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## STORIES of New Jersey

vowed that as long as he lived he would never touch a drop of tea. Of course, he didn't dream that the Colonies would ever dare to throw off the yoke of England; but having made the vow he stuck to it even after the Revolution when the Americans were importing their own tea.

In fact, things had come to such a pass that English ships were afraid to put in at big ports. Any captain who succeeded in landing a shipload of tea on American soil felt proud of himself.

As the crew of the Greyhound unloaded the cargo, groups of angry citizens muttered disapproval; but the crew worked on until the last package had been carried across the square and deposited in Dan Bowen's cellar. The Captain then set sail down the creek, hardly guessing that this tea would provide fuel for a blaze that would ultimately light two continents.

The skipper had figured that, once the tea was stored in Greenwich, the consignees in Philadelphia would find a means of getting it across the land and selling it. But a meeting had already been arranged at Bridgeton to discuss the problem of British imports. The townspeople of Greenwich decided to refer the tea question to this meeting. When, at the end of the first day, no action had been taken, some of the younger men decided to take matters into their own hands.

On the night of December 22, a group of young Revolutionists met at the home of the Howells in Bridgeton. From there they marched through the towns of Bridgeton, Fairfield, Shiloh and Roadstown, increasing in determination and numbers as they drew closer to Greenwich. Arrived at the square they stormed the cellar where the tea was stored and carried out package after package. Soon the crackling flames and fragrant smoke aroused the townspeople.

There was one humorous incident at the party. One of the tea burners, named Stacks, could see no harm in acquiring for himself a little of the precious cargo. As the "Indians" danced around the blaze, he snatched handfuls from the broken cases and stuffed them into his trouser legs. Before long his expanding breeches were detected. From then to the end of his days, which he spent in comparative prosperity in "Dutch Neck", he was known as "Tea Stacks".

This Greenwich tea party created a great stir in the section. Of course the Tories raised a howl and called it wanton destruction. They insisted that the "hoodlums", as they called them, should be punished. There was no difficulty in finding the guilty ones because they boasted about their work.

Encouraged by the sympathetic attitude of the Tories, the English shippers finally did start a court action. But the Whig element was so strong that it was impossible to find a jury that would bring a verdict of guilty. Before the case could be reopened the Revolution was in full swing and far more important things were taking place.

About 130 years later, 1908 to be exact, the State of New Jersey built a monument in the Market Square in Greenwich to commemorate the event. The names of 23 men preserved in historical records as among the "Indians" are inscribed on the stone shaft.