

# Shaker Revolutionary War Veterans: Pension Narratives and Related Documents

## A Note on Sources and Methodology

The pension narratives and associated documents published in this issue are held in M804, Record Group 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, National Archives. This collection includes an estimated 80,000 pension and bounty-land warrant application files from American military, naval, and marine officers and enlisted men in the Revolutionary War. Christian Goodwillie and Avery Cook scoured Shaker sources for the most complete list possible of Shakers who served in the Revolutionary War (see Appendix 1). We also solicited input from the Shaker Studies Listserv. The names on the completed list were searched on the website Fold3.com, a comprehensive resource for researching American military veterans. Fold3 has completely microfilmed the contents of each folder in M804. This expands on the previously availability of these records, where only “selected” key documents were readily accessible. The net result is that beyond pension narratives we now have access to affidavits by fellow soldiers, relatives, and Shaker community members, as well as subsequent correspondence concerning the pension, including genealogical inquiries by descendants.

Goodwillie and Cook here present selected documents from each file in annotated transcription, rendered exactly as written. We made sure to include a service narrative if one existed, as well as any testimonials that revealed additional detail about the veteran’s service. We have also included any affidavits and correspondence from Shakers who wrote in support of a pension application, or at least referenced them in the headnote. We have also transcribed subsequent correspondence with valuable historical or genealogical content. *Note: text transcribed from pre-printed forms is rendered in italics.* Altogether, this special issue of *ACSQ* contains **28 pension files for Shaker Revolutionary Veterans**, as well as supplementary biographies for five veterans supplied by Leonard L. Brooks, Retired Director, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, New Gloucester, Me. The complete files are available on the Fold3.com website. Efforts have been made to provide additional historical context to the pension narratives through the use of endnotes giving more information about Revolutionary War battles, officers, and other key events and themes, as well as contextual illustrations. It is amazing how many future Shakers were present at crucial moments during the struggle for independence.

## **Samuel Banta**

Shaker Community: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky

Samuel Banta (1753–1833) was born in New Jersey. His family was part of a wave of Dutch emigrants to central Kentucky in the 1790s. The Bantas converted to Shakerism at Shawnee Run (later Pleasant Hill) Kentucky, in 1806. Samuel Banta hosted meetings at his house where missionary Benjamin Seth Youngs preached. He also signed the first Pleasant Hill Shaker covenant in 1807. Sadly, the Banta family was caught up in the wave of apostasies that plagued Pleasant Hill, departing the community on April 24, 1827. Samuel brought a lawsuit against his former brethren to recover all the property he consecrated to them. Shaker trustee Stephen Voris later wrote his eastern colleague New Lebanon's deacon Stoechn Munson, that Banta "felt the admonitions of his conscience more severe than he was able to bear, notwithstanding all the support which his relations, and the world generally could give him, insomuch that he voluntarily applied to his council, and informed him, that the suit against the Shakers must be dismissed."<sup>1</sup> The lawsuit dragged on, however, and Samuel Banta's name and personal inventory of consecrated possessions appear throughout legal documents associated with the case. Banta died in 1833, presumably shortly after applying for his pension and supplying the narrative printed below.

### **Pension Narrative**

State of Kentucky Mercer County Court

On this sixth day of May in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court Samuel Banta aged eighty years who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he volunteered under Captain Simon Vanarsdale [Van Arsdale] in the month of December 1776 at Yorktown in York County Pennsylvania for a Tour of four months and marched to Philladelphia where we were stationed until we recd orders to go on which he thinks was about 10 or 12 days. From thence we marched to Trenton, we met the Hessians that had been taken prisoner in Battle of Trenton about eight miles from Pha [Philadelphia] we march through Trenton to Princeton and formed the army at that place under General Putnam whose head Quarters was at that place, we were stationed here and at Kingston during our tour, we acted as scouts between

Princeton & Brunswick, and protected the inhabitants from the British scouting parties that would come out of Brunswick where the British then lay. Our tour of service having expired we honourably discharged at Princeton by General Putnam and returned home after having served a little upwards of four months. and He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Rolls of the agency of any states, that he now lives in Mercer County Kentucky and has resided there for upwards of forty years and farther sayeth not

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year afod

Samuel Banta

## Notes

1. Francis Voris to Stephen Munson, June 28, 1828. SA 1226.15, Andrews Collection, DeWint.

## Issachar Bates

Shaker Communities: West Union, Indiana; New Lebanon and Watervliet, New York; Union Village and Watervliet, Ohio

Issachar Bates (1758–1837) was a truly larger-than-life character.<sup>1</sup> As Carol Medlicott has recounted in her biography, *Issachar Bates: A Shaker's Journey*, Bates's pre-Shaker life was full of adventure, much of which involved his service as a fifer and fuglemaster in the Continental Army.<sup>2</sup> Besides seeing a UFO in Southborough, Massachusetts, (seriously), Bates also participated in many notable battles, and even played fife for British prisoners in Burgoyne's army as they were marched to captivity from Saratoga, New York, to Springfield, Massachusetts. Bates's manuscript autobiography offers even more detail on his wartime service.<sup>3</sup> Here, however, we reprint Bates's pension narrative in a transcription kindly provided by Medlicott. Bates's controversial use of his pension funds is described in the introductory essay included in this issue. In many ways, his pension application in 1832 reignited the debate within Shaker communities over the propriety of accepting the "wages of sin and death." Bates's fellow Watervliet, Ohio, Shakers James Ball and Henry Miller chose to affirm his narrative, indicating that they had no problem with his decision to pursue his pension funds.

## Pension Narrative

The State of Ohio  
Montgomery County Js.

On this 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1832, personal appeared in open Court Issachar Bates, a resident of Watervliet in Montgomery County, before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in said county in the town of Dayton, Ohio, aged 75 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the acts of Congress passed 7 June 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that.

I Issachar Bates a resident of Montgomery County, State of Ohio, now in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of my age, was born in the Town of Hingham, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, 20 miles south of the city of Boston on the Atlantic shore, January 29<sup>th</sup> 1758.

When about 13 years of age, my father moved his family into Worcester county, 62 miles from Boston, where we lived at the commencement of and during the revolutionary war.

I was rising of 15 years of age when General Gage landed his troops at Bosto, May 1773. I then, with other boys of my age, entered the military school.—learned the manuel exercise, and also learned to play well on the fife; so that about the age of 17 with the consent of my father, I enlisted for 8 months under Captain Dexter of Worcester aforesaid, and about the first of May 1775 marched with his company of independent Rangers to old Cambridge where the main army was collected. I was too young to pass muster but served as a musician. The company to which I belonged was attached to Colonel Patterson's regiment and General Sullivan's<sup>4</sup> brigade. During that summer I was stationed at the edge of the marsh between Cambridge and Boston in open view of the city; where we were often saluted from the old Somerset a 70 gun ship that lay anchored in the bay.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, I was in the battle at Bunker's hill, and in several skirmishes during that campaign. In the spring of '76 I enlisted again for three months under Capt. Boucher of Worcester, and on a certain night in the month of March we were marched over Dorchester neck on to Dorchester hill, where we planted three posts, and in a few days routed Lord Howe<sup>5</sup> from Boston, and, on Sabbath morning, had the pleasure of seeing his mighty fleet of 150 sail of vessels weigh anchor, hoist sail, and clear out. Next morning we marched into the city and took possession of



what the enemy had left.

Soon after this tour, I enlisted again under Capt. Benjamin Gates of Worcester for five months, and marched to New Haven in Connecticut. There we went on board of a sloop commanded by Capt. Fips [Phipps?], crossed the sounds and landed at Burlingslip<sup>6</sup> New York city, where his excellency lord Howe with his great fleet again appeared in sight. We remained a few weeks in the city, and were then moved up the North river<sup>7</sup> about three miles and stationed in barracks.



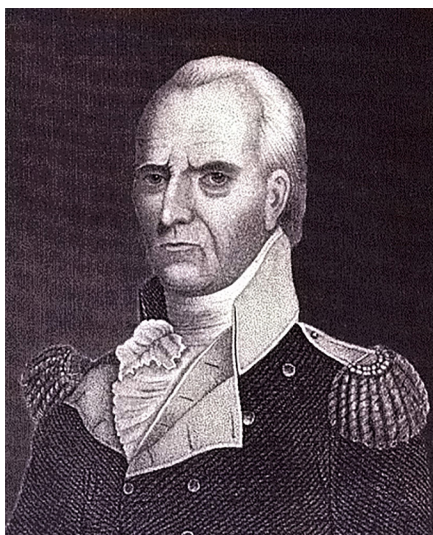
*Map showing Issachar Bates's seven tours of duty in the Revolutionary War.*

I then belonged to Colonel Holman's regiment and General Fellows' brigade called the new levy of continentals. Sometime in the month of August, after the British had taken Long-Island, General Washington evacuated the city, and retreated back to Harlaem heights.<sup>8</sup> I witnessed that whole scene, was left among the city guards to cover the retreat of the army; and after being surrounded by the British on all sides, narrowly escaped with my life and my fife and the clothes on my back, and the next day we overtook the army at Harlaem, and were ready for the grand battle which was fought about two hours after our arrival. I then continued with the flying camps moving back and skirmishing from place to place to protect the military stores till we passed Crump Pond, Quaker Ridge

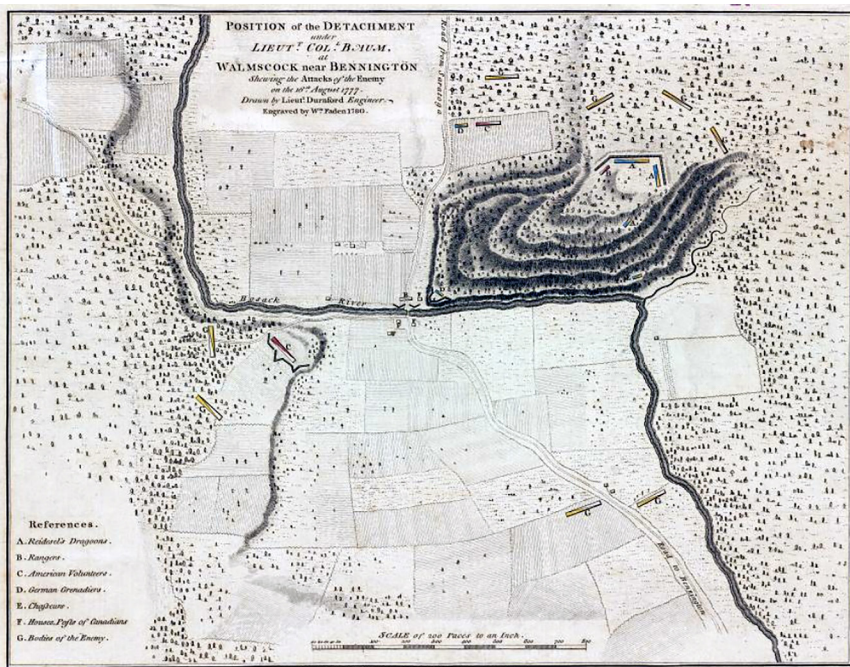
etc and reached the White plains.<sup>9</sup> There we had another severe battle, and kept the ground for three day till the stores were moved ahead out of danger. Thence we started by night and continued our march till we reached Croton's bridge, and there on the hill made a final stand. Here my five month ended and I was discharged by Capt. Gates and returned home.

In February 1777 I enlisted again under Capt. Warner of Worcester for three months and marched to the Jerseys, about the times of the grand battles at Trenton<sup>10</sup> & Princeton,<sup>11</sup> but those battles were fought just before our arrival. Our march was thro' Ramapo and Pluckhomin [Pluckemin], and Morristown to Boundbrook where we were stationed & built a fort, the British then lying in Brunswick. Here we had various skirmishes but no pitched battle; and here I finished my three months tour, was discharged & returned home.

*General John Stark,  
from C. E. Potter's  
History of Manchester,  
Formerly Derryfield,  
in New Hampshire  
(Manchester, C. E. Potter, 1856).*



Soon after, in the same year, I enlisted under Capt. Stockwell and went to Bennington Vermont. Thence with General Lincoln<sup>12</sup> to Half-moon point on the North river. Thence we were recalled in haste to Bennington, to aid in the battle at Maloomscork [Walloomsac], which battle was fought the day before our arrival; and General Stark<sup>13</sup> had taken 500 Hessians, 82 British regulars and 87 Tories. Here we staid and guarded those prisoners till they were marched under guard to Old Rutland and Northampton. Thence we were marched under Major Wilder to Saratoga, at the time that Burgoyne<sup>14</sup> was defeated at Stillwater and was on his retreat to Canada. Thence three regiments of us were ordered to leave the barrack



(Above) A map of the Battle of Bennington, by William Faden, 1780.



(Below) General Horatio Gates, painted by Gilbert Stuart, 1794. Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

(for Burgoyne to enter who was just at hand), and wade the North river and march with all speed to take possession of Fort Edwards<sup>15</sup> in order to cut off Burgoyne's retreat. After crossing the river we had some skirmishing with an advance party of British and succeeded in getting possession of the fort, and three days after we received orders from General Gates<sup>16</sup> to return speedily to Saratoga to bid in taking possession of the ground, and the arms & artillery and the 5700 prisoners which Burgoyne had surrendered on a final defeat. After this pleasant piece of business was settled, a number of us were discharged and returned home, out on this tour 3 or 4 months.

After this I served a short tour at old Rutland in guarding those last mentioned prisoners, and I fified them on as far as Springfield, on their way to be exchanged—Finally in 1780 I turned out with a volunteer company of young men under Capt. Atterton for a three month tour to West-point,<sup>17</sup> and was there when the traitor Arnold<sup>18</sup> sold us all to John Bull: And the result of this important campaign terminated my services in the revolutionary war, which according to martial law were faithfully rendered, first as a fifer, and for the last three terms fife major, and occasionally drill serjeant, or fuglemaster,<sup>19</sup> and often as a substitute to ease my fellow soldiers in their several camp duties or scouting enterprises.

Thus I served seven tours in the revolutionary war, and during the whole term of service never asked for a furlough—never was under guard—nor never received a wry word from an officer, to my remembrance.

I hereby relinquish any claim whatever to a pension or annuity Except the presents, & declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State, that he has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

C.R. Green attor.

Issachar Bates

### **Pension Affidavit**

We Henry Miller a Clergyman & James Ball residing at Watervliet in Montgomery County Ohio hereby certify that we are acquainted with Issachar Bates who has subscribed and sworn to this above declaration that we believe him to be 75 years of age that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur in that opinion.



Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court  
James Ball

Henry Miller

C.R. Greene atto

## Notes

1. Issachar Bates's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Carol Medlicott, *Issachar Bates: A Shaker's Journey* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2013).
3. Issachar Bates's autobiography, "A Sketch of the Life and Experience of Issachar Bates" was first published by Elder Henry C. Blinn as: "Issachar Bates. No. 1–No. 8," *Manifesto* 14-15 (1884–1885). Brother Theodore Johnson later edited it for publication in "A Sketch of the Life and Experience of Issachar Bates," with an Introduction by Theodore E. Johnson *Shaker Quarterly* 1-2 (1961–1962). The Shaker Museum published excerpts of the work as *The Revolutionary War and Issachar Bates* (Old Chatham, N.Y.: Shaker Museum Foundation, 1960).
4. General John Sullivan (1740–1795) also served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and Governor of New Hampshire. He is best known for the expedition he led in 1779 to devastate the Iroquois settlements in central and western New York.
5. The Patriots established artillery positions at Dorchester Heights, prompting General William Howe to withdraw his forces and evacuate Boston. Bates is probably referring to Viscount General William Howe here (1729–1814), who was commander-in-chief of British land forces during the Revolutionary War, and led British troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill and the occupation of Boston. William Howe was not, however, a Lord. His brother was British Naval officer Admiral Richard Howe (1726–1799), the 1st Earl Howe, also known as "Black Dick." The Howe brothers attempted on multiple occasions to broker a peace between the Patriots and the English Crown. Both Howe brothers served in the War of the Austrian Succession, the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), and the Revolutionary War.
6. Burling Slip was a wharf on the southeast side of Manhattan Island. Archaeological remains of the wharf have recently been discovered, including relatively intact timber sections.
7. The Hudson River was known as the North River at the time of the Revolutionary War.

8. The Battle of Harlem Heights was fought on September 16, 1776, in what is today called Morningside Heights, Manhattan, New York. It was part of Washington's strategic retreat from Long Island, and north across Manhattan, and was his first battlefield victory of the war.
9. The Battle of White Plains was fought on October 28, 1776, at White Plains, New York. British troops defeated the Patriots, forcing Washington to retreat further north to preserve his army.
10. The Battle of Trenton was fought on December 26, 1776 in Trenton, New Jersey. It immediately followed Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware on the night of December 25-26. The next morning the Continental Army surprised encamped Hessian troops, killing some and capturing nearly 900 others.
11. The Battle of Princeton was fought on January 3, 1777, in Princeton, New Jersey. Washington led the Continental Army to a minor victory against a small British force, but retreated to winter quarters as General Lord Cornwallis approached with reinforcements.
12. General Benjamin Lincoln (1733–1810), was a major general in the Continental Army, and was present at the British surrenders at Saratoga in 1777, Charleston in 1780, and Yorktown in 1781.
13. General John Stark (1728–1822) served as an officer in the British Army during the French and Indian War, and later as a Major General in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. A New Hampshire native, he is best remembered for his valorous service at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, in 1777.
14. General John "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne (1722–1792), was a British officer, playwright, and politician. He had previously served in the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War), but became most famous for the failure of his campaign from in 1777 moving south from Canada in an effort to capture the Hudson River Valley and separate New England from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern colonies. He was defeated and surrendered his army of 6,200 men on October 17, 1777.
15. Fort Edward, originally Fort Lyman, was established in 1755 during the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War). It was renamed Fort Edward by Sir William Johnson in 1756. Located northeast of Saratoga and southeast of Lake George, it was one of the southernmost forts on the Great War Path stretching from Canada to Albany.
16. General Horatio Gates (1727–1806), the hero of Saratoga in 1777, vied unsuccessfully to replace General George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. He was later disgraced at the Battle of Camden in 1780 when he precipitously fled the battlefield on horseback.
17. West Point, New York, is a strategic location on the Hudson River. Control of the terrain surrounding an S-shaped bend in the river enables a military

force to interdict river traffic.

18. General Benedict Arnold (1741–1801), was originally a successful American General, and was present at many important battles, including Fort Ticonderoga (1775) and the invasion and Battle of Quebec (1776), and Saratoga (1777). He defected to the British in 1780 after his scheme to hand West Point over to the British was discovered. He later led British forces in battle against the Continental Army at Richmond, Virginia, and was responsible for the burning of New London, Connecticut.
19. An archaic term derived from the German *flüglemann*. A soldier who acts as a guide, directs the march, and/or of gives the time (or rhythmic cadence for marching) to the unit in military maneuvers.

## Theodore Bates

Shaker Community: Watervliet, New York

Theodore Bates (1763–1846) grew up in Sherborn, Templeton, and Athol, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> He was the younger brother of Issachar Bates. As Carol Medlicott notes, Theodore served in the Revolutionary War, “despite his diminutive height of five feet.” He was a musician—a drummer—like his brother Issachar. The Bateses’ brother-in-law, David Train, also served in the war and later converted to Shakerism. Some and of his children, who were Shakers, offered affidavits to their uncle Theodore’s service.<sup>2</sup> Theodore married twice: first to Mary Shattuck, who died in 1789, leaving him with two daughters; second to Abigail Wheeler, with whom he had three more children. Theodore joined the Watervliet, New York, Shaker community around 1805. He was accompanied only by his son Theodore Jr., his wife and other children remaining outside the community.<sup>3</sup> His brethren credited him with inventing the famous Shaker flat broom, in which broomcorn is bound in an elongated and flattened gathering, as opposed to the common round broom, which was less efficient for sweeping.<sup>4</sup> Theodore died at Watervliet on October 24, 1846. Theodore Bates’s niece Mary Train, who had apostatized from the Watervliet, New York, community around 1830, tried to assist her aunt Abigail Wheeler in this effort. Ministry Elder Rufus Bishop wrote in his journal that sixty-year-old Mary Train showed up at the New Lebanon Trustees’ Office on July 8, 1846, “trying to get Theodore’s pension, but failing in this attempt she blows a heavy blast.”<sup>5</sup> Wheeler was eventually successful in securing the pension.

## **Pension Affidavit**

State of New York  
County of Niagara Js.

On this fourth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty seven personally appeared before the County Court, of the County of Niagara, in the State of New York, now setting at Lockport in the said County of Niagara: Abigail Bates, a resident of Niagara, in said County, aged seventy one years; who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Acts of Congress, passed June 7, 1832, July 7, 1838. March 3 1843. June 17. 1842 and the Joint Resolution of August 16. 1842. That she is the Widow of Theodore Bates, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and served as a Drummer—not being personally acquainted with his services, she refers to the accompanying proofs relating thereto.—She further declares, that she was married to the said Theodore Bates, in Conway in the State of Massachusetts, in the month of August, in the year 1792.—that her husband the said Theodore Bates, died on the twenty fourth day of October, in the year 1846, at the Shaker Village in Watervliet, in the state of New York, he being a member of that Community, and for that reason, as this Declarant has been informed and believes, never having made application for a pension;—and that she was not married to the said Theodore prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794. Viz. at the time above stated, as will more fully appear by reference to the accompanying papers

her  
Abigail X Bates  
mark

Sworn to & Subscribed on the day & year above written in open court

## **Pension Affidavit Excerpts**

Bates's niece, Mary Train: "I often heard my said Uncle Theodore Bates talk about his being in the war of the Revolution and that I heard him talk of his being enlisted in the said war for several different terms, and the last term for which he enlisted was for the term of three years which term did



not expire until after the close of the Revolutionary War, and that he was one of the soldiers of the Revolution that helped take up the big chain which was fastened across the Hudson River,<sup>6</sup> and I have heard him tell of being a Drummer during some of the time that he was in the said war.”

Bates’s nephew, Oliver Train: “Theodore Bates myself and my father’s family removed to Watervliet—in the county of Albany and state of New York about the year 1800 and that I resided in the same Shaker family with Theodore Bates a number of years during our stay at Watervliet—and frequently heard him tell of being a soldier in the revolution and stationed some of the time at West Point, and that some of the time he was a Drummer, and that he enlisted the last time for three years which did not expire until after the close of the Revolutionary War, and that he had to stay until after the close of the war to complete his three years enlistment that he helped take up the Big Chain which had been fastened across the River Hudson.

Bates’s nephew, David Train: “That deponent recollects distinctly of his Uncle Theodore Bates returning home from the War of the revolution, and of his relating facts and circumstances in relation to his service, and one in particular, that he did not get home as soon as others, who had enlisted for during the War: That he has heard his Uncle Theodore Bates say that the last employment he had in the service was in taking up the great Chain at West Point in the Hudson River and that he has frequently heard him speak of the Execution of Major Andre & the desertion of Genl B. Arnold, and that he was present at the Execution of Major Andre, and was a soldier in the American Army at that time & place

Bates’s nephew, Frank Bates, son of Noah Bates: “I have always understood that [my father’s] brother Theodore Bates enlisted with him first for nine months & afterwards served in the army the several periods that my father did—”

Bates’ niece, Mary Train (again), who left the Shakers in her lifetime: “I have heard the said Theodore Bates mention the names of several persons who was in the same service with him—that I distinctly remember hearing him say that he was in the same company with one John Pike—that I remember hearing him mention the names of some of the Officers under which he served, that one of said officers was an Oliver, and one was a Pettingill, but I can not tell their rank—that I have heard him mention

one Jewitt who was a fifer in the same company with himself—that I am very confident that I have heard the said Theodore say that during his last service, at the close of the War he was in the Light Infantry.”

Jabez Ward of Athol, Massachusetts: “My brother Alpheus Ward kept a public house in Athol at the time of Revolution & during the War, that I was acquainted with Theodore Bates. [Here follows some description of town history.] That the soldiers occasionally met at my Brothers public house, I recollect said Theodore Bates having been with the soldiers—that he was a musician I think was a drummer,—or used a drum or fife at that time—& It is my opinion & belief that he served as a Soldier in the Army for a considerable length of time”

## **Subsequent Documents**

### **Letter**

Rev. War Sect.

February 25, 1920

Hon. Fritz G. Lanham,

House of Representatives.

My dear Mr. Lanham:

In reply to your letter of the 23th instant, requesting information for Miss Marian Booth of 102 West Sixth Street, Fort Worth, Texas, I have the honor to advise you that from the papers in the pension claim, Widow File No. 35, 193, it appears, that Theodore Bates, the son of William Bates, was born October 11, 1763, place not stated. During the Revolution, he lived in that part of Athol, Massachusetts, which in 1786 became a part of the town of Gerry.

He was mustered June 25, 1779, for nine months service, as a Private, in Captain Oliver’s Company, Colonel Grout’s Massachusetts Regiment; he served as a Private from Athol, from July 3, 1780 to December 16, 1780, names of officers not stated and he also served in the Light Infantry Company of the First Massachusetts Regiment as Private for twelve months and was in that regiment as late as 1783, the dates of enlistment and discharge are not stated. [Here follows description of his family and children.] About 1800 he removed to the Shaker Village in Watervliet, Albany County, New York and died there October 24, 1846, being a member of that community.

His widow Abigail was allowed pension on her application executed

October 4, 1847, while residing at Niagara, New York.

Very truly yours,  
G M Saltzgaber  
Commissioner.

## Notes

1. Theodore Bates's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Medlicott, *A Shaker's Journey*, 21.
3. *Ibid.*, 199.
4. Shakers, N.Y., "Editorial Notes," Shaker 6. no. 9 (September 1876), 69.
5. Bishop V. 2 197.
6. The Hudson River Chain were chain booms beneath which submerged *chevaux de frise*—spiky log barriers—prevented British ships from sailing up the river. A few separate chains were laid across the river during the course of the war. Bates's service probably involved the Great Chain that spanned the river at West Point. It was constructed in 1778 and used through 1782.

## Francis Bedle

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Francis Bedle (1758–1837) was part of the Bedle family of New Jersey who settled Bedle's Station in 1795. This frontier outpost was located five miles west of Lebanon, and two miles south of where Shakers eventually settled Union Village. It was probably the county's first permanent white settlement. William Bedle purchased section 28, comprising 640 acres of land, in township four of the third (or military) range, for \$250. According to early Ohio historian Henry Howe, Bedle "built a block-house as a protection against the Indians.... Here several families lived in much simplicity, the clothing of the children being made chiefly out of dressed deerskin, some of the larger girls being clad in buckskin petticoats and short gowns."<sup>1</sup> All were members of Turtle Creek Presbyterian congregation, whose church was erected in 1789, and stood just north of Bedle's Station in section 29. Francis Bedle was swept up in the Kentucky Revival and Richard McNemar even conducted meetings at his house.<sup>2</sup> Bedle and his

wife Mary/Polly, along with many others in the extended Bedle family, followed McNemar into Shakerism in 1805. Francis died in the faith in 1837.

## **Pension Narrative**

State of Ohio Warren County to:

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid Francis Bedle, resident of the said County in the 74th year of his age, who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth on his solid affirmation, make the following declaration, to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 9th 1832.

That he was born November 13th 1758 in [blank] county, state of New Jersey; that in the Fall of 1775 he was removed, in his father's family, into Washington County, Pennsylvania; that in the summer of 1777 he served, for one month, as a Substitute for Nathan Hathaway, in a company of Rangers, in the service of the United States, under Capt Graycraft in a Company called out to protect our Frontiers & stationed at Jackson's Fort; that he served out his month with Capt. Graycraft but obtained no written discharge; that in 1778 he was one of four militia Sergeants in the county of Washington upon whom a draught for 4 months was made for one to go into the service, & this Applicant volunteered & released the other three; that he joined Capt Cross's Company which crossed the Ohio river, & took up their rendezvous on the banks of said river, below Big Beaver creek, where they built a Fort, known afterwards, by the name of Fort McIntosh,<sup>3</sup> that Gen. McIntosh<sup>4</sup> was Commander in General, & [blank] Evans was Col. of the Regiment to which Capt. Cross's Company belonged; that Col. Crawford, Brigade Major Daniel Light & Capt. Crow & his Company were also there; that Samuel Swingler was Lieutenant & Adjutant in Capt. Cross's Company, in which James Wilkie as Ensign also served; Col. Belar was also there & held his rank in the Field; that in the Fall of 1778 part of the Garrison, including this Applicant, was marched on to the Tuscarawas, which river they crossed & built Fort Lawrence [Laurens];<sup>5</sup> that the Indians met us there & held a Treaty; that some time in the winter of that year year this Applicant & the rest of the men were at that place discharged & had, upon an half allowance, to make the best of their way home by the way of McIntosh. That afterwards, to wit, in the summer of 1779 & whilst his residence was still in Washington



*General Lachlan McIntosh.*

County, Pennsylvania, this Applicant was called out, & as Sergeant in Capt. Enochs's Company of Rangers, proceeded to Jarret's Fort on Big Whitely Creek; that his Company was stationed there for the purpose of protecting the Frontiers from hostile incursions; that he remained there on duty until his month's service, for which he had entered, was out, when he returned home & remained at & about home until 1782; that on or about 20 May of 1782 he again volunteered for another Campaign in the service of the United States and proceeded to the Rendezvous at the Mingo Bottom on the Ohio river, in then Western Territory, where the Company was formed & the officers chosen, of whom Joseph Baines stood as Capt. William Bennett Lieutenant & [blank] Ensign under Colonel Crawford who commanded the Regiment; that Col. Williamson & Major Brinton were also there, acting as Field Officers; that the whole body of Troops then & there collected amounted to about 480 men who were marched to the plains of Sandusky where the Indians met us & severe engagements ensued in the beginning of June 1782;<sup>6</sup> that after the Battles our forces had to retreat back to the Mingo Bottom, pursued by the Indians, who killed, wounded & took prisoners many of our men; that during the retreat Col. Crawford was taken by the Indians & Major Harrison and Capt Biggs were killed; that at the Mingo Bottom the remnant of the Army dispersed & this Applicant returned home to Washington County. This last mentioned campaign lasted somewhat more than one month.—The whole time of service in his several campaigns he thinks was about seven months. — This

Applicant continued to reside in Washington County until 1788, thence removed to Mason County Kentucky & remained there till the Spring of 1789: In May 1789 he removed to Columbia in the State of Ohio, & resided there till the Spring of 1790, then removed to Cowalt's Station on the Little Miami resided there that Summer & in the Fall removed to the Round Bottom on the said Little Miami resided there till 1792, on the 14 July 1792 was taken prisoner by the Indians & conducted to Detroit was sold & was purchased by Col. England an English Officer who humanely gave him his liberty & a free pass to Niagara, thence he returned home to the Round Bottom in Hamilton County Ohio—Thence he removed into Warren County where he has resided ever since. He has no record evidence of his age but he believing he is now in his seventy fourth year; that he has no discharge or other documentary evidence of his service, nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove his service—He further states that there is no clergyman near to him and to whom he is known, but that he is well known to Judge Francis Dunlavy, Ichabod Corwin and Wyllys Peirson by whom he can prove his character for veracity & that they believe he performed services in the revolutionary war; and he hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension role of the agency of any state

Sworn and subscribed in open court the day and year aforesaid J. K [Wilds Ck] thousand 16  
Francis Bedle

We Francis Dunlavy & Wyllys Pierson in the County of Warren and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Francis Beidle who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration that we believe him to be a person of seventy years of age as he states in his declaration; that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier in the revolution, and that we concur in the opinion going that he is a man of veracity  
the day & year aforesaid

J. K. Wilds Ck  
Francis Dunlavy  
Wyllys Pierson

## Letter Requesting Pension Information

Cincinnati, January 18th, 1858

Dear Sir

My father, Frances Bedle, was a soldier in the Indian War of 1782—war in “Crawford’s Defeat,” and received the grant of a pension as a wounded or disabled soldier, having been wounded and disabled while in service of the United States. Shortly after he received his pension, or having it allowed, he joined the “Shakers;” and while being himself unwilling to receive further allowance, he expressed the wish that his children would. I am the widowed daughter of Francis Bedle; and I have respectfully to ask what were the last payments to him—He died about 1837.—I will be thankful to receive instructions what proof will be necessary to draw the pension which he neglected to apply for or draw during his lifetime. Please address reply to me, to the care of Peter [Zinn?], Delhi P.O., Hamilton County, Ohio.

Very Respectfully Yours,  
Rhoda Mills

### Notes

1. Howe, *Historical Collections of Ohio*, 740.
2. David Spinning, “A Short Sketch of the Life of David Spinning, comprising his Dietetic, his Moral & Religious Experience,” Ohio Historical Society, MS 119, box 2, item 13.
3. Fort McIntosh was an early American log frontier fort situated near the confluence of the Ohio River and the Beaver River in what is now Beaver, Pennsylvania.
4. Lachlan McIntosh (March 17, 1725–February 20, 1806) was a Scottish American military and political leader during the American Revolution and the early United States. In a 1777 duel, he fatally shot Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
5. Fort Laurens was an American Revolutionary War fort on a northern tributary of the Muskingum River in what would become Northeast Ohio, United States. The fort was built by General Lachlan McIntosh, in early December, 1778, on the west bank of the Tuscarawas River, now in Tuscarawas County near the town of Bolivar. It was named after Henry Laurens, a president of the Continental Congress from South Carolina. The fort was used as a

reference point in defining the boundary line in Treaty of Greenville, although the text of the treaty misspells the name as “Fort Lawrence.”

6. The Crawford expedition, also known as the Sandusky expedition and Crawford’s Defeat, was a 1781 United States campaign on the western front of the American Revolutionary War, and one of the final operations of the conflict. Led by Colonel William Crawford, the campaign’s goal was to destroy enemy Native American towns along the Sandusky River in the Ohio Country, with the hope of ending Indian attacks on American settlers. The expedition was one in a long series of raids against enemy settlements which both sides had conducted throughout the war.

## **Samuel Blood**

Shaker Community: Harvard, Massachusetts

Samuel Blood (1752–1844) may have been the only future Shaker “Minuteman.” According to his daughter’s testimony, “He left the field where he was then at work to join the American forces” on the fateful day of April 19, 1775, when the Battles of Lexington and Concord were fought. Samuel married his wife Keziah that same year. They joined the Shaker community at Harvard, Massachusetts, with their daughter Rebecca. Rebecca apostatized on December 28, 1796, and applied for her father’s pension after his death. She was supported by Harvard Shakers Lorenzo Dow Grosvenor and Nathan W. Robinson, who both provided affidavits to his service and character. Grosvenor’s affidavit fortunately preserves a humorous anecdote from Blood’s service.

### **Pension Affidavit**

Oneida County  
State of New York Js.

Rebecca Pierce being sworn says that she is sixty nine years of age, that she was born at [Bolton?] in the State of Massachusetts, that she now resides in Bridgewater County of Oneida & State of New York where she has resided forty nine years, sayst that she is the daughter of Samuel Blood late of the town of Harvard Worcester County & State of Massachusetts that her father was a soldier of the revolution and served more than three years and was in the first skirmish with the British at Lexington and Concord<sup>1</sup> being near his then residence, as her father always informed her that she



always understood from her father, that he was entitled to bounty land, but sold his right of said land but never received any pay, that she always understood by her father, that when the British left Boston for Concord and Lexington, he left the field where he was then at work to join the American forces. That her father died in Harvard on the twenty third day of January 1844 at the age of ninety three years, and that the reason her father never applied for a pension that previous to the passage of any pension Act for revolutionary soldiers, he joined the society of Shakers, and remained with them during his life, that this deponent is the only surviving child of her father the above named Samuel Blood, and that he left no widow him surviving.

Rebecca Peirce

Sworn to and subscribed to this 30th day of August 1848 before me  
G. H. Parkhurst Justice of the Peace

### **Pension Affidavits**

Harvard Shaker Lorenzo D. Grosvenor,<sup>2</sup> gave the following statement: I Lorenzo D. Grosvenor of Harvard County of Worcester Commonwealth of Massachusetts aged thirty-nine do depose and say that I was personally acquainted with Samuel Blood who died in said Harvard on January 23d, 1844. Said Samuel Blood was a member of the United Society soon after the close of the Revolutionary War and continued a member until his decease. I was present with him in his last hours and attended his funeral, also the funeral of his Wife who died some years previous. He often informed me that he was a soldier of the American Revolution for a number of years—Spoke of being at the taking of Ticonderoga and told many anecdotes of Camp life in which he was personally concerned of which the following is given as evidence that he actually belonged to the American army.

The Countersign one night was “Norfolk” he said that on passing the Sentinel he gave “Pitchfork.” No! said the Sentinel—“Hayfork” Go along said the man—that will do.

Another story which he used to tell was of two or three of the soldiers stealing a swarm of bees and taking them up for the honey they found they were likely to get reported to the General and undergo an examination—So those of the soldiers who had done the mischief owned it to Samuel Blood and offered him a certain sum if he would go and settle it.

He according went to the man who had lost the Bees—talked in a

very humble tone as though he would not object to owning it himself!! although, he knew nothing of the affair until the soldiers applied to him as Counsellor. He settled the matter without any trouble, to the great joy of his clients and the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

I am perfectly assured that he the said Samuel Blood was correctly reported a Soldier of the Revolution often heard him speak of being entitled to a pension but the Society did not apply for it on account of their peace principles—But no one of our community ever doubted the fact of his having served in the army for he often spoke of it; and he was a man of unquestioned veracity—But to refuse all war pensions is the Uniform custom of our Society Community.

Our Society Records shows that said Samuel Blood was born October 24<sup>th</sup> 1750 in the town of Harvard County of Worcester and State of Massachusetts. But he belonged in Bolton when he listed I think from his account.

He often spoke of having three children William, Rebecca, and one whose name I have forgotten but am told by aged persons long conversant with him that it was Keziah after the name of her mother.

Rebecca is said to be the only one now surviving—Her husband's name was Pears (or Peirce). She now lives as we are told in Oneida County New York.

We are credibly informed of the death of the brother and sister of the said Rebecca.

Lorenzo D. Grosvenor

## Notes

1. The Battles of Lexington and Concord, fought on April 19, 1775, were the first violent engagements of the Revolutionary War. Patriot forces prevented a British expedition from confiscating military stores at Concord, Massachusetts.
2. Lorenzo Dow Grosvenor (1809–1883) came to the Shakers with his parents and siblings in 1819.

## **Abner Bonnel**

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Abner Bonnel (1760–1835) was another of the New Jersey emigrants to southwestern Ohio who joined the Shakers in 1805. The story of the Bonnell family (whose name is spelled in various ways) has been wonderfully told by historian Douglas Winiarski in his presentation “The Ballad of Anne Bunnell.”<sup>1</sup> Abner Bonnell’s pension application appears to have originally been denied for lack of contemporary documentary evidence for his service, as well as affidavits affirming his age and service from local clergy. Accordingly, Bonnell supplemented his application in May 1833 with an affidavit signed by Elder Joshua Worley and Trustee Nathan Sharp, both from Union Village. This seems to have secured his pension. Ironically, “clergyman” Sharp absconded from Union Village on September 8, 1835, with huge amounts of cash and other assets. For his part, Worley was humiliated by the spirits during the Era of Manifestations and left the community in 1839. Despite the tragedy that plagued Bonnell’s life among the Shakers, he died in the faith at Union Village on April 26, 1835. Brother Daniel Miller sadly noted his death in a community journal during a time of widespread sickness, lamenting, “old pillars fall.”<sup>2</sup>

### **Pension Narrative**

State of Ohio

Warren County Js.

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid Abner Bonnell resident of the said County aged 71 years who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth, on his solemn affirmation make the following declaration, to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832: That at the commencement of the Revolutionary War this Applicant resided in Essex County in the state of New Jersey & in the latter end of the year 1776 enlisted in the said county with Capt. Britton for three months, during which time the company to which he belonged & another company under Capt. Crane were stationed in Elizabethtown, & at the expiration of this term of service he was regularly discharged: that afterwards, to wit, a short time prior to the Battle at Monmouth this applicant resided in Springfield in the said

county of Essex & there enlisted for nine months under Capt. Patterson whose company belonged to the Third Regiment of the New Jersey troops, commanded by Col. Dayton & Col. Barbour, of which Regiment . . . Shepherd was Adjutant; that he joined his Company at Mount Holley & was marched to the Black Horse, & thence, upon an alarm, to Crosswicks, & the following day, after cutting away Crosswicks Bridge, to English-town & so on to Monmouth;<sup>3</sup> that he was in the battle there, & from thence was marched back to Elizabeth Town & there stationed until the close of his town, when he was regularly discharged: that afterwards whilst still living in Springfield, to wit, in the year 1780 or 1781, this Applicant again enlisted for one year under Capt. Neely & was marched in Capt. Gilliam's Company, of which John Burnet was Lieutenant, to Newark & was there stationed until the expiration of his term.

This Applicant further states that between the periods of his second & third enlistment, he was out in the Militia in several expeditions & had divers skirmishes with straggling parties of the enemy. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state  
Abner Bonnell

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid

J. K. Wilds clk

And the said Court do hereby declare this opinion that the aforementioned applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states.

## Notes

1. Douglas Winiarski, "The Ballad of Anne Bunnell," (presentation), Communal Studies Association, October 17, 2019, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.
2. Daniel Miller, Journal of Passing Events, Union Village, Ohio. V:B-237, OCIWHI.
3. The Battle of Monmouth (or Battle of Monmouth Court House) was fought near Freehold Township, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778. The battle was a draw, but George Washington trumpeted the discipline of his troops, newly trained at their Valley Forge encampment the previous winter by the Baron von Steuben.



Map of the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey, drawn by  
M<sup>r</sup> Capitaine du Chesnoy, Aide de Campe du Général LaFayette. 1778.

Collection of the Library of Congress

## Justus Brewster

Shaker Community: Hancock, Massachusetts

Justus Brewster's<sup>1</sup> (1761–1815) case is one of the more interesting Shaker pension cases. He was born in Coventry, Connecticut. He joined the Hancock community on March 9, 1807, with his wife Joanna, and their children Sarah (later called Cassandana), Anthony, Dorothy, Justus Jr., Roxanna, and (possibly) Sarah. Justus died at Hancock on March 7, 1815. His wife Joanna—still a member of the Hancock Shaker community—waited until 1852 when, at the age of eighty-one, she applied for her husband's pension on behalf of their children. Dorothy had apostatized in 1815. Justus Jr. apostatized in 1837, leaving the community with Sister Permelia Fuller, who he married in Pittsfield. Anthony died at New Lebanon in 1838, but Sarah—who in 1819 was renamed Cassandana in honor of founding Hancock Eldress Cassandana Goodrich—was a leader at the Hancock community. Joanna may have wanted to secure her late husband's pension for the benefit of her non-Shaker offspring. She enlisted the help of Shaker veteran Elder John Patten and Elder Reuben Hawkins to testify to her husband's service. Her daughter Cassandana's approval, (albeit probably tacit), of the application bespeaks changing attitudes toward military pensions among the Shakers.

### Pension Affidavit

Commonwealth of Massachusetts,  
Berkshire, Js

On this 14th day of October in the year one thousand Eight hundred and fifty two personally appeared before me the Judge of Probate in and for said county, (she being by reason of bodily infirmity unable to appear in open court) Joanna Brewster a resident of Hancock in said County aged Eighty one years who being duly affirmed according to Law, on her affirmation makes the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pension to certain widows;—That she is the widow of Justus Brewster late of said Hancock (deceased) who was a soldier in the War of the Revolution and enlisted from the Town of Coventry in the state of Connecticut in 1775 or 76 for the term of Nine months, and after completing said term of service he enlisted again for

the term of three years into the Regiment Command by Colonel Henry Sherburn of Sd. Connecticut and had one honorable Discharge & said discharge has since been lost; She the sd. Joanna further declares that she was married to the said Justus Brewster on the 31st day of July 1791; That her said Husband the aforesaid Justus Brewster died on the seventh day of March 1815; That she has not intermarried since the death of her said Husband, but still continues his widow  
Joanna S Brewster

Daniel N. Dewey Judge of Probate

### **Pension Affidavit**

I John Patten of Pittsfield in the County of Berkshire and State of Massachusetts, aged ninety two years, do depose and say that I was a revolutionary soldier, and am now a Pensioner of the United States, and am enrolled on the Massachusetts Pension list, and I further say that I was well acquainted with Justus Brewster in his lifetime, who belonged to the same family of the United Society of Shakers to which I belonged and in which I now live and that the said Justus Brewster was a member of our family believers twenty and thirty years and that during that time I often heard him speak of being in the revolutionary service and that he served from the State of Connecticut, under Col. Henry Sherburn for the term of three years. I have also heard him speaking of being in the service at other times besides the three years above alluded to, and that when the said Brewster came to this place he came from Coventry in Connecticut or from that vicinity.

John Patten

Berkshire S. S. November 7. 1853

### **Letter Accompanying Pension Application**

Lenox January 20th 1853

J. E. Heath Esq.

Sir, I send you the Declaration of the Widow of Justus Brewster, Joanna Brewster belongs to the Society of Friends and she wishes her claim attended to as soon as possible for she expects to die soon & wishes to divide her pension amongst her children before she dies, and I think she



gives a good reason why it should be attended to immediately. She says she should have made application some years ago but her friends told her that she could not obtain it in her lifetime if she lived to be one hundred years of age,—But as we Whigs are to have our heads soon taken off we may as well have the blessings of making one Revolutioner Widow happy before we have our heads taken off

Yours Respectfully  
Nial Pease

### **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

State of Connecticut  
Comptroller Office  
Hartford Jany. 15th 1853

I certify that on application for evidence of the service of Justus Brewster, in Col. Henry Sherburns Regiment, in the war of the Revolution, I have examined the documents remaining in this office and find the name of Justus Brewster on a Pay Roll under the following heading “Settlement with 4 Companies in Col. Henry Sherburns Regiment before January 1780,” where he is credited with service as a private from March 6th 1777 to Jany. 1st 1780=2 years 9 mos. 25 days.

In another settlement with the same three companies “for the year 1780,” I also find the name of Justus Brewster, where he is credited with service as a private from Jany. 1st 1780 to March 5th 1780 2 months 5 days, making 3 years for his whole term of service.

From documents on file in this office it appears that the said Justus Brewster, belonged to the town of Coventry the following documents are on file in their office with the receipt given by the said Brewster for the balance due him on settlement.

“Morristown March ye 5th 1780”

“Justus Brewster a soldier in Lt. John Smiths Company, Col. Sherburns Regiment having served three years agreeable to the term of his engagement as a good and faithful soldier to the satisfaction of the officers of the Regiment I therefore recommend him for a discharge.

Yours &c,  
To Capt. Trafton Comdt.



Amos Galpin Ens.”

“March 5th 1780,

In consequence of the above recommendation Justus Brewster is discharged the service of the United States,

Joshua Trafton Capt. Comdt. of Col. Sherburnes Regt.

R. G. Pinney Comptroller by Geo. Robinson Clerk.”

## Notes

1. Justus Brewster’s pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.

## Amos Buttrick

Shaker Communities: Harvard and Shirley, Massachusetts

Amos Buttrick’s (1758–1844) conscientious approach to receiving his pension from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts set the precedent for how Shakers conceived of these monetary awards for military service.<sup>1</sup> He was born on April 27, 1758, at Concord, Massachusetts. He fought in the series of battles around New York City in 1776, losing the sight in one eye. Having heard of the Shakers, he visited Mother Ann Lee at Niskeyuna, New York, and converted. In 1791 he received his first pension payment in silver dollars. Amos, however, was uncertain if this comported with his new faith and sought the judgment of Mother Ann’s successor Father Joseph Meacham. Meacham advised him to return the funds and accept no more. Buttrick obeyed, an action that astonished government officials in Massachusetts. His example in returning his pension money and refusing to accept any additional installments was followed by nearly all Shaker veterans until the early 1830s. Buttrick died in the faith at Shirley, Massachusetts, on February 19, 1844.

**Statements made by Amos Buttrick concerning his Services in the Revolutionary War; His discharge and entrance into the Gospel; and Disposition of his Pension money &c.**<sup>2</sup>

Amos Buttrick was born & grown up to the state of manhood in Concord

Mass. His numerous descendants—kindred that still exist there in round numbers, show that though he was a plain blunt man, he sprung from a noble branch of the Anglo Saxon race.

It is a well remembered fact that it was at Lexington and Concord (joining towns) where the first resistance was made to British aggression. Several of his relatives were in the strife on that eventful morning.

Amos being young & uncommonly fearless & patriotic enrolled himself immediately among the defenders of American Liberty.

He was among those who experienced a series of defeats on Long Island, & among the troops that Washington passed in body through the ice from that place to New York. The Americans being much dispirited at that time & more used to retreating than fighting, it pained Amos exceedingly.

After these retreats, defeats & discouragements, a party of American troops were ordered back to Long Island to cut off a part of English troops, and when marched to the boats the Officer declared that the first man that showed cowardice or offered to retreat should be shot down.

At this declaration, Amos hastened forward and springing on board & crying out, “There, I am the first man in the boat!”

He lost an eye about this time in conflict with the British troops. When the Americans were retreating from New York into New Jersey the Americans lay back of a breastwork made of rails as they lay at White Plains, & were ordered not to fire a gun till the order was given although the English troops were close upon them. They lay in line all ready for action directly in front of Amos. A Captain of a company was advancing some distance ahead of his troops and came so near him he could discern every feature of his countenance. This was more than flesh & blood could bear, (or so Amos thought.) He arose to a sitting posture, fired & shot him dead on the spot. This started the combat in good earnest, & from the flush of powder entering his eye from a gun that missed fire next to him, the sight was destroyed. Cold & inflammation caused him severe sufferings. His wound entitled him to the earliest pension to wounded soldiers that was paid out about the time of the last of Washington’s Administration.

Amos Butrick was regularly discharged from the Army. He visited Mother

Ann at Watervliet with his regimentals on. He received faith, set out and opened his mind.

Mother & the Elders saw he was a blunt honest man and respected his honesty. At Shirley, before the gathering of the Churches, Elijah Wilds' home was the principle family in those days. He entertained all the company who visited believers in those parts & was at much expense, & labor to wait upon, & provide for those who gathered at his home.

Moth Ann requested Amos to go live with Elijah & work for him and make no charge for it. Amos went there & lived till the gathering of the Church. About the year 1791, wounded Soldiers first received pensions. The Church at Shirley then had neither been gathered or brought into order. Amos went to Boston that year & received his first pension money in silver dollars which were not abundant in those times. He was much pleased with his treasure.

In the year 1792, Shirley Church began to gather into Order. David Meacham came from Lebanon to regulate the Deacons order (He being then the first Deacon in the Church of New Lebanon). And Father Joseph of course, issued rule & order through our Leaders to regulate these Churches (Harvard, Shirley) Amos still had his first pension money, & another years installment was due. This kind of money property, now became a serious question, & it was referred promptly to the Leading Authority at the New Lebanon for a decision. Father Joseph Meacham decided that all such money, or considerations for war services was & is the price of blood, and could not be admitted into the Lord's Treasury and that Amos must take back what he had received, and draw no more.

Amos was a true American, and of course loved dollars, and this now became a question and a trial to him. He had fought through the Revolution, had suffered & lost an eye, & the whole of the free America clearly recognized this, as his just right. But after weighing it in the balance of faith & reason, faith, & his duty to the newly revealed law of God prevailed, & he went to Boston where the second pension was due to give up the first.

The men in the Government Office were taken all aback; it was a "new thing under the Sun," to see a man entitled to the second pile of silver dollars, bringing back the first. Of course they could have dismissed him with out a hearing; but the solemn novelty of the case, & the inspiration

which they felt from his appearance & simple narrative commanded their respect & interested them in his favor. But still they were in great perplexity to know what to do in such a case; but they finally counseled together, and passed in the Legislature the following act: [see text of the act reprinted below].

Common Wealth of Massachusetts (No. 10 496)  
Treasury Office March 12th 1792

Received of Amos Butrick a State Pensioner by the hand of Joseph Hosmer Esq. Eighty-Two pounds, Seven shillings & eight pence as a deposit in the treasury agreeably to the resolve of Court of the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant, having signed duplicate receipts. £82.78

Alexander Hodgdon, Treasurer

This strong & clear decision of Father Joseph and the acquiescence of believers in general made a final settlement respecting pension in their two Churches till the present day (and I presume in all the Milennial Churches). No such among has even been taken in this quarter through a number of pensioners have lived & died here.

This steady conscientious refusal of such money has been our greatest strength & defense against petitions offered to our State Legislature by enemies endeavoring to make us do military service or pay an equivalent. In, I think 1837, a petition was entered by secret enemies which was moving rapidly ahead in general Court. When it came to our knowledge Elder Grove B. Blanchard of the Ministry, Jonas Nutting Trustee at Shirley got up the following documents and repaired to Boston as speedily as possible. They got there late in the afternoon, called upon Ellis Grey Loring Esquire, stated their case & learned from him that the next day a Committee of 12 of the Legislature was to sit in counsel & decide whether we should do military service or not.

He examined their papers, & gave them a letter to a Lawyer by the name of Bradburn who received them at his hotel, heard their story examined their documents & agreed to go with them as Counsel before the Committee. He was so interested in the fact contained in their papers, & the ingenuity of getting them up that he called into his room several professional men to see them & hear the Brethren talk; and these “great men,” not having been

caught before in the trap of a plain religious Shaker conversation asked questions & had a straight forward religious discourse which for plainness & honesty was quite amusing.

Next morning they met the Committee at the State House—the Brethren—a Friend Quaker & Bradburn as advocated for peace on the one side, & a Committee of 12 as advocates of war on the other.

They soon saw (the Brethren) that nearly all the committee were against their scruples, prayers & desires. A talented man from Cape Cod was especially opposed to them.

Members of a Legislature are always used to a war of words; but here, intimately associated with their words & arguments were presented a classification of the most striking facts that were ever thrown in before any committee known.

To the conversation of Elder Grove—the Quaker—and especially the Lawyer the Committee paid respectful attention, but on presenting the following documents to back up what the Believers had said respecting conscientious scruples they were confounded.

Copy.

Agreeably to Act of Congress of March 18<sup>th</sup> 1818, relating to Revolutionary Pensioners, the following persons who are members of the United Society (called Shakers) are entitled to pensions of the following amount with interest inclusive viz.

Amos Butrick	\$4143.30
Jonathan Henry	\$669.63
David Melvin	\$2219.67
John Warner	\$2219.67
Samuel Barrett	\$669.63
Gideon Hammond	\$2691.79
Samuel Whitney	\$4143.30
Abijah Worster	\$4143.30
Nathaniel Turner	<u>\$541.60</u>
Total	\$24,131.24

Agreeable to Act of Congress of June 7th 1832, relating to Revolutionary Pensioners, the following persons who are members of said Society were entitled to pensions of the following amount interest inclusive

Benjamin Winchester	\$479.37
Samuel Blood	\$940.15
Joseph Wyeth	\$275.20
Jonathan Crouch	\$497.37

Agreeable to Act of Court Amos Butrick was entitled to a pension during life of \$40 per year; which now would amount with interest inclusive to the sum of \$15,251.66.

The above pensions are of the Societies of Harvard and Shirley. The two Societies then comprising about 300 numbers—& are about 3/7 of all belonging to the State;—and in the same ratio as the amounts are for these two Societies, all of the Societies of Shakers would now be entitled to \$97,005.74.

Of the said sums nothing has been sought in consequence of the conscientious scruples of the above named persons, being agreeable to the established faith & principles of said United Society of which they became members.

When these documents were presented & duly considered a majority of the Committee shifted ground immediately & two thirds became friends to our cause. The Cape representative stood immovable, but a member from Charlestown—a military man espoused our cause & confronted him. He urged the matter that there were more than enough among themselves to do the fighting who desired to do it, craved the privilege, who would fight, did fight, & gloried in it. This argument he enforced by the strength of logic, truth & profanity till he silenced his opponent, & the Brethren came of[f] triumphant.

The Foreman of the Committee was so diverted with these documents & the originality of the remonstrance that he induced the Brethren to exhibit them through all the rooms in the State House; and one Lawyer said he did not think that any but the Shakers would even thought of taking such a course.

In the law to aid the widows of departed Revolutionary Patriots, 3 could have taken while living in the Gathering Order perhaps \$2000 but did not do it or give liberty for any to do so under the signature of any member of our Society.

### **Resolve Allowing a Pension to Amos Buttrick<sup>3</sup>**

On the representation of John Lucas, Commisary of Continintial Pinsioners, in behalf of Amos Buttrick, Late a Soldier in Capt Simon Hunts Compy & in Colo Eleazr Brookss Rigm—

*Resolved* That the said Amos Buttrick is Intitled to a Full Pinsion to Comence from the Last day of November, 1776. (*Passed July 7.*)

### **Petition of Amos Buttrick<sup>4</sup>**

To his Exelency the Governor, the Honrle Council Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Whereas by the generous Principles of the United States, a resolve was passed in Congress on the 7th of June 1785, and an act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the 17th of March 1786 bestowing pentions on those that by wounds of otherwise had been disabled in the service of the United States; I the subscriber belonging to the Massachusetts Militia commanded by Eleazar Brooks Esqr in Captain Simon Hunts company in the year 1776 received a wound in a battle on White Plain by which means I lost the sight of my right eye, being thereby entitled to a pention of fifteen shillings pr month during my life as may appear by certificate from the Commissary of Pentioners, which is herewith presented. Accordingly on the 17th of March 1786 their being £86 due I received £36 in money and a due bill for the rest, and on the 17th of this instant Feby there was £53.5 more due.

But after I had received said money my mind was much exercised in relation to the justice of the thing. For as the Gospel of Christ which we have received among the people commonly known in the world, by the name of Shakers. (Which people I own as the brethren of my communion) As the power of this gospel I say works this principle in the hearts of all them that are faithful and obedient thereto. (Viz) To deal in justice kindness and charity towards all our fellow men and to act nothing towards them but

that which we can with a good conscience face eternal judgment, before God in a world of spirits; it brought me to a soled consideration of mind in relation to the matter. Sometimes I thought it might be right to receive it and keep it to pay those fines that are so frequently laid upon us; Because we cannot in conscience bear the arms of war; it being in our understanding contrary to that gospel we profess to believe and practice, and although many hundreds and I believe I might in truth say thousands of dollars have been paid by us in this case (which feels to me rather unkind); yet upon serious consideration I could not find that any unkindness done to us could justify us in going a one side of the principles of the gospel we have received.

Finally considering that many poor and fatherless and widows also many lame and infirm persons far more unable to get their substance by their labour than I am; would have to bear their proportion in paying the said pention which could not afford me any comfortable reflection in the day of trial. After mature deliberation I came to a settled resolution to return the money due bill and certificate to the Honrle General Court, manifesting that it is my desire that said money be put into the Treasury to be used for the public good, Likewise: I volentarily and of free choise give up said pention desiring no more to be considered as a pentioner or as having any demand in anywise on the State on that account, but that said pention be ever hereafter null and void.

Amos Buttrick

Done in the presents of  
Aaron Jewett  
Elijah Wild  
Shirley Feby 21st 1792

In Senate Feby 24 1792 Read & committed to Joseph Hosmer Esq with such as the Hon House may [illegible] to consider & report.

Sent down for concurring  
Saml Phillips Presidt

### **Report on the Memorial of Amos Buttrick<sup>5</sup>** [docketed title]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
In Senate March 8, 1792



On the representation of Amos Buttrick, shewing that he is conscientiously scrupulous of receiving a pension in consequence of a wound received in the service of the United States.

Resolved that Amos Buttrick be & he hereby is permitted to deposit in the Treasury of this Commonwealth any sum of money he may have received from this Government, as a pension, there to remain till the further order of Government taking duplicate receipts for the same, one of which together with his certificate for a pension shall be deposited in the Secretary's Office.

Sent down for concurring

Saml Phillips Prsdt

In the House of Representatives March 8, 1792

Read & concurred

D. Cobb Spkr

Approved

John Hancock

## Notes

1. Amos Buttrick's petition and the resolve by the Massachusetts General Court (the bicameral legislature comprising the Senate and House of Representatives) are located in Massachusetts Archives, SC1/series 228, Passed Resolves, Resolves of 1791 chapter 150, Resolve on the Petition of Amos Buttrick. Later copies of these documents are located in: Shirley, Massachusetts: records relating to Amos Buttrick's renunciation of his military pension (1792), I:A-14, OCIWHI.
2. Shirley, Massachusetts: copies of letters and documents, VI:B-50, OCIWHI.
3. "Resolve Allowing a Pension to Amos Buttrick," July 7, 1777, *Acts and Resolves, Public and Private, of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay*, vol. 20 (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers, 1918), 80.
4. "Petition of Amos Buttrick," SC1/series 228, Passed Resolves, Resolves of 1791 chapter 150, Massachusetts Archives.
5. "Report on the Memorial of Amos Buttrick," SC1/series 228, Passed Resolves, Resolves of 1791 chapter 150, Massachusetts Archives.

## **Pitman Cook**

Shaker Community: Hancock, Massachusetts

Pitman Collins Cook<sup>1</sup> (1756–1845) enlisted in the army while living in Richmond, Massachusetts, immediately south of what became the Shaker community at Hancock. Following his service in the war he separated from his wife and children, joining the Shakers as early as 1789, where he lived at the South and Second Families. He died on January 1, 1845, aged eighty-six. His son and namesake Pitman Cook, a non-Shaker, applied for his pension in 1850. The following Hancock Shakers attested to Cook's military service: Elder Reuben Hawkins, Elder John Patten, Ana Rawson, and Caleb Eddy. In his affidavit Eddy wrote, "During the time I was with my father at Cambridge as I have herein stated I was often sent with Erants to diferant place—some times I was sent in to the army among the soldiers, where I saw the said Pitman C. Cook with his War Regimentals on." Cook's non-Shaker sister Asenath Goodale testified, "My Said Brother I think would have obtained his pension long before his Death if he had not Resided with the Shakers." Cook's non-Shaker sister-in-law, Betsey Cook, also wrote in support of him. Cook's son received his deceased father's pension.<sup>2</sup>

### **Pension Affidavit**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire County

on this ninth day of April A. D. 1850, personally appeared in open Court Before the Court of Probate within and for the said County of Berkshire, Pitman Cook a Resident of Egremont in the said County, aged fifty seven years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, according to the Best of his Knowledge Recollection and Belief, in order to obtain the amount of pension money Due his Father Pitman C. Cook deceased, at the time of his Death, under the provision made by Congress passed on the Seventh of June, A. D. 1832—for Revolutionary Soldiers—That his Father Pitman C. Cook decd. was a Soldier in the War of The Revolution, that he Enlisted into said War from the town of Richmond in the Said County of Berkshire, in the Spring of the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy five, as a private Soldier, and served at and near Boston, after his first term Expired, he served a number of tours in the State of New York, he served at the places

caled Stillwater, and a place caled Ticonderoga, and at other places during his services in Said War, his Services in the War of the Revolution was all performed as a private soldier and for the proof of his Said Father's services in said War, this Declarant refers to the proofs hereunto annexed he also Declares that his said Father was at the time of the War of the Revolution a Resident of the town of Richmond in this Said County, and he forme[r]ly had a wife and family in the said Richmond, he and his family separated upwards of Twenty years prior to his Death, and he went and joined the United Society of Shakers in the town of Hancock in the Said County of Berkshire, that his Father the said Pitman C. Cook resided with the said Shakers, untill his Death, which took place on the Eleventh day of January in the year Eighteen hundred and forty five, he leaving no Widow surviving, his Wife died prior to his Death He further Declares that his Father, the said Pitman C. Cook has now only one child surviveing whose name is Pitman Cook, which is this Declarant a Resident of Egremont in this said County.—This Declarant verally believes that his said Father, would have obtained his pension long before his Death if he had not joined—and resided with the Shakers.

Sworn to and Subscribed by the Said Pitman Cook, on the day and year first above and within written Before me Daniel N. Dewey Judge of The Said Court of Probate State of Massachusetts County of Berkshire

### **Pension Affidavit**

I, George Butler of Pittsfield in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts of lawful age do depose and say that in the summer of the year of our Lord 1775, I was well acquainted with one Pitman Collins Cook (now of said Pittsfield) who was at that time an enlisted soldier in the same company to which I belonged, it being commanded by Captain David Noble; said Company was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Patterson and stationed near Boston in said Commonwealth; further the deponent saith not  
George Butler

### **Pension Affidavit**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Berkshire County

I Ashbel Cone of the town of West Stockbridge in this said County of Berkshire, do depose and say that I am now Seventy years of age, I was born and brought up in this town, my parants are now both deceased, my Mother was Sister to Pitman C. Cook deceased, I well remember by Uncle the said Pitman C. Cook, from my young Child hood up. My Grand father Walter Cook—deceased with his family Resided a few miles from where I now Reside which was in the town of Richmond in this County, my uncle the Said Pitman C. Cook joined and lived with the United Society of Shakers a few miles from this place, in the town of Hancock in this county a great many years before his death, he Died at the said Shakers some over five years ago—The said Pitman C. Cook is the only person by the name of Pitman or Pitman C. Cook, which I ever in my life time knew, or heard of—Except his son Pitman Cook now living—my uncle the said Pitman C. Cook was generally Reported, and Believed to have been a Revolutionary Soldier from the town of Richmond in this County—I have heard my said uncle speak of his Revolutionary Services, But the particulars have now passed from my recollection.

Ashbel Cone

Sworn to and Subscribed

This fifth day of October, A. D. 1850,

By this Deponent Ashbel Cone

Before me George Crane Justice of the Peace

## **Pension Affidavit**

I Henry W. Bishop of Lenox in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts do testify and say that I was acquainted with Pitman C. Cook, who was a member of the United Society called Shakers in Pittsfield & Hancock in said county the Village of the said Shakers being partly in sd Pittsfield & partly in said Hancock and on the divisional line of said towns, that the said Cook died in said Village at an advanced age, that the annexed affidavit was put in my possession by said Cook about the time & soon after it was made & sworn to for the purpose of Enabling said Cook, to procure a pension for Services rendered in the war of the revolution, and has been in my possession ever since & until attached hereto by me. That soon after the said deposition was left with me I saw the said Cook and he informed me that the Shakers, his brethren, were opposed to his applying for a pension, as they were opposed to war & all military Enterprises, and

thought it not right that he should receive any wages or compensation for having been engaged in war—and the Elders of said Society also informed me that their principles were adverse to war and should not permit the members of their society to draw any pensions for warlike services if they could by their advice prevent it—In consequence of this the application of Mr. Cook was not proceeded in—I further testify & say that I was well acquainted with the character & reputation of George Butler who made & swore to said deposition and that he was a credible witness that both the said George & John B Root Esq who administered the oath to said deponent are dead. That the deposition is in the handwriting of said Root with whose hand writing I am acquainted & that the signature subscribed to said certificate of oath is his genuine signature

Dated at Lenox County this 24th. Oct. 1830  
Henry W. Bishop

### **Letter Accompanying Pension Application**

Sheffield Oct. 26. 1850  
Col. J. L. Edwards

Sir, I duly received your letter of the 4th Sept Call in reference to the applications of Pitman Cook and Phebe Smith and now furnish the proof you require, as far as I am able—

In reference to the case of Cook, I inclose the deposition of Butler taken before the late Ms. B. Root, with the certificate and the affidavit of the Hon. H. W. Bishop. I am informed and believe that George Butler was a pensioner, in his life time and that Cook made a deposition in aid of G. Butler,<sup>3</sup> which deposition is on file in said Butler's case and will prove, as I am instructed, the service of Cook himself, as a fellow soldier of Butler—I beg to refer to the papers in that case—I also inclose the deposition of Caleb Eddy—with the pay roll of Capt. Amos Rathbun and the deposition of Ashbel Cone, in aid of the application and it seems to me that all your demands have been satisfied, so far as can be done at this late day. Your papers in other cases doubtless show the opposition of the Shaker Elders to any of their members taking pay for their service in war, and it seems to me a full answer to your objection of delay—

[Letter also references the application of Phebe Smith, unrelated to Pitman Cook]

You will oblige these applicants very much by as speedy notice as your labor will permit—Mrs. Smith is very old and to have any aid must have it soon.

I am sir

Yours very respectfully

E. H. Ensign

## **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Secretary's Office, Boston:*

March 14 1850.

*I hereby certify, That, from an examination of the Books and Documents relating to Military Services in the War of the Revolution, which remain in this Department, it appears that the name of Pitman C. Cook is borne on the rolls for 8 mos of service in 1775, in Capt. David Noble's Co Col. John Patterson's Regt. as a private from Richmond,*

On Coat roll of the Co. (or roll signed by them stating they did not wish for coats) Oct 26. 1775.

On pay roll of Capt. Aaron Rowley's Co. Maj. David Rossiter's detach. from Co. of Berkshire, at Ticonderoga, as a private, from Feb. 23. to Apr 7. 1777. 43 days & 140 miles travel (on this roll the name is written Pitman Cook.).

On a pay roll of Capt. Amos Rathbun's Co. Maj Caleb Hyde's detachment to northern Army, from July 8 to 20, 1777, as a private 13 days. & on a pay roll of Capt. Aaron Rowley's Co. Col. John Ashley's detach. from Co. of Berkshire to Stillwater, from July 22, 1777, as a private 23 days.—

## Notes

1. Pitman C. Cook's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. See Sandra A. Soule, *Seeking Robert White: Quaker, Shaker, Husband, Father* (Clinton, N.Y.: Richard W. Couper Press, 2016), 136–37, for a discussion of Cook's case.
3. Pitman C. Cook's deposition regarding Butler's service is still preserved in Butler's pension file.

## Benjamin Cox

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Benjamin Cox (1761–1834) was one of a number of veterans deposed by Richard McNemar for their pension application in 1832. He apparently joined the Shakers at Union Village, Ohio, in 1815.<sup>1</sup> Further details of his life as a Shaker have eluded a cursory search of community journals for the purposes of this headnote.

## Pension Narrative

State of Ohio

Warren County Js.

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in the country of Warren aforesaid Benjamin Cox resident of the said county in the 72 years of his age, who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth on his solemn affirmation, make the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832: That at the commencement of the revolutionary War this Applicant resided in Orange county, State of New York, & in the year 1777, whilst the British army was in the city of New York, he was called out in the militia & served as a private in the Company of Capt. Faulkender (or Faulkner) for the space of two weeks; that a short time afterwards he served three months under the same Captain during which time the British attacked Fort Montgomery & took it, but that he, this Applicant, providentially made his escape without



other injury than contracting a deafness which, more or less, has continued ever since. The night before Fort Montgomery was attacked this Applicant recollects that, although indisposed from the effects of the measles, he was on guard when Major Logan with a party went out as spies, but this Applicant stopt them & forbade them to pass; they were in hurry & insisted upon passing the Guard, but this Applicant said he would fire on them unless they presented themselves to the Officer of the Guard. After some parley & a considerable alarm the Officer came & gave them liberty to pass but not without justifying this Applicant in stopping them; & Major Logan, on the spot, told his men that this Applicant had done his duty. That in the morning when relieved this Applicant, worn out & fatigued with watching & with nothing to eat for eight of forty hours, laid himself down in the Barracks to get some rest, & slept until he was aroused by the attack & was called out to meet the assailants; the party to which this Applicant was attached sallied out & lay in ambush & fired several times & then retreated in the Fort where he continued till after dark when he made his escape with Gen. Clinton who went on before him. That he then went home without his gun & with scarcely any clothes & in the course of two days returned, recruited, & joined the broken Regiments & served ~~for about three weeks when~~ until he was discharged.—That afterwards, in the year 1778, he was out on another tour of duty, which lasted one week under Capt. Vail, in a campaign against the Indians; that afterwards, in the same year he served for one month under Capt. Feltner & was stationed for the most part of this term in keeping guard in the Garrison; that afterwards, in the same year, he served for one month under Capt. Killford whose company, during this campaign, took prisoners some Refugees on the river Delaware, where this Applicant, with his companions, was almost starved to death; that afterwards, in the same year, he served another month under the command of Capt. Owens; that afterwards in the year 1779 he served a campaign of eight months except about two weeks under Faulkender (or Faulkner); that afterwards about the year 1782 he served two months under Capt. Rush, in Pennsylvania; & that afterwards he was out one month under Capt. Enslow. He states moreover that besides the services herein recapitulated he was frequently out in the militia for a week or ten days at a time. That when he was drafted under Capt. Rush he resided in Bedford where he continued his residence for about one year & then moved to Orange Cty New York & lived there until about the year 1812 when he named to Franklin County Ohio where he resided about five years & then moved to his present residence in Warren County where he has continued- He further states that he is in the 72nd year of his age and

that he has no record evidence of it nor had he any discharge or other documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any witness by whom he can prove his service in the revolution, for that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood to whom he is known; but that he is well known to Nathan Sharp, Henry Valentine, Francis Bedle, of his vicinity by all or [illeg.] of whom he can prove his character for veracity, & that it is generally reported and believed, that he this applicant was a soldier of the revolution—And he hereby relinquishes every claim whether to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll do the agency of any state

Sworn to & Subscribed in open Court the day + Year afs. J. K. Wilds clk  
Benjamin Cox

## Notes

1. Union Village, Ohio, membership list compiled from various sources by Oliver C. Hampton, 1805–1898. III:B-33, OClWHI.

## Nathaniel Draper

Shaker Community: Enfield, New Hampshire

Nathaniel Draper<sup>1</sup> (1757–1819) served as a deacon in the Church Family at Enfield, New Hampshire, from 1803–1821. His initials are found stamped on brooms, grain measures, and large spinning wheels manufactured for sale by the community. Many of the pension applications submitted by Shakers or their heirs lacked substantiating documentation contemporary to the veteran's service. Draper's is a wonderful exception in this case. His beautifully lettered discharge survives in his pension file at the National Archives; it also graces the cover of this issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly*. It was issued at Soldier's Fortune, as the Hudson Highlands were known during the conflict. Draper was a drummer, one among a number of musicians who served and later converted to Shakerism. Enfield trustee Caleb Dyer, who was mentored by Draper, filed an affidavit of his service, as did Enfield's Brother Jason Kidder. Likewise, Harvard, Massachusetts, trustee Augustus H. Grosvenor and Brother Abel Jewett submitted their own affirmations of the claim to Draper's pension made by his daughter Ruth.

## **Military Discharge** [See image on the cover of this issue.]

Soldiers Fortune 12 of Feby. 1780

Nathaniel Draper having served three years in the Capacity of a Drummer in the sixth Massachusetts Battalion in the Service of the United States under my command and his time of service being expired is hereby Discharg'd the aforesaid service

To whom it may concern  
Tho. Nixon Colonel

Note. The Southern part of the High Lands above Peekskill near the North river in the time of the Revolutionary war was called—Soldiers Fortune.—

## **Pension Affidavit**

To the Secretary of State Mass.

The application of Ruth Clark only surviving child of Nathaniel Draper late of Enfield New Hampshire for a Certificate of the Revolutionary services of her father the said Nathaniel Draper deceased.

Your applicant states that her father was a native of Massachusetts and in the time of the Revolution was a resident of Concord.

She believes that her father entered the Army of the Revolution for the three years service in the month of February 1777 and that he served out the term of his enlistment in Col. Thomas Nixon's Regiment and that he was honorably discharged at the Highlands in February 1780. She believes and has heard her father say that Nathaniel Draper served as a drummer and Drum-Major for the three years.

Your applicant has lately learned that her father's original discharge has been found in the family of Shakers at Enfield where her father lived from near the close of the war to the time of his death. She therefore requests that the Secretary will give a Certificate of all the service of Nathaniel Draper that may be found. And for the purpose of this applicant I hereby appoint Z. K. Harmon of Portland Maine my Attorney in the premises.

Ruth J Clark

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex Js: July 8th. 1852. Then

personally appeared the above named Ruth Clark and signed the foregoing application & Power of Attorney in my presence.

Geo Haywood

Justice of the Peace

### **Pension Affidavit**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex County Js.

On this ninth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and fifty three, personally appeared before the Hon. S. P. P. Fay Judge of Probate in said County and State; Ruth J. Clarke, in open Court being a Court of Record, aged 67 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Pension that was due her late father Nathaniel Draper under the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832 and also the Pension that was due her mother Martha Draper the Act of Congress passed July 7 1838. And your declarant states that she is the only surviving child of the said Nathaniel and Martha Draper deceased, that her father was a resident of Concord Massachusetts in the time of the revolutionary war and she has heard him say that he was a soldier of the revolution and served as a drummer or Drum-Major three years under one enlistment. She has heard him speak of other services and she believes and has no doubt but he performed other service than that contained in the discharge of her said father annexed to this declaration, that her father soon after the war of the revolution joined the Society of Shakers at Enfield, N.H. and resided with them to the time of his death which took place on the 6th of April 1838 that by the rules and discipline of the Societies of Shakers in this country her parents, they being members of the such societies were prohibited from making application for a pension and they never claimed the same as will appear by the testimony annexed, that your declarant is now and has been a widow for 18 years last past and knew not of the existence of her fathers original discharge until the time she made application for proof of his service and knew not until lately that she was entitled to a pension.

She further states that her father intermarried with Martha Beckett at Alstead, your declarants mother on the [blank] day of [blank] AD 17[blank] and that your applicant is the only issue of said marriage, that her mother also joined said society of Shakers at Enfield at about the same time her father did, and afterwards joined the family at Harvard

Massachusetts and was a member of said Society at the time of her death which took place on the 17th day of November AD 1838. She therefore claims a Pension under the Acts aforesaid.

Ruth J. Clarke

## Notes

1. Nathaniel Draper's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.



*Portrait of John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, unidentified artist.*  
Collection of the Martin Art Gallery, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Penn.

## Charles Eades

Shaker Community: South Union, Kentucky

Charles Eades (1754–1833) and his wife Sarah came from Virginia with their daughters Amelia White and Patsy White (sometimes spelled Whyte) to join the Shakers at Gasper River (later renamed South Union), Kentucky. They confessed their sins to Issachar Bates and Richard McNemar on October 29, 1807.<sup>1</sup> Eades was a slaveholder. His mulatto slave Betty Freeheart, along with her daughters Eunice and Hannah, confessed their sins to Eades's fellow Revolutionary War veteran Issachar Bates and also joined the sect in November 1807. The Freehearts remained at South Union for the duration of their lives.<sup>2</sup> There were many Eadeses among the Shakers at South Union, and their genealogical ties are not yet fully understood. Charles Eades lived a long and faithful Shaker life. At his death in 1833 a community scribe recorded, "He fought thru the Revolutionary War for liberty of Body and gained it and then fought equally brave for liberty of soul and gained that also."<sup>3</sup>

### Pension Affidavit

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefit of the third section of the Act of Congress of the 4th July 1836

State of Kentucky

Wayne County

On this 21st day of December 1843 personally appeared before me the Subscribed—a Justice of the peace for said county Mrs. Sarah Eades aged Eighty years the 9th day of April next who being first duly sworn according to law—doth on her Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836—that she is the widow of Charles Eades who was a soldier of the Revolution he served under Captain Oaty or Captain John Trigg or both, the name of the Col who commanded the Regiment was Merry Weather [Meriwether] and the Genl's name he believes was Muhlenburg<sup>4</sup>—he was in the battle at Portsmouth<sup>5</sup> and was in the service a large percentage of the Revolutionary War the public records will doubtless show many of the particulars of his service and to them she refers for further evidence—she further declares that she was married to the said Charles Eades on the 4th day of May seventeen hundred and eighty seven—that her husband the

aforesaid Charles Eades died on the third day of May Eighteen hundred and twenty three, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period.

her  
Sarah X Eades  
mark

### **Pension Affidavit Excerpts**

Jacob Eades, Charles Eades' son, gave the following statement:

He has often heard his father speak of his services rendered in the Army of the Revolution. Also heard other soldiers conversing with him about their hardships and the many struggles they had encountered during the war. Thinks that his afsd [aforesaid] father enlisted first from the State of Maryland and then from the State of Virginia, don't recollect well the names of his officers, being such a long time ago. Have often heard him (the afsd Charles Eades dcd. [deceased]) speak about being paid off with Continental money which proved to be worthless also heard him speak about some English currency think the amount was £14 6s 4d and think that he received that amount which was the only money which could be made use of. He has heard his afsd father say that his name was on the Roll at the war department for £14 6s 4d.

Eades's lifelong friend James Turner gave the following statement:

Personally appeared before the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid James Turner a pensioner of the United States aged eighty years the 15th day of August next who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following statements, viz that he was well and intimately acquainted with Charles Eades from the time he was a small boy, or lad to the time of his death, that the said Charles Eades & himself served together as soldiers in the revolutionary war, they entered the service together in the County of Bedford in the state of Virginia under William Oaty as their Captain, Merryweather as their Col. & Muhlenburg as their General they were both at the battle of Portsmouth, and served four months and a half in the service this tour and were discharged. They again in a short time entered the service together under Capt. John Trigg, the Col who commanded the regiment to which they belonged was named Tucker, this tour they served together upwards of two months and a half



having been at the siege of York<sup>6</sup> [Yorktown], and were again discharged by Col. Tucker. He states that the said Charles Eades again entered the service for the further term of three months and served out his time and returned home—he thinks the said Eades performed other service in said war but cannot specify further than he has above states but he always understood from said Eades that he served in all near thirteen months at various times in said war.

## Subsequent Correspondence

Excerpts from a letter dated March 18, 1940:

It was alleged that he enlisted first in Maryland, then in Bedford County, Virginia, served as private in Captain William Oatey's company, Colonel Merriwether's Virginia regiment, that he was in an engagement at Portsmouth, length of tour four and one half months; that soon after, he enlisted in Captain John Trigg's company, Colonel Tucker's Virginia Regiment, and served a tour of two and one half months and that he was at the siege of Yorktown; that he enlisted again and served a tour of three months, and that he rendered other service, making his service in all nearly thirteen months, no dates of service or names of officers given for the latter part of his service.

...

The claim for pension made by Sarah Eades was not allowed as she failed to furnish proof of her husband's service in accordance with the requirements of the pension law. Sarah Eades died September 23, 1852 in Kentucky.

## Notes

1. Thomas Whittaker, "Eades Family were Leaders at South Union," *News-Democrat and Leader* (Russellville, Kentucky), 2. Record Book A, South Union, Kentucky, Kentucky Library, KyBgW-K. I thank Tommy Hines, executive director of South Union Shaker Village, for this information on Charles Eades.
2. Cress, Kit Firth Cress, "Black Shakers at South Union, Kentucky," *Kentucky Review* 12, no. 1 (Fall 1993), 82.
3. Whittaker, "Eades Family," *News-Democrat and Leader* (Russellville, Kentucky), January 5, 1970, 2.
4. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (October 1, 1746–October 1, 1807) was a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He was

a Lutheran minister, and represented Pennsylvania in the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

5. This may refer to an action at Fort Nelson, in Portsmouth, Virginia, an American fort largely destroyed by British troops in 1779, and subsequently occupied by British forces (now led by American traitor General Benedict Arnold) in 1781. The Battle of Rhode Island, which was fought at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, on August 29, 1778, is sometimes called the Battle of Portsmouth, but it is unlikely that Eades was present that far north.
6. The Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, pitted Continental Army troops led by General George Washington and French Army troops led by the Comte de Rochambeau against a British army commanded by Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis. It ended in an American victory on October 19, 1781, and paved the way for a final separation and peace treaty between the American colonies and the British Empire.

## **Samuel Harris**

Shaker Community: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky

Virginian Samuel Harris (1763–1852) fought under General Nathanael Greene through the entirety of the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War. He was among the first wave of Shaker converts at Shawnee Run (later Pleasant Hill), Kentucky, in 1806. Harris served as an elder and deacon through the course of his long Shaker life, signing the Pleasant Hill covenants of 1814 and 1830. Harris applied for his pension in 1833. His brethren, Elder Elisha Thomas and Deacon John Voris, attested to his service, and his pension was granted. There seems to have been an unresolved problem regarding the pension by 1847, however, as Ministry elder Rufus Bryant accompanied the eighty-four-year-old to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, to inquire about it on March 5. The pair returned to Harrodsburg on March 10, 1851, the matter not yet settled.<sup>1</sup> Harris died on February 20, 1852, at the East Family. His presumed daughter Polly Harris, also a Shaker, wrote the following about her father: “This day Samuel Harris departed this life ... he would have been 89 years of age next November. Samuel was one of the first founders of this society he joined the society in 1806, He had a family of 8 children they all came with him except the 2nd. He has 4 daughters and the Mother here living at this time. He had 3 sons to leave the Society many years ago. Samuel has been a good faithful honest man in building up the caus of Christ and doing all the good he

could, he is now gone to reap his reward, he is the last revolutionery that I know of in these parts.”<sup>2</sup>

## **Pension Narrative**

State of Kentucky  
Mercer County

On this the 14th day of March 1832 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace and Judge of the county court of Mercer County in sd state Samuel Harris aged 69 years, and very infirm so that he cannot attend court who having first duly affirmed according to law (he being of the denomination called believers or Shakers) doth declare and affirm to the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed that 7th day of June 1832 Viz—I Samuel Harris do hereby solemnly affirm in answer to the several interrogations put to me by the director of the war department that I was born in Dutchess [Dutchess] County in New York on a tract of land called the nine partners—and at an early age I moved with my father to York County Pennsylvania, and from there to Berkly [Berkeley] County in Virginia when about 7 years old where I lived when I was called into the service of my country in the revolutionary war as follows, according to an act of the Virginia legislature in the fall of 1780 I volunteered as one of a class of fifteen for eighteen months in the county of Berkly and in October of that year, my company commanded by Capt Conway Oldham rendezvoused at Winchester, where we were organized in to companies, and we then marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina where we were organized into Battalions of Regiments, and we were commanded by Major Riddle and we then marched to Charlotte court house in North Caroline when we halted a few days, and then commenced marching and countermarching and in March 1781 I was engaged in the Battle of Guilford<sup>3</sup> we marched to Camden where we had a battle with Lord Rawdon and he retreated and we pursued on to ninety six which place we besieged<sup>4</sup> for some time and again retreated to the High Hills of Santee where we were stationed in August and on the 8th day of September 1781 we fought the Battle of Eutaw Springs which was a severe one<sup>5</sup>—and Col. Campbell was killed and then our regiment was commanded by Col Edwards But I was taken Prisoner by the British with whom I was kept for three weeks when I was sent back on account of being taken on the field when I was left on a guard to some-wounded officers who had been parolled—I then marched, to the south beyond Charlotte



*Francis Rawdon-Hastings,  
1st Marquess of Hastings,  
as Governor-General of  
India, painted by Joshua  
Reynolds, 1790.*

to a place called [round O.?] and then toward Stono, but our term expiring we were marched back to Head quarters & thence to Salisbury in North Carolina when we were here only discharged—Capt Oldham was killed at the Eutaw Spring we were there commanded by Capt Robert Jouitt who continued my captain until I was discharged—having fully performed my term of eighteen months and a month more, I further state that I kept my discharge for many years and lost or mislaid it since I came to my present residence and I have no documentary evidence of my age or my services neither do I know of any person alive now by whom I can prove them who live in this state, but John Voris and Elisha Thomas have long known me and have heard me relate my service in the revolutionary war at last twenty years since I farther state that I lived in the state of Virginia Berkely County during the war of the revolutionary war except in 1783—I lived some time at my fathers in Washington County Pennsylvania, and in the year 1784 I removed to Kentucky were I have resided ever since, and the past twenty two years in the county of Mercer. I never held any commission during my term of service, and I entered on my tour as I have stated. I further state that I am not now a pensioner of the United States or of any state, and I hereby relinquish all claim which I have to any pension except the present, witness my hand this 14th day of March 1833

Samuel Harris

## **Pension Affidavit**

Mercer County

Mr Elisha Thomas and John Voris do hereby solemnly affirm that we are residents of Pleasant Hill in sd county and have long known the above Saml Harris who has signed and made affirmation to the above declaration and we know that he has often related his services in the revolutionary war to us at least twenty years ago as he has detailed them in his declaration, he has often related the circumstances of his being in the battle of Guilford and at the Eutaw Springs and many other circumstances in relation thereto so that we do not doubt of his have served during the term he has stated as we consider him a man of truth. Witness our hands this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833

Elisha Thomas

John Voris

## **Notes**

1. Zachariah Burnett, Journal July 1, 1846–March 14, 1853. Harrodsburg Historical Society.
2. Polly Harris, “A Journal Kept by Polly Harris For the benefit of the Sisters at the West Family.” Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.
3. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781, was fought in Greensboro, North Carolina. General Nathanael Greene’s forces were defeated by Lord Cornwallis in the southern theatre’s largest battle.
4. Greene’s forces besieged the small settlement of Ninety-Six, South Carolina, populated by 500 Loyalists, from May 22 to June 19, 1781. The approach of Lord Rawdon forced Greene to lift the siege and once again retreat to the High Hills of Santee in western South Carolina.
5. The Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781, pitted British forces commanded by Colonel Alexander Stewart against General Greene. Both sides claimed victory in this indecisive battle, but the net result was that Stewart retreated with his forces to Charleston, leaving the British in control of only the southern coastal ports. Eutaw Springs was the last major engagement in the southern theatre.

# Ezekiel Hatch

Shaker Community: Alfred, Maine

Ezekiel Hatch<sup>1</sup> (1754–1847) served in the Maine Ministry early on in Maine (1798), he was trustee of the Alfred Church Family and he was elder of the North Family. His revolutionary War service began in 1775 in Gorham. His most harrowing service was at the Battle for Stony Point on the Hudson River in 1779. Under the leadership of Maj. Gen “Mad” Anthony Wayne, Ezekiel was part of a successful bayonet charge upon the fort at Stony Point helping to thwart British raids on the northern states. Elder Otis Sawyer summarized Ezekiel’s war service with the following words, “Ezekiel Hatch served seven years, a very brave soldier and true patriot and was one of the few men who courageously stormed and took Stony Point.”

—Leonard L. Brooks, Retired Director, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, New Gloucester, Me.

## Pension Narrative

*State of Maine*

*County of York, SS.*

*On this 3d day of Sept 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the [blank] Court of Probate now sitting at Alfred in said County – Ezekiel Hatch a resident of Alfred in the county of York and State of Maine aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn affirmed according to law, doth on his oath affirmation make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.*

I first enlisted in 1775 for eight months in Hart Williams’ Company—Col. Phinny’s [Phinney’s] Regiment<sup>2</sup> & served that term at Cambridge in Massachusetts—the second enlistment was for one year under the same officers & for the same place & served out that term—third enlistment under Capt Daniel Merrell Col. Brewer’s Regiment Gen Patterson’s brigade for three years & served out that term—was in the battle at Hubbards Town<sup>3</sup> & at the last battle with Burgoyne There he was taken—was at the taking of Stony Point.<sup>4</sup> Then I inlisted again under Capt Hitchcock, Col. Voses’ Regt & served out the nine months in N. York & N. Jersey—was present at the execution of André<sup>5</sup>— The whole term of my service being five years

& five months.

[Witnessed by:]

John Holmes, United States Senator

William B. Holmes, Magistrate

## **Subsequent Documents**

### **Letter 1**

Honl. Jas L Edwards

Comm. Of Pensions

Washington DC

Portland Sept 7th 1838

Sir— Ezekiel Hatch of Alfred a Revolutionary soldier was a pensioner under the Act of 1818 & drew his pension two or three years. When his religious friend of the Society of Shakers of which he is a member persuaded him that this pension money was the “price of blood & wages of sin” & induced him to surrender the pension certificate.

He has now changed his mind in this matter & wishes again to draw his pension and I would respectfully enquire whether, on his making oath to then facts with proof of his being the identical Ezekiel Hatch who so surrendered said Pension Certificate: the Certificate can not be returned to him. If it can not be returned will do him the favour to say what he must do to obtain his pensions & the arrears from the time he refused to draw it— The Certificate was surrendered to the agent for paying pensions in Portland & I presume it has been returned to you—

I have the honor to be Sir, very respectfully your Obt. Sevt, Wllm Anderson

## **Pension Claim by Heir**

State of Maine

York County SS. On this 8th day of November, AD 1850 personally appeared before the Hon Williams C Allen Judge of Probate in and for the County of York George Hatch Administrator of the estate of Ezekiel Hatch late of Alfred in said County deceased, who being first sworn according to law doth on said oath make declaration in order to obtain the arrears of Pension due the said Ezekiel Hatch under the act of June



7th 1832 and also the pension that was due the said Hatch under the act of May 15, 1828.

And this declaration states that the said Ezekiel Hatch was a resident of Gorham in the time of the Revolution and served in the revolutionary war as he believes from its commencement to its close and was a during the war's man on Continental establishment- and was honorably discharged. He believes that the services of the said Ezekial Hatch are fully set for the act of 1832, under which declaration and proof he was placed on the pension Roll of the Maine agency, at the rate of \$80 per annum. He further states that the said Ezekial Hatch drew said Pension for about three years and then in consequence of conscientious scruples refused to receive any pension, and that he died on the 26 day of January 1847 leaving no widow or children, and this declarant further states that as the said Ezekial Hatch served for D. W. [duration of war?] he was entitled under said act of May 16th 1828 to a pension from the 3d Day March 1826 to the 4 day of March 1831. He therefore claims the amount due under both acts of Congress referred to in this declaration.

George Hatch

## **Letter 2**

Eastport 18 Sept 1851

To the Hon J E Heath

Sir I wrote to you the 8th August requesting you to inform me How much my Uncle Ezekiel Hatchs Pension amounted to and how much you Paid on amount of it but I have not Received any answer.

I wish you would be so good as to inform me as soon as you recieve this letter how much was due on his pension and how much you Paid and all the Particulars about it

Mr George Hatch of Westbrook administered on his Pension unbeknown to me and my brother Stephen Hatch of Rockport and we accidentally found it out and he says there is only \$535. to be divided between 14 Hiers [Heirs]. We think there is some thing wrong about it and wish you to inform me all about it. He was of the Shaker family of Alford [Alfred] State of Maine Please dont delay for we want to know yours with Respect

Nathaniel Hatch

## Notes

1. Ezekiel Hatch's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Ezekiel Hatch is on the muster roll of the First Company of Capt. Wentworth Stuart's, now Capt. Jonathan Sawyer's Company, in Col. Edmund Phinney's Battalion of Massachusetts Bay Forces in the garrison at Fort George, New York, Dec. 8, 1776, see: Maine Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, *History of Colonel Edmund Phinney's 18<sup>th</sup> Continental Regiment* (Portland, Me.: Press of the Thurston Print, 1898), 36.
3. The Battle of Hubbardton, Vermont, was fought on July 7, 1777.
4. The Battle of Stony Point, New York, was fought on July 16, 1779.
5. British spy John André was hanged at Tappan, New York, on October 2, 1780.

## Prince Hatch

Shaker Community: Sabbathday Lake, Maine

Prince Hatch (1754–1846) was born in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> In 1783 he married Hannah Phillips. They had seven children born in Marshfield, Massachusetts, between 1784 and 1799. Hatch moved to Knox, Maine, in 1803. In 1813 he left his family to join the Shaker community at Sabbathday Lake, Maine. He was appointed first elder of the Square House Family on February 1, 1820. Prince Hatch died on January 11, 1846, and is buried in the Shaker cemetery.<sup>2</sup> His wife died in 1825; surprisingly, Prince Hatch's name is engraved on her grave marker in the East Knox Cemetery, in Knox Center, Maine.<sup>3</sup>

## Pension Affidavit

I, Briggs Hatch of Nobleboro in the County of Lincoln & State of Maine, aged Eighty-Three years, on Oath declare, That I was a Native of the Town of Marshfield in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, That Prince Hatch, now deceased, but formerly of the said Town of Marshfield, was my brother, That the said Prince Hatch at the time of his decease had five children then living, to wit, Hannah P. Cross, Alvan Hatch, Lucy

Sherman, Harvey Hatch and Hiram P. Hatch. That the said Prince Hatch was a Carpenter by trade. That he was engaged in the Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War several years, That I resided in the said Town of Marshfield at the time of said War, and that I do distinctly recollect that my brother, the said Prince Hatch enlisted and served, (as I understood and believed at the time,) he, the said Prince, was taken prisoner while engaged on board said ship and sent to England, and that it was more than a year from the time he was taken prisoner before he was exchanged and sent home.

That, after the said Prince Hatch returned from his imprisonment, he served in the capacity of carpenter, as I understood and believed at the time, in a Ship of War belonging to Massachusetts, and commanded by George Little aforesaid. The name of the Ship I do not recollect nor the length of the time my brother was engaged on board of her.

That more than Thirty years ago, my brother, the said Prince Hatch united himself with a Religious Society called the Shakers at New Gloucester in the State of Maine, and lived with them from that time until he died—And that it was on account of his connection with the same religious Society that he did not apply for a Pension himself.

Nobleboro April 14th 1847 Briggs Hatch



*Prince Hatch's gravestone,  
East Knox Cemetery,  
Knox Center, Waldo County,  
Maine. Prince Hatch is actually  
buried in the Shaker cemetery at  
Sabbathday Lake, Maine.*

## Pension Affidavit

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of June 7. 1832  
State of Maine  
Waldo County Js

On this second day of February 1847 personally appeared in open Court being the Court of Probate now sitting. Hannah P. Cross, aged sixty-two years Alvan Hatch aged sixty-five years Lucy Sherman aged fifty eight years Harvey Hatch aged fifty-seven years, of Knox in said county of Waldo, children & the only children of Prince Hatch late of New Gloucester [New Gloucester] in the state of Maine a Revolutionary Soldier of the United States now deceased—who being first sworn according to law do on their oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832—That the said Prince Hatch served in the revolution on board the Ship Protector, as Carpenter, Capt. John Foster Williams, Master from March 5th 1780—5 months & 12 days—That he also served on board the same ship as Carpenter from Sept. 12, 1780 to May 5th 1781—7 months & 25 days—He was captured on the 5th day of May 1781 & remained a prisoner to August 11th 1782—15 months & 6 days—

That he afterwards served on board the State Sloop Winthrop as Carpenter, Capt. Geo. Little Master from September 18th to November 25th 1782 2 months & 7 days at £3-18/per month—That he also served on board said Ship as Carpenter same Master from November 26th 1782 to April 9th 1783—4 months & 14 days—in all 35 months & 2 days—All which appears from the Certificate of the Secretary of State of Massachusetts hereto annexed.

They further declare that the said Prince Hatch's name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state & that he never applied for his pension.

They further declare that the said Prince Hatch died at New Gloucester on the 11th day of Jany. 1846 aged ninety-one years that he left no widow & five children only who are now living & the persons above named.

Sworn & transcribed the day & year aforesaid

In presence of N. M. Lowrey

Hannah P. Cross

Alvan Hatch

Lucy Sherman

Harvey Hatch  
Hiram P. Hatch

## **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

Maine. 32.573

Prince Hatch, decd. [deceased]

Waldo Co. *in the State of Maine he was a carpenter in the Co. commanded by Captain Williams of the* [blank] *commanded by* [blank] *in the Revolution* [illegible] *for 2 years Marr seas service*

*Inscribed on the Roll of Portland, Me. at the rate of 15-6 Dollars [blank] Cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March 1831, to 11 Jan. '46, when he died.*

*Certificate of Pension issued the 11 day of June 1847 and sent to Nathl. M. Lowrey, Belfast, Me.*

## **Notes**

1. Prince Hatch's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Peter Michael Smith, "Prince Hatch, Carpenter, Sailor, Prisoner, Husband, Father and Shaker," blog entry from website for *A New England Family Genealogy*, <http://petermichaelsmith.blogspot.com/> (accessed August 6, 2020).
3. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/19329101/prince-hatch>

## **John Houston**

Shaker Communities: New Lebanon and Watervliet, New York;  
Union Village and Watervliet, Ohio

John Houston (1763–1838) came to Union Village with his family from Piqua, Ohio, on August 30, 1809. Houston was one of a number of veterans deposed by Richard McNemar for their pension application in 1832. Further details of his life as a Shaker have eluded a cursory search of community journals for the purposes of this headnote.

### **Pension Narrative**

State of Ohio Warren County Js:

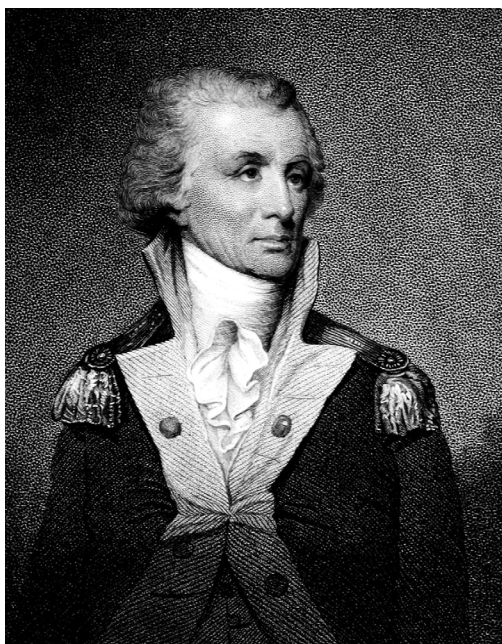
On this third day of October personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Commons Pleas now sitting in the county of Warren aforesaid, John Houston, resident of the Turtle creek township in the said county, aged 69 years, who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth, on this solemn affirmation, make the following declaration; to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832:

That he was born in Mechlinburgh County, State of North Carolina in the year 1762, & that during the period of the revolutionary war his place of residence was still in the said county of Mechlinburgh, in which said county on the tenth day of April 1779 he entered the service of the United States, for three months as a volunteer under a Captain whose name he thinks was Barnes, & within a few days, was marched in Col. McDowell's Regiment, under the command of Gen. Butler to Augusta in the state of Georgia; that he there joined the Light Infantry under Capt. White in the Regiment of Col. Malmodi, a French Officer, who pursued the British towards Charleston, overtook the Enemy at Stono,<sup>1</sup> where a severe Battle was fought; that soon afterwards his term of service was out & he was discharged at Stono & he returned home. That in the month of April 1780 he, the said Applicant, in the county of Tryon, again entered the service of the United States. The name of the Captain of this Company, this Applicant thinks was Wilson, serving in Col. Davy's Regiment, in which he was marched from North Carolina to Waxhall [Waxhaws], near the Hanging-Rock in South-Carolina, from whence he was frequently sent out in scouting parties to scour the country; that in one of these scouting expeditions, some time in the mos. of July 1780,



*A detail of Arthur Middleton  
from a 1771 family portrait of  
the Middleton Family, painted by  
Benjamin West.*

Collection of  
Middleton Place



*Major General Thomas  
Sumter, engraved from a  
drawing by W. C. Johnson  
after the portrait by Charles  
Willson Peale, 1839.*

The National Portrait  
Gallery of Distinguished  
Americans (Philadelphia:  
James B. Longacre, 1839).



this Applicant was taken prisoner by the scouts of Col. Patterson, a British Officer, & conducted to Camden, in South Carolina. After an imprisonment of about three weeks this Applicant was, taken under guard, to Charleston, in company with some of Gen. Gates's<sup>2</sup> army who had also been taken prisoners; that at Charleston, this Applicant was put on board of an English prison ship; that about Christmas time of 1780, he was taken out of the prison ship & lodged in the British Hospital on Gatson's [Gadsden's] wharf,<sup>3</sup> in Charleston; that he continued in the Hospital until some time in the month of February 1781; that he was then removed by the British to their Barracks, from whence, after a few days, this Applicant & three other American prisoners, made their escape & he got home about the first day of March 1781. That within the said month of March 1781, & whilst still residing in Mechlinburgh County, this Applicant again enlisted. His enlistment at that time was for eleven months in a troop of Horse under a Captain whose name he thinks was White. The other officers of this company were Ensign Aikin, Lieutenant Wilson, & Mayor Hampton; His Company belonged to the Second Regiment of South Carolina commander by Col. Middleton, of Gen. Sumptner's [Sumter's]<sup>4</sup> Brigade; that he was marched to Congeree [Congaree] in South Carolina; that this Applicant belonged to the Vanguard of his company; that whilst on the station at Congeree he was at the taking of Buck-Head fort; that at the time Lord Rawdon was going to raise the siege of Ninety Six,<sup>5</sup> this Applicant was in a detachment of 120 men, under Col. Middleton, which had a serious skirmish with the British Troop of Light-horse, at the Juniper Springs.<sup>6</sup> In this conflict Col. Middleton lost a good many men. That they afterwards marched to Orangeburgh & took the fort there; from thence to a Fort near Monk's corner, under which, at a place on the sea-shore called Hobcay [Hobcaw],<sup>7</sup> lay an English raw-galley Schooner which (after dismounting) we boarded & took & plundered of a good deal of money, which was divided amongst all the soldiers of the Brigade; after this exploit we took the Fort. This Fort was evacuated by the enemy in the night &, under Gen. Sumptner this applicant was, in the morning, marched in pursuit; the British crossed Strawberry-bridge & destroyed it after them; we followed on but did not come up with them till they were entrenched; as the Horse could do nothing here, this Applicant raised one of the prisoners muskets & assisted the Infantry in their attack, but we failed in dislodging the enemy. This applicant then mounted his horse & returned in his troop to Congeree. At Congeree he got a furlough, went home, &, after a few weeks returned to Camp. It was whilst he was at home on furlough that the Fort at Eutaw Springs was taken.<sup>8</sup> He was next

marched to Orangeburgh where the Company was stationed for about a month; from thence he was marched to Four-hole Bridge where the troops took up quarters for the winter. Towards the following spring, to wit, about the end of February he was marched back to Congree there received his discharge on 10th March 1782. This discharge was in writing which was kept by this Applicant until it was worn out.—

This Applicant then returned home to Mechlinburgh county, where he continued to reside until 1789 when he removed to Madison county in the state of Kentucky. There he lived till 1800 & then removed to Williamson County in Tennessee where he resided till 1807; thence he removed into Miami County in the state of Ohio & lived there until 1809; then he removed to Warren County, this his present place of abode where has resided ever since. His further states that his age is 69 years and that he has no record evidence of his age nor has he any discharge or other documentary evidence of his service nor does he know of any witness by whom he can prove his revolutionary service—That there is no clergyman in his neighborhood to whom he is known—He states that he is well known to Nathan Sharp, Henry Valentine, Francis Bedle, by all or either of whom he can prove his character for veracity & that it has been generally reported and believed that he this applicant was a soldier of the revolution. And he hereby relinquishes every claim to pension or annuity whatever except this present and that his name not on the pension roll of any state—

his  
John X Houston  
mark

[Witnessed by] Nathan Sharp, Henry Valentine, and Francis Bedle

### **Letter Accompanying Pension Application**

Lebanon 16th May 1833

Dear Sir,

The papers inclosed herewith were shown me to day by the applicant. From an inspection of the objections returned there is but one Viz that the applicant has produced, no witness to his services—you will observe that he has sworn that he knows of no witness by whom he can prove his services. He cannot swear that there is positively no witness by whom he

could prove his services for to do this he must know of his own knowledge whether every one who may have seen him in the service, is dead. This I should think would require of applicant an extent of information which no man living does possess—

I have to ask of you to review your decision & hope on a careful examination you will find a sufficient reason at the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the petition for dispensing with positive proof of service—Please address me on the subject as soon as convenient

Yours very respectfully

Tho. Corwin

J L Edwards Esqr  
W City DC

## Notes

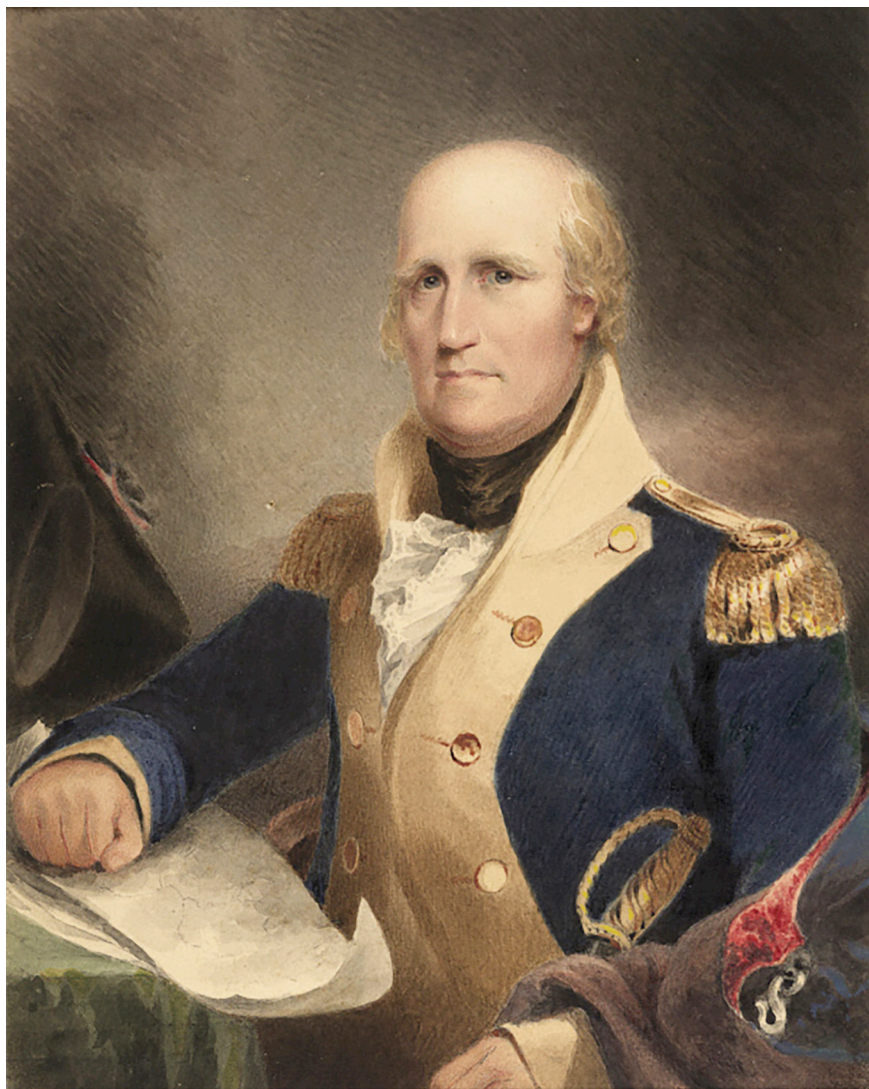
1. The Battle of Stono Ferry was fought on June 20, 1779, near Charleston, South Carolina. American forces defending Charleston unsuccessfully attacked a retreating British force.
2. General Horatio Gates (1727–1806), the hero of Saratoga in 1777, vied unsuccessfully to replace General George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. He was later disgraced at the Battle of Camden in 1780 when he precipitously fled the battlefield on horseback.
3. Gadsden's Wharf, located in Charleston, South Carolina, was completed in 1772. It was owned by Christopher Gadsden. At one time it was the largest wharf in America and the disembarkation point for tens of thousands of African slaves.
4. General Thomas Sumter (1734–1832) was a soldier in the Virginia militia and a brigadier general in the South Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War. He was also a planter and after the war served in the United States Congress as a representative and senator from South Carolina. He was nicknamed the "Carolina Gamecock."
5. The Siege of Ninety Six in western South Carolina lasted from May 22 to June 18, 1781. American General Nathanael Greene and nearly a thousand troops besieged 550 Loyalists. Greene was unsuccessful and lifted the siege when Lord Rawdon, leading a force of British troops, approached from Charleston.
6. "Myddleton's Ambuscade" was fought on June 18, 1781, in the Orangeburgh District, Lexington County, South Carolina, (also known as Juniper Springs. Col. Charles Myddleton was ambushed by British cavalry Major John Coffin.

7. The Hobcaw Barony is located on a peninsula called Waccamaw Neck between the Winyah Bay and the Atlantic Ocean in Georgetown County, South Carolina.
8. The Battle of Eutaw Springs was fought on September 8, 1781, near present-day Eutawville, South Carolina. It was the last major battle fought in the Carolinas. There were heavy casualties on both sides and no clear victor.

## Henry Hutton

Shaker Community: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky

Henry Hutton (1754–1829?) served with General George Rogers Clark during the Illinois Campaign of 1778–1779. He was among the first wave of Shaker converts at Shawnee Run (later Pleasant Hill), Kentucky, in 1806. Henry and his wife Hannah signed the community's first covenant in 1807, and moved from Madison County, Kentucky, to Pleasant Hill permanently in 1808. He worked as a saddler and harness maker in the community.<sup>1</sup> Records indicate that he and his wife apostatized from the community on June 1, 1827, during a tumultuous period of trouble with apostates and anti-Shaker activists.<sup>2</sup> Documents printed below assert that he died around 1829. In 1850 Hutton's widow Hannah applied for his pension. Pleasant Hill Shaker Zachariah Burnett recorded in his journal for May 30, 1850: "Judge Balinger in Co with Dr. Thompson came to get some Testimony to prove the Widow Henry Huttons claim to pension for services of 3 years in Clarks Campaign in the Ill. Territory in the year 1778 79, & part of 80. Henry Hutton has been dead for many years but the old Woman is living yet, and is said in Lincoln County." Hannah Hutton died in December of that year, but her daughter Mary Reynolds continued efforts to secure the funds. On January 16, 1851, Burnett recorded the visit of an attorney named Campbell, "to take the depositions of Joel S[hields]], & Z. Burnett, to prove Henry Huttons claim to a pension for having served with Geo. Rogers Clark in his campaign of 1778, & 79."<sup>3</sup> Despite the Hutton's apostasy their former brethren were willing to supply supportive depositions, although unfortunately these are not preserved in Hutton's pension file. It appears that Mary Reynold's claim was ultimately rejected.



*George Rogers Clark, drawn by James B. Longacre, 1825.*  
National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.

## **Pension Affidavit**

State of Kentucky  
Rockcastle County Set

Be it known that on this 23rd day of March 1852 personally appeared Before me Thos. J Smith an acting Justice of the Peace in & for the county and state afd [aforesaid] Mary Reynolds aged about 65 years who being duly sworn according to the Law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the acts of Congress passed 7th of July 1838, 3rd of March 1843, 17th of June 1844, 22nd of February 1848, To wit that she is the child of Henry and Hannah Hatton Decsd that her afd Father served in the Army of the Revolution several years, under the Command of Gen Clark under Capt Anthony Crockett and when Capt Crockett was sent to Virginia he acted as captain in his place, he was an Ensign before he acted as captain in Crockets place, he served to the end of the war.

Her aged Father and Mother were married she thinks at McMurty's station in the summer of 1784, (McMurtys station was in Mercer County Kentucky) that her afd Father, died about the year of 1829, and that her afd mother died on the 20th day of December 1850 and left four children Viz., Jane Hatton, Elizabeth Hatton, John Hatton and the Declarant (May Reynolds).

## **Notes**

1. Church Record Book B, Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. Harrodsburg Historical Society; The Origin and Progress of the Society at Pleasant Hill. Harrodsburg Historical Society.
2. Pleasant Hill Shaker Membership Database. Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.
3. Zachariah Burnett, Journal July 1, 1846–March 14, 1853. Harrodsburg Historical Society.

## **Bennett Libbey**

Shaker Community: Canterbury, New Hampshire

Bennett Libbey's<sup>1</sup> (1754?–1837) son, also named Bennett Libbey, claimed his father's pension after his father's decease. Shaker Trustee David Parker provided an affidavit attesting to Libbey's service. The Epsom, New Hampshire, History Blog provides this information about Libbey's life: "Bennett Libbey was baptized at Rye January 27, 1754, his parents, Isaac Libbey and Ann Symmes. His parents came to Epsom early on, and his father was a signer of the Association Test. His birth name was Arthur Bennick, and left Epsom for Strafford, Vermont, in 1793, and moved back in 1803, joining the Shakers in Canterbury. His wife was Eleanor Haynes, a daughter of John and Olive (Weeks) Haynes of Epsom. Children included: Matthia, Isaac, Bennett, Hannah, Annie, Olive, Polly, John H. and Sarah."<sup>2</sup> Elder Henry C. Blinn's memorial of Sister Hannah Bronson provides more information on Libbey and the circumstances surrounding his conversion to Shakerism.<sup>3</sup>

### **Pension Affidavit**

I David Parker<sup>4</sup> one of the trustees of the family of Shakers in Canterbury in the County of Merimac State of New Hampshire on affirmation state that Bennett Libbee was for more than 25 years before his death a member of the Society of Shakers. He died on the seventh day of September AD 1837. aged 83 years and 8 mos. Bennett Libbee was reported to have been a soldier of the Revolution. He left no widow and Bennett Libbee now residing in Canterbury is the only surviving child of the said Bennett Libbee deceased. He was a member of the Society of Shakers & therefore declined a pension. David Parker— Trustee

State of New Hampshire

Merrimack Js August 24. 1852

Personally appearing the above named David Parker known to me as a man of truth and made solemn affirmation that the above affidavit by him subscribed is true

Before Me

J M Harper

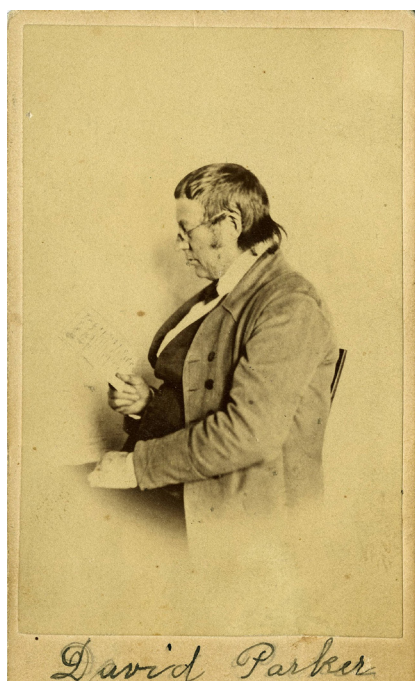
Justice of the Peace



*Major-General  
Henry Dearborn,  
painted by  
Gilbert Stuart, 1812.*  
Collection of  
the Art Institute  
of Chicago



*Trustee David Parker,  
Canterbury, New Hampshire.*  
Communal Societies Collection,  
Hamilton College





## **Pension Affidavit**

State of New Hampshire  
Merrimack Js

On this twenty fourth day of August AD 1852 personally appeared before the Hon. Horace Chase Judge of Probate in and for the County of Merrimack Zebulon K Harmon Administrator of the estate of Bennett Libbee late of Canterbury in said County deceased, who being duly sworn according to law doth in oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of June 7th 1832.

And your declaration states that Bennett Libbee served eight months in 1775 in Capt. Henry Dearborns<sup>5</sup> Company in Col John Starks<sup>6</sup> Regiment and was in Cambridge. The tradition has been that he served in the Revolution and this declarant has heard John Wadleigh<sup>7</sup> so state, at a time when said Wadleigh was of a sound mind. Your declarant states that the said Bennett Libby died at Canterbury on the seventh day of September 1837 aged 83 years and 5 months that he left no widow and that Bennet Libbee is the only surviving child. He therefore claims the pension due said Libbee under the act as aforesaid—  
Z. K. Harmon Administrator

Subscribed and sworn to on the day and year before written  
Before me  
Horace Chase Judge of Probate

## **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

State of New Hampshire  
Secretary of States Office

I do hereby certify That from an examination of the Books and Documents, relating to Military services in the war of the Revolution, which remain in this office, it appears that the name of Bennett Libbee is borne upon a Pay Roll of Captain Henry Dearborns Company in Col. John Starks Regiment to August six 1775. as a private in said company & Time of Entry Apl. 23: Time in service 3 months 16 days.  
Army Rolls Vol 8. Page 99.

Same Vol. Page 106 is the following:

“We the subscribers belonging to Capt. Dearborns Company in Coll. Harks Regt. do hereby acknowledge that we have receivd. of Timo. Walker Jr. four dollars each man in full satisfaction for the Regimental Coat which was promised us by the Colony of New Hampshire.”

The foregoing is signed by Bennett Libbee and others.

## Notes

1. Bennett Libbee's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. <https://epsomhistory.blogspot.com/2016/07/rev-war-vet-bennett-libbey.html>
3. Henry C. Blinn, “Hannah Bronson,” *Manifesto* 25, no. 7 (July 1895): 149-52.
4. David Parker (1807–1884) was appointed to the New Hampshire Shaker Ministry in 1837, splitting his time between the Enfield and Canterbury, New Hampshire, communities. He later served as trustee of the Church Family at Canterbury and was famous for his promotion of the washing machine invented by that community.
5. Henry Dearborn (1751–1829) served throughout the Revolutionary War, and was present on Benedict Arnold's ill-fated expedition to capture Quebec in 1775, as well as the surrender at Yorktown in 1781. He was on George Washington's staff and later was secretary of war under President Thomas Jefferson.
6. General John Stark (1728–1822) served as an officer in the British Army during the French and Indian War, and later as a Major General in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. A New Hampshire native, he is best remembered for his valorous service at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, in 1777.
7. John Wadleigh was perhaps the most famous Shaker veteran of the Revolutionary War. His pension narrative is also included in this issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly*.

## **James Merrill**

Shaker Community: Sabbathday Lake, Maine

James Merrill (1745–1833) served under his brother Nathan in the Penobscot Expedition of 1779. More detail is called for regarding the Penobscot Expedition. It was an attempt by Massachusetts, the owner of the District of Maine, to wrest control of eastern Maine from the British who had set-up shop at Bagaduce, now Castine. The British from Castine on Penobscot Bay could control the timber resources of Maine and many key shipping lanes. To quote an historian of the last century writing of the Penobscot Expedition, “Massachusetts mounted a major expedition to dislodge the enemy but suffered a disaster so complete as to leave the state bankrupt, virtually defenseless, and more divided than ever.” These shenanigans and virtually the same British occupation of the same area in the War of 1812 led to Maine’s independence from Massachusetts in 1820. The Merrills, Elisha Pote, and Edward Ryon were part of the 600 man contingent from Cumberland County—a total of 1500 militia that went from southern Maine to Castine. The Massachusetts commanders—general and commodore—failed to organize a solid strategy and failed to follow through on any part of their ill-timed strategy to take the British Fort George, high on the bluffs. You just heard the 20th century view of the Expedition. The contemporary was even sadder. “Shott and timember flew verey thick up and Down the River” as ships were scuttled and the men as soon as they reached shore from the sinking ships considered their enlistments at an end. The words of what one survivor experienced: “Our retreat was as badly managed as the whole expedition. Here we are, landed in a wilderness, and only knew that a west course would carry us across Kennebec ... Every one shifted for himself. Some got to their homes in two days, while the most of us were six or seven days before we came to an inhabited country. I got through on the seventh day, after keeping a fast of three days.”

—Leonard L. Brooks, Retired Director, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, New Gloucester, Me.

## Nathan Merrill

Shaker Community: Sabbathday Lake, Maine

Nathan Merrill<sup>1</sup> (1743–1819) enlisted about a month after the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775; he was part of the siege of Boston in 1776 and he was captain of a company that went on the Penobscot Expedition of 1779. He was discharged late in 1779. The Penobscot Expedition was a disaster for the American side. Paul Revere was one of the officers in this ill-fated attempt to force the British out of eastern Maine and he was nearly court martialed for his part in that loss. The naval and army forces were poorly led. Four years later in 1783, Nathan became the first of some twenty-five Merrills to convert to the Shaker Church. Nathan was one of the Maine Shakers to see Mother Ann just before her death in 1784—Nathan's wife Rachel mended in Mother's apron. Nathan was one of eighty brothers who helped in the construction of the 1794 Meetinghouse. When Sabbathday Lake's covenant was written in 1796, Nathan was the Deacon, his brother Edmund was Elder Brother and his sister-in-law, Charity Proctor Merrill was a Deaconess.

—Leonard L. Brooks, Retired Director, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, New Gloucester, Me.

### Pension Narrative

*United States of America.*

*Maine District SS.*

*At a Special District Court of the United States begun and holden at Portland, within and for said District, on the first day of August A. D. eighteen hundred and thirty-two before the Honorable Ashur Ware, Judge of said Court, On this first day of August, aforesaid, personally appeared in open Court before said District Judge Nathan Merrill a resident of Cumberland in the county of Cumberland in said Maine District, aged Eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he enlisted as a soldier into the Continental service in the Revolutionary war to serve eight months in the company commanded by Capt. Samuel Noyes of Falmouth<sup>2</sup> in the County of Cumberland & District of Maine. That he enlisted at Falmouth aforesaid early in the spring of 1775 & believes he enlisted in April of that year that he marched with said Company to Cambridge in Massachusetts*

said Noyes being Captain & Josiah Baker first Lieut. & Joshua Merrill of said Falmouth second Lieutenant on arriving at Cambridge he from Col. Phinney's Regiment. Gen. Heath's Brigade & he believes that Genl. Putman<sup>3</sup> [Putnam] had the High command as he worked under said Putman's directions in erecting Forts & works of defence & he served out the whole of said eight months in said Cambridge & from that town to the borders of Boston & was regularly discharged at the end of said eight months. & he further declares that he never had a written discharge as he can now remember. & he further says that Moses Merrill and Amas [Amos] Merrill of said Falmouth were soldiers in the same company & served the same time. And he declares he was born in said Falmouth on the 20th of March A.D. 1753. that he has a record of his age in a family Bible at his house in said Cumberland & he lived in said Falmouth when he entered the service & soon after he left the Army he settled in that part of North Yarmouth now incorporated Cumberland where he has ever since resided. *he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any agency in any State,* Nathan Merrill.

*Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. Before, Ashur Ware U.S. Judge for the District of Maine*

## **Pension Account**

Maine 4019

Nathan Merrill

Cumberland in the State of Maine who was a private in the company commanded by Captain Noyes of the Regt. commanded by Col. Phineys [Phinneys] in the Mass. troops line for 8 months

*Inscribed on the Roll of Maine at the rate of 26 Dollars 66 Cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.*

*Certificate of Pension issued the 7 day of Jany. 1833 and sent to Hon. J. Anderson, H. of R.*

<i>Arrears to 4<sup>th</sup> of Sept'r 1832</i>	\$39.99
<i>Semi-anl allowance ending 4 Mar 33</i>	\$13.33
	\$53.32

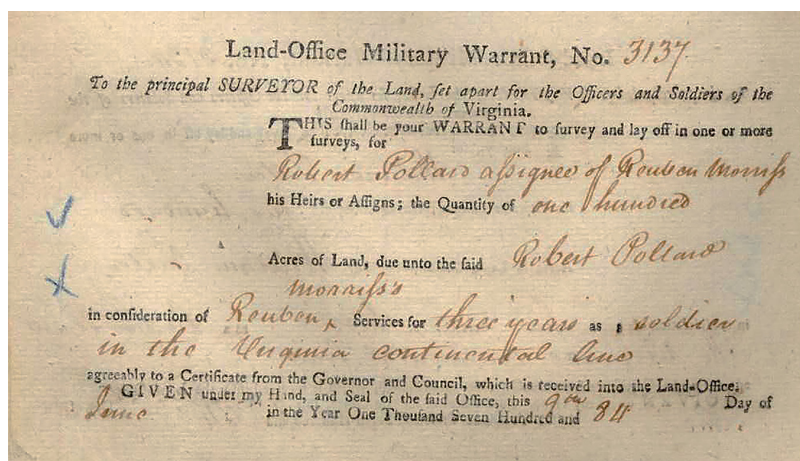
## Notes

1. Nathan Merrill's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Falmouth was the name of the current city of Portland, Maine, during the Revolutionary War.
3. General Israel Putnam served in the French and Indian War with Robert Roger's Rangers. He was captured by Mohawk Indians but later released. He served as a major general in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and was known as "Old Put" by his men. He was a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought on June 17, 1775.

## Reuben Morris

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Reuben Morris (1756–?) converted to Shakerism in 1805. He and his family lived at Eagle Creek or Straight Creek, Ohio. By April 1, 1811, they had moved to the Union Village, Ohio, community. Morris left Union Village on September 28, 1836, aged eighty, not long after he secured his pension funds.<sup>1</sup> His ultimate fate remains undiscovered.



*Reuben Morris's land grant, given to his heir Robert Pollard.*  
National Archives

## Pension Narrative

State of Ohio

Warren County to:

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Commons Pleas now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid, Reuben Morris resident of Union Village in the said County, aged 76 years who believing duly affirmed, according to Law, doth, on his solemn affirmation make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832:

That at the commencement of the revolutionary war he resided in Orange County, State of Virginia & in the year 1776 enlisted in the army of the United States for the term of one year under Capt. Green in whose Company Richard Taylor was the First Lieutenant, John Ustridge was Second Lieut. & John Lee was Ensign;—that this company belonged to the First Virginia Regiment commanded by Patrick Henry, & afterwards by Col. Christy; that he was marched to Williamsburg where he remained a few months, in which period he re-enlisted for two years to go on board of a privateer, serving as a Marine under Capt. John Lee during the term of about one year & an half; that he then accepted an offer to enlist for three years in the Land service &, on the 28 Decr. 1777 was enrolled under Capt. John Willis, & Lieut. Benjamin Holmes of the Second Virginia Regiment & was marched to Williamsburg & was stationed there till the first day of March 1778; thence was marched with the Regiment to Baltimore; thence (by sea) to the Eastern Shore of Maryland; thence to New-Castle, in the state of Delaware; that he lay there ill with the Smallpox & Camp fever & was otherwise absent on furlough for about three months, after which he rejoined the main army on the day they marched through Philadelphia to meet the British at Brandywine,<sup>2</sup> that he was in the Brandywine Battle & in the retreat to Germantown<sup>3</sup> & also in the Germantown Battle & through all the succeeding maneuvers until the army was conducted to winter quarters at the Valley Forge; that he remained there until the following June; was then marched to Monmouth,<sup>4</sup>—there overtook the British & was in the Battle fought there in June 1778; that thence he was marched back,—crossed the North river at King's ferry & marched on to the White Plains; that he remained there several weeks; that their Brigade was then marched to Newark & stationed there till about Christmas,—thence conducted to Headquarters at Middlebrook, there remained till about the first of June, when a Company of volunteers was raised under

Col. Anthony Wayne<sup>5</sup> into which company this applicant entered & was marched to a place on the North river called Plank-house-point & thence to the storming & taking of Stony point, after which this applicant with others returned to their respective Regiments, & that on the 9th of September following he was discharged by Capt. William Taylor under the signature of Col. Christian Febiger.—This Applicant further states that some time in the beginning of June 1781 he again entered the service as a substitute for Thomas Davis & served under Capt. Richard Webb, the first Lieutenant of whose Company was William Young belonging to the Regiment in which George Stubblefield was first & Edward Spencer was the Second Colonel of the Brigade commanded by General Edward Stephens; that he was marched to Hillsborough then to Rugely's mill in South Carolina where his Company was joined to Genl. Gates's<sup>6</sup> army, whence, after the battle at Camden<sup>7</sup> he was marched back to Hillsborough in North Carolina, & from thence was sent on duty to Richmond in Virginia, where he received a furlough from Gov. Thomas Jefferson to go home for his winter clothes, & Gates's army being defeated & disbanded Gen. Stephens returned home & gave said Applicant his discharge about a month before his term of service was ended. This Applicant further states that sometime in March 1782 he again entered the service as a substitute for one Lowe of Spotsylvania County for the term of two months & served out that term at Williamsburg & elsewhere under a militia Captain whose name is not recollected belonging to a Regiment in the Brigade of Genl. La Fayette.<sup>8</sup> That afterwards in the summer of the same year he again served as a substitute for one month in the room of one whose name is not recollected, & then engaged for two months a substitute for one whose name is also forgotten, under Col. John Slaughter, & served 15 days & by hiring a substitute for the remainder of the term got a final discharge from Col. John Slaughter.—He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

his  
Reuben X Morris  
mark

Sworn to and Subscribed in open court this day & year afo.  
J. K. Wilds clk



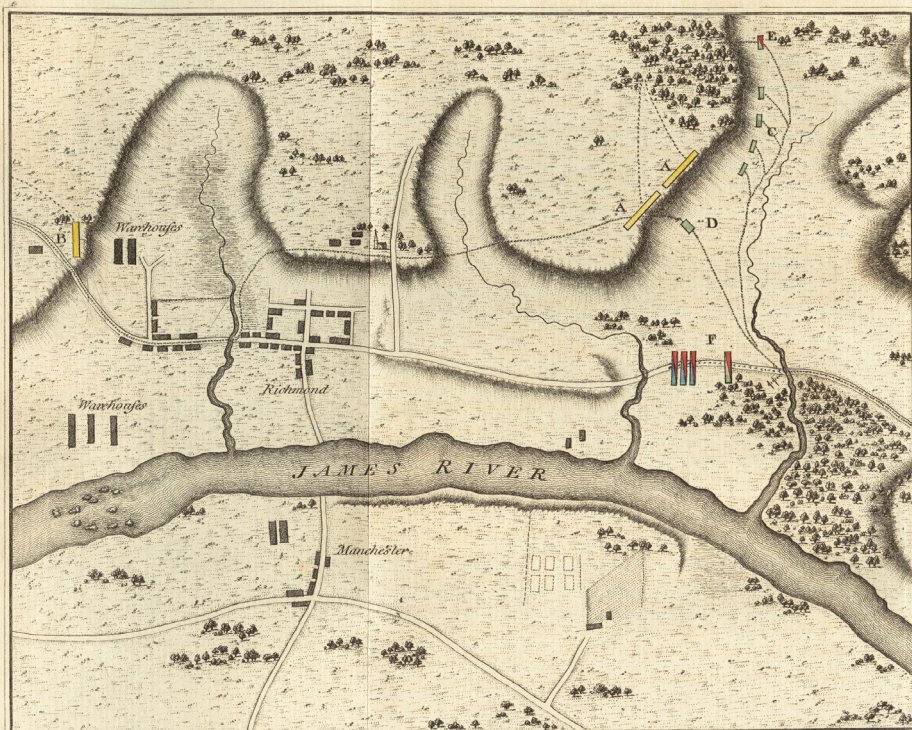
## Notes

1. John Patterson MacLean, *Shakers of Ohio* (Columbus, Oh.: F.J. Heer Printing Co., 1907), 274-75, 364.
2. The Battle of Brandywine was fought on September 11, 1777, at Brandywine Creek (or Chadd's Ford), Pennsylvania. The Continental Army commanded by General George Washington was defeated by the British Army under General Sir William Howe.
3. The Battle of Germantown was fought on October 4, 1777, at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Continental Army commanded by General George Washington was defeated by the British Army under General Sir William Howe.
4. The Battle of Monmouth (or Battle of Monmouth Court House) was fought near Freehold Township, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778. The battle was a draw, but George Washington trumpeted the discipline of his troops, newly trained at their Valley Forge encampment the previous winter by the Baron von Steuben.
5. Major General Anthony Wayne (1745–1796) served in the Revolutionary War and also in campaigns against Native American Tribes in the Northwest Territory. His exploits and personality earned him the nickname “Mad Anthony.” On August 20, 1794, he defeated a large Native American force at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Maumee, Ohio.
6. General Horatio Gates (1727–1806), the hero of Saratoga in 1777, vied unsuccessfully to replace General George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. He was later disgraced at the Battle of Camden in 1780 when he precipitously fled the battlefield on horseback.
7. The Battle of Camden was fought on August 16, 1780, in South Carolina. British forces led by Lord Cornwallis defeated a larger Patriot force led by Major General Horatio Gates.
8. Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette (1757–1834) was a French aristocrat and military officer. He commanded American troops in several Revolutionary War battles.

## William Patillo

Shaker Community: South Union, Kentucky

William Patillo (1768–1850) converted to Shakerism along with his wife Sally and their children. He is first mentioned in South Union records in 1819. Patillo's wife and children left the community around 1824, but their son Servetus returned in 1866 and remained, albeit itinerantly, until 1877. Little more is known about the Patillo family.<sup>1</sup>



From a Sketch of Lt. Allans of the Queens Rangers

Skirmish at **RICHMOND** Jan: 5<sup>th</sup> 1781.

A. Rebel Infantry. B. Rebel Cavalry. C. Queen's Rangers. D. Queen's Rangers Cavalry. E. Yagers. F. British Army.

*“Skirmish at Richmond Jan: 5th. 1781. From a Sketch of Lt. Allans of the Queen’s Rangers,” engraved in 1787.*

## Pension Narrative

Declaration, In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832

State of Kentucky

Logan County J.S. On this 2d day of September 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the County [illegible] of Logan [illegible] Court now setting, William Patillo a resident in said County of Logan in the State of Kentucky, aged Seventy three years who being first duly sworn according to the law: doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born in Charlotte County in the State of Virginia in the Month of May 1760 he has no written record of his age, but derived from his parents information in reference to his birth.

He enlisted in the service of the United States in the summer of the year 1780 for the term of eighteen months at Mr. Spencers in said County of Charlotte under Captain Overton as a private—We rendezvoused at Brunswick Court House, but were soon marched from thence to Chesterfield Barracks, Jeddings Spencer and Joseph Morton went with us from Charlotte recommended as fit persons to command the company to which your declarant was to be attached and the former was appointed Lieutenant after we reached said Barracks one Reed was appointed Captain, One Colon Davis had the command at said Barracks—during the ensuing winter the British came up to West Ham on James River. We marched down and met them, at this time Captain Culberson had the command of the company to which he belonged, the British retreated on our approach through Richmond on the North side of the River & our troops continued on the South side, we marched thro' Petersburg to the junction of the Appamatox River with James River where the British shipping lay—here we had a night skirmish the British went on board their vessels and sailed down the River. We were then ordered back to the Barracks at Chesterfield Courthouse where we remained till we drew clothing and underwent a general Review—About this time there was a call for troops to assist Genl. Green who had the Command of the Southern Army. We were ordered to his relief and marched in the month of February, we crossed the Roanoak at Taylors ferry and joined Genl. Green's Army at or near Hillsborough, North Carolina, a short time before the battle at Guilford Courthouse, the regime[nt] to which he belonged at this time was commanded by Colon. A. Campbell who was afterwards killed at the Battle of Eutaw Springs—He was in the Battle of Guilford

Courthouse<sup>2</sup> from hence we marched to Campden [Camden], the British stationed there made battle, we drove them into the garrison and that night they marched off—from here we marched to the Post of Ninety six in South Carolina and besieged that place which was garrisoned by a British force under one Colon Stewart or Genl. Stewart.<sup>3</sup> After some days the British having received a re-inforcement Genl. Green thought fit to raise the siege and did so—immediately after the siege He was transfered to Colon Lee's Legion of dragoons and placed under the Command of Capt Armstrong We were stationed a short time at the high hills of Santee in this neighborhood we had many skirmishes, marching & counter marching untill the Battle of Eutaw Springs,<sup>4</sup> your declarant fought in said legion in the Battle which was the last fight he was in—soon after the Battle he was taken sick and sent to the hospittle at the High Hills of Santee where he remained untill his term of enlistment expired which was the last day of December, he thinks the battle at the Eutaw Springs was in September. He Served out the full term of enlistment which was for eighteen months for which he received a written discharge at or near Charlotte Town in North Carolina which said discharge is lost or misplaced.

## Notes

1. I thank Tommy Hines, executive director of South Union Shaker Village for this information on the Patillo family.
2. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781, was fought in Greensboro, North Carolina. General Nathanael Greene's forces were defeated by Lord Cornwallis in the southern theatre's largest battle.
3. Greene's forces besieged the small settlement of Ninety-Six, South Carolina, populated by five hundred Loyalists, from May 22 to June 19, 1781. The approach of Lord Rawdon forced Greene to lift the siege and once again retreat to the High Hills of Santee in western South Carolina.
4. The Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781, pitted British forces commanded by Colonel Alexander Stewart against General Greene. Both sides claimed victory in this indecisive battle, but the net result was that Stewart retreated with his forces to Charleston, leaving the British in control of only the southern coastal ports. Eutaw Springs was the last major engagement in the southern theatre.

## John Patten

Shaker Community: Hancock, Massachusetts

John Patten's<sup>1</sup> (1759–1858) pension application process has been well documented by scholar Sandra A. Soule in her biography of Robert White Jr.<sup>2</sup> He was born on July 26, 1759, and was a Shaker as early as 1791, eventually becoming an elder in Hancock's Second Family. Patten applied in 1844, seeking to secure he funds for the future use of his nephew. A covering letter submitted with his pension materials notes: "Herewith you will receive the declaration of John Patten a Shaker—an intelligent and interesting man—who for conscience sake has always refused, until now, to make application for his pension—what prompts him now to apply, is, he has learned that a distant relation of his is waiting for him to die & then to get to himself the pension due to his uncle."<sup>3</sup> Notably, Patten's Shaker colleagues in the eldership William P. Williams and Reuben Hawkins both affirmed Patten's testimony. So did Miles Avery of Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Avery stated, "He served in a Revolutionary War company that was often stationed near Patten's company," and that he "was well acquainted with said Patten when a boy—we were born & brought up in the same town & neighborhood viz Norwich, Connecticut—I know him now." Patten was present at what has become one of the most famous events of the Revolutionary War—Alexander Hamilton's capture of Redoubt 10 at the Battle of Yorktown. Additionally, as documented by Soule, Patten was probably the only Shaker veteran of the Revolutionary War whose service was approved of by the spirits through a message delivered by a visionist at Hancock, Massachusetts, during the Era of Manifestations. His 1844 pension application was successful. Patten subsequently applied for, and received, 160 acres of bounty lands made available by federal legislation in 1855. The disposition of the lands is unknown. Patten died at Hancock on October 25, 1858.





## Pension Narrative

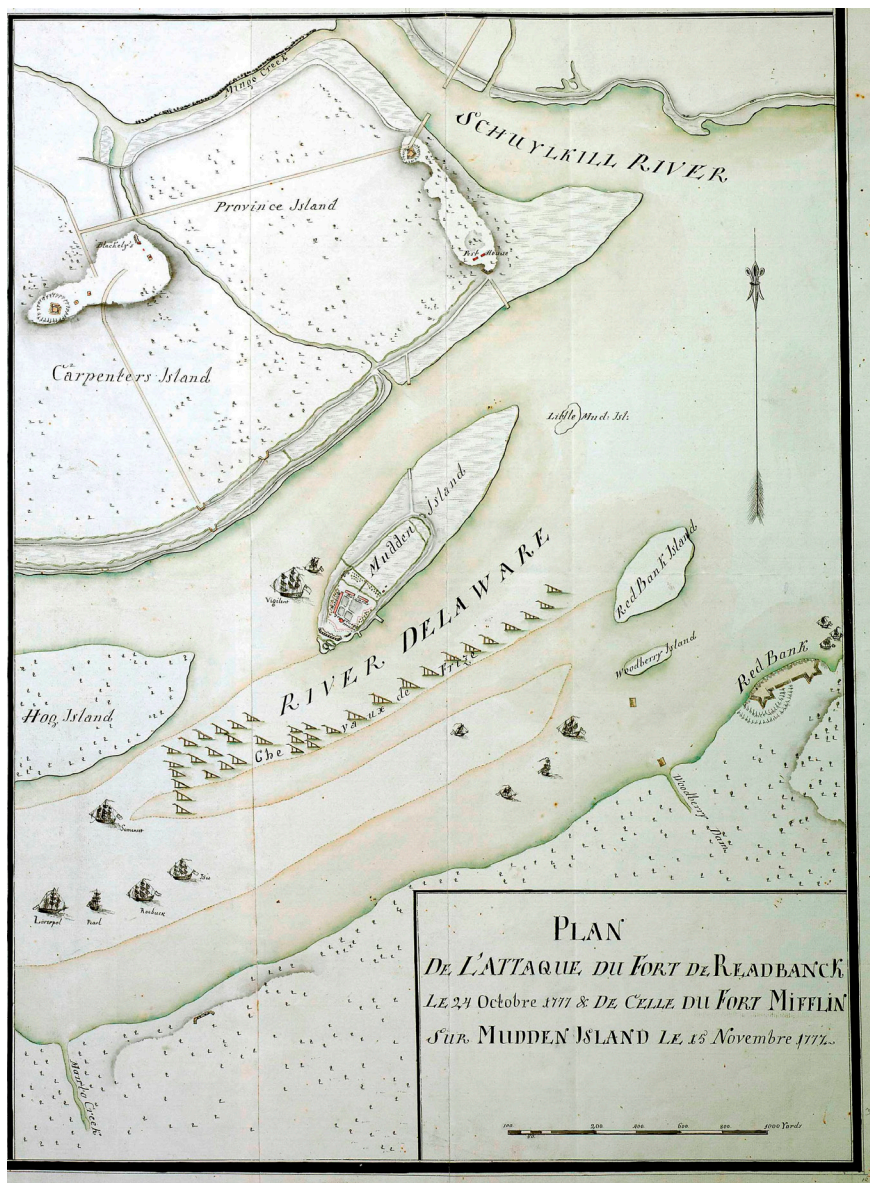
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
County of Berkshire. Js.

On this fourteenth day of May in the year one thousand Eight hundred and forty four personally appeared in open Court before the Supreme Judicial Court holden at Lenox in and for said County & now sitting,—John Patten—a resident of Pittsfield in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts aged eighty three years, who being first duly affirmed according to law doth on his affirmation make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

First service was an enlistment for six months, at Preston in the State of Connecticut in a company of troops commanded by Capt Winters, in a Regt. commanded by Col. Sheldon or Selden—thinks Major's name was Willis, but not positive—under Gen. Wadsworth—went to New York—was there about the time of the battle on Long Island<sup>4</sup>—when he was ordered over to a Fort East of Brooklyn & he was a private—troops were of the Connecticut Line—the enlistment was in May 1776.—the precise day he cannot tell. served the full time of his enlistment—namely six months and was discharged and went home

His next service. Paul Harvey under whom said Patten was learning the trade of shoe maker tanner & currier was draughted and he the said Patten went as a substitute in his place—entered service at sd Preston as a private in Company of Militia under Capt Boardman in month of March or April 1777, went to New London and staid in service until some time in May—precise day he cannot state—nor can he tell precisely whether it was before the expiration of said two months

He there at said New London enlisted into the service of the sd. United States for three years in a company of Troops of the Connecticut Line, commanded by Capt Andrew Fitch, Beriah Bill—was Lieut—in a Regt. commanded by Col. John Durkee—went to Peekskill in N York.—was at the siege of Mud Fort 14 miles below Philadelphia.<sup>5</sup> Was in a flank guard on the left at the battle of Monmouth,<sup>6</sup> but not in the battle. He knew while in service Miles Avery a sergeant in another Company, in the same Regiment, who now lives in Great Barrington and to whose deposition he refers.



An eighteenth century Hessian map from the of the Philadelphia Campaign showing the Siege of Mud Island.  
 Collection of the Marburg State Library, Germany



His fourth service was in 1780, in last of August or forepart of September of sd. year. One Perkins son of a merchant at Norwich Landing Connecticut was drafted for three months, said Patten went in his stead as a substitute and served as a private three months—this service was in Norwich and vicinity, cutting fascines<sup>7</sup> which he supposed were to be sent to Rhode Isld. His Captain was Elijah Brewster. Major Rogers of Norwich was the Major & was discharged in Nov or Dec of the above year.

In May (as he thinks) in the year 1781. he enlisted as a private for three years at said Norwich in a Company Infantry under Capt Samuel Cliff, 1st Connecticut Regiment John Durkee Colonel—He joined his Regt. at Peekskill he believes. In August 1781, his Company and three other companies viz.: one under Capt. Rice—one under Captain Bleeker, one under Captain Hamtramck started from White Plains, marched under Commd. of Lieut Col Alexander Hamilton to head of Chesapeake Bay thence by water to Williamsburg Va. thence to Yorktown—Cornwallis had two advanced forts which annoyed us—after the siege had lasted some days—the Americans (including the troops in which he was) were ordered to storm one of the forts & the French the other.<sup>8</sup> The officers exhorted “Remember New London”<sup>9</sup>—were ordered to advance with trailed unloaded arms

Major Fish commanded the American assailants who advanced with loud shouts and captured one of the Forts. The French took the other Fort. We subsequently marched out and lay down in front of Cornwallis’s line—The Virginia Line being in rear throwing up breast works—was so ordered for protection of the Virginia Militia had the British advanced upon them—He witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis.

After the taking of Cornwallis—he went aboard ship up Elk Bay—thence by land to West Point staid there on Camp duty until New Year’s day 1784, when he was honorably discharged. He had a written discharge but has lost it.—for about a year while at West Point he was a corporal and had a warrant but has lost it. Col. Durkee resigned before I was discharged & went home and died. Col Huntington was at West Point—Gen Henry Knox, he thinks was at West Point when he was discharged.

He has no documentary evidence but believes that the rolls at Washington will show his services in Col. Durkee’s Regiment—While his said first 3 years service he knew Miles Avery by now of Great Barrington, who was in the same Regiment a sergeant and who is now a pensioner—He knows of no one else—surviving by whom he can prove his services—

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension-roll of



(Above) *“Washington Before Yorktown,”* painted by Rembrandt Peale, 1823.



(Below) *“Surrender of Lord Cornwallis,”* painted by John Trumbull, detail showing (from left to right) Colonels Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens, and Walter Stewart. Collection of the United States Capitol

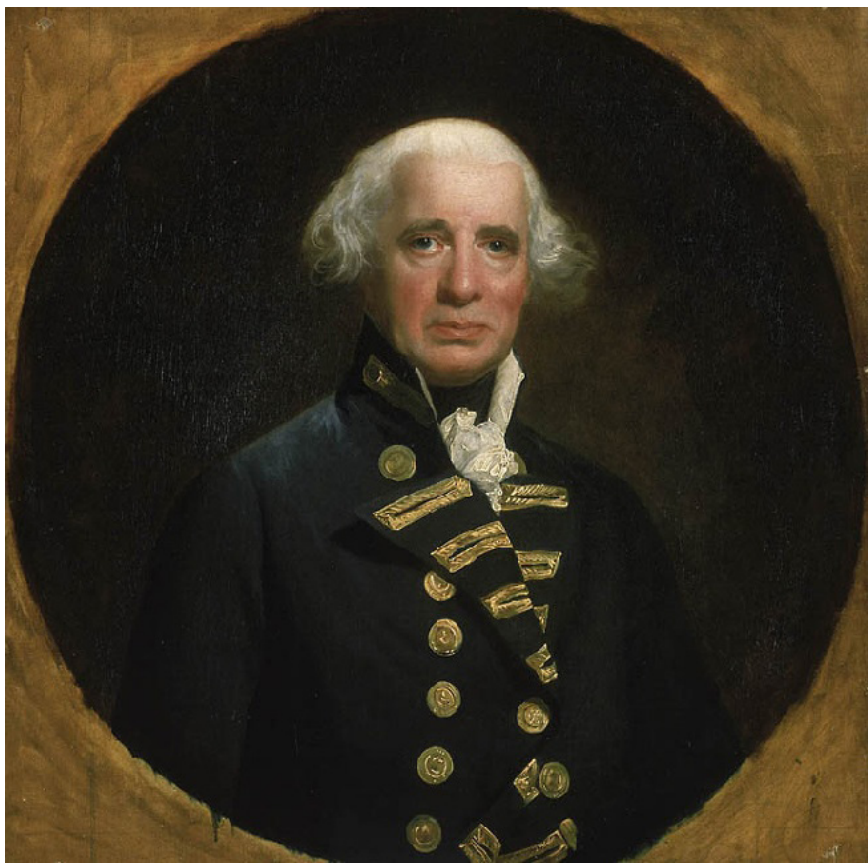
the agency of any state—He was born in Norwich, Con. 26, July 1761. Has no record of his age, Affirmed, sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.—

John Patten

## Notes

1. John Patten's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Sandra A. Soule, *Seeking Robert White: Quaker, Shaker, Husband, Father* (Clinton, N.Y.: Richard W. Couper Press, 2016), 117-41.
3. Ezekiel R. Colt to J. Rockwell, Washington D.C., May 15, 1844.
4. The Battle of Long Island (or Battle of Brooklyn Heights), fought on August 27, 1776, resulted in an American defeat and Washington's strategic retreat across the East River, ultimately leaving New York City under British control for the duration of the war.
5. The Siege of Fort Mifflin on Mud Island in the Delaware River lasted from September 26 to November 16, 1777. It was the most intense bombardment of the entire war, with both land- and sea-based artillery pounding the entrenched Patriots who were guarding the water route to Philadelphia from encroaching British forces. Fort Mifflin was finally abandoned, leading to the British occupation of Philadelphia.
6. The Battle of Monmouth (or Battle of Monmouth Court House) was fought near Freehold Township, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778. The battle was a draw, but George Washington trumpeted the discipline of his troops, newly trained at their Valley Forge encampment the previous winter by the Baron von Steuben.
7. Fascines are bundles of brushwood used for strengthening earthen ramparts, especially for fortifications.
8. This was the famous storming of Redoubt 10 during the Siege of Yorktown, which lasted from September 28 to October 19, 1781. Anxious for battlefield glory, Alexander Hamilton convinced George Washington to allow him to personally lead his men in storming Cornwallis's advance fortification. The French stormed Redoubt 9 simultaneously and the successful surprise attack was key to the Patriots' victory at Yorktown. Cornwallis's surrender of his army effectively ended the Revolutionary War.
9. "Remember New London" was in reference to the massacre of surrendered Patriots after the Battle of Groton Heights (or the Battle of Fort Griswold) on September 6, 1781. What made this event all the more heinous was

the presence of traitorous former Patriot general, Benedict Arnold, now commanding British forces.



*Admiral of the Fleet, Richard "Black Dick" Howe, painted by John Singleton Copley, 1794.  
Abijah Pelham witnessed the British fleet arrive at New York City in 1776.  
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, United Kingdom*

# **Abijah Pelham**

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Abijah Pelham (1759–1850) moved his family from Lyons, New York, to join the Shaker community at Union Village, Ohio, in 1815. Pelham's sons Richard and Joseph eventually joined the community, and Richard became one of its most prominent members.<sup>1</sup> Abijah was one of a number of veterans deposed by Richard McNemar for their pension application in 1832. He apparently joined the Shakers at Union Village, Ohio, in 1815.<sup>2</sup> Further details of his life as a Shaker have eluded a cursory search of community journals for the purposes of this headnote.

## **Pension Narrative**

State of Ohio. Warren County Js

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting in the County of Warren aforesaid Abijah Pelham, resident of the said county aged 74 years, who being duly affirmed, according to Law, doth, on his solemn affirmation, make the following declaration, to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 9th 1832.

That at the commencement of the revolutionary War he resided at Pound-ridge in the county of Westchester & State of New York, & that somewhere within the said County in the year 1775 he enlisted into the service of the United States for the term of one year as Fifer under Capt Cornelius Stingrod whose Company, together with two or three others, was stationed at a place called Hell-gate, on the East river; besides that of this Captain this Applicant cannot recollect the names of other Officers at that time in the service; that at Hellgate they built a Fort & there this Applicant served out his term & was discharged, but whether verbally is not recollected; that in 1776 & immediately after, his first discharge this Applicant re-enlisted for another year under the same Captain Stingrod, belonging to a regiment not recollected in the Brigade of Gen. McDougal;<sup>3</sup> that whilst stationed there this Applicant remembers to have seen the English Fleet pass through the Narrows & cast anchor under the Jersey Shore; that some short time afterwards he saw three of the English ships of the line sail under the fire of our guns by the city of New York up the North river; that afterwards the British landed on Long-Island, & this Applicant in



A black and white portrait engraving of a man, likely a military officer, wearing a dark coat with epaulettes and a patterned cravat. The portrait is set against a dark, circular background.

A black and white portrait engraving of a man, likely a military officer, wearing a dark coat with epaulettes and a patterned cravat. The portrait is set against a dark, circular background.



Capt. Stingrod's Company was marched thither; that he was in the battle on Long-Island in which Gen. McDougal's horse was shot under him & the Gen. taken prisoner;—that he/this applicant was in the retreat of the American Army back to New York, where he remained until that city was evacuated; that he was then marched to Harlaem Heights;<sup>4</sup> that he was in the battle there when the British were victorious; that he was then marched to the White Plains<sup>5</sup> & was in the battle there; that thence he was marched to Croton's Bridge, & after a short stand was marched onto Peek's Kiln [Peekskill], & there assisted in building a Barracks, was thence marched onto Trenton<sup>6</sup> where Gen. Washington surprised & took Col. Rawle's Regiment of Hessians—this happened on Christmas night 1776;—that from Trenton he was marched into Buck's County, Pennsylvania, where, together with all his Company, he obtained a written discharge which is now lost or worn out, This discharge was as this Applicant recollects in general terms as dismissal from further service.—

This Applicant further states that he enlisted a third time into the service of the United States. His residence at that time was still at Pound-ridge in the state of New York, & his enlistment was in Chester [Westchester] County in the state of New York in the course of the year 1777 under Capt. Elijah Townsend who served in the [blank] Regiment commanded by Col. [blank] in Gen. Gales's Battalion;—that he was then marched to the White Plains where the Regiment was stationed to protect the Frontiers & where they were frequently called out in scouting parties;<sup>7</sup> that at this station this Applicant served out his term & got his discharge which is now lost.—That this applicant then returned home to Pound-ridge & shortly afterwards, to wit, (as he believes) in 1777 he went to Stamford in Connecticut where he enlisted again for one year & served on board a Gun Boat commanded by Capt. Jabez Fitch<sup>8</sup> in the service of the United States,—which Gun-boat plied about on the East river to intercept the British forage. As one of the crew of this boat he was one night engaged in boarding & taking them Shoulder'em an English Sloop of War, mounting 14 guns & a Bow-chaser which they captured & took to the town of Stamford; that a short time after this exploit, this Applicant who still belonged to the said Gun-boat (which was under the command of the Lieutenant who took the Command after Capt Jabez Fitch had been taken prisoner & was then at home on his parole) assisted in surprising & taking Fort Chamberlee on the East end of Long-Island & after loading their boat with the spoil burnt up the large stores of Goods which had been laid up by the British,.—He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not

on the pension roll of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this day and year

J. K. Wilds Clk

Abijah Pelham

## Notes

1. Stephen J. Paterwic, "New Lebanon's Gifts to the Western Shakers," *American Communal Societies Quarterly* 2, no. 4 (October 2008): 190-91. I thank Stephen J. Paterwic for this and other information about the Pelham family.
2. Union Village, Ohio, membership list compiled from various sources by Oliver C. Hampton, 1805–1898. III:B-33, OCIWHI.
3. Alexander McDougall (1732–1786) was a Scottish-American seaman, merchant, member of the Sons of Liberty, and military leader during the Revolutionary War. He helped establish the United States Navy in 1776.
4. The Battle of Harlem Heights was fought on September 16, 1776, in what is today called Morningside Heights, Manhattan, New York. It was part of Washington's strategic retreat from Long Island, and north across Manhattan, and was his first battlefield victory of the war.
5. The Battle of White Plains was fought on October 28, 1776, at White Plains, New York. British troops defeated the Patriots, forcing Washington to retreat further north to preserve his army.
6. The Battle of Trenton was fought on December 26, 1776, in Trenton, New Jersey. It immediately followed Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware on the night of December 25-26. The next morning the Continental Army surprised encamped Hessian troops, killing some and capturing nearly 900 others.
7. During the Revolutionary War Westchester County, New York, was a no-mans land called the "neutral ground." Positioned just north of New York City, the British were to the south and Patriot forces were to the north. Raiding parties, guerillas, spies, and criminal gangs such as the "Cow-boys" and the "Skinners" made it a very dangerous area.
8. Jabez Fitch (1737–1812) of Norwich, Connecticut, and Hyde Park, Vermont, served in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Fitch was taken prisoner by the British at the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776, and held until he was exchanged on December 15, 1777. His diary has been digitized and is available here: <http://archives.nypl.org/mss/1016>



## Elisha Pote

Shaker Communities: Alfred, and Gorham, Maine

Elisha Pote<sup>1</sup> (1764–1845) served on the Penobscot Expedition. He was a native of Gorham, Maine, where his grandfather was one of the original proprietors. He was a private member of the Cumberland County militia. One account reports that Elder Elisha was a fifer which would indicate some musical abilities—he would become a prolific song writer including one hymn that had 101 verses. He served less than a month, but what a month he had at Castine<sup>2</sup> and in its aftermath. Elder Elisha's Shaker life has been told by others including most recently Br. Arnold Hadd. He was, according to Elder Calvin Green, the “finest fisher of men.” Elder Elisha came amongst the Shakers in 1782 and he was a leader of the Shakers by 1783. Over the course of his Shaker life, he would be the public speaker, minister to the World, Second Elder in the Maine Ministry, Elder in the Second Family at Alfred, North Family Elder at Alfred, Elder at Gorham, Second Elder of the Church Family at Alfred, Elder of the Gathering Order at Poland Hill, then First Elder in the Maine Ministry. He was the mentor for many but perhaps most notably Joseph Brackett, Jr. Of the thirteen Potes who became Shakers, he was the best known. A story retold by Sr. Aurelia Mace, the noted Shaker chronicler, captures Elder Elisha's influence in a vivid way. Elder Elisha was the head of the Ministry in Maine during the beginnings of the Era of Manifestations. Despite his initial approval and participation, Elder Elisha detected a change in the way of the work. To quote Sr. Aurelia, “Mediums began to make trouble, having people removed. Elder Elisha said, ‘Those revelations must be stopped.’ The medium answered, ‘It is Mother's voice.’ Elder Elisha sprang into the floor and said, ‘It is the voice of the mother of Harlots.’ That put a stop to the whole business of removals.” Elder Otis Sawyer, the leader of the Maine Shakers in the post-Civil War period, wrote of Elder Elisha's initial appointment as Ministry Elder: “It was the most fitting appointment that could then be made.”

—Leonard L. Brooks, Retired Director, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum and Shaker Library, New Gloucester, Me.

Elisha Pote died on June 14, 1845. Although he sought to maintain gospel order in the reception of spiritual gifts, his testimony to the veracity of the spiritual works attending the Shakers' “New Era” (also called “Mother's Work” and the “Era of Manifestations”) was published in the *Holy, Sacred*

## Notes

1. Elisha Pote's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Patriot forces attacked the British Fort George at Castine, Maine, in July and August 1779, as part of the Penobscot Expedition. The attack failed disastrously, leaving nearly 500 patriots killed, wounded, or captured.
3. [Philemon Stewart], *A Holy, Sacred and Divine Roll and Book from the Lord God of Heaven to the Inhabitants of Earth* (Canterbury, N.H.: Printed in the United Society, 1843), 385-87.

### TESTIMONY OF ELISHA POTE.

*To all unto whom these pages may come :*

The undersigned is one who has had personal knowledge of the wonderful displays of the gifts and power of God, which have attended the present testimony of Christ's second appearing, from the time it was first declared in this land by God's chosen witnesses, who were commissioned from Heaven to do that work, and who spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit, viz; by divine inspiration, unto the present day.

I was born in Gorham, county of Cumberland and state of Maine, July twenty fifth, seventeen hundred and sixty four; and connected myself with this Society at the age of twenty years.

I have been acquainted with the gifts and operations of divine power which have attended the present work of God from the beginning, or for sixty years past; therefore, I can testify to what I have seen, heard and felt.

I have learned this one important lesson; not to have my faith stand in the wisdom of this world, nor in great natural gifts or talents; for the Lord hath said, I will confound the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nought the understanding of the prudent. Do all believe this? Whether they do or not, it remains an unalterable truth, which all will have to learn, before they can enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Their faith must center to, and stand in the revelation and power of God, and not in the wisdom of this world, which cometh to nought.

There is nothing which can be said or written on this subject, which will add weight of evidence, as it respects divine revelation; for this is immutable and unchangeable, and carries its own evidence; but blind mortals will

Having had a long experience in this self-denying way, and being somewhat extensively known as a public speaker and elder in the United Society for many years of my life, I leave this as my closing testimony, for the benefit of mankind; and do conscientiously and cheerfully recommend this, the way of life and salvation, to all who seek to know and serve the Lord.

*Alfred, Maine; July 22, 1843.*

ELISHA POTE.

*The beginning and end of Elisha Pote's testimony in Philemon Stewart's Holy, Sacred and Divine Roll and Book (Canterbury, N.H.: Printed in the United Society, 1843).*

# Thomas Rule

Shaker Community: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky

Thomas Rule (1761–1846) was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Rule was a miller and owned mills near Millersburg in Bourbon County, Kentucky.<sup>1</sup> He and his family converted to Shakerism in 1817 and relocated to Pleasant Hill. A manuscript inventory of property he consecrated to the Shakers in 1824 survives and indicates that he was a man of considerable wealth.<sup>2</sup> Thomas Rule died December 28, 1846. Rule was memorialized by fellow Believer Zachariah Burnett in his journal: “He had served in the American Revolution and at an early period he emigrated to Bourbon Cty Ky was actively engaged in the Indians wars, he was engaged also in the British war of 12, 13, & 14, and bore a Colonels Commission and in the later end of 1817, he came to P Hill, where he has a name that is not to be forgotten.”<sup>3</sup> One of Rule’s daughters was named America Rule, perhaps indicating his love of country.

## Pension Narrative

State of Kentucky  
Mercer County

On this 13th day of November A D 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace and one of the Judges of the Mercer County Court Thomas Rule, aged seventy two years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832.

That he entered the services of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

First—in the year 1778, he entered Captain John Stuart’s [Stewart] Company of Pennsylvania Militia from the Country of Westmoreland in the sd. state as a substitute for one Isaac Miller who had been drafted, for a term of three months and marched to a place called Mounce’s mill where the magazine and store house was kept and where we were stationed for three months and was discharged by Lieut. Colonel Mounce who had the command at that place.

Second—again in the year 1779 in the spring of the year he entered Captain [Car’s?] Company Militia for the same county & state as he volunteered for a term of three [months?] and marched in pursuit of the

Indians, they had burned the block house at [Michaud Rough?] for where we remained but a short time, and followed on in pursuits of the Indians and succeeded in gathering up the cattle belonging to the Frontier people that had fled at the approach of the savages we returned, having served and taken faithfully and was discharged by Col. Hager in Westmoreland.

Third—Again in the same year in July or August he cannot recollect which he entered Capt Hugh Mitchell's Company of Volunteers from the same County & state for a term of three months and marched up the Allegany River between Pittsburg & [Kiskiminetas?] to Hills Station when we remained some time, from there we march to a camp above Pittsburgh on Turtle Creek, when we remained some time, from thence we marched back to Westmoreland Co and was honorably discharged by Col. Christopher Hayes having served our Tour faithfully—

Fourth—Again in the spring of the year 1780 he entered Captain Thomas Jones Company of volunteers from the sd County of Westmoreland State of Pennsylvania and was detailed to guard the waggons of amunition, we guarded them to Pittsburg and back again, we remained some considerable time at Pittsburg, and when we ret'd [returned] our tour had expired and we were discharged by the said Col. Hayes—

He further states that he served several short tours agst [against] the Indians in the same year and also in the year 1781. They were from 10 to 15 days each during which we were acting as scouts and spies, he is fully convinced that the short Tour he served would be three months fully.

He further states that he knows he served one other Tour of three months at Pittsburg, but he cannot recollect the officers in command except General Irvine who was at Pittsburg. He further states that he served faithfully the Tours set forth in his foregoing declaration, and that he has no documentary evidence of the same, having long since lost his discharges and knows of no person living in this county by whom he can prove them, he farther states that it is with great difficulty and inconvenience that he can attend the County Court being old & infirm, which is the reason that he swears to this declaration before a Justice of the peace for he would willingly swear before any court in this commonwealth to his services in the Revolutionary War as Stated in his foregoing Declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he states that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any states.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year afsd. [aforesaid]

Thomas Rule

## Notes

1. [https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Descendants\\_of\\_Samuel\\_and\\_Sarah\\_\(Robinson/Robison\)\\_Rule](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Descendants_of_Samuel_and_Sarah_(Robinson/Robison)_Rule)
2. Thomas Rule Inventory, March 19, 1821 (or 1824?), laid into front of Shakertown Hotel register, 1821–1951, 1922–1951, University of Kentucky (transcription in the Archives of Pleasant Hill Shaker Village).
3. Zachariah Burnett, Journal, Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, July 1, 1846–March 14, 1853, Harrodsburg Historical Society.

## Samuel Sering

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Samuel Sering (1758–1823) was probably born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, where he married Sarah Mann in 1778. After the Revolutionary War, Sering and his family emigrated to southwestern Ohio. Sering was a member of Richard McNemar’s Turtle Creek Presbyterian Church and followed him first into the Schismatic church in 1804, and then into Shakerism in 1805.<sup>1</sup> Sering and his wife had eleven children, many of whom also joined the community at Union Village, Ohio. Sering signed the first covenant there in 1812 and remained a faithful Believer until his death in 1823. Some of his children apostatized. In 1853 four of the Sering children, including son Daniel who was still a Shaker, applied for his pension. Unfortunately, they had only sketchy details of his Revolutionary War service. Luckily for genealogical and Shaker researchers they sent a transcription of records from the Sering family Bible with their pension application (reprinted below).

Three Union Village Shakers who had known the Serings from the time of the Kentucky Revival provided affidavits to Sering’s service, as well as his relation to his wife Sarah and their children. Cornelius Campbell, who “lived in the family of said Samuel Sering a great part of the time from the year 1804 to 1806 and frequently during that time engaged with the family in family worship,” attested to the veracity of the records from the family Bible. Campbell died in the faith on May 24, 1856. Polly Davis and Samuel Holloway also provided affidavits, dying in the faith on August 2, 1862, and May 20, 1859, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Finally, and rather remarkably, Sering’s ninety-nine year old brother Solomon gave two depositions regarding Samuel’s service. Despite all of these efforts the pension was

denied, likely due to lack of sufficient evidence.

## **Pension Application**

To the Commissioner of Pensions, Washington City

Application of Eunice S. Mack, late Eunice Serring child and one of the heirs of Samuel & Sarah Serring late of Warren County Ohio deceased for a pension due by law to the said Samuel, and at his decease to his widow, the said Sarah, for services in the war of the Revolution, and which application is made on behalf of the said Eunice and her only living brother and sisters, Daniel Serring, Mary S. Kemper late Serring and Sarah Wallace late Serring.

This memorial of the said Eunice S. Mack on behalf of herself and her said brother Daniel and sisters Mary & Sarah aforesaid respectfully shewith:

That Samuel Serring late of Warren County deceased and father of your memorialist was a regularly enlisted soldier of the Revolutionary war for the space of three years, the term of his enlistment. That said Samuel was a private soldier and enlisted as your memorialist has been informed and believes in Pennsylvania, about the year 1776 and served in the army of the United States three years until 1779, but in what Company or Regiment or the names of the Company or field officers your memorialist does not know. but your memorialist has understood that his name is enrolled on the Muster or army Rolls of the Revolutionary war and to these your memorialist respectfully refers, as proving the enlistment service and regular discharge of said Samuel Serring, all which your memorialist avers to be true as above set forth.

Your Memorialist further states that her said Father Samuel Serring departed this life on the 23d day of September 1823, at Union Village, Warren County, Ohio, in the 66th year of his age leaving a widow, Sarah Serring, and eight children then living all of whom have since died except your memorialist and her said Sisters Sarah Wallace, Mary S. Kemper and brother Daniel Serring aforesaid.

Your Memorialist further states that the said Sarah Serring widow of said Samuel and mother of your memorialist & her co-claimants, aforesaid, survived the said Samuel her husband and remained a widow, never having again married, until her death on the 20th December 1842, at Union Village Warren County aforesaid, in about the 78th year of her age.

Your Memorialist that at or until near the time of the said Samuel Serrings death he had in his possession a family Bible, now in the possession of said Daniel Serring your memorialists only surviving brother, which contained in the hand writing of said Samuel a record of the marriage of said Samuel and said Sarah whose maiden name was Man and of the births of all their children, a proved copy of which except of the marriage is hereto annexed. But your memorialist states that on re-binding said Bible about the year 18[blank] the record of the marriage was in some way omitted and the leaf containing it omitted and left out. Said record a copy of which accompanies this memorial contains as your memorialist believes without any doubt a true statement of the births of children said Samuel and Sarah, father and mother of your memorialist and her co-claimants.

Your Memorialist further states that her sister Sarah Wallace was married to John Wallace on or about the 6th day of October 17[72?] and that said Wallace died about the year 1845. the said Sarah being the oldest of the children. Your memorialist was married to Alexander Mack on the 11th day of November 1847 and that said Mack died on the 2nd day of April 1851. That her sister Mary S. Kemper was married to Frederick A. Kemper about the 30th day of November 1831, who also died on the 24th day of July 1851.

That your Memorialist and her sister Mary now and for some years have lived in Hamilton County Ohio and that the said Sarah Wallace and Daniel Serring live at Union Village in Warren County aforesaid.

Your Memorialist further states that she and her co-claimants have no further evidence of their fathers services in the Revolutionary War than is furnished by the Rolls of the army and the deposition of Solomon Serring his, said Samuels brother as already on file. There is not now in existence as far as your memorialist knows any written discharge of said Samuel, if any was ever given him it has no doubt long since been destroyed or lost. Your Memorialist would however respectfully refer to the declaration of Ralph W. Hunt late of Warren County Ohio, dec[ease]d, made about the year 1820 or 1823 for the purpose of obtaining a Pension for services in the Revolutionary War, at the same time and in the same Company with said Samuel Serring and whose deposition, as memorialist is informed accompanys said application of said Hunt and proves his services for which a pension was asked.

Your Memorialist therefore respectfully asks for her self and the said Sarah Wallace, Mary S. Kemper and Daniel Serring, the allowance of the pension which was due to the said Samuel Serring during his life and to the said Sarah Serring his widow, but never by them obtained, under the

laws of the United States.

And your Memorialist further states that the said Samuel Serring never received any bounty land or pension for his said services in the Revolutionary war as aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in the presence of Eunice S. Mack this 21st day of October 1853.

Probate Ledger

Warren Cy O.

### **Pension Affidavit**

*On this nineteenth day of March A. D., 1852, before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared Solomon Serring, aged 98 years, a resident of Union County, State of Indiana, who being duly sworn according to law, state that he was well acquainted with Samuel Serring, deceased, who was a private in the Revolutionary War; that he don't recollect the precise time when said Samuel Serring enlisted but to the best of his recollection and belief, saith that the said Samuel Serring enlisted near Hannahstown in the state of Pennsylvania, in the beginning or forepart of the war, for the term of three years and was engaged in the actual service of the United States for the term of three years; that the deponent saw him the said Samuel Serring, with his company march into Pittsburgh, state of Pennsylvania when said company returned home and when and where said company separated and deponent was informed and believes that said company was then & there discharged but does not absolutely know the fact. Deponent does not know the names of the officers of said company or those of the Regiment to which he belonged. Deponent has heard said Serring, dec'd, speak of having been at a battle near a bridge but don't recollect what bridge and of having been in one or two other battles but don't recollect what battles.*

Said Samuel Serring never received any bounty land or pension for said services as Deponent knows of, nor has any other person or persons received either in his name that Deponent knows of.

That said Samuel Serring was married to Sarah Mann in Greensburg, Westmoreland County in the state of Pennsylvania but deponent does not recollect the time. Said couple, who are both now dead, in their lives time raised a family of children of whom Sarah Wallace, widow of John



Wallace dec'd, Daniel Serring, Eunice S. Mack, widow of Alexander Mack, dec'd, and Mary S. Kemper widow of Frederick A. Kemper, dec'd, are now living, that some of the other children left children living but how many of them are living or dead deponent knows not.

Deponent makes oath that he is a disinterested witness

his

Solomon **X** Serring

mark

*Sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year above written and I hereby certify that I know the said Solomon Serring to be a credible witness.*

John W. Swann

Justice of the Peace

## **Pension Affidavit**

State of Ohio

Warren County

On this 21st day of October 1853 personally appeared before the undersigned Probate Judge of Warren County aforesaid Polly Davis of said County aged 64 years Aug 19th 1853 who being by me duly affirmed according to law deposeth and saith that she has been a resident of Warren County Ohio since its first organization in 1802 and has lived in the Miami County now a part of Ohio since 1790: that she was well acquainted with Samuel Serring and his wife Sarah Serring the father & mother of Eunice S. Mack late Eunice Serring, now present from the year 1799 until his death which occurred on the 25th day of Sept 1823 in her presence and until the death of his wife the said Sarah Serring who died about the month of December 1842. That said Samuel and Sarah lived together as man and wife and were generally reputed & considered as such from the time she first knew them until after their youngest child was born about the year 1800 and for some time after. That said Samuel & Sarah both became members of what is called the Shaker Society at Union Village Ohio about the year 1805 or 1806 and tho they did not afterwards live together as man & wife in the usual understanding of that relation, they

always acknowledged their legal union as such and their children until their respective deaths.

Deponent further states that said Sarah Serring survived her husband the said Samuel many years and remained unmarried and his widow until her death in 1842 that the deponent joined the Shaker Society about the same time with said Samuel & Sarah and knew them intimately & personally from her first acquaintance with them in 1799 until their respective deaths as above. Deponent also knew their children Sarah Wallace (late Serring) Mary S. Kemper (late Serring) Daniel Serring and Eunice S. Mack now present (late Serring) who are now the only surviving children of the said Samuel & Sarah Serring , senior They had four other children living at the time of the death of said Samuel in 1823, to wit: Samuel, John, Nancy and Jane having had Eleven in all three having died before their father.

Deponent further states that the copy of the birth of the Children of said Samuel & Sarah Serring taken from the family Bible of said Samuel now present is correctly copied therefrom. and she further states that she has no interest whatever in the claim for a pension now made by the heirs of said Samuel & Sarah Serring and further says not.

Affirmed to & subscribed before me the day & year above written (?)  
Dunlevy Probate Judge

Polly Davis

A true copy of the family record of births of children of Samuel Serring and Sarah Serring, as contained in and copied from the Bible owned by said Samuel Serring in his life time and now in the possession of Daniel Serring his only surviving son at Union Village Warren County Ohio.

Sarah Serring junior was born October 8th 1779

Samuel Serring, Junr was born August 17 1781

Margaret Serring was born June 19th 1783

John Serring was born July 20th 1785

Elizabeth Serring was born October 25th 1787

Theoctitin Serring was born February 1 1790

Daniel Serring was born March 20th 1792

Eunice Serring was born July 11th 1795

Nancy Serring was born February 4th 1798

Polly Serring was born January 9th 1800

Jane Serring was born January 22nd 1802

Affirmed to & subscribed before me the 21st day of October AD 1853

John C. Dunlevy  
Probate Judge

her  
Polly X Davis  
mark

his  
Cornelius X Campbell  
mark

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten document. It contains several lines of cursive text. At the top, it says '...has been January 12 1860' and '...on January 22nd 1862'. Below this, there is a section that reads '...of Polly X Davis' with 'her' written above the 'X' and 'mark' written below it. Further down, it says '...Cornelius X Campbell' with 'his' written above the 'X' and 'mark.' written below it. The document appears to be a legal or official record, possibly a marriage certificate or a deed.

## Pension Affidavit

State of Indiana  
Union County

On this 11th day of November AD 1853 before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Solomon Serring aged 99 years a resident of the Town of Dunlapville in the County of Union and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law declares, that he was well and personally acquainted, with Samuel Serring now deceased, who was a private, in the Revolutionary War, but does not know the precise time said Samuel Serring Enlisted in Said was, but to the best of his recollection and belief, states, that the said Samuel Serring Enlisted near Hannahstown, in the State of Pennsylvania, in, or about the beginning, or forepart of said war, for the term of three years; that the deponent saw said Samuel Serring, with the Company to which he belonged, march into the Town of Pittsburgh, in the State of Pennsylvania, where said Company returned home, and where said Company Separated; and was informed & believed, that said Company, was then & there discharged, but does not positively know the fact. Deponent does not know the names of the officers of said Company, or the Regiment to which he belonged. Deponent has heard said Samuel Serring did speak of having been engaged in a Battle near a Bridge, but does not now recollect the name of the Bridge; and of his having been engaged in one or two other battles, but does not now recollect what battles they were. Said Samuel Serring, never received any bounty land, or pension for said Services, as deponent knows of, nor has any other person or persons received either, in his name, that deponent know of. At

the time of the acquaintance of the deponent, with said Serring decd, deponent lived in the Town of Greensburgh, in Westmoreland County & State of Pennsylvania, and Said Samuel Serring decd also lived in the same, Town, County & State. Deponent moved from Pennsylvania some years after the close of said War, to Maysville Ky where he resided about one year, from whence he moved to Columbia in the State of Ohio, where he resided some three years, from whence he moved to Beedles Station in Warren County Ohio, where he resided a short time, from whence he moved to Beard's town Kentucky where he resided some 20 years or more, from there he moved to his present place of residence where he has resided thirty two or three years. Deponent does not now recollect the dates of the several moves he has made. Deponent says that said Samuel Serring moved from Pennsylvania to Maysville in Kentucky from thence to Columbia in Ohio, from thence to McCabes Station in Hamilton County Ohio, from thence to Beedles Station in Warren County Ohio, from thence he moved to Union Village in Warren County Ohio, where he lived untill his death. Deponent was well acquainted with said Samuel Serring, from his earliest recollection, being his brother, and was intimately acquainted with him for many years after his marriage. Deponent further states that said Samuel Serring was married to Sarah Man in the Town of Greensburgh in the County of Westmoreland, in the State of Pennsylvania, as near as he can remember, in the month of September AD 1778, and after his term of military service had expired. He was not present at the time of Said Samuel's marriage with Said Sarah Man, but knew from common report that they were so married. The name of the wife of Said Samuel Serring, previous to her marriage with said Samuel was Sarah Man. The deponent well knew said Samuel & Sarah after the were married, and lived with them at different intervals for many years, and knew them to live together as husband And wife, for many years. Said Samuel, & Sarah are now both dead, but the precise time of their decease deponent does not know. Deponent says that said Samuel died leaving his wife Sarah a widow, & that said Sarah never remarried after the death of said Samuel Serring, but remained his widow untill her death. Deponent saith that said Samuel & Sarah raised a family of children, to wit Sarah Wallace (widow of John Wallace decd) who was born near Greensburgh, Pennsylvania, in Westmoreland County, and as he believes in the month of October 1779. Daniel Serring, who was born at Maysville in the state of Kentucky in the month of March 1792, Eunice S. Mack, (widow of Alexander Mack decd) who was born at Columbia, in Ohio in July 1795 and Mary Kemper widow of Fredrick Kemper now decd, who was born at Beedle's Station

in Warren County Ohio in the Month of January 1800. The aforesaid Sarah Wallace, Daniel Serring, Eunice S. Mack, and Mary Kemper, are the only children of the said Samuel Serring & Sarah Serring that are now living, and that they are all above the age of twenty one years, that some of their other children, left children, living, but how many of them are living or dead, deponent knows not. Deponent further declares that he has no interest whatever, either directly or indirectly, nor is he in any way concerned, in the claim of the heirs of Said Samuel Serring & Sarah Serring, for pension or bounty and further he saith not.

Attest Justus Fall

her  
Rebecca X Fall  
mark

his  
Solomon X Serring  
mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 11th day of November 1853, & I do hereby certify that I am well & personally acquainted with the said Solomon Serring and believe him to be a man of truth, and that his statements may be relied upon, and that he is of sound mind, and also that I have no interest, & am in no way whatever concerned in the result of the application of the heirs of said Samuel Serring & Sarah Serring decd, for pension or bounty.

John W. Swann J.P.  
Justice of the Peace

## Notes

1. Richard McNemar, *The Kentucky Revival, or, A Short History of the Late Extraordinary Out-Pouring of the Spirit of God, in the Western States of America* (Albany: Re-Printed by E. and E. Hosford, 1808), 42-44.
2. Campbell's affidavit regarding the Sering family Bible, as well as Samuel Holloway's affidavit (neither transcribed for this collection) can be found in Daniel Sering's pension file held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.

## **Joseph Stout**

Shaker Community: Union Village, Ohio

Joseph Stout (1757–1835) had perhaps the most adventurous term of service of any Shaker Revolutionary War veteran.<sup>1</sup> He fought in the New York and Philadelphia campaigns, survived the infamous Valley Forge winter, and ended his military career as a crew member of American vessels plying the waters between Philadelphia, Haiti, and Cuba. He married a woman named Ann in 1778 with whom he had six children. Stout resided in Long Island and then New York City after the war before reenlisting for three years in General Wayne's Army for the campaign in the Northwest Territory. He was discharged at Greenville, presumably after Wayne's victory at the Battle of the Fallen Timbers (1794) and subsequent treaty with Native American tribes (1795). After a stint in Fayette County, Kentucky, Stout moved to southwestern Ohio, becoming Malcolm Worley's neighbor at Turtle Creek. It was there that he met Shaker missionaries and converted in 1805. Stout's wife Ann was distraught by his conversion, leading Shaker missionary Benjamin Seth Youngs to record in his diary that "Satan is at work with [her]—because of parting of man & wife." Ann did not join, and subsequently married again, becoming Ann Johnson. The Stout children who joined either apostatized or predeceased their father, who worked as a broommaker in the Union Village, Ohio, community, until his death in 1835. Ann Stout Johnson applied for her husband's pension following his death. Intriguingly, Ann modified her version of her husband's fate during the course of her pension application process. In a document submitted by her lawyer on August 21, 1840, Ann claimed that her lawyer had misinterpreted her earlier statements pertaining to Joseph Stout. Her final version stated that Joseph "never returned from that Campaign she thinks was in 1793 or 1794" during the "Indian War under the Command of General Wayne." Clearly, more remains to be uncovered about Joseph Stout and his non-Shaker spouse.

### **Pension Narrative**

State of Ohio. Warren County Js.:

On this third day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Commons Pleas now sitting in the county of Warren aforesaid Joseph Stout, resident of the said county aged 74 years, or so, being duly affirmed according to law, doth, on his solemn affirmation,



make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832:

That, at the commencement of the revolutionary War, he resided in Huntingdon County, state of New Jersey, &, in the month of May or June of the year 1776, enlisted in the army of the United States, for the term of six months , & entered the service in the township of Amwell in the said county of Huntingdon [Hunterdon], under Captain John Anderson, whose company belonged to the [blank] Regiment of the New Jersey Line commanded by Col. Johnston & in which Benjamin Horn acted as Lieutenant; that he was marched to the city of New York where Capt. Anderson's company joined Col. Johnston's Regiment: that from New York he was marched to Long Island at which place he was in the Battle against the British which took place about the end of August or first of September, when the American army was defeated & had to retreat back to New York; that he was thence marched to Fort Washington, where he was one of a detachment of 300 men who were picked out to attack some Tories who were on piquet guard for the British at Harlaem-waters, & in which rencountre about forty of the Enemy were made prisoners, that from Fort Washington he was, about the last of October, marched to the White Plains,<sup>2</sup> that he was there in the engagement against the British when Gen. Washington was defeated & made his Retreat though New Jersey into Pennsylvania: that during this Retreat this Applicant was taken sick & was sent to Morristown where, & in the neighborhood, amongst his friends, he remained sick until his term of service expired, which (as he believes) was about the middle of November, &, as he did not return to Camp, he obtained no discharge. This Applicant further states, that in the month of January at Middlebrook in the state of New Jersey, his residence being still in the county of Huntingdon; that his enlistment was, at this time, under Capt Felavin [Flahaven]<sup>3</sup> for three years, or during the war that it was, at this time, that the New Jersey Brigade was forming; that after enlisting, under Felavin, this Applicant went some on furlough & after some weeks, proceeded to Bownbrook [Bound Brook] where he was put into the First Regiment which was commanded by Col. Matthias Ogden, underwhom DeHart served as Lieutenant Colonel that it was at this place (Bownbrook) this Applicant joined Capt. Pyatt's [Platts?] Company, in which company Lieut. Worley served; that during this period there were so many falling in battle & so many changes happening from other circumstances, that it is difficult to be more particular in naming his Officers; that Gen. Washington's army, was at this time, stationed at Bownbrook from which place this applicant was moved in Gen. Marfield's Brigade into Pennsylvania, thro





*A View of the Attack against Fort Mifflin near Red Bank on the 26th November 1776 by the British and Hessian Brigades drawn on the spot by 1800. Drawn by J. M. W. Turner.*

A View of the Attack against Fort Washington and Rebel Redoubts near New York on November 16, 1776, by British and Hessian Brigades, drawn by British officer Thomas Davies on the scene. Collection of the New York Public Library

Philadelphia, & thence onward to Brandywine river; that he was in the Battle of Brandywine<sup>4</sup> where Gen. Washington was defeated; that about this time the Enemy got possession of Philadelphia & our army, to which this Applicant was attached, was marched into the interior of Pennsylvania, & there encamped; that, from thence, under Washington he was marched to Chesnut-hill where the British were met and driven back into German town<sup>5</sup> where the Battle became very hot & whence the Americans retreated into the County & in a few weeks afterwards, took up their winter quarters at Valley Forge<sup>6</sup> where they remained until the spring of 1778; that when Washington's army crossed the Delaware into Jersey, this Applicant had, on furlough, been sent on before & though absent, thro' sickness, during the Battle of Monmouth,<sup>7</sup> rejoined his Company on Tuesday thence forth was marched, with his Brigade, to Elizabeth town, & from Elizabeth town to Short Hills<sup>8</sup> whence, after a hard Battle, the army had to retreat back to Elizabeth-town. This Battle happened in August or September. That soon afterwards this Applicant was in another Engagement against the British on Staten Island when (in his Company) he was marched back to Elizabeth-town whence, upon the approach of the Enemy in the Fall of that year, the American army retreated a few miles into the Country; that upon getting possession of Elizabeth-town again, he was stationed there until the month of April 1779, when Maxfields Brigade, under Col. Ogden & Capt. Pyatt [Platt?] he was marched to Easton, in Pennsylvania, & thence to Wyoming, & up the Susquehanna to Tyoga at the mouth of the Shumong [Chemung] river where we built a Garrison. At this place Genl. Clinton's Brigade joined us. We next marched up the Shumong river in to the Indian County to a place called Newtown<sup>9</sup> where we had a hot Battle with the Indians known by the name of the Six Tribes. The Indians retreated; we kept the ground; & the next day pursued them, burning & destroying every thing before us. This, the Applicant thinks was in the month of August, for the Corn was in roasting-ears, & these operations were performed by a detachment of Regulars under the command of Genl. Sullivan who continued his march to the Genesee Castle near the Genesee river. It was at this last mentioned place that this Applicant saw Lieut. Boyd<sup>10</sup> (who had, a few days before, been taken prisoner by the Indians) with his head sundered from his body & his heart taken out, & also another American who had been also murdered. From the Genesee Castle the detachment to which this Applicant was united, returned by the way of Tyoga & Wyoming to Easton in Pennsylvania, & so onward to the Scotts [Scotch] Plains in New Jersey & from there to meadow where it took up its winter quarters with Gen. Washington's army. Here





this Applicant continued until the month of January or February 1780, at which time his term of service expired. He applied to Col. Ogden for his discharge but could not obtain his consent to leave the service, the Colonel withal observing, that there was a Commission for him. This Commission, however, this Applicant never received & not withstanding the term of his enlistment was out, he continued with Capt. Pyatt [Platt?] for several months longer, during which time he was sent by Col. Ogden, this the country on Recruiting parties.

In conclusion this Applicant states, that during the period he was in the service he acted in various departments, as a non-commissioned officer & in general as a Drill-sergeant to teach the manual exercise & that as such he drew Sergeant's pay until he quit the service & retired to Philadelphia.



*Captain Joshua Barney of the ship General Washington  
aboard which Joseph Stout sailed to the Caribbean.*

By way of addition this Applicant further states that some time after his withdrawal from public service to wit in 1780, he engaged on board of the Barge or Gun-boats which plied in the Delaware Bay to intercept the Refugee Craft from New York. This service continued for some short time—say a few weeks—but this Applicant is unable to state the particulars. On one occasion, however, he well remembers to have applied, himself, the match to the Gun in a rencountre with a boat on the Delaware which was mistaken for a Refugee boat.—Also, that afterwards in 1781 or 1782, that is to say, a short time prior to Cornwallis's surrender, this

Applicant served as a Marine on board of the 20-Gunship called “the Genl. Washington,” commanded by Joshua Barney,<sup>11</sup> which sailed from Philadelphia for Cape François;<sup>12</sup> that on the passage out off Turk’s Island, they had a severe engagement with an English copper-bottomed Brig, from Lancashire which was beaten off, & was supposed to have sunken in the night; for it was Barney’s intention to cope with her the next day, but we could not find her; that he afterwards arrived at Cape François where “the General Washington” was refilled & thence proceeded to the Havanna, in Cuba, under the convoy of a French 64; that at the Havanna we took in silver & sailed homeward under the same Convoy; that after being five or 6 days out we were reared by an English Sixty-four & two Forty-gun frigates; that our Convoy drew them off from us & we made our escape into the Delaware.



*General “Mad” Anthony Wayne, pastel by James Sharples, Sr., circa 1795.*  
Collection of Independence National Historical Park

On examination this Applicant further states that after the Revolution he resided about six years on Long Island; about two years in the city of New York; afterwards served three years in Genl. Wayne’s<sup>13</sup> army & received his discharge at Grenville<sup>14</sup> [Greenville] from Genl. Wayne; afterwards resided in Fayette County in Kentucky about five years; & the last thirty two years of his life has spent in & near the place of his present resident. And he hereby relinquishes, every claim whatever to a pension or

annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state—

his  
Joseph **X** Stout  
Mark

Sworn to and Subscribed in open court the day and year afs. J. K. Wilds.  
clk

## Notes

1. Joseph Stout's pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. The Battle of White Plains was fought on October 28, 1776, at White Plains, New York. British troops defeated the Patriots, forcing Washington to retreat further north to preserve his army.
3. Captain John Flahaven began his service in the Revolutionary War as 2nd lieutenant in the 1st Regiment NJ Line 16 Dec 1775 to 10 Nov 1776. 1st lieutenant on 29 Nov 1776. Captain in the 1st Regiment New Jersey Line 15 Dec 1776. Taken prisoner 22 Apr 1777. Resigned from service on 22 Jan 1779, source: <https://njcincinnati.org/john-flahaven/>
4. The Battle of Brandywine was fought on September 11, 1777, at Brandywine Creek (or Chadd's Ford), Pennsylvania. The Continental Army commanded by General George Washington was defeated by the British Army under General Sir William Howe.
5. The Battle of Germantown was fought on October 4, 1777, at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Continental Army commanded by General George Washington was defeated by the British Army under General Sir William Howe.
6. The winter encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, from December 19, 1777 to June 19, 1778. Soldiers endured bitter weather conditions with meager supplies of food, clothing, and firewood, and nearly two thousand soldiers succumbed to disease.
7. The Battle of Monmouth (or Battle of Monmouth Court House) was fought near Freehold Township, New Jersey, on June 28, 1778. The battle was a draw, but George Washington trumpeted the discipline of his troops, newly trained at their Valley Forge encampment the previous winter by the Baron von Steuben.
8. The Battle of Short Hills (or Battle of Metuchen Meetinghouse) was



- fought on June 26, 1777, at Scotch Plains and Metuchen, New Jersey. The Continental Army commanded by Brigadier General William Alexander (“Lord Stirling”) faced the British Army commanded by General Sir William Howe, resulting in no clear victor.
9. The Battle of Newtown was fought on August 29, 1779, near present-day Elmira, New York. It was part of the campaign led by Continental Army General John Sullivan to eradicate the settlements and crops of Iroquois tribes loyal to the British. The Continental Army defeated Native and British Loyalist forces.
  10. Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and a detachment of the Continental Army were ambushed by Native American forces loyal to the British on September 13, 1779, near present-day Groveland, New York. Boyd and many of his men were captured and taken to Little Beard’s Town, (present-day Cuylerville). After interrogation Boyd was tortured and executed, during which his own intestines were tied to a tree around which he was forced to run until he fell dead.
  11. Joshua Barney (1759–1818) was an officer in the Continental Navy during the Revolutionary War. He was later a commodore in the United States Navy and served in the War of 1812.
  12. Cape François (now Cap-Haïtien), Haiti, an important center of trade in the Caribbean.
  13. Major General Anthony Wayne (1745–1796) served in the Revolutionary War and also in campaigns against Native American tribes in the Northwest Territory. His exploits and personality earned him the nickname “Mad Anthony.” On August 20, 1794, he defeated a large Native American force at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Maumee, Ohio.
  14. Greenville, Ohio, the location of Fort Greenville until 1796.



# John Wadleigh

Shaker Community: Canterbury, New Hampshire

John Wadleigh<sup>1</sup> (1759–1852) was probably the best known Shaker veteran of the Revolutionary War, in large part because of the admiring coverage he was given by Concord, New Hampshire, politician and editor Isaac H. Hill.<sup>2</sup> Hill featured accounts of Wadleigh and his service in his magazine *Farmer's Monthly Visitor*. Wadleigh seems to have been present at many key events in the war's Northern Theater. There is an inconsistency in the accounts below regarding his presence at the capture Fort Ticonderoga, as well as Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown. It seems likely that he was *not* present at the taking of the fort on May 10, 1775, (as quoted below by Henry C. Blinn), but rather served as part of the garrison there in 1776. Since his records indicate a final discharge at Rhode Island in 1779, it is unlikely that he was at Yorktown in 1781. Additionally, Blinn states that as a Shaker, Wadleigh "never applied for, nor received the pension to which he was entitled by the laws of his country." The affidavit below would seem to indicate otherwise. Wadleigh was represented by Zebulon K. Harmon, who also advocated for the heirs of Canterbury veteran Bennett Libbey.

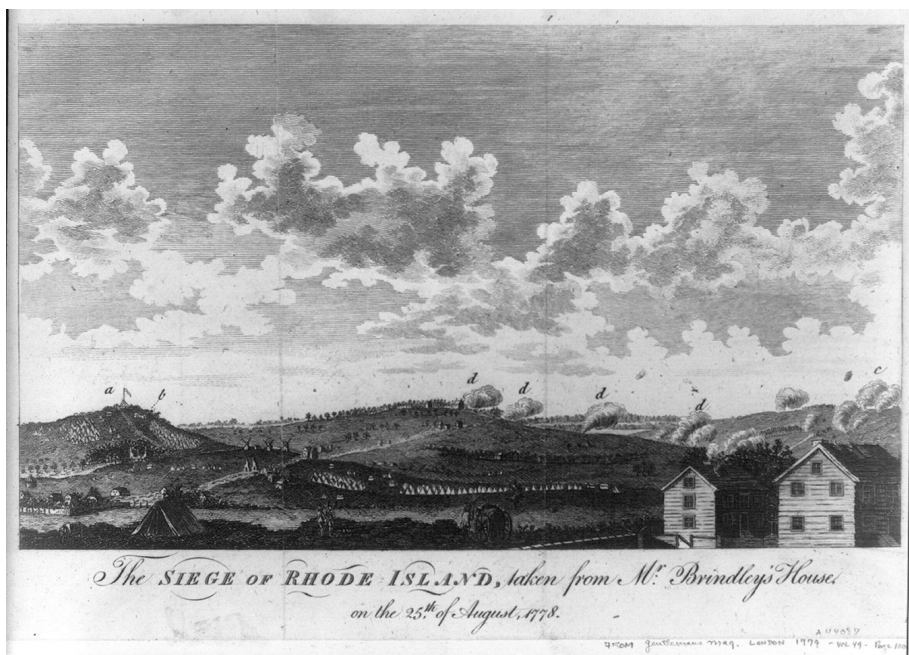
## Pension Affidavit

State of New Hampshire  
Merrimack County Js:

At a Court of Probate held at Concord in and for the County aforesaid on the twenty fourth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty two.

On the day and year aforesaid it being represented and proved that John Wadleigh in consequence of his great age and infirmity of body is unable to attend Court also that he is at the present time in consequence of bodily suffering and imbecility of mind incapable of understanding the nature of an affirmation and Z. K. Harmon a Friend of said Wadleigh, being recommended as a suitable person appears in open court before the Hon. Horace Chase and makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

And the said declarant states that he has heard John Wadleigh now residing in Canterbury in the County and state aforesaid say he was a



*"The siege of Rhode Island, taken from Mr. Brindley's house on the 25th of August, 1778," published in Gentleman's Magazine, 1779.*

Collection of the Library of Congress

soldier of the Revolution: and in times past when he was of sound mind and memory state particularly as follows: that the said John Wadleigh was a resident of Hampstead, N.H. in the time of the Revolution and served in said war as follows:—That he volunteered and turned out in April 1775 at the time of the Lexington fight, and soon after that enlisted for eight months in Capt. Hezekiah Hutchins Company Col. James Reed's Regiment and was stationed in Cambridge and vicinity during said time and was in the Battle of Bunker Hill.<sup>3</sup>

Soon after his discharge from the eight months service he enlisted in three months longer and went back to Cambridge and served in Capt. Bunting's company in Col. Waldron's Regiment. In August 1776 he again enlisted for five months & served in Capt. David Quimby's company Col. Wingate and was at Mt. Independence and Ticonderoga.<sup>4</sup> In July 1777, he again enlisted under Capt. Page Col. Drake's Regiment and was at the taking of Burgoyne and was in the service five months.<sup>5</sup> In 1778 he enlisted for nine months, and was in the service for that period of time in Rhode Island under Capt. Gile in Col. Peabody's Regiment, and during part of the time was in Providence. In 1779 he served three months at Portsmouth N.H. under Capt. Nathan Brown. Col. Dame, and that he served in the

whole at least two years and half.”

And this declarant further states that said John Wadleigh is now ninety-five years of age and upwards, and is a member of the Society of Shakers at said Canterbury. He therefore claims a Pension for the amount of service above set forth, and refers the commissioner of Pensions to the proof and testimony hereto appointed, and such further proof as may be found at Washington relative thereto.

Z. K. Harmon

Subscribed and sworn to on the day and year before written

Before me

Horace Chase Judge of Probate



*Journalist and politician Isaac Hill, a friend of the Shakers  
who interviewed veteran John Wadleigh.*

Collection of the New Hampshire Statehouse

## Magazine Account

An excerpt from: “First Pitch of the United People at Canterbury—the Beauty of their Location—their Inexhaustible Muck Meadow—the Aged Veteran who Deserves many Honors,” *Farmer’s Monthly Visitor*, January 31, 1846, 3-4.

*“Among the persevering, hard-handed men, the most of whom have extended to an age beyond three-score and ten years, and who in the course of fifty years have made of the Canterbury Shakers families the most opulent and independent in wealth and means of any in the interior country, we might name John Wadleigh, now in his 89th year, a soldier of the revolution engaged at Bunker Hill, and a militia man under five different enlistments. There were several soldiers of the revolution in the Canterbury families—not one of them ever took the pension offered by the law of Congress. Mr. Wadleigh said he coveted no man’s silver and gold. Small in stature, being not over five feet two inches in height, the amount of hard field labor done by this gentle-man would seem to be almost incredible.”*

## Magazine Account

“John Wadleigh” by Henry C. Blinn<sup>6</sup>

John was the son of Thomas Wadleigh an early proprietor of Perrytown, now Sutton, N.H. He had eight brothers and three sisters, but from this large family he, only, was a Shaker. “Few families in New England have been more respectable, so long lived, so patriotic and so useful as this family of brothers and sisters of Wadleighs.”

John was born in Hawke, now Danville, N.H. March 1, 1759. Although he was one among the first that entered the Shaker order in N.H. he did not reside in Canterbury till 1792.

Ex. Gov. Isaac Hill who visited the Society at Canterbury in 1848 had an interview with John and soon after published the following in the *Farmer’s Monthly Visitor*.

*“An Unpensioned Revolutionary Veteran.”*

*“We had hardly expected at this late period to meet a man in New Hampshire whose recollection should extend back as a participator in the events which occurred on Bunker Hill on the 17th, June 1775. In the time of a very pleasant and agreeable visit to our friends of the First Family of Shakers at Canterbury, we took pains to obtain an*

*interview with the oldest man of that Community; John Wadleigh, aged 92 years. At the age of nineteen he fought side by side in the battle of Bunker Hill with an older brother, the late Thomas Wadleigh, of Sutton. He was then of Col. James Read's regiment who went upon the field with Gen. Stark.*

*"This venerable gentlemen tarried from his work to give us an opportunity for an interview. We found him at the place where he is always busy at work, and in fact would be out of his element if not at work. When the weather is suitable he enjoys being in the open field. In 1789 he was a Shaker in Enfield, N.H. but has lived in Canterbury since 1792. He bought a lot of land after the Revolution, but he says he heard the first sound of the gospel while at Enfield, and was gathered to that place.*

*"During this whole time he has been as enthusiastic as if under a divine impulse in his religious profession, never halting in the zeal and confidence which inspire him to lively activity even at this great age. This man in the last sixty years has probably performed more manual labor than possibly any other man who has ever lived in the State.*

*"Within the last twenty years, taking charge of the cultivated fields of the First Family, he has done the work, often, of full two common men; his diligence has always been unwearied, and he has scarcely ever known one hour of ill health. At this great age, under still severe labor, his sleep is as sound as that of an infant. (This year he is taking care of two acres of beans and has hoed them four times.)*

*"John Wadleigh was a soldier of the Revolution five years. He was at the surrender of Fort Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775, at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, at the surrender of Burgoyne in Oct. 1777; in the Rhode Island Expedition of 1778 and at the surrender of Cornwallis Yorktown, Va. Oct. 19, 1781."*

Becoming a member of the Shaker Community soon after the close of the war, he never applied for, nor received the pension to which he was entitled by the laws of his country.

With the same unswerving courage that he fought against the enemies of his country, he as ably and as willingly manifested while fighting against the enemies of the Lord. Enthusiastic under the Divine impulse, his zeal and confidence in the religious profession which he had espoused was never known to waver.

After he had accepted the faith of the Believers, he made a journey to Ashfield, Mass, to have an interview with Mother Ann and the Elders, who were holding meetings in that place.

While there, he asked the advice of Mother Ann in reference to the settlement of his temporal affairs, as he was quite anxious to enter the family of Believers.

Mother Ann asked;—Are your parents still living?

John replied,—My mother has passed away, but I am living with my father in the town of Sutton, N. H.

“Then,” said Mother Ann, “I advise you, young man, to return to your home and honestly to confess your sins to your father, and then you will be able to hold your testimony. Own the gospel of Christ wherever you go and that will give you strength and protection. If you are ashamed to own Christ before men, he will not own you before God and his angels.”

For a short season John Wadleigh officiated as an Elder in the first family, at Canterbury, and for twenty years he had the management of the farm, during which time he made many improvements.

He passed from this life, Oct. 23, 1852 in the 96th year of his age, retaining to the last an active memory and a devoted spirit.

### **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

State of New Hampshire  
Secretary of State's Office

I do hereby certify that from an examination of the Books and Documents, relating to Military Services in the war of the Revolution, which remain in the office, it appears that the name of John Wadleigh is borne upon “A list of Capt. Hezekiah Hutchins Compy. June 9, 1775” Age, 18; Occupation, Husbandman; abode Hempstead; County, Rockingham.

And upon a “Pay Roll of Capt. Hezekiah Hutchins: Company in Cols. James Reed's Regiment to the 1st of August 1775” is borne the name of John Wadley as a private in said company. Time of Entry, June 10, Time in service. 3 months 5 days...”

under the command of Col Josiah Bartlett, Samuel Philbrick muster Master

under the command of Col Joshua Wingate

under the command of Capt Ezekiel Giles, Col. Stephen Peabody “raised by the State of New Hampshire for the Continental service at Rhode Island 1778 is borne the name of John Wadleigh as a corporal in said company— Engagement. April 10, 1778; Discharge at Rhode Island Jan 4, 1779; Time in service 8 months 26 days.

Discharged at Rhode Island Dec. 30th 1778 and allowed one days pay for every twenty miles travel home.”

## Notes

1. John Wadleigh’s pension file is held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900, RG 15, M804.
2. Isaac Hill (1788–1851) served as a United States senator from New Hampshire from 1831–1836, and as New Hampshire’s governor from 1836–1839.
3. The Battle of Bunker Hill, or Breed’s Hill, was fought in Charlestown, Massachusetts, on June 17, 1775, during the Siege of Boston. Although technically a victory for the British, they suffered many more casualties than the Patriots, including the loss of officers.
4. Founded as Fort Carillon by the French in 1755 during the French and Indian War, it was built at a key portage connecting Lake George and Lake Champlain, which lay along the “Great Warpath” between the Hudson River Valley and French settlements in Canada. Fort Carillon was captured by the British in 1759 and renamed Fort Ticonderoga. On May 10, 1775, a force led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured Fort Ticonderoga for the Patriots. The British reoccupied the fort in 1777 after it was abandoned by the Patriot general Arthur St. Clair. Mount Independence was a fortified peninsula on the east side of Lake Champlain in Vermont. Fortified by the Patriots in July 1776, it was captured by the British in 1777.
5. The “taking of Burgoyne” refers to the Patriot victory at the Battles of Saratoga, September and October 1777, which resulted in the surrender of British general John Burgoyne and his army.
6. Henry C. Blinn, “John Wadleigh,” *Manifesto* 13, no. 8 (August 1883): 175-76.



## **Benjamin Winchester**

Shaker Community: Harvard, Massachusetts

Benjamin Winchester (1760–1845) came from a family of religious seekers in Brookline, Massachusetts. Benjamin's father Elhanan joined the Harvard Shakers in the twilight of his life, and his son Elhanan (Benjamin's brother) was one of the founders of the Universalist Church of America.

### **Pension Application**

Application for certificate of Revolutionary services made by Hosea Winchester son and heir at law of the party who rendered the service.

My father Benjamin Winchester was born in Brookline County of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts in 1760 and died at Harvard in Worcester Co. state aforesaid in Augt 1845—the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is hereby requested to furnish evidence from the Rolls in his office of said Benjamin Winchester's services in the war of the revolution—he was the son of Docr Elhanan Winchester of Brookline County a State aforesaid and is supposed to have enlisted from that town as a private, he had an older brother Silas in the service I expect they were both in one company, he has told of being in Lexington battle, at Bennington and at Ticonderoga, how long he was in the service I do not know, but believe he enlisted or was drafted several times he has told of being out three different times at least, I do not know the Company, Captain or Regiment, as I have not lived in my Fathers family for nearly forty years my memory does not enable me to state more—and I do hereby constitute George Coolidge of Cambridge Middlesex County & State of Massachusetts my attorney in the premises—Witness my hand at City of New York, this 30th day of December 1845  
Signed by said Hosea Winchester

### **Pension Affidavit**

State of New York Massachusetts  
County of New York Suffolk Js

In this twenty-seventh day of July in the year eighteen hundred and forty-six personally appeared in open Court before the Court Boston [illegible]

Court now sitting in Boston for the County of New York Suffolk, Hosea Winchester of the City of New York, in the County and state aforesaid of New York who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order on his own behalf, and on behalf of Alden Winchester and Rubie Damon to obtain the pension due to Benjamin Winchester at the time of his decease for services in the war of the Revolution.

That the said Benjamin Winchester was father of this declarant and of the said Alden and Rubie. That he served in the revolutionary army the terms named in accompanying certificate of Massachusetts, which was given in pursuance of an application of this declarant annexed thereto. That this declarant has no doubt that the service the [illegible] specified was performed by his said father.

That the declarant, and the said Alden Winchester a resident of the state of Louisiana, and Rubie Damon, a resident of Ludlow in the State of Ohio Massachusetts are brother and sister, and are the only heirs of the said Benjamin Winchester. That the said Benjamin, died in the month of August 1845 at Harvard in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in which town he had resided for many years as a member of the community of Shakers. That for this reason, he did not in his lifetime apply for a pension. That he left no widow.

This declarant therefore prays that the pension to which the said Benjamin was entitled may be paid to his heirs aforesaid.

Hosea Winchester

### **Affirmation of Service in Written Records**

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

*Secretary's Office, Boston;*

*July 27, 1846.*

*I hereby Certify, That, from an examination of the Books and Documents, relating to Military Services in the War of the Revolution, which remain in this Department, it appears that the name of Benjamin Winchester of Roxbury is borne upon a Muster Roll of Capt John Minot's company, in Col Nicholas Dike's regt, as a private from December 20 1776 to last February 1777 2 months & 8 days.—Upon a Pay Roll of Capt Jason Smith's company, in Col. Benjamin*

Gills regt that marched to re inforce the Northern Army as a private, from August 15 to November 24, 1777, including allowance of 240 miles travel. 3 months and 27 days. The name of Silas Winchester, (mentioned in the annexed application) upon said Capt Smith's roll, with that aforesaid Benjamin,—Upon a Pay Roll of Capt. Samuel May's Company, in Col. Mc Intosh's regt for service at Roxbury, as a private from March 23 to April 16, 1778—25 days. The name of said Silas is also borne upon said Capt May's roll, with that of said Benjamin.—The preceding is all the evidence of service of any one of the as far as shown by the Military Records in this office.—



*Benjamin Winchester's grave marker in the Shaker cemetery at Harvard, Massachusetts.*