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## SEEKING NEW SCHOLARSHIP ON THE MIDDLEBROOK CANTONMENT/ENCAMPMENT AND/OR THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN SOMERSET COUNTY

**Attention all friends of New Jersey and American History:** Please circulate this information as widely as possible and/or post the attached flyer on your website. Thank you!

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the Heritage Trail Association in collaboration with the sites of the Middlebrook Consortium will sponsor the second in a series of symposia leading up to our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence. The March symposium will focus on the logistics and geography that led the Continental Army to encamp in Bridgewater's Washington Valley (May 26 to July 3, 1777) and to establish their 1778-79 cantonment in 1778-79 (Dec-June) in and around the Middle Brook in Somerset County.

By calling attention to this important phase of the American Revolution, the Symposium will promote a better understanding of the shifts in American strategy that shaped the New Jersey campaign after the Battles of Trenton and Princeton and eventually led the British to abandon the state as a major theater of war.

In conjunction with the symposium series, the sponsors are offering a **\$5000 prize** for original research on the Middlebrook Spring Encampment, the Middlebrook Cantonment, or other aspects of the war in the Somerset County or central New Jersey area. The prize is funded through the generous support of

**Entries will be accepted from now through December 31, 2024** and will be judged by professional **scholars of the American Revolution**, including **Dr. Jude Pfister, Chief of Cultural Resources, Morristown National Historical Park; Dr. Raymond Frey, Professor of History and College Historian, Centenary University; and Dr. Mark Lender, professor emeritus, Kean University.** The winner will be invited to present a summary of his/her research at the **2025 symposium**. Copies of the winning research will be **available then**.

The criteria:

- **Original research** based on primary resources to the extent possible.
- Any topic related to the 1777 Encampment or the 1778-79 Cantonment or another aspect of the war in Somerset County, including, but not limited to, archaeology, geography, and archival research.
- Up to 25-30 pages of content, plus a bibliography, footnotes, illustrations, and/or maps. Include a cover/title page, saved as a separate document.
- Format: 8.5" x 11" double-spaced digital file with 1" margins, 12 pt font. The document should be submitted as an emailed pdf.
- The cover sheet must include the author(s) name, address, organizational affiliation (if any) and telephone and email contact information.

Entries due by **December 31, 2024** should be emailed to Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876; [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com). An email receipt will be returned to the submitter. **The winner will be notified by February 15, 2025 and asked to provide a hard copy of the manuscript** and to allow their work to be included in any Symposium proceedings subsequently published by HTA. Non-winning entries will remain the sole property of the submitter.