

# Time Capsules

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## History Made At Greenwich

Greenwich has had its share of historical celebrations over the years but the one in September 1908 stands out as one of the most significant. It was the day they dedicated the Tea Burners Monument in Market Square. The town had been the scene of New Jersey's first blow directed against the authority of the crown. It happened in December 1774 when the East India Tea Co., having been thwarted in Boston harbor, decided to try its luck by landing a cargo at a small port on the Cohansey River. The brig Greyhound packing a load of tea bound for Philadelphia docked at Greenwich. The crew took great pains in storing the tea in the cellar of a house standing in front of the market grounds.

Word spread that the tea was in the village and about 40 men disguised as Indians rallied to the patriotic cause and the Greenwich

tea burning took place. The boxes of tea were removed from the nearby cellar and piled high in an adjoining field. It made one heck of a fire and the men dressed as Indians danced around it in a typical dance of war.

Some 8,000 persons gathered on that sunny September day 134 years later to take part in the unveiling of the memorial dedicated to these heroes. State and other high officials and personages took part in the ceremonies which was preceded by a parade reviewed by N.J. Governor John Fort. Samuel Fithian, a nonegenarian and direct descendant of one of the Tea Burners acted as parade marshal. Later, Governor Fort accepted the monument on behalf of the State from former Gov. Edward C. Stokes, a Millville resident.

The monument still stands today on the site where Cumberland County history was made.