

Rolling Toward Revolution...

October, 1772

New bridge opened...

- Under the guidance of Heindrick Fischer, a covered, wooden bridge, completed by John Duykink and Charles Suydam, vastly improved commerce at a major ford across the Raritan. Landing Lane, first surveyed in 1738 ran from the border of Somerset to the ford. On the Middlesex side of the ford was a river port known as Raritan Landing. Raritan Landing was a busy trade center for produce shipped east from western New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The new bridge led to increased prosperity of the Landing which reached a peak in 1775.
 - Today the once busy colonial river port with its warehouses, stores and dwellings lie buried under 3 feet of fill on either side of the existing roadway.

Meanwhile ...

- The newly organized township of Montgomery, meeting regularly since March, raised money for a poor farm.
- Captain James Cook was rounding the southern tip of Africa and would land at Capetown by month's end.
- News of the Crown's proposal to deport those involved in the Gaspee Incident to England for trial continued to incense New Englanders and trickled south throughout the colonies...

Sources:

- ❖ *Historic American Engineering Record. National Park Service, Northeast Region, 1974*
- ❖ *Somerset County Historical Quarterly, Vol 8, 1919.*
- ❖ Snell, J. (1881). *A History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties: Prominent Men and Pioneers.*