

John Abbott II Story

Excerpt from the book: "A History of Hamilton Township, Mercer County", by Helen Almy West, Trenton Printing Co., 1954

The John Abbott II House was built circa 1730. The following account of the house's role in the Revolutionary War:

"It was in the latter part of the year 1776, and the British were advancing upon Trenton. Samuel Tucker, the State Treasurer, hearing of the British advance, wanted to save the State's money and his own. On November 30, 1776 he took his personal effects and those of the estates of which he was executor, along with the unsigned public money, to the home of John Abbot. The British arrived in Trenton on December 8, 1776, and on that day Mr. Tucker took the signed public money, amounting to more than fifteen hundred pounds, and a thousand pounds he held in trust, and secreted it with other moneys in the Abbott home.

"The British were told of the hiding place by a Mrs. Mary Pointing, of Trenton, and she led a detachment of British troops, about five hundred strong, to the house of John Abbott. They raided the house and captured Tucker's black trunk, containing deeds, etc. and the unsigned paper money.

"When the British arrived at the house, the family pretended they were getting ready to move, and they had placed the money in the bottom of tubs, and over it placed dishes and broken household utensils of various kinds and carried them to the cellar. The soldiers ransacked the house from top to bottom, found the tubs, but were heard to mutter that they contained nothing but 'old trumpery' and did not search them. The soldiers took Tucker's trunk with his papers and the unsigned 'shin plasters' but did not get the money.