No county in the State of New Jersey suffered more during the Revolution than did Monmouth, and in no county did the citizens respond more nobly. The proximity to the shore and readiness of access by boat from New York rendered it peculiarly the prey of the British. There was super-added to that, a lawless element even more irresponsible and regarding less the rules of warfare, than the guerrillas in our late Civil War. Tories and refugees, well acquainted with the county and knowing the inhabitants, preyed upon the aged and infirm who had property that they could take or destroy, and committed all sorts of excesses and outrages, shooting children and old men and hanging women, burning houses and barns, and destroying animals and other property that they could not conveniently carry off.

Notwithstanding, many of her able bodied men were in the Army, the large proportion of those that remained were to be found in the Militia. The Tories and pine robbers had no compunction against invading and destroying homes that were occupied only by the women and the feeble. So obnoxious did they become, aided as they were by the more cowardly neighbors of the patriots, who while committing no overt act, were in league with Tories and refugees, that the Monmouth patriots were forced to take action against traitors in their midst. Hence it is that there has come down to us a document, which while it adds to the history of the county a valuable chapter, is also a roll of honor for the descendants of those who thus banded themselves together in their country's defense. It was in the spring of the year 1780 that the patriots of Monmouth, tried beyond measure by repeated outrages and robberies, and realizing the assistance the non-combatant Tories still living unmolested in their midst were rendering the refugees, Tories and pine robbers, resolved on redress by retaliation. The document which follows is unique, and of the 436 names subscribed nearly one-half served either in the Continental Army or in the Monmouth Militia before the war was concluded. Every part of the county was represented, and the Committees of Safety of the various townships are represented among the names of those who were not only willing to associate but also to have that fact advertised in the New Jersey Gazette.

The Articles of Association are as follows:

MONMOUTH ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

Whereas from the frequent incursions and depredations of the enemy (and more particularly of the refugees) in this county, whereby not only the lives but the liberty and property of every determined Whig are endangered, they, upon every such incursion, either burning or destroying houses, making prisoners of, and most inhumanly treating aged and peaceable
inhabitants, and plundering them of all portable property, it has become essentially necessary to take some different and more effectual measures to check said practices, than have ever yet been taken; and as it is a fact, notorious to every one, that these depredations have always been committed by the refugees (either black or white) that have left this country, or by their influence or procurement, many of whom have near relations and friends, that in general have been suffered to reside unmolested among us, numbers of which, we have full reason to believe, are aiding and accessory to those detestable practices.

We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the county of Monmouth, actuated solely by the principles of self-preservation, being of opinion that the measure will be strictly justifiable on the common principles of war, and being encouraged thereto by an unanimous resolve of the honorable the congress, passed the 30th of Oct., 1778, wherein they in the most solemn manner declare that through every possible change of fortune they will retaliate, do hereby solemnly associate for the purpose of retaliation, and do obligate ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, and every of them jointly and severally, to all and every of the subscribers and their heirs, to warrant and defend such persons as may be appointed to assist this association in the execution thereof; and that we will abide by and adhere to such rules and regulations for the purpose of making restitution to such friends to their country as may hereafter have their houses burned or broke to pieces, their property wantonly destroyed or plundered, their persons made prisoners of whilst peaceably at their own habitations about their lawful business not under arms, as shall hereafter be determined on by a committee of nine men duly elected by the associates at large out of their number; which rules and regulations shall be founded on the following principles,

FIRST - For every good subject of this state residing within the county, that shall become an associator, and shall be taken or admitted to parole by any party or parties of refugees as aforesaid, that shall come on the errand of plundering and man-stealing, the good subject not actually under or taken in arms, there shall be taken an equal number of the most disaffected and influential residing and having property within the county, and them confine within the Provost jail and treat them with British rigor, until the good subjects of this state taken as aforesaid shall be fully liberated.

SECOND - For every house that shall be burned or destroyed, the property of a good subject that enters with this association, there shall be made full retaliation upon or out of the property of the disaffected as aforesaid.

THIRD - That for every article of property taken as aforesaid from any of the associators, being good subjects, the value thereof shall be replaced out of the property of the disaffected as aforesaid. We do also further associate for the purpose of defending the frontiers of this county, and engage each man for himself that is a subject of the militia that we will turn out at all times when the county is invaded, and at other times do our proportionate part towards the defence thereof. We the associators do hereby direct that a copy of this association be, as soon as the signing is completed, transmitted
to the printer of the New Jersey Gazette, for publication, and that the original be lodged in the clerk's office.

Also we do request, that the associators will meet at the courthouse on Saturday, the 1st of July, at 1 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of electing a committee of nine men, as before mentioned, to carry the said association into effect

Asher Holmes       Lewis Carlton
Joseph Johnston    Matthias Mount
John VanSchoick    Matthew Anderson
William Nivison    Andrew Clark
John Smock         Cornelius Barkalow
Joseph Holmes      William Rue
John Nivison       Henry Berry
John Brown         Peter Emmans
Elisha Walton      Henry Drake
Daniel Denise      David Sutphin
John E. Leconte    John Holmes, sen.
Garrit Covenhoven  Rutliffe Schenek
Thomas Thorn       Joseph Clayton
Samuel Elliot      Tunis VanDerveer
Matthias VanDeripe Garrit Wikoff
John Schenek cpt. John Covenhoven
Daniel Lane        Moses Sheppard
Stephen Seabrook   William Hulsart
Richard Pippinger  John Schenek lieut
Peter VanDorn      Joseph Willet
Jacob Smith        Benj'n Covenhoven
Jacob Bennit       Jacob VanPelt
Timothy Gordon     Wm. Schenek lieut
Adam Stricker      John Willet
John Tilton        Alex. VanTenycke
William Sanford    Benj. VanCleve
Lewis Gordon       Barnes Smock lieut
Matthias Conover   Peter Johnston
Elias Longstreet   James Hampton
Stephen Fleming    Harmon Sneider
George Taylor      Jarrit Stilwell
John Chasey        George Hymes
Joseph Bowne       John Alwood
Samuel Pease       Hendrick Sneider
Jonathan Forman   Samuel Pearse
Peter Longstreet    Joseph VanCleve
Peter VanDerhoof    Eliaa Conover
Patrick Bailey      William Sneider
David Forman        Henry Strieker
Joseph Wooley       Solomon Combs
Jacob Allen         Robert Laird
Tunis Vanpelt       David Rhea, jr (adjt)
Samuel Clayton      William Schenek
John Sutphin        Samuel Dorsett
John VanBrocle      Berryan Covert
James Mash          William Anderson
Isaac Staates       William Covenhoven
Abra'm Hendrickson Godfrey Warner
Hendrick Hye        Samuel Carhart
Matthias Roberts    Daniel Hill
Benjamin VanMater   Jonathan Forman
Hendrick Wiliamson  John Sutphin
Corn. Covenhoven    William Lane
Walter Vanpelt      Samuel Hayes
Lambert Johnston    John Ludlow
Rulif Covenhoven    Lewis Perine
Stout Holmes        John Reid
Hendrick Vanpelt    Richard Postens
Burrowes Norris     Aaron F. Welsh
John Moore          John Baird
David Forman       William Forman
A. Zutphin          John Morford
Joseph Broom        John Rue
John Smith Hunn     William Dewinney
Kenneth Hankinson   David Baird
Edward Moore        David Hance
Joseph Fleming

[xix] APPENDIX.

Thomas Stilwell
Ezekiel Lewis
John Walton
Ebenezer Kerr
Corn. T. Vanderhoof
Nathan Nivison
David Baird
John Longstreet
John Boman
Peter Tanner
Nicholas VanBrunt
John Schenck
Manasseh Dunham
William Aumack
Jacob Covenhoven
John Campbell
Josiah West
Thomas Morris
Thomas Henderson
John Errickson
Matthias Tice
William Bowne
Benj. Covenhoven
Joel Bedel
William Rowler
Thomas Barber
William Johnston
Nicholas Cottril
Richard Laird
Samuel Bray
David Covenhoven
David Smith
James Smalley
William Willcocks
John Freeman
George Crookshank
Henry Rue
James Kinsley
Derrick Sutphin
John Nivisink, Jr
William Lewis
Jacob Pippenger
Moses Laird
Nicholas Clark
David Craig
John Rouse
John Jewell
John Yeatman
John Aumack
Benjamin Sutphin
Michael Johnston
Alexander Eastman
Samuel Craig
Alexander McDonald
Robert VanSchoick
James Yeatman
James Herbert
John Perine
Peter Smith
John Lane
Garrit Voorhees
Aaron Davis
Alexander Low
William Gordon
W. Laird
Thomas West
John Jamison
Michael Errickson
John Davison
James McDuffee
Henry Perine
Nehemiah Tilton
John Parent
David Gordon (capt)
John Anderson

Joseph Covenhoven
David Brookes
James English
David Lloyd
Daniel Ketcham
Lewis McKnight
James Reid
Isaac Johnston
Robert Francis
Tunis VanDerveer
Joseph Sutphin
Joseph Morford
Robert Sharp
James English
James Tapscott
Jacob Lane
Onkey Leffertson
John Freeman
Jacob Wickoff
John Johnston
John Truax
William Craig
David Craig
Adam Boice, sen.
John Hulsart
Aaron Sutphin
Peter Gordon
Thomas Walling
William Wilbert
Jonathan Clayton
James McChesney
Eleazer Cottril
Alburtus Showber
James Hoagland
John Vanderveer
Edmund Robinson
Jacob Tilton
Turis Vanderveer
Charles Postey
James Holmes
Jacob Lane
James Jonner
Andrew Mains
Humphrey Willet
Samuel Bigelow
John Morford
Derrick Sutphin
Jonathan Pew
Aaron Buck
Anthony Holmes
Joseph Goodenough
Richard Pool
John Tilton
William Covert
Benjamin Tilton
Thomas Cottril
John Tilton, Jr
James Dorsett
John Stilwell
Henry Vanderbilt
Cornelius Hance
Timothy Hughes
Michael Sweetman
Albert Hendrickson
Koert Schenck, Jr.
Ken'th Anderson, sen
Jaques Denise
James Vankirk
John Morlat
Richard Jeffrey
Ephraim Buck
William Shelt
James Wilson
William Morrison

Benjamin McDonald
John Willson
Jacob Woolcott
William Hilsey
Cornelius Clark, BS
Jacob Quakenbush
James Green (capt)
Joshua Huddy
Cornelius Sutphin
John Emmans
Joseph Vannoort
Hendrick Voorhees
Daniel Emmons
Peter Quakenbush
Joseph Johnston
Samuel Dennis
John Berry
Abraham Emmans
John Lake
Daniel Hendrickson
James McKnight
John McMullin
Francis Herbert
Barnabas Bennet
John Simermore
John Wilkinson
William Hendrickson
Benjamin VanCleve
John Hampton
John Johnston
Thomas Smith
Daniel Hampton
Aaron Reid
Jacob Degroof
Samuel Forman
John Covenhoven
Jonathan Clayton
Cornelius Schenck
James Craig
Dollance Hagerman
Joseph Emley
Alexander Clark
John Craig
Thomas Chadwick
Joseph Knox
Samuel Rogers
Thomas Seabrook
Hendrick Smock
Jonathan Enobly (Embly?)
Stephen Barkalow
Peter Forman
William Wikoff
William Voorhees
William Currin
Nathaniel Scudder
Hugh Newell
Josiah Holmes
Peter Vounk
William Craig
Cornelius Stewart
John Covenhoven
Cornelius McMullin
Thomas Edwards
Timothy Dorsey
Cornel's Covenhoven
Richard Poling
Zebulon Baird
John VanCleve
Samuel Henderson
Barzulla Baird
George Casler
Gilbert Shearney
John McConnill
Koert VanSchoick

John Emmons
Richard Russel
Joseph Combs
William Postens
Moses Mount
Job Throckmorton
Matthew Rue
James Sickles
James Runnels
John Forman
John Reid
Jacob Vanderveer
Richard Chew
Wm. A. Covenhoven
David Vanderveer
John Covenhoven
Albert Covenhoven
John Cooke
Richard Tice
Tunis Voorhees
John Barkalow
Daniel Randolph
John Antonides
Thomas Erickson
Abraham Vangelder
Moses Robbins
John VanCleve
George Clinton
William VanSchoick
Daniel Griggs
John Clark, B. S.
Ebenezer Hart
Charles Gilmore
William Jenkins
Hend'k Covenhoven
Abra'm Hendrickson
John Schenck
Reuben Potter
Samuel Hingry
Richard Rogers
Garrit Vanderveer
William Brown
John Brindley
Arthur Williamson
Hendrick Vounk
Thomas Smith
William Brindley
Richard Sutphin
Tunis Forman
Joshua Studson
John DeGraff
William Covenhoven
George Brindley
David Ray
Richard Marlat
Abraham Sutphin
Elihu Chadwick
Abel Aikin
Joseph Vanderveer
John Reid
Elisha Shepherd
David Crawford
William Cheeseman
Jonathan Reid
John Chadwick
Cornelius Lane
Wm. Williamson, jr
Peter VanCleve
Daniel Herbert
Hend'k VanDerveer
Elias Bowne
John Aumac

THE MONMOUTH ASSOCIATION

The number of signers to this association is 436. It must have been an earnest and determined set of men who met that day in Monmouth Court House - Memories of the battle, recollections of wrongs, many and wicked, thronged their minds and doubtless were recalled in conversation. The committee of nine were duly appointed, and while we do not read in the papers of the day, much or anything of their forceful retaliation, still they doubtless accomplished much in the way of redressing wrongs and inspiring a healthy respect for the rough and ready justice of Monmouth patriotism. The only other notice the writer has found appears in the New Jersey Gazette of March 5th, 1783, and has a grim significance, which was doubtless appreciated by
the Tory sympathizers throughout the county. It is as follows:

"N. J. Gazette, March 5, 1783-

Whereas the time of the Committee of the Associators of retaliations of the County of Monmouth expires; and it being necessary for a new one to be chosen, as there remains some business unsettled: The associators are requested to meet at the Courthouse on 15th March, as well to determine on said business and to be prepared for future depredations.

By order of the committee

Kenneth Hankinson,

Feb. 18, 1783 Chairman.

Kenneth Hankinson, who signed the foregoing, was a captain in Col. Forman's battalion, "Heard's Brigade" June 16th, 1776, and also captain in the First Regiment of Monmouth, 1717. His son, James Hankinson, was the father of Governor William A. Newell's mother.