouse. The towns provided monetary support to the poor. However, if the person could do work the amount of support was reduced.

Turning to the next page, Dr. Condict discovered an article about the jail system. No one cared to discuss conditions in the jails—they believed prisons to be proper places for criminals. Somebody said: "and how about building a new court house and jail over on Washington Avenue!"

Jails confined the accused prior to trial when they could not post bail, and housed persons convicted of crimes. People confined in jails experienced dreadful conditions. Confined in overcrowded windowless rooms, they sat, ate and slept on vermin infested dirt floors. Inmates unable to pay for food, begged for handouts. Tories, cruelly treated in the Morristown jail, suffered when crowded fifty at a time in an eighteen foot square room without privy privileges. To eliminate the filth and stench surrounding the jail, local residents partitioned the Court to send the prisoners to the Essex jail. Prisoners suffered from the bloody flux and camp fever; two debilitating illnesses. Any person not receiving food from the neighborhood starved to death. In 1790, an added exercise yard partially eased the overcrowding

William Campfield  
SHERIFF  
Lewis Condict,  
Silas Condict,  
Daniel Phoenix  
CORONNER.  
Lewis Condict,  
Davis Vail  
Caleb Russell, Clerk

November 7, 1799:

**New-Jersey Legislature**  
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY

The speaker laid before the house a representation from the inspections of state prison.

November 14, 1799:

**New-Jersey Legislature**  
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY

Mr. Stillwell, from the committee appointed to view the women's apartment of the State Prison and settle the accounts, etc. Reported that the said apartment appears to be completed of the accounts, there is a balance due to the state of 103 dollars and 60 cents.

November 28, 1799:

**New-Jersey Legislature**  
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY

A bill to regulate the state Prison. (Nov. 15 passed the House)

December 2, 1799:

**Appointments by the Governor**

Inspectors of the State Prison: Moore Furman, James Ewing

From *The Genius of Liberty*  
June 6, 1799:

**On the Establishment of Schools by Law**

Every town to support the school or schools depending on the number of families.

Grammar schools should teach language and polite literature.

A town committee to regulate the schools.

Everyone to be taxed on the value of their land and buildings.

Teachers to be selected and licensed and paid out of the taxes. Unqualified teachers will be excluded.

Each district will build its own school.

The Nation mourned when

of the jail by allowing some prisoners to live in the yard.

Suddenly the clock in the parlor chimed twelve thirty. Dr. Conduct, straining to read the paper in the dim candle light, came across an article on the second page. He read it aloud:

*“How my bosom burns with indignation to see numbers of beautiful, promising children looking up for instruction to some forlorn, despicable, haggard, drunken villain, who is probably as ignorant as he is vile; he only waits for Saturday to be drunk at the tavern, to be kicked under the bench, or tumbled into the street, till he recovers the use of his reason, and to whom the return of reason adds nothing agreeable, but only increases the horrors of his company. July 28, 1799.”*

To the doctor’s satisfaction, all thought the construction of public schools to be worthwhile. Everyone believed that education built a society composed of free citizens.

The term “free citizens” did not include freed slaves and indentured servants. It had referred to the choice of American property owners to rid the country of British rule. Everyone had agreed that knowledge gained through education brought about independence. Education will keep

the nation strong and safe.

At one o’clock Dr. Conduct rolled up his paper, took a last drink of wine and stood up yawning. He remarked how his Fridays are busy and he must get some rest before the rooster calls. He again bid his friends a “good night” and wished them “much rain and cooler temperatures.”

Leaving Arnold’s, a bright moon guided the doctor across the Green and down South Street. Entering the house, he lit a candle, went to the kitchen and filled a pitcher of water from the bucket placed by the back door. Holding the candle in one hand and the pitcher in the other, he walked down the hallway, up the stairs to the front bedroom. He washed quickly, put on his bed clothes, tightened his bed and opened the window hoping for a cool breeze—the air was warm and still. Dr. Conduct blew out the candle and climbed into bed. He closed his eyes and for a few moments thought about the care he gave his patients and the knowledge and opinions he exchanged with his friends that evening. Soon Doctor Conduct fell asleep.

### Gatherings

George Washington, leader of the Revolution and first President of the United States, died in December 1799, the last year of the eighteenth century. His death deeply

saddened Dr. Conduct, the residents of Morristown and the nations citizens. He was revered as a god who guided the nation to victory over the despotic British king. News of Washington’s death was distributed to the taverns throughout the country.

The *Genius of Liberty* read in O’Hara’s, Arnold’s and Dickerson’s taverns was the social networking structure for Morristown’s residents. The turbulence, of 1799, gave tavern goers much to read about and discuss. Everyone was threatened by the British harassment of American shipping and seamen. They recalled the subversive activity of the British Minister in Philadelphia (the Capitol). Many residents were concerned about their relatives and friends involvement in the conflicts with the Native American’s in Ohio and Georgia, and the New Jersey Cavalry going to Pennsylvania to quell Fries Rebellion. In taverns people made decisions about local issues—improving education, who should vote, catching horse thieves, and the need for more prisons.

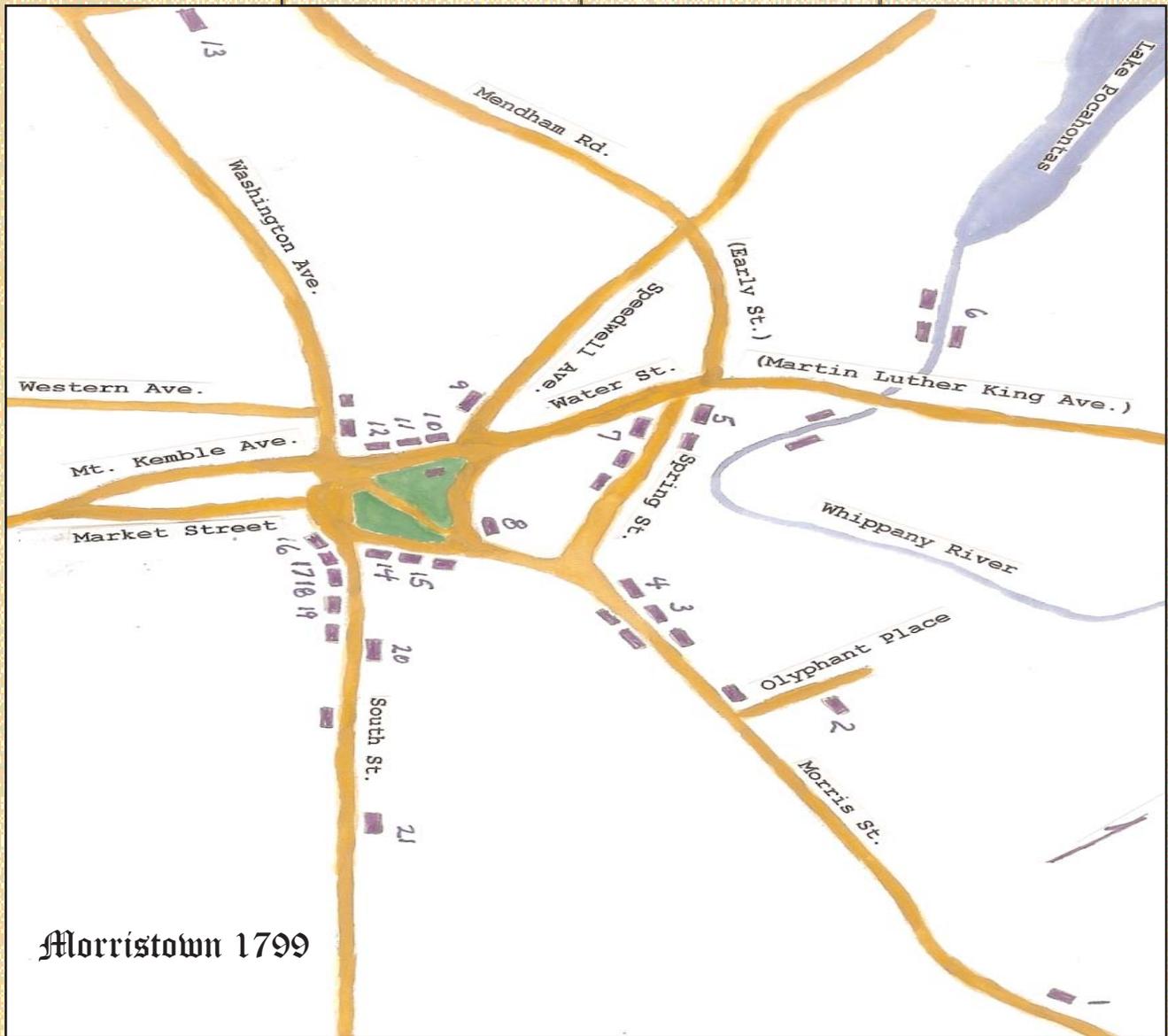
Although other channels of communication have emerged since the Revolution, taverns continue to be places for social gatherings where people still discuss current events and make decisions affecting their lives. Taverns are here to stay.



When **George Washington** died, artists depicted him as becoming a god as he rose to heaven. *he Apotheosis of Washington*, on display in Morristown, is a reverse Chinese style painting on glass. It depicts Washington in grave cloths rising to heaven assisted by Winged Immortality, Father Time, Faith, Hope, Charity, Liberty, an American Indian, a rattlesnake and an eagle.

A fresco, *The Apotheosis of Washington*, is seen by looking up at the inside of the rotunda in the United States Capitol Building, Washington, DC. Washington is surrounded by the goddesses of Liberty and Victory. He is depicted with 13 maidens in scenes of War, Science, Marine, Commerce, Mechanics, and Agriculture.





**Morristown 1799**

- |                            |                          |                             |                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ford Mansion            | Saw Mills                | 13. Timothy Mills House     | 19. The Genius Of Liberty |
| 2. Schuyler-Hamilton House | 7. Moses Estry House     | 14. Sheriff's Office        | 20. Morris Academy        |
| 3. Dickerson House         | 8. Presbyterian Church   | 15. Shoemaker, Weaver       | Furnace, Forge            |
| 4. Memorial Hospital       | 9. Baptist Church        | 16. O'Hara's Tavern         | 21. Samuel Tuthill House  |
| 5. Norris Tavern           | 10. Court House and Jail | 17. DeHart House            |                           |
| 6. Fulling, Grist and      | 11. U.S. Hotel           | 18. Dr. Lewis Condict House |                           |
|                            | 12. Arnold Tavern        |                             |                           |

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