



James Batcheller

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, New Hampshire

CHESHIRE COUNTY, N.H.

WITH THE

REPORT OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN 1876; ALSO EMBRACING
GENEALOGIES AND SKETCHES OF FAMILIES FROM
1764 TO 1880.

By CHARLES A. BEMIS.

History gilds the Present with the Glory of the Past.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF GEO. H. ELLIS, 141 FRANKLIN STREET.
1881.

At length we witness them victorious. Their enemies sullenly retire from their shores, and they stand forth enrolled on the page of history as a free and independent nation.

What people can dwell with more just satisfaction upon their history than ours? Almost all others trace their foundation to some ambitious and blood-thirsty leader who sought only to aggrandize himself by enslaving others. We may with truth say that our independence was won by the people who fought for the natural rights of man.

Whenever we advert to this portion of our history, and review it as well we may with patriotic pride, let us not forget the gratitude we owe to those who "fought and bled and died" for us, as well as to that benignant Providence who stayed the proud waves of British tyranny.

In giving this part of the history of Marlborough relating to the Revolutionary war, it will not be necessary to detail the causes which led to the struggle for American Independence; these are too well known to require reiteration here.

At the time of the breaking out of hostilities with Great Britain, Marlborough was but sparsely populated. There could not have been more than sixty men in all the town who were capable of bearing arms: the greater part of whom were heads of families, who found it extremely difficult to provide food and clothing for themselves and those dependent on them. When we consider this, we can see that had they been ever so much inclined to join their companions in the camp and field, they could only have done so at the risk of bringing upon their families privation and suffering. But these men were ardently attached to liberty, and were not wanting in patriotism; nor were they indifferent to the interests of their country in its struggle for independence.

On the 19th of April, 1775, that movement occurred which opened the war of the Revolution. That day's experience at Lexington immeasurably increased the courage of the Americans: as its tidings spread, the voice of war rang through the land, and preparations were everywhere made to carry it forward to a successful end.

It is to be regretted the public records give so little information concerning the residents of this town who served in the army during the Revolutionary war. To make the list complete the most faithful research has been made, not only of the town records, but of the military papers in the office of the Adjutant-General at Concord. We cannot learn as any of our citizens were present at the battle of Concord and Lexington, but immediately following that action a large number of troops from New Hampshire joined the army then assembled near Boston; and among them were six men from this town, *viz.*: Moses Tucker, Timothy Rogers, Robert Worsley, Daniel Collins, Lieut. James Brewer, and Pearson Newell. These men were all in the Third New Hampshire Regiment, commanded by Col. James Reed of Fitzwilliam, and participated in the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. Moses Tucker and Pearson Newell were in Capt. Jonathan Whitecomb's company; Timothy Rogers, in Capt. Phillip Thomas' company; Lieut. James Brewer, Robert Worsley, and Daniel Collins, in Capt. Benjamin Mann's company.

This regiment was stationed for a season at Medford, but on the 12th of June received orders from Gen. Ward to march to Charlestown Neck, for the purpose of guarding the ferry at that place. At the battle of Bunker Hill, the New Hampshire troops took their position behind a rail fence between the redoubt and the Mystic River. Here they threw up a breastwork of stones across the beach to the river, extending the fence down the hill to the wall. This hastily-constructed parapet served an excellent purpose, as those behind it could take a most deadly aim at the advancing foe; and it is an established fact that the British troops in front of this wall were almost completely annihilated.

The following are the articles lost and the amount paid to the several men in behalf of the Colony:—

	£	s.		£	s.
Moses Tucker, . . .	2.	8.	Robert Worsley, . . .	15.	
Pearson Newell, . . .	2.	8.	Daniel Collins, . . .	8.	
Timothy Rogers, . . .		15.	L ^t Brewer,	6.	11.

The articles lost for which the above sums were paid were as follows:—

Moses Tucker st. Bod, d coat.

Pearson Newell Gun, powder-horn and cartridge-box.

Timothy Rogers one shirt.

Robert Worsley a pair of Stockings.

Daniel Collins a pair of Breeches.

James Brewer a pair of Shoes.

In August the Provincial Congress sent to the selectmen of the several towns and places in New Hampshire, desiring them to make a return of the number of inhabitants in their respective towns, and also the number of fire-arms fit for use, and the number wanting to complete one for every person capable of using them, and also the quantity of powder in each place. The selectmen of Monadnock No. V. made the following—

REPORT.

Males under 16 years of age,	104
Males from 16 years of age to 50, not in the army,	54
All Males above 50 years of age,	2
Persons gone in the army, (out of which no. 2 are dead),	16
All Females,	148
Negroes and Slaves for life,	0
	324

Monadnock, No. 5, Oct^r 3^d 1775.

In Obediance to the Directions herein given, we have taken a true account of all the persons belonging to this place, and Set the same Down in the Collums above, also an acct of Fire arms fit for Use (viz.) 26, & the number wanting is 28. Powder 5 1-2 lb. those persons that are gone in the army have furnished them Selves with Fire Armes.

BENJ^A TUCKER } Selectmen of
ELIPLA STONE } Monadnock No. 5.

The comparative population of the town at this time with others in this vicinity will be seen by their returns: Jaffrey, 351; Marlow. 207; Nelson, 186; Dublin, 305; Peterborough, 549; Keene, 758.

Of the sixteen who were in the army at this period we know but little; it is probable that Lieut. James Brewer

and Timothy Rogers were among this number, and remained with the army in the vicinity of Boston until the close of the year.

Robert Worsley was another; he was in the expedition against Quebec, under Gen. Arnold. This expedition left Cambridge in September, and marched to Newburyport, and proceeded thence by water to the head of navigation on Kennebec River, thence through the forests of Maine and Canada to Quebec. Seldom was there an expedition attempted during the Revolution in which more hardship was endured or more untiring perseverance manifested than in this of Arnold's.

In ascending the Kennebec, his troops were constantly obliged to work against an impetuous current, and often to haul their bateaux up rapids and over dangerous falls; nor was their march through the country by an unexplored route of three hundred miles less difficult or dangerous. They had swamps and woods, mountains and precipices, alternately to cross. Added to other trials, their provisions failed; and to support life they were obliged to eat their dogs, cartouch-boxes, clothes, and shoes. While at the distance of one hundred miles from human habitations, they divided their whole store, about four pints of flour to a man; when thirty miles distant, they had baked and eaten their last morsel: yet the courage and fortitude of these men was unshaken. They were suffering for their country's cause, and contending for the rights and blessings of freedom. After thirty-one days of incessant toil through a hideous wilderness, they came to a settlement.

Mr. Worsley in his later years was fond of relating anecdotes illustrating the sufferings and privations through which he passed while on this expedition; some of these are mentioned in Mr. McCollester's Centennial Address.

Jacob Newell, Jr., was also in the army at this time; he joined the expedition that was sent to Canada, and was stationed several months at Ticonderoga. His brother, Pearson, was one of the two who were reported as dying in the army.

the colonel fought like a hero, never leaving his post until he was wounded and taken off the field. Lieut.-Col. Colburn arose that morning with a severe headache, and instead of wearing his hat he tied a handkerchief over his head and entered the battle with his companions. The handkerchief became a mark for the British, and he was killed in the early part of the action. Of the history of this brave and active officer, but little is known beyond what is recorded here. He is first mentioned in the Proprietors' records in 1771, and for several years served as moderator of the meetings. Col. James Reed, in a letter, commended him to the appointing power as a man worthy to receive the commission of captain, asserting that he had had experience in the French war, etc. Frederick Freeman was also killed in the same battle. Adino Goodenow was discharged December 18, 1778, by Gen. Poor.

In the spring of 1777, the storm of war which had for some time been gathering at the North, almost unnoticed by the Americans, began to roll down upon the frontier settlements with alarming rapidity. Although the leaders of the Continental army were aware that a large British force had landed at Quebec, from which an invasion was expected, either by way of Oswego or through the valley of Lake Champlain, yet, counting on the same dilatory action which had ever characterized the movements of the enemy since the battle of Bunker Hill, they supposed it might be late in the summer before the hostile army would reach the military posts on Champlain. But in this they were greatly mistaken; for as soon as the waters of the North became navigable, Gen. Burgoyne landed at Montreal, and in another week his army was marching along the shores of Lake Champlain.

The American generals were greatly surprised at the rapid advance of the enemy; and, having delayed to strengthen their defences, they were but illy prepared to meet so powerful a force. An alarm was immediately sounded throughout the country, and men were seen in every direction marching toward Ticonderoga.

We do not learn as any of our citizens enlisted at this time; but at a second alarm, a few weeks after, James Lewis immediately enlisted a company of twenty-six men (all but three of them were from this town), and marched for the scene of action.

Pay Roll of Capt. James Lewis' Company in Col. E. Hale's Regt. which marched, June, 29, 1777, to reinforce the Garrison at Ticonderoga.

Capt. James Lewis.	Robert Converse.
Lieut. Richard Robbins.*	James Brewer.
Ensign Oliver Wright.	Edward Wright.‡
Sergt. John Rogers.	James Dean.
Corp ^l Benja Goodenough.	Samuel Bishop Jr.
John Felton.	John Tozer.
Moses Tucker,	Richard Tozer.
Jonathan Harrington.†	Eliphalet Stone.
Thomas Upham.	Phineas Park.
John Lewis.	William Tenney.
James Bemis.	Elnathan Newton.
Elijah Park.	David Barrass.‡
James Flood.	Ezra Towne.‡

On the fourth day of their march, they received information that Gen. St. Clair was about to abandon the fortress, and, the company being ordered to return, soon after disbanded.

Gen. Burgoyne now determined to send a large force through Vermont, — or “New Hampshire Grants,” as it was then called, — and subjugate New England. As soon as it became known that this was his object, the Committee of Safety of Vermont sent out expresses to alarm the adjacent States. The legislature of New Hampshire held a session of three days, and divided the militia of the State into brigades, to be commanded by Col. William Whipple and Gen. John Stark. The brigade under Stark was soon filled, and marched to Vermont with instructions “to act in conjunction with the troops of the new State, or any other of the States, or the United States, or separately, as it

* This probably means Richard Roberts.

† Jonah Harrington.

‡ These three men were probably from other towns in this vicinity.

should appear expedient to him for the protection of the people and the annoyance of the enemy."

For this brigade Capt. Salmon Stone, of Rindge, raised a company of sixty-five men, which was joined to the regiment commanded by Col. Moses Nichols. In this company Marlborough sent three men; *viz.*, Isaac McAlister, Sergeant, William Tenney, Corporal, and John Tozer. These men were in the thickest of the fight at the battle of Bennington, and also participated in the stormy scenes prior to and at the surrender of Burgoyne.

In September another company was raised in this vicinity, and James Lewis was appointed captain. In this company were the following men from Marlborough:—

Jedediah Tayntor, Sergeant.	John Tozer.
John Felton, Corporal.	John Lewis.
James Bemis.	Thomas Upham.

Moses Tucker was first lieutenant in the fourth company of the same regiment which was commanded by Col. Daniel Moore. This regiment joined the army at Saratoga, and was present at the capitulation of the army of Gen. Burgoyne.

In the summer of 1778, a French fleet was sent upon our coast to operate against the British who were then in possession of Rhode Island. While this fleet was to act against them seaward, Gen. Sullivan was to attack them by land. New Hampshire furnished a brigade of troops for the occasion, commanded by Gen. William Whipple. Col. Enoch Hale, of Rindge had command of a regiment raised in this section of the State. In the fourth company of which James Lewis was captain, we find the names of eleven men from Marlborough, as follows:—

Moses Tucker, Sergeant.	Thaddeous Haystings.
John Lewis, Corporal.	John McBride.
David Wheeler.	Thomas Riggs.
Phinchas Park.	Richard Atwell.
Jonathan Goodenough.	Abijah Tucker.
	Abel Woodward.

James Lewis entered the service August 8th, and served twenty-three days, for which he received £21 16s.; Moses Tucker received for his service at this time £12 4s. 4d.

In 1779, the State authorities called for five hundred men to fill up the three Continental battalions from this State. James Lewis and Russell Oliver were hired by the town to enter the service. We find no other enlistments during the year.

From the following returns made by the selectmen in 1780, it would seem that the town had as yet spent but little in paying bounties to soldiers, and that those who had hitherto entered the service had enlisted more from a sense of duty and love of country than for the sake of obtaining a bounty:—

To the Honorable general Court of the State of Newhampshire, gentlemen, the town of marlborough Was called upon for six men to Engage for three years, Which men the town made out to acceptance of our head Colonel, as our proportion of Continental men. Jabez McBride, Reuben mcalester and timothy Rogers, Received no money of the town as a hire, adino goodenow, Calvin goodenow, and Fredarick freeman, have received twenty pounds Each as town Bounty Which the town Paid the tenth Day of april, 17 — (records defaced.)

In July, 1779 the town hired two men more for to serve in the Continental army for the term of one year. Gave to Capt. James Lewis, as a hire, 130 Bushels of Rie and forty pounds of money. Russell Oliver Received 120 Bushels of Rie and forty pounds money this Being the Whole that the town of marlborough hath paid to the Continental Soldiers. Which they had to Raise from January the 1, 1777, to January ye, 1, 1780.

Marlborough Feb. the 9th 1780.

DAVID WHEELER } Selectmen of
OLIVER WRIGHT } marlborough.

There is no record of any enlistments during the year 1780; but Feb. 13, 1781, a meeting was held for the purpose of devising some method to fill their quota. The records of this meeting show that it was no easy task to obtain the requisite number of men. They voted first that Adino Goodenow, Calvin Goodenow, and Timothy Rogers, answer for "three of our Quota of Continental men During the war." James Brewer, Moses Tucker, and Eliphalet Stone,

were chosen a committee to procure the remainder of the quota. The meeting was then adjourned to the 26th of the month.

At this meeting, it was voted to "Except of the man John Tozer hired during the war and to make Return of him as one of our Quota." Voted, to give "Sixty pounds old way apeace for Each man for three years, or During the war." Voted, "that the committee get the men Before march meeting, if to Behad for the above Sum." Voted, "that Mr. Atwell and L^t Brewer go to the muster marster and make Return of thoes men which this town has Engaged During the war."

At an adjourned meeting, it was voted "to give mr. Daniel Goodenow three Hundred hard Dollars as a hire for his son Ebenezer three years in the Continental Service." Voted, "to pay one hundred Dollars to mr Goodenow in one month, one hundred more in two years, Interest to Begin with the second years service." Voted, "to pay mr Goodenow one hundred more in three years Interest to Begin in two years from now." Voted, "that the Selectmen Give notes for the above Sums in Behalf of the town to mr. Goodenow for his son's hire. Voted, that L^t. Moses Tucker see the men mustered which this town hires for the army."

At the same time Lieut. James Brewer who was moderator of the meeting, made the town the following proposals: "If I engage for the town for three years, I will have five hundred dollars continental money, one hundred dollars the old way the first year, one half in four months, if I serve six months, and one hundred more for the second year, if I serve six months in the second year, and one hundred more, if I serve the third year six months more." The town accepted these proposals, and the selectmen were instructed to give Mr. Brewer security for the above sums in behalf of the town.

One great barrier which rendered it difficult to procure men for the service was the extreme scarcity of hard money. In June, 1775, Congress issued bills of credit to the amount

of two millions of dollars. This emission was soon followed by another of one million. For their redemption the confederated colonies were pledged; each colony to provide means to pay its proportion by the year 1779. At the expiration of eighteen months from their first emission, when about twenty millions had been issued, they began to depreciate. At first this was scarcely perceptible, but they continued to lose in value daily. Desirous of arresting the growing depreciation, Congress at length resorted to loans and taxes; but it was difficult to negotiate for the loans, and taxes could not always be collected.

Pressed with the necessities of an army, Congress was obliged to continue to issue bills after they had begun to depreciate, and to pay that depreciation by increasing the sums emitted; so that by the year 1780 the amount in circulation was no less than two hundred millions.

The progress of this diminution is worthy of notice. At the close of the year 1777, the depreciation was two or three for one; in '78, five or six for one; in '79, twenty-seven or twenty-eight for one; in '80, fifty or sixty for one in the first five months. From this date, the circulation of these bills was limited; but when they passed they soon depreciated to one hundred and fifty for one, and finally several hundred for one. Several causes contributed to diminish the value of the Continental currency. The excess in quantity at first caused a natural decline in value, which was increased by the enemy who counterfeited the bills and spread their forgeries through the States. These causes coöperating with the decline of public confidence rapidly increased the decline, until bills of credit, or what was commonly called "Continental money," became of little or no value. The evils which resulted from this system were immense. From this fact, it became extremely difficult to raise an army and provide for its subsistance. At the same time, it originated discontent among the officers and soldiers, since their pay in this depreciated currency was inadequate to the support of their families. "Four months' pay of a private would not procure his family a single bushel of