

BARTONS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN 1776



Students of American History are very familiar with General George Washington's brilliant victory over the Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey on a wintry Christmas holiday in 1776.

Our Revolutionary Army retreated from southeastern Pennsylvania from near disastrous defeats suffered in New York and New Jersey. Executing a brilliant counterstroke, Washington ferried his beleaguered army across the ice-filled Delaware River.¹ It was in full flood, jammed with great sheets of ice and seemed to be impassable. On Christmas night from 5 PM to 4 AM the following day, Washington employed 40 foot "Durham Boats" to cross the Delaware at McKonkey's Ferry with 2400 men and 18 Artillery pieces.

Soaked muskets proved useless, but Washington's orders were: "Tell them to use the bayonet. I am determined to take Trenton". It is disputed whether the Hessians were still nursing hangovers from their Yuletide Celebration but they were befuddled and caught by surprise. In less than one hour of fighting, 948 of 1300 Hessians were captured, 22 were killed (including their Commander), and a large store of badly needed supplies was seized. American losses were only 4 wounded in battle, and 2 men frozen to death during the march. It was a nascent point in the young rebellion.



Did your ancestor fight alongside **Pvt. Jonathan S. Barton (1754-1830)** and his brother **Pvt. Timothy S. Barton (1758-1844)** [Barton DNA Lineage III], **two of the 2400 brave soldiers of the Continental Line?**
