

SCOTCH PLAINS



Battle of the Short Hills Monument at the entrance of the Ash Brook Golf Course

18a

ASH BROOK RESERVATION

1776 Raritan Road

Battle of the Short Hills

June 26, 1777

The British hoped that if they feigned a departure from New Jersey, they would lure the Continental Forces down from the Watchung Mountains, crush them, and finally end the Revolutionary War. The plan didn't go so well! On the 26th of June, 1777, Washington's forces of less than 6,000 men fought a running battle on the plains below the Watchung Mountains, with the combined British and Hessian Troops numbering about 12,000.

A special exhibit is set up at the edge of the Ash Brook Reservation, perhaps the only location in the entire battle that has not been developed since that time. Local historians will be on hand to explain how the Battle progressed up from Metuchen, and how the colonial forces sought to slow the British by having their cannons bogged down in the Ash Swamp. There is also a nature trail leading into the swamp for those who would like to see first-hand the conditions troops faced.

Copies of historic maps from the Congressional archives and correspondence from the era will be on view.

Ash Brook Reservation - 1776 Raritan Road

Hours: Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm

For more information about The Battle of the Short Hills, contact:

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