

Stember, Sol: The bicentennial  
guide to the Amer.  
Revolution, Vol. 2, pp.  
76-77.

commercialization has concentrated along the beaches, and some of the sites offer rare touring experiences.

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 58 for Route 539 to **Tuckerton**, known in colonial times as Little Egg Harbor because of the small gull eggs found in the area. Little Egg Harbor was also known for its privateers, who preyed on British shipping up and down the Atlantic coast to such an extent that in October, 1778, two regiments of redcoats, including a New Jersey Loyalist outfit, were sent to clean it out. Word of the impending attack got to the Patriots and Pulaski's Legion was sent to protect the town.

A Polish volunteer, Casimir Pulaski had served as an aide de camp to Washington at Brandywine. When Congress authorized the raising of several regiments of dragoons, he was placed in command on Washington's recommendation. Like so many of the foreign volunteers who came to America seeking glory, fame, self-advancement, or whatever else they expected to gain, Pulaski was an aristocrat by upbringing and habit and expected to be given a rank commensurate with his social position. Based on his cavalry training in Poland, which does not seem to have included much combat experience, the young man of thirty was given the rank of brigadier general. Unfortunately, his aristocratic upbringing made it difficult for him to take orders from anyone, including Washington. At first he was given only minor field assignments, one of which was to guard the settlers in the Delaware Valley from Indian attack. He complained about this constantly to Congress and finally resigned his post. He was subsequently allowed to recruit his own mixed infantry-cavalry unit, known as the Pulaski Legion, though he insisted on signing up deserters and prisoners of war without waiting for the commander in chief's consent.

Pulaski's Legion got to Little Egg Harbor too late. The British had already been and gone after destroying a number of vessels in the harbor. They had then sailed up the Mullica River burning everything in sight, from warehouses to the homes of local Patriots. Pulaski stationed his infantry on Mincock Island near the town, perhaps planning to waylay the raiders as they returned to their ships. The British, however, discovered that Pulaski was careless about posting sentries, sneaked up on the Legion infantry during the early morning hours of October 5, and attacked. Fifty officers and men were bayoneted to death before Pulaski could get there with the cavalry and drive the attackers off. Always at odds with Congress, forever complaining about his fate,



KÖNYV- és Irattár, 1822. 10. 1. Pulaski's Legion

Pulaski was finally sent with his legion to the South, where we shall meet up with him again at Savannah.

Route 539 will take you into Tuckerton to a traffic light at an intersection with Main Street, which is also U.S. 9. Turn right onto 9 and follow it out of town past a lake on your right until you get to Center Street. Turn left onto Center Street and follow it to its end at a T-intersection with a nameless road bordered by woody tracts and small homes. Turn left and head for a tall, yellow water tower or chimney which has the words "Mystic Island" printed on it in huge, black letters. Mystic Island is a private development of small homes bordering the old harbor. When the road curves to the right, watch for a triangular piece of ground on the left bordered on three sides by road. Beyond it, on a rise of ground close to a one-family house, is a *tablet* which commemorates the massacre of the Pulaski Legion.

The action, however, took place farther down toward the harbor. In fact, it seems as though the Mystic Island development has completed the massacre by wiping out the site. Mincock Island does not appear any longer on local maps, but you can explore about a bit through the development streets and down to the water here and there on the shores of Little Egg Harbor where privateers once anchored their ships. Incidentally, the leader of the British force was Captain Patrick Ferguson. You will meet him again at Brandywine and later at King's Mountain. Serving under him at Little Egg Harbor were Simcoe's Rangers, a unit you encountered recently at Monmouth and will encounter again at other Jersey sites and later in Virginia.

Retrace your route to Garden State Parkway and take it south to Exit 36 to U.S. 40 Route 322 west to McKee City. At this point, you are a few miles west of Atlantic City and just north of the delightful Cape May area with its excellent beaches, swimming, and fishing.

At McKee City, U.S. 40 splits. Part of it continues northwest along with 322; the other part swings west by itself. Take it west to State Route 552 and then 552 to Millville. Take Route 49 out of Millville into Bridgeton and onto Broad Street where, in the heart of town on the right side of Broad Street, opposite the courthouse, you will find **Potter's Tavern**, a white, frame building with a flag flying in front. According to the marker, it was in the tavern that local Patriots published the *Plain Dealer* during the 1770s, which advocated independence for the colonies. The old inn is in fine condition and is obviously well taken care of, judging by the fresh coat of paint on its exterior. Since it was not open to the public when I was there, it is impossible to say