

country. We learn from General Howe's Narrative that at the beginning of the campaign of 1777 General Skinner had been able to recruit but five hundred and seventeen men of his complement, but in November, 1777, he had eight hundred and fifty-nine men on his brigade rolls, and in May, 1778, "after several months of active exertions," he had enlisted one thousand one hundred and one men. But at that time the nucleus for six battalions had been made and the officers commissioned. During that year five hundred and fifty additional volunteers, mostly from New Jersey, were enrolled for service, and afterward sent to Charleston, South Carolina. It is then apparent that General Skinner recruited about two-thirds of the quota first assigned to him. All of these soldiers immediately on enlistment were placed in active service, and they began to distinguish themselves at an early day in that zeal to annoy, intimidate and injure their friends and neighbours.

In a letter written by General Howe to Lord Germain, dated New York, December 20th, 1776, this remark is made: "I cannot close this letter without making mention of the good service rendered in the course of the campaign by Cortlandt Skinner, Esq., Attorney-General in the Jerseys, who has been indefatigable and of infinite service since the army entered those provinces. I therefore humbly recommend him as a gentleman meriting royal favour." Thus early was General Skinner showing his devotion to the King. This was just after the retreat of Washington's army through New Jersey, and General Skinner was urging his own friends to take protection from the British. It was also just prior to what was called "the unfortunate affair" at Trenton.