The southern end of the Borough of River Edge was originally called New Bridge, after a wooden drawbridge was built across the narrows of the Hackensack River in 1745. This span earned a place in history as the Bridge That Saved A Nation, when General Washington and the American garrison of Fort Lee crossed the Hackensack River in the face of the British invasion of November 20, 1776. Eyewitness Thomas Paine immortalized the darkest hour of the American Revolution in his essay, the American Crisis, saying, “Our first object was to secure the bridge over the Hackensack, which laid up the river between the enemy and us, about six miles from us, and three from them. General Washington arrived in about three quarters of an hour, and marched at the head of the troops towards the bridge, which place I expected we should have a brush for; however, they did not choose to dispute it with us, and the greatest part of our troops went over the bridge…”

Throughout the long war, the opposing armies repeatedly occupied and contested New Bridge, using the hills and houses in its neighborhood for fortifications, military headquarters, an intelligence-gathering post, an encampment ground and battleground. General Washington identified “New Bridge” as the location of his headquarters while staying at the Zabriskie-Steuben House during the encampment of the Continental Army at Steenrapie (River Edge and Oradell) in September 1780. In a very real sense, New Bridge was the “Crossroads of the American Revolution” and its name is endowed with great historical significance through numerous associations with the struggle for American liberty.

On a whole other level of inconvenience, mail destined for Cherry Hill was frequently misdirected to Cherryville in Hunterdon County. It was hoped that the change of name would augment the efforts of the Cherry Hill & New Bridge Public Improvement Association, which had succeeded in lighting the station and streets in the past year and in beautifying the grounds around the station. According to report in The Evening Record on November 14, 1906, the Post Office Department in Washington, D. C. notified the Cherry Hill postmaster that the name of the station would be changed in the near future. The North Hackensack Improvement Association immediately sent correspondence to the Erie Railroad, asking the name to be changed in the near future. The North Hackensack Improvement Association immediately sent correspondence to the Erie Railroad, asking the name to be changed in the near future.

On March 11, 2003, the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission officially endorsed changing the name of the “North Hackensack” postal substation in the Borough of River Edge to the historic name of “New Bridge.” That was accomplished several years ago by an act of Congress. Soon we hope that NJ Transit will agreed to return the historic name of New Bridge to its proper place in the public eye and in our esteem by renaming the North Hackensack station.