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**Descent of Raymond J. Porter from
SGT. THOMAS BAKER
Soldier in the American Revolution**

Thomas Baker of Sandy Creek, Oswego Co., New York applied for a pension for service in the Revolutionary War under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832¹. His original affidavit was made on 24 September 1832, and it was subsequently amended on 27 December 1832. He included an affidavit from Abner Carswell attesting to his service in the war. While not identified as such in the pension application, Abner Carswell was Thomas Baker's brother-in-law (see below), who remained in Salem, Washington Co., New York when the Bakers moved to Sandy Creek.

Thomas' pension was granted on 2 May 1833 for ten months and five days service as a private and five months service as a sergeant in the Continental army. He was paid \$30.88 per annum. His son, Thomas C. Baker, Atty., of Richland, New York, is mentioned four times on the pension file jacket-envelopes noting his inquiry about the certificate, noting that the certificate was sent to him, and (apparently) as the responsible party to be contacted.

In his application for the pension, Thomas stated that he was born in Exeter, Rhode Island on 29 October 1751, but he gave no other information about his parents or children. From the town records of Exeter,² we learn that Thomas was the son of Samuel Baker and Abigail his wife and that he was, indeed, born 29 October 1751. I have been unable to ascertain Abigail's maiden name. It appears that Thomas moved with his family to Colrain, Hampshire (now Franklin) Co., Massachusetts.

In the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, on 26 October 1774, a resolve was passed making provision for the appointment of a Committee of Safety, who were empowered and directed, "when ever they shall judge it Necessary for the safety and Defence of the Inhabitaints of this province and their Property against such person or persons as aforesaid to alarm, muster, and cause to be assembled with the utmost expedition, and completely armed accoutered and supplied with provisions sufficient for their support in their march to the place of Rendezvous, such and so many of the Militia of this Province as they shall judge necessary for the ends aforesaid." The Minute-Men were organized under this resolve, and it accounts for the promptness with which they responded to the Lexington alarm of 19 April 1775³.

According to his application, made from memory 52 years after the fact, Thomas Baker was living in Colrain, Massachusetts and enlisted in Capt. Hugh McLellan's company, Col. Maxwell's regiment of Minute-Men, probably in the latter part of November 1774. He remained in readiness until 21 or 22 April 1775, when he was assigned to Captain Oliver's company in Colonel Doolittle's regiment, and his company was ordered to march to Cambridge, Massachusetts in response to the Lexington Alarm. The Minute-Men who assembled and marched to Cambridge and Roxbury on that alarm formed the nucleus of the first army organized, which later, under Washington, laid siege to Boston.

He remained at Cambridge until within two or three days of the Battle of Bunker Hill when he removed with his regiment about one mile toward Charlestown, and remained there until 17 June 1775, when he was ordered to march to Bunker (actually Breed's) Hill, where he took part in the battle of that name. Immediately after the battle, he marched to Winter Hill and remained there and participated in the seige

¹Thomas Baker, Sergeant, Mass.; File No. S12097; National Archives Microfilm Publication M-804, Roll 120; Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900; Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, DC. Excerpts from that file are attached.

²"The Births of the Children of Samuel Baker by Abigail his Wife," Town Meetings, Births, Marriages, Earmarks; No. 1, 1742 - 1818; Town of Exeter, R.I., p. 169, LDS Film 0932361.

³*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War: A Compilation from the Archives*, Prepared and Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth (Boston: 1896), pp. ix, x.

of Boston until he was discharged on 1 January 1776.

He continued in the same company without any interruption in service and reenlisted about 10 or 15 days later for one month. His company remained on the same ground in the forces besieging Boston. He was discharged at the end of his second enlistment in the last days of February and returned directly to his home in Colrain.

The above statements agree generally with the published extracts of his service records.⁴ These extracts show that he was in Capt. Hugh McClannan's company, Col. Samuel Williams' regiment, which marched 20 April 1775 in response to the alarm of 19 April 1775 (Lexington), and that he was mustered into the army 1 May 1775. An order for advanced pay dated Charleston, 27 June 1775 suggests that he did not march to Winter Hill until after that date (assuming that Winter Hill is not in Charleston). Also, an order for a bounty coat or its equivalent in money, dated Winter Hill, 23 December 1775, suggests that he reenlisted a few days earlier than he stated, since this bounty was offered for reenlistment.

In response to a request from the Continental Congress for troops to reinforce the armies in Canada and New York, Massachusetts issued a call on 25 June 1776 for 5000 men to be raised immediately from the training bands and alarm lists constituting the militia of the colony, to serve until the first of December 1776.⁵ Thomas Baker and his future brother-in-law, Abner Carswell, responded to this call and enlisted in Captain Child's company of Colonel Woodbridge's regiment for five months. Thomas received a warrant as second sergeant.

The troops from Hampshire County were to be sent to Canada, but Thomas' regiment marched through the towns of Greenfield and Northfield, then through western New Hampshire to Charlestown, New Hampshire, where they drew five days provisions, then marched directly to Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. Thomas and Abner remained at Ticonderoga under General Gates until their term was up on 1 December 1776, when they were discharged and returned to Colrain. There is no record of this service in the extracts.

The exact date of Thomas' marriage is unknown, but the intentions of Thomas Baker of Halifax and Mary Carswell of Colrain were published 16 December 1777.⁶ These same records (p. 15) show that Mary Carswell was born 11 June 1757 and Abner Carswell was born 13 May 1755. Both were children of Nathaniel and Esther (Henry) Carswell, which makes Abner Thomas' brother-in-law.

The marriage records place Thomas Baker in the town of Halifax, Vermont, rather than in Colrain, Massachusetts. These towns are adjacent, and part of the lands thought to be in Colrain ended up in Halifax when the state line was surveyed between Vermont and Massachusetts. Probably Thomas just neglected to mention in his pension application that he settled in Halifax after returning home to Colrain.

Thomas Baker of Halifax and Mary Baker deeded 92 acres in Halifax to Nicholas Sike for 133 pounds on 17 October 1782.⁷ This deed confirms their residence in Halifax, rather than Colrain. I have been unable to find the deed when Thomas acquired the land to date his arrival in Halifax. This sale of his land probably occurred about the time he moved his family to the town of White Creek, Charlotte Co. (now Salem, Washington Co.), New York. Thomas stated in his pension application that he resided in Salem after the Revolutionary War until 1816.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 503. Copy enclosed.

⁵*Ibid.*, p. xxii.

⁶"Thomas Baker of Halifax to Mary Carswell of C. marriage intentions," 16 Dec. 1777, *Vital Records of Colrain, Massachusetts to the end of the Year 1849* (Salem, Mass.: The Essex Institute, 1934), pp. 52, 54.

⁷"Thomas Baker to Nicholas Sikes deed," Halifax, Vermont Town and Deed Records, Vol. 1A (1772-1789), p. 134. LDS Film 0028362.

The migration of the Baker family to Salem was probably because Mary's family had settled there previously. Both Nathaniel and Abner Carswell certified in January, 1789 that they actually resided in Salem prior to Burgoyne's campaign of 1777 and were driven off their land by the British army and their allies.⁸ The first census of the United States, taken in 1790⁹, lists Thomas Baker, Nathaniel Carswell, and David Carswell in Salem.

This region was a wild frontier, and no vital records of any kind were kept until about three-quarters of a century later, so there are no official records of the births and marriages in that period. The *History of Washington Co., New York* (p. 131), in the listing of early settlers of Salem, states:

Thomas Baker, who was in the Revolutionary army, settled on the present Owen Smith farm. Sons were Asahel, Nathaniel, and Thomas, Jr. Daughters, Mrs. Wm. H. Moncrief, and there were others who went west.

Unfortunately, their first daughter, Phebe, is not mentioned. According to two Rogers family Bibles that were extracted by the Oneida, New York Chapter of the NSDAR,¹⁰ Phebe Baker was born 2 November 1778. (The 1773 in the second Bible is an obvious typographic error.) No places are given for any of the events recorded in the Bibles, but Phebe was born in the town of Halifax, Vermont if the above evidence of her parents' residence there from 1777 to 1782 is correct.

These same Rogers family Bibles record the marriage of Phebe Baker, "sister of Thomas Baker," to Edverdum "Verdy" Rogers on 3 January 1805, place not given. Verdy Rogers was the son of Samuel Rogers and Rachel (Hibbard) Rogers; Samuel is another of my Revolutionary ancestors, and his line is given in a separate Supplementary Application. As mentioned above, Thomas Baker, Jr. is mentioned four times in Thomas Baker's pension file. It is curious that she is called "sister of," rather than "daughter of," but both are equally true.

James Rogers was born 16 Sep 1805 according to the Rogers family Bibles in Washington County, New York. In the 1810 census, Verdy Rogers was living near his father and brother in the town of Hebron, Washington County.

In 1816, the Baker and the Rogers families, probably in concert with other families, migrated to the town of Richland, Onieda County (now Sandy Creek, Oswego County), New York. They settled near each other, and on 23 July 1817, Thomas and Mary Baker, Verdy and Phebe Rogers, Nathaniel Baker, Sally Baker, and Polly Baker, along with Allen McLean and George Harding were founding members of the First Congregational Church of Sandy Creek.¹¹ This close association of the Verdy Rogers family with the Thomas Baker family confirms that the Phebe Baker that Verdy Rogers married was the daughter of Thomas Baker.

Further evidence of the association of the Baker and Rogers families is in the arrangement of the graves in the Noyes Cemetery, a small rural cemetery in the southeast of the town of Sandy Creek, in which the Baker and Rogers family burial plots are immediately adjacent. Allen McLean, who is related to the

⁸"Early Settlement," *History of Washington County, New York*, (New York: Everett & Ensign, 1878?), pp. 122, 123. Photocopies of pages enclosed.

⁹"Entries for Thomas Baker, Nathaniel Carswell, and David Carswell," *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States taken in the Year 1790*, New York, published by the Bureau of the Census 1907-8, (Reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1966), pp. 192, 193. Photocopies of pages enclosed.

¹⁰Rogers family Bible records, "Translated out of the original Greek ... by His Majesty's Special Command. Printed by Mark and Charles Kerr, His Majesty's Printers; Edinburgh, 1793;" in the possession of Lois Cox Gould, Onieda, N.Y. (in 1928). Also, a second Bible, "Stereotyped and Published by H. & E. Phinney, Cooperstown, N.Y., 1827." *Bible Church, and Court House Records, 1795-1925*, Volume XXXIII (NSDAR), LDS Film 1435718, Item 3. Photocopies enclosed.

¹¹*History of Oswego County, New York, 1789-1877*. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1877?, p. 380.

Baker family is also buried there.

The marriage of James Rogers and Mary Smith, probably the daughter of Levi Smith of the town of Lorraine, Jefferson County, New York, on 2 Jan 1827 and the birth of their daughter Eliza on 20 Feb 1828 are recorded in the Rogers family Bibles. There are no official records of these events, because the area was a wilderness on the frontier. Civil vital records were not kept until about 1867.

Eliza Rogers married Van Rensselaer Porter about 1846. There is no record of this marriage, but it is adequately documented below.

James Rogers died intestate 14 Feb 1848, so there is no will or census record to identify his children. However, his widow lived until 16 Apr 1893 and died in Richland, Oswego County, New York. Her death notice, funeral notice, and obituary appeared in the *Sandy Creek News* on 20 Apr 1893.¹² Her obituary (copy attached) states that she was born in Vermont in 1808, that she moved with her parents to Lorraine at the age of six, and that she married James Rogers at the age of eighteen. It further states that her children were Mrs. Eliza Porter, deceased, Mrs. Isabel Richardson, and LeRoy Rogers. All of these facts corroborate the above statements and agree with the records in the family Bibles.

Further evidence that Eliza Rogers Porter is the daughter of James Rogers and the granddaughter of Verdy Roger is provided by the probate records of Verdy Rogers (copies attached), who died 2 Apr 1849.¹³ In them, Van Rensselaer Porter and his wife Eliza are identified as heirs of Verdy Rogers, and Eliza is identified as the daughter of his son, James, deceased.

My descent from VanRensselaer Porter and Eliza Rogers is detailed and documented in my original application for membership in the NSSAR, which has been accepted. My membership number is 118472.

¹²Microfilm copies of Sandy Creek, New York newspapers in the Annie Porter Ainsworth Memorial Library, Sandy Creek, New York.

¹³Verdy Rogers will, Oswego County, NY Surrogate Office, Record of Wills, 1816-49, p. 180. LDS Film 0866848. Also Verdy Rogers Letter Testamentary, Oswego County, NY Letters Testamentary and Administrations, Vol. C-E, p. 12. LDS Film 0872721. Also Petition of Charles W. Alton to Orla H. Whitney, County Judge of the County of Oswego, 23 April 1849, Oswego County Court Records.

OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS

1. ROBERT MUZZY, Sr. - was born in ¹⁷³⁸ and he had settled in Dublin, N. H. before 1770 and died September 9, 1831 in the town of Sandy Creek. Robert Muzzy, Sr. married Martha Cozens and they had the one child - Robert Muzzy, Jr. (b. Jul 16, 1769 / d. Feb 2, 1829) who was a Lieutenant in the War of 1812 and came to the town of Sandy Creek with his family in 1816 and Robert Sr. lived with them. The Muzzy family lived on the North Street Road and built the house that is presently the home of the Richard Salisbury family. The house was one of the finest around at the time and was built with the pension money received by Robert Muzzy, Sr. for having served in the Revolutionary War. Robert, Sr. was to later be promoted to the rank of Captain. Robert Muzzy, Sr. and his wife are thought to be buried in the old North Street Road Cemetery where it is known their only son and wife are buried. There is a known direct descendant living in Hemet, California - Elizabeth G. (Evans) White (Mrs E. Eugene White)

In the Revolutionary War - he was in the Light Infantry, at the Battles of: Bunker Hill, Long Island, Harlan Heights, Trenton, Princeton, both battles of Stillwater-Monmouth & Stony Point and was in the 3rd Co., 13th Regt. of the Continental Troops. Served as a Lieutenant during the War and was later promoted to Captain. Regiment was commanded by Colonel Joseph Read, Esq.

2. ~~THOMAS BAKER~~ - was born October 29, ^{17 per g. 5606} 1751 at Exeter, Rhode Island and died in the town of Sandy Creek January 10, 1840 and is buried in the Noyes Cem. Thomas Baker was married December 16, 1776 at Colrain, Mass. to Mary Carswell (who died in Sandy Creek Apr 17, 1832) and they were to have a family of fourteen (14) children. Thomas Baker lived on the South Ridge Road. There are no known descendants. Thomas Baker was one of the organizers of the old Congregational church here in Sandy Creek in 1817. In the Revolutionary War - served in 1775 as a private and as a sergeant.

was sustained as a ruling elder of the church.

3. PETER BARGY - (German spelling of the name Bircki) was born July 10, 1753 in Elthes, Germany (coming to America with his parents in 1765 as a boy of twelve) and died in the town of Sandy Creek June 29, 1845 and is buried beside his wife in the Scripture Cemetery. The family had settled in Schuyler, Herkimer Co. and Peter Bargy continue to reside there up until the time he and his wife were to go to make their home with their son Peter in Frankfort, Herkimer Co. about 1831. Peter Bargy married Elizabeth Ann Young (1764 - 1853) in Minden, Montgomery Co., NY, September 1, 1790. In 1838 at the age of eighty-five Peter Bargy and his wife Elizabeth Ann traveled to Sandy Creek to make their home with their son-in-law and daughter, Lawrence and Elizabeth (Bargy) Widrig, who had settled here the year before - purchasing the former Asa Wallace farm south of the village on what is now Route 11, on the site of the present Radcliffe Wilder home. There are direct descendants living in Sandy Creek and area.

In the Revolutionary War - fought and served in the Mohawk Valley area extensively. A detailed account of his military record has previously appeared in the pages of the Sandy Creek News. He was present when the notorious Captain Butler was taken.

NSDAR, *Bible, Church, and Court Records, 1795-1925*, DAR Oneida Chapter (NY), vol. 9, pp. 338-340 (NSDAR Vol. XXXIII) from LDS film 1435718, item 3. Transcripts of vital records from two Rogers family Bibles by Mrs. Elizabeth Merritt, Chairman, Genealogical Research Committee, Oneida Chapter, NSDAR, Utica, NY, May, 1928. The first Bible was printed in Edinburgh in 1793; the second in Cooperstown, NY in 1827. Both were in the possession of Mrs. Lois Gould of Utica, NY at that time. The earliest Rogers family members mentioned are Samuel Rogers and his wife, Captivity.

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