

## **Whitaker, Joseph**

Born March 6, 1755, at Turkey Point, Cumberland County, NJ. He married Tabitha Davis and had at least two children: Elias and Joseph. He died after March 5, 1840, in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, NJ

Joseph Whitaker served as a private in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Cumberland County Militia, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Gloucester County Militia. He also served as a Marine aboard the 10-gun sloop 'Hornet', and as a seaman on the schooner 'Hawk'. His DAR Biography has him recorded as having been taken prisoner.

Col. Richard Somers' 3rd Battalion Gloucester County Militia was a group of about 800 men, 200 of them from eastern Gloucester County comprising what is today Atlantic County. From the very beginning of the conflict in early 1775 these men were: busy preventing continual British attempts to feed their troops by stealing from New Jersey farms, capturing British transport ships whenever they ventured too close to the New Jersey beaches, guarding existing American fortifications, repelling Tory/Refugee/Loyalist attacks on Eastern Gloucester County beaches and towns, and participating in famous New Jersey battles such as Trenton, Princeton and Red Bank, likely giving tide-turning assistance to Gen. Washington in the Christmas 1776 battle at Trenton and at Princeton a week later.