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## **Private Jacob Francis**

I am Private Jacob Francis, a free black man in Colonel Paul Dudley Sargent's 16th Continental Regiment (from Massachusetts) in General Sullivan's Division. We marched into town on the River Road and advanced to the corner of King Street where we could see General Greene's troops engaged with the Hessians further up the street from us. After about half an hour at the foot of King Street, I saw some officers ride up to Colonel Sargent and talk with him. Then the Colonel marched us through town toward the Assunpink Creek, then across the bridge and along the creek. Once across the bridge, the artillery assigned to our brigade began firing across the Assunpink at the Hessian Knyphausen Regiment. The Hessians marched up the Assunpink looking for a ford they could escape across and ran into Colonel Glover's brigade which had crossed back toward town at a ford they could have used. One group attempted to ford the iccold water in the creek and some men found themselves up to their necks in the frigid water, negotiating a muddy bottom. At least one officer did get across, while several men drowned and others found it too deep and turned back.

While some of the Hessians were trying to swim across the mill pond, General Stirling's brigade came marching up and came within 40 steps where they formed into two columns with two cannon in front. The Hessian regiment was now surrounded by General Stephen's and General Fermoy's brigades on the north, Colonel Glover's brigade on the east, our brigade to the south, and General St. Clair's brigade guarding the bridge. General Mercer's and General Stirling's brigades held the rest of the town.

Our regiment was formed up in line across the creek from the Knyphausen men and I saw them ground their arms. After the surrender, some of our American soldiers ran among the prisoners "and after satisfying their curiosity a little, they began to converse familiarly in broken English and German."

