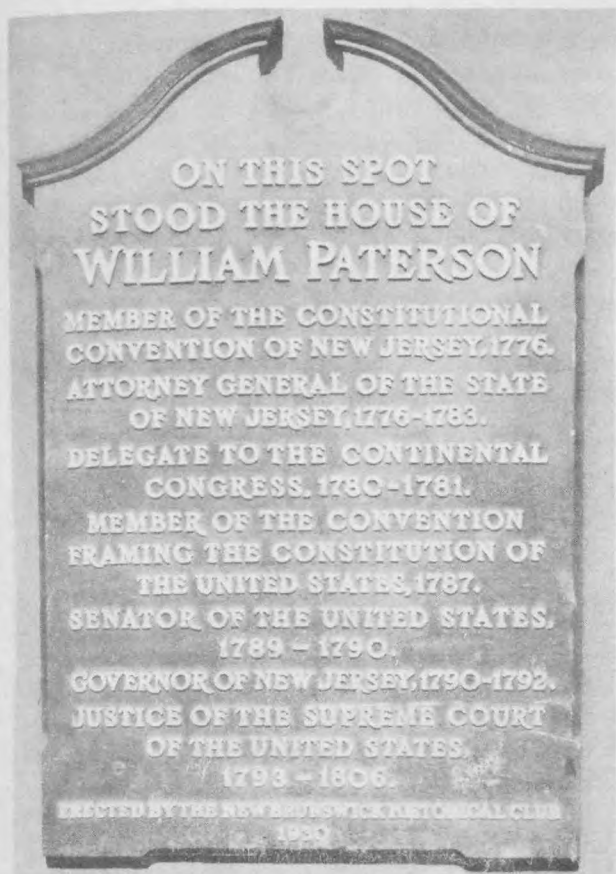


STORIES of New Jersey



Marker at 307 Burnet Street,
New Brunswick.

New Jersey had suffered much through defects in the Confederation of States formed after independence. Each of the States, jealous of its own power and privileges, had withheld too much from Congress. There was fear in New Jersey and in other small states that a stronger national government might be controlled by the larger states, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Virginia, for trade and other advantages.

The country was still dependent on Europe for many manufactured articles, English Colonial rule having forbidden or discouraged the establishment of factories. New Jersey had complained bitterly of duties on imports at New York and Philadelphia, the chief seaports through which goods reached her in ships. These taxes went into the State treasuries of New York and Pennsylvania and were added to the price New Jersey paid for many articles.

Freight between New Jersey and the two large ports was carried in sailboats. No bridges crossed the Hudson or Delaware Rivers. New York compelled New Jersey's boats to enter and clear like foreign ships, paying fees to New York. New Jersey struck back by laying a heavy tax on the Sandy Hook Light, maintained by New York for the shipping entering and leaving the harbor.

In the Convention of 1787 Paterson and Brearley assailed a plan presented by Virginia for representation in Congress entirely on the basis of the population or contribution of each State. They declared it would destroy the smaller states.

and still functioning. After practicing law and serving as a minute man in Hunterdon County he returned to Princeton; then, in 1779, to the vicinity of New Brunswick.

While Governor, Paterson chartered the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, organized by Alexander Hamilton, to found the industrial city at the Great Falls of the Passaic which was named Paterson in his honor. While still a Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court he died in Albany at the home of his son-in-law, and was buried there.

The New Jersey Plan

The New Jersey delegates came to the Convention of 1787, as Paterson declared, with instructions to demand equality for the thirteen States in their votes in Congress. This principle had been recognized for more than twelve years in the Continental Congress and in the existing government under the Articles of Confederation.