

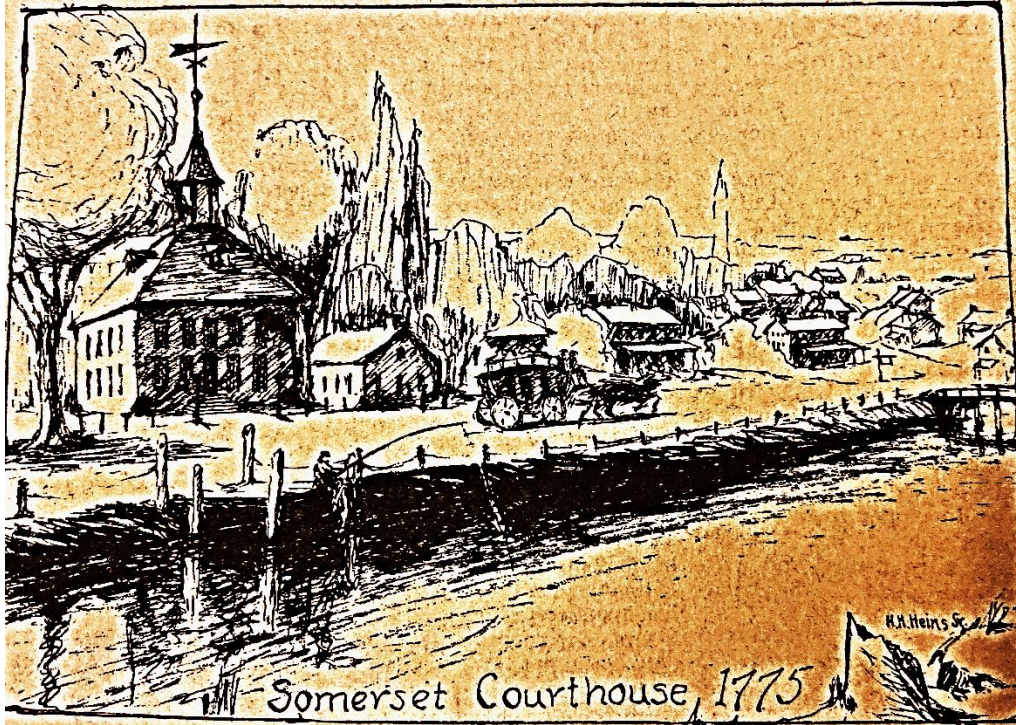
Rolling Toward Revolution...

❖ **1770-71:** The boycott of British goods triggered by the Townsend Acts (1767) and news of the Boston Massacre spread across New Jersey. Local Essex, Mercer, and Hunterdon Counties' resolutions supported the boycott, adding local weight to the one passed in Jersey's colonial Assembly. News of a limited victory arrived late in 1770: Parliament, King George had approved repeal of the Townsend's revenue taxes on everything but tea that April. TO BE CONTINUED...

❖ **February 1772:** Meanwhile, someone who would literally put the Revolution on the map had arrived in the colonies, landing in New York harbor, October 1771. Robert Erskine, Scottish inventor and engineer, came to colonial New Jersey after extensive study of ironwork operation in Europe. By February, he was the manager of the ironworks in Ringwood, New Jersey. Eventually, he would draw close to 300 maps of the campaigns in the northeast in his role as Geographer and Surveyor General of the Continental Army.



❖ **March 1772:** News of another act designed to rile the New Englanders arrived. Parliament had passed in January "The White Pines Act". Like the Tea Act, this legislation set up a Crown monopoly. This time, it was on all the white pine trees that were cut in American forests. These trees were the source of ship masts and of prime importance to the British Navy. It was another example of British attempts to control the economy of the colonies without their consent and meant that shipbuilding especially in New England was sharply curtailed.



An artist's rendering of Somerset Courthouse on the Millstone, 1775.

Meanwhile in New Jersey, a young lawyer named William Paterson, recent graduate of Princeton, set up his law practice in Millstone (also known as Somerset Courthouse). The future member of New Jersey's Provincial Assembly and later Attorney General of New Jersey also took out a mortgage on "Raritan Plantation" at South Branch.