

Joseph Falkinburg was the third eldest son of John and Mary. He and brother John are listed on the Muster and Pay Roles of the Second Battalion of the Cumberland Militia on 4 JUL 1783. At age 14, Joseph was most likely too young to fight in the Revolution. On 3 SEP 1783 the Treaty of Paris officially ending the American Revolution was signed by Congress. However, the Revolution had begun to wind-down in 1781 when with the aid of the French navy, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. I have asked myself what was Joseph doing in the Cumberland Militia at age 14? The Carlisle Barracks was located just south of where the Falkinburgs settled in Rye Township.

“The [British] military facility at Carlisle came into American hands at the outset of the Revolution. Its facilities were untouched and it was soon put to use gathering supplies and livestock and manufacturing everything from uniforms and weapons to wagons, artillery, and ammunition.” [1]

In later life there is evidence that Joseph worked as a tailor and a shoe merchant. It is reasonable to propose that he learned this trade supporting the Continental Army in the manufacture of uniforms at Carlisle. Most likely, Joseph and his brother John went with their father on an expeditionary trip to Pennsylvania, found work at the Carlisle Barracks and decided to stay.

In 1790, at the age of 21, Joseph left Pennsylvania and moved back to New Jersey. He settled in Dennis Township, Cape May County. Joseph worked as a tailor and merchant. He married Sarah Ludlam 1 Mar 1801. Falkinburg served as a member of the State Assembly from 1803 to 1804 and again from 1810 to 1811. He also served two terms as a senator (member of the Legislative Council) representing



The Joseph Falkinburg House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. Built in 1805 the home is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cape May County in 1803-4 and 1810-11. Following the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars once again embroiled Great Britain and France in conflict. The United States attempted to chart a course of neutrality in this conflict. However, the British impressment of American seamen and the seizure of cargoes led President James Madison to ask Congress to declare war on Great Britain, June 1, 1812. Fearing the negative impact on maritime trade so vital to the region, Joseph Falkinburg was part of a state convention which met 4

JUL 1814 to name candidates to the United States Congress who would vote to discontinue the war. In his history of Cape May County, Lewis T. Stevens states: “ [Joseph Falkenburg] came to Cape May... a poor boy, but when he died, April 30, 1846, he was the wealthiest man in the county.” This was certainly due, in part, to his marriage into the Ludlam family. [2]

References

- [1] Durham, Roger S. Images of America Carlisle Barracks (Arcadia Publishing, 2009) .p. 7.
- [2] Stevens, Lewis T., The History of Cape May County, New Jersey (self published, 1897) p. [240](#).

The following material is excerpted from:

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