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HISTORICAL SERMON

BY REV. G. B. ILSLEY

AND

CENTENNIAL POEM

BY MRS. S. E. ILSLEY

AT

The One Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

LIMERICK BAPTIST CHURCH

TUESDAY, AUG. 25, 1896

THE THURSTON PRINT  
PORTLAND, ME.

OCCGS

# BAPTIST BEGINNINGS.

BY REV. G. B. ILSLEY.

The first avowal of Baptist views within the borders of Maine was made in Kittery as early as 1681. In September of the next year there was a Baptist church organized in that town, of ten males and seven females, with Rev. William Screven as their first preacher. But such was the intensity of intolerance on the part of the "standing order" against it, that it was soon deemed best to dissolve and remove to a more congenial location in South Carolina.

The next effort to lift the standard of the Baptist faith was not made until more than eighty years later. This was done in a community about two miles west of North Berwick village, where in 1768 was organized what is now known as the First Baptist church of this state, and one Mr. Joshua Emery was its leading promoter. Coming out from the "standing order" and adopting Baptist principles, he was called a "new light," and he was so bright a one that he could not be extinguished by the severe opposition that was brought against him. He served the church for twenty years without ordination.

By removing into North Berwick village about thirty years ago, this church has had a continued existence of 128 years, and now possesses a fine church edifice and parsonage, a good minister and a prosperous congregation. It was my pleasure to be

present at its Centennial Anniversary in 1868.

The second Baptist church of Maine, an offshoot of the first, is the one at Sanford, being organized in 1772. While in my first pastorate at Springvale and clerk of York Association, it fell to my lot to deliver the historical sermon at its one hundredth anniversary. In 1776 these two churches united with a Baptist church in New Hampshire and formed what was then called "the Brentwood Conference," which grew into "the New Hampshire Association," probably in 1785. And it was with this association that this church united and continued till 1819, when the York Baptist Association was constituted.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT OF LIMERICK.

Long before any permanent settlements were made between the two Ossipee rivers, venturesome hunters came hither in pursuit of the abundant game which was here to be found; for it is reported that the Sokokis Indians (from which the name "Saco" is probably derived) had here some of their finest hunting-grounds. And it is generally supposed that their trail from Saco to Pequawket village, now Fryeburg, was through the eastern border of this town.

On a lead tablet, found eighteen inches under ground, near a large pine stump, on the north side of the

little Ossipee, on or near the Ford place, and discovered by George Ford about fifty years ago, are inscribed the names of those who are believed to be the first possessors of land in this town. This is their order:

	T. Gilpatrick.	
B. Nason.		J. Cole.
S. Wingate.		J. Gilpatrick.
E. Allen.		J. Morrill.
O. Emery.		J. Sullivan.
E. Bradbury.		W. Cole.
J. Stimson.		J. Staples.
B. Staples.	Anno 1772, May 15th.	

On the reverse side is,

"Daniel Ridlon, olim  
animo possidendi.  
Witness: D. King,  
J. Wingate,  
Limbrick."

Jas. Sullivan, whose name is on this tablet, was a native of Limerick, Ireland, and afterwards became governor of Massachusetts.

When Rev. John Adams of Newfield visited this township in 1780 he states that there were twelve families, and some of them were Irishmen, from Limerick, Ireland. A son of Dea. Benj. Johnson, who moved here that year says that there were 25 families, and Capt. Bradbury had five sons and ten daughters living here.

It is generally conceded that the first settler was a man by the name of Isaiah Foster who made the clearing of what is now known as the Wm. B. Bangs place, about 1775. Abijah Felch settled first at Felch's Corner and was soon joined by Jacob Bradbury. John Wingate, who had three lots for his services as surveyor, chose them in the northwest part of the town. Penuel Clark lived near the Perrys in the northwest corner of the town.

The town was incorporated March 6, 1787, John Wingate, Abijah Felch and Joseph Gilpatrick making the application for it.

The first town meeting was at Capt. Jacob Bradbury's Inn near Felch's Corner. He was first moderator and Abijah Felch first clerk. Capt. Bradbury, Joseph and Thos. Gilpatrick were the first board of selectmen.

As early as 1788 the Baptists were awarded their share of the town tax for preaching. In 1792 a Baptist meeting house was built and it is thought a branch to the Parsonsfield church was effected in 1793. In this year the Congregationalists built a house. In 1796 Abijah Felch, Amariah Lord, and Jacob Mills were appointed a committee to lay out the Baptist Society's money, raised for the support of the gospel—an amount of \$60. Unlike other towns previous to this, there seems to have been no serious trouble between the denominations, about supporting preaching.

#### CHURCH CONSTITUTED.

The action by which this church had its separate organization was taken at the house of Dea. Jacob Mills on Thursday, Aug. 25, 1796, just one hundred years from this date.

The location is south of here about two miles on the farm of our esteemed brother, the late Wm. B. Bangs. The meeting was held by the brethren of Parsonsfield, Newfield and Limerick.

Bro. Levi Chalkbourn, pastor at Parsonfield, was chosen moderator. The throne of grace was addressed

for a blessing and it is to be inferred that Jacob Mills was elected clerk, as he was the recorder in the church book.

It was voted to divide the church, then known as the Parsonsfield church, into two churches after the following manner:

"The brethren and sisters at Limerick, together with Bro. John Shute and wife, Sisters Elizabeth Durgin and Nancy Elliot of Cornish, Stephen Piper of Newfield, and Sister Hitty Elliot of Arundel (now Kennebunkport) to be one church, to be called the Church of Christ of Limerick; the rest to be called the Church of Parsonsfield and Newfield."

Following this the records contain the articles of faith, the copy of the church covenant, with eight resolves and three expressions of belief.

The following is the list of original members as entered upon the records:

Thomas Lord, Jacob Mills, Thomas Paul, John Shute, Stephen Piper, Simon Fogg, Thomas Bradbury, Ammi Lord, Jr., Daniel Warren, Thomas Seavy, John Seavy Jr., Samuel Staples, Edward Cole, Penuel Clark, Ebenezer Record, Patrick Furlong, Edmund Furlong, Ebenezer P. Kinsman; Sally Mills, Nancy Elliot, Esther Lord, Hitty Elliot, Eliza Durgin, Mary Shute, Hannah Bradbury, Elizabeth Howard; making only 26, instead of 28 and 31 as previous reports have stated.

#### FIRST PASTOR.

Elder Ebenezer P. Kinsman, besides being one of the constituent members of the church was also

chosen its first pastor—being called to that office by a vote of the church, Sept. 3, 1796, and through the following letter—Bro. Eben P. Kinsman:

"As in the Kingdom of God's Providence we have had the privilege of sitting under the improvement of your gift for some time, and find that we are instructed and edified thereby, dear brother, it is our desire that we may still continue under the improvement of your gift.

We therefore unitedly hold out the hand of our desire to you, that you would come and take the pastoral care of us as long as we shall be profitable to each other; and we agree to give you in compensation for your labors one hundred dollars annually."

In behalf of the church,

JACOB MILLS, *Clerk.*

After four days the call was accepted, and a council for his examination was called on the evening of Oct. 11, and on the next day the ordination took place.

Elder Wm. Hooper was moderator and Andrew Sherburne was clerk. Seven churches were represented, viz; Coxhall, Waterborough, Shapleigh, Wells and Madbury, Parsonsfield and Cornish. Elder Simon Lock of Coxhall (now Lyman) made the first prayer, Elder Wm. Hooper of Madbury and Berwick preached the sermon and offered the ordaining prayer, Elder Nathaniel Lord of Wells gave the right hand of fellowship, and Elder Henry Smith of Waterboro made the concluding prayer. He continued as the regular pastor for nearly eleven years, or until May 14, 1807. After this he

preached in Limington and supplied this church more or less during the next twenty years of its history.

Under his useful ministry forty-two were baptized into membership. He lived on the right hand of the road going out of the village N. W. toward Parsonsfield, in a little one story house not now in existence.

He died about 1830 and was buried in the adjoining cemetery. Sad to say no suitable monument has ever marked his grave. There are only a few now living in Limerick who personally remember him as an excellent Christian minister and citizen. Some of our parents were married by him.

In 1798, nine were baptized and in 1799, seventeen and the whole membership was 53. In Jan., 1800, fourteen were dismissed to be a church by themselves at Effingham. Hitherto it had been reckoned as a branch.

To show what interest was taken in religious matters in 1801—the minutes of the association report that there were at its meeting in Parsonsfield 2,000 people and that there were two sermons in the afternoon, one by Elder Titcomb of Portland and the other by Elder Batchelder of Berwick. There was remarkable solemnity, great sobriety and good order.

In 1803 and 1804 there were frequent baptisms and twenty-five were added to the membership, so it rose to sixty-four. In 1808 it was 56; in 1812, 43; in 1818, 62 are reported.

During this pastorless interim of twenty years there were occasional supplies by Elders Goding of Shap-

leigh, Flanders of Buxton and Roberts of Kennebunk.

From 1816 to 1827 no records are found. This was called, "the eleven years drought" and the membership became reduced to twenty-five. Out of regular order there is an entrance of a record, page 19, that on July 3, 1827, Alvan Felch, Amos Felch, Jr., Obed Walker and four others were baptized. It is remembered that at this time, Rev. Willard Glover labored with the church, and there was quite a revival but his name never appeared in the minutes as the pastor of the church, but the church records show that he was with the church in Dec., 1828. In 1829 there were twelve added and the total was 41.

In 1831 Elder Joshua Roberts became pastor and continued service till 1835. The church was strengthened by his labors, although no general revival was experienced.

The next pastor, coming in 1837, was Rev. Noah Hooper, who gathered large congregations on the Sabbath—a few were baptized—and the Sunday-school which was started in 1834, reported 100 members to the Association. He remained only one year. Elder A. Flanders supplied the church part of the time in 1839.

In 1840, a call was extended and accepted by Bro. J. H. Tilton. He became a member in Nov., 1839, was licensed Feb. 27, 1840 and ordained April 15. A gracious revival accompanied his ministry, so that many were added by baptism. The membership rose the next year to seventy-eight, the highest ever reached.

He was here on a brief visit last

June and it is much to our regret that he is not able to be with us on this occasion. Six years ago, the 50th anniversary of his ministry, was celebrated at Reading, Mass. Although not a pastor he still preaches as occasional supply. All along he has been a most earnest and noble man of God.

In 1845 the church was served by Rev. L. Pierson. In 1846-47 by Rev. J. E. Strong.

Rev. L. S. Tripp became pastor sometime in 1848 and continued into 1850. He was a man of excellent education, being an early graduate of Waterville College. His preaching and teaching in the Academy and some of our public schools, was much appreciated by those who came under them.

In Jan., 1851, a call was accepted by Bro. J. D. Tilton, who, for a few months, had been supplying the pulpit. A council was called Feb. 4th to consider the propriety of his ordination. Rev. N. M. Williams of Saco was moderator and A. Joy of Cornish, clerk. Being satisfied with his examination, the services of ordination took place the next day. N. M. Williams preached the sermon and offered the ordaining prayer. H. G. Nott delivered the charge to the candidate, J. L. Sanborn extended the hand of fellowship and Dr. Adam Wilson made the address to the church and congregation. Mr. Tilton like his brother, was a man of more than ordinary zeal and devotion. He was a very earnest speaker, and a good and faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

Much was accomplished through

his four years' pastorate, both in temporal and spiritual things. That old unpainted meeting-house—with the town house down stairs—with its square and long pews, its high pulpit and singing seats, its many windows (it is still vivid to some of our childhood recollections), was taken down in March of '52 and by November of that same year this pleasant and beautiful edifice was standing in its place. I remember the sale of these new pews at auction—my father serving as auctioneer and how pew No. 2 was struck off to Dea. Benj. Ilsley at eight dollars above the appraisal, and No. 3 to Joseph McKenney at six, and No. 6 to Moses Fogg at two, and No. 7, to Dr. Swasey at three, and No. 8 to Jeremiah Ilsley at ten dollars premium for choice. The dedication occurred Nov. 17, 1852. Alvan Felch preached the sermon. While this house was building, the meetings were held in a hall in the rear of the present brick town hall.

The first baptism by pastor Tilton, April 23, '54, was in the stream at the Tufts bridge down the hill from Moses Fogg's residence. Three of the four, who at that time followed the Master, are now living and here to day. The other one, Major Sinclair, who took the contract to erect this house of worship for \$1000, died in Biddeford quite a number of years ago. Pastor Tilton baptized ten into the church that year and closed his useful labors in November, 1854, greatly to the regret of many.

After an interval of a year Rev. A. J. Nelson became pastor for two

years. Feeble health interrupted his earnest ministry not a little.

For another year the church was destitute, and for several months this house was unopened on the Lord's Day. Some, however, wept over the low estate of Zion. Late in 1857, Bro. H. M. Sawtelle, a member of this church preparing for the ministry at Newton, supplied a few Sundays in vacation.

Following this in the spring of 1858, as the great revival began to break out in all parts of the land, three or four of the members resolved that they would hold social services at the church Sunday forenoons, and also to start anew the evening prayer meetings. This movement was so blessed that in a few Sundays the church was filled at the morning service and many new voices were heard confessing Christ as their Saviour.

The interest soon spread to the Academy and the other churches, so that the entire community was feeling the touch of a great awakening.

The students held prayer meetings before school in the morning, first at the Congregational vestry and then in the Academy itself, and sometimes there were prayer meetings in place of declamations Wednesday afternoons.

Principal J. P. Watson was in full sympathy with this movement. It was indeed a time of God's gracious visitation. Nearly all the unconverted students in the Academy were led to confess their love for Jesus in those special meetings. It was also in the midst of such glowing spiritual life that Bro. H. A.

Sawtelle visited the church as a candidate in May. He accepted the call and began his ministry upon his graduation from Newton in July and was soon ordained, July 8, to the pastorate, and to the early joy of gathering many new members into the church. Within a year it was his privilege to induct nineteen by baptism and six by letter, raising the membership from fifty-one to sixty-nine. Never was the church more filled with the fulness of spiritual blessings than during this one brief year of Dr. Sawtelle's pastorate. It was like breaking our very heart strings to have him leave for the far off land of China in the fall of 1859, whither he felt God called him. Dr. Sawtelle's ordination sermon was by Rev. J. Keely, of Saco, and the ordaining prayer by Rev. H. G. Nott, of Kennebunkport.

In the winter of 1860, an earnest effort was made to secure M. J. Prescott as pastor from Newton. He was given a unanimous call, but he did not see fit to accept it.

Rev. C. H. Carlton, however, was called, and ordained Oct. 31. He was a graduate of Newton and classmate of Mr. Prescott. Rev. Charles Ayer, of Brunswick, preached the sermon, Rev. Alvan Felch, of Hallowell, offered the ordaining prayer, and Rev. C. F. Foster, of Biddeford, gave the charge to the candidate. Bro. Carlton proved an acceptable preacher, and, with his wife who was an excellent singer, was very highly esteemed and respected among the people. It was a grief to part with them at the end of two years of faithful service.

Succeeding them, there was a vacancy of more than two years in the pastorate. An effort was made to secure Rev. E. W. Pray, but without success. The pulpit was occasionally supplied.

In April of 1865, a call was extended to Rev. A. H. Estey, of Waldoboro, and soon accepted. He was a man of noble frame, gifted with eloquent words in speaking and praying. His useful pastorate continued three years or more, but not many were added to the church.

In the last of 1869, the labors of Rev. Asa Perkins were secured and blessed in a ministry of more than seven years. He was a graduate of Waterville and Newton. It was his pleasure to add twenty or more by baptism. He continued as a resident member of the church until the time of his decease. His sermons were full of excellent thought.

In 1878, Bro. E. P. Burt was supplied.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. F. Weston, another graduate of our schools of learning, although it lasted only a little more than a year there was quite an ingathering. In July of 1879, Dr. Sawtelle made a visit and baptized for the pastor eight or ten most substantial members into the church. It was a time of great encouragement to all the people. Mr. Weston closed his labors in October, 1880. The membership then stood at sixty-one.

In 1881, there was no pastor, but the society rebuilt the parsonage.

In June, 1882, Rev. J. W. Dick was settled as pastor, and continued till April, 1886. Six were received

by baptism. By deaths and dismissals, the numbers were reduced to fifty-four. In his closing letter to the church, he said "Your homes and hearts have always given me and mine a hearty welcome. My salary at all times has been as good as money in the National Bank, and your many tokens of friendship have been highly appreciated."

After him, Rev. Asa Perkins became stated supply for part of the time, until Rev. C. P. Bennett was elected pastor and began his ministry of two years with April, 1888. On account of the illness of his wife, Mr. Bennett was compelled to remove to Colorado. His services were much appreciated. He was a recent graduate from Newton, being ordained in his previous pastorate at Shapleigh. At the close of his labors, Rev. C. M. Emery supplied the church for about six months.

In June of 1890, Rev. O. C. Herbert was called from Brooklin, Me., and began his ministry on July 13. His resignation took effect in October of '92. Through his labors, a few were added by baptism and letter, but the greater losses by death and otherwise reduced the membership to thirty-seven.

During the years of '93 and '94 the interest was so low that those who had hitherto been full of courage to support the meetings were almost ready to give up in despair about ever again trying to have a regular pastor; but in March of 1895, after having a young man from Newton Theological Institution preach for them, a call to the pastorate was voted to Bro. Albert E. Fox, and it was

to the joy of all that he was willing to accept the same and that he entered upon his services the last Sunday of May. With the parsonage, they could raise three times as much for his salary as was voted to the first pastor. The addition of a few by baptism last July, and the ordination of the new pastor last September, seemed to give hope of brighter days for this dear old church just rounding its first century; but, on account of his wife's illness, he has felt obliged to close his labors, and the church, on this, its golden anniversary, is again without an under-shepherd to guide, guard, and feed this dearly beloved little flock, now numbering only forty-one. The last number, so far as it can be made out, stands on the chronological list at 321. It is quite probable, however, that, through neglect of the clerks, some names were never entered.

After 1842, when York Association divided, this church united with the Saco River, and so remained until a few years ago, when, by the readjustment of associational lines, it was merged into the Cumberland. It never entertained the York. The Saco River met here in 1853 and 1879, and also in 1892, under the new arrangements.

#### DEACONS.

This church has had as deacons: Penuel Clark, chosen in 1796; Jacob Mills, chosen in 1804; James Gould, chosen in 1804; Benjamin Ilsley, chosen in 1829 to 1856; Abner Libby, chosen in 1837 to 1864; Jeremiah Ilsley, chosen in 1856 to 1873;

Ebenezer Day, chosen in 1871 to 1887; Nathaniel L. Meserve, chosen in 1873 to 1892; Enoch Ilsley, chosen in 1888. Only the last is living. It is safe to say that few churches have ever been blessed with truer or more devoted Christian servants as deacons than this church. We remember Dea. Benj. Ilsley and Dea. Abner Libby as always in their places and strong towers of strength to this church.

Of those who became preachers from the members of this church, we may speak of Thos. and Benj. Paul, Jotham Day and Ezra Towle, who was "approved to improve his gifts," Jan. 9, 1800. Alvan Felch, licensed Mar. 15, 1830. Atherton Clark and Obed Walker, about the same time. H. M. Sawtelle, licensed Jan 31, 1856. G. B. Ilsley, licensed Aug. 29, 1861, and A. A. Watson, Feb. 3, 1867.

In the minutes of 1834 this was reported by its letter: "The church is not without trials, but rejoices in Christ as head over all things, and it gladdens their hearts to hear His name exalted. They have a Sabbath-school of 53 members, and a Temperance Society of 77."

The clerks of the church have been Jacob Mills, 1796-1804; Simeon Fogg, 1804-1816; Jacob Bradbury, chosen at the close of 1816, but made no entries. In 1828, Alvan Felch was elected and started and kept the 2d book till 1830. Simeon Fogg again for two years; and then Jacob Bradbury from 1832 to 1837; Jesse Locke 1837-1850; Alvin Chadbourn, one year; Cyrus Fogg, 1851-1858; G. B. Ilsley 1858-1861; Eben-

ezer Day till 1872; then Edwin Ilsley till 1884; and since then Enoch Ilsley.

Besides the pastors who served as Sunday-school Superintendents, mention may be made of Isaac Ilsley, Dr. Wm. Gage, N. L. Meserve, G. B. Ilsley, Wm. Bangs and Enoch Ilsley.

The following are those who have in former days led or assisted in the choir, viz.: Alvan Felch, Jacob Bradbury, Edmund Libby, Delia and Sarah Libby, Mary J. Stimson, Shubael Leavitt, Frances Meserve Patten, Jeremiah Ilsley, Sarah and Louisa Leavitt, Miranda Ilsley, Augustus Libby, John B. Gilpatrick, John Ham, Dr. Wm. Gage, Julia Gage, Horatio Fogg, W. B. Bangs, Mary Bangs, Mrs. Elizabeth Critchley Berry, Mary Lizzie Day, Mrs. Carlton, and Ella Felch Hayes. Of those who have more recently served are Mrs. Roxie Carpenter, Mrs. Mary Meserve, Mrs. Viola Gray, Georgiana Stimpson, John Stimpson, John P. Fogg and Enoch Ilsley.

When the first melodeon was obtained, Hannibal Sawtelle was the only one able to play it. Those who have since been organists, are G. B. Ilsley, Mrs. C. H. Carlton, Mrs. Nellie Gordon Swasey, Mrs. Viola Gray.

Many of the Sunday evening and mid-week prayer-meetings used to be held at Dea. Benj. Ilsley's house, Felch's Hall and Aunt May Leavitt's

home and sometimes in the village at Marshall Staples. The time for these services to begin, used to be announced as "early candle light."

In former days the pastors would occasionally give notice of lectures at the "Pitchmop" or "Potatoboro" schoolhouse at 5 o'clock Sunday evenings.

How much good has been accomplished, in or during all the years that this church has had a name and place among you, it is not possible for us to estimate. That it has been a power for good there is no question. It has been a light on this hill top indeed, holding forth the word of life to many a soul, who but for its benign influences might have passed on and died without a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.

May the future of this church be as bright and beautiful as has been this lovely and perfect day.

And if it please the great head of the church may the light on this golden candlestick never grow dim, nor the candlestick itself be removed from its place until its mission on earth shall be fully accomplished.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever, Amen.

MAINE  
Religion

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## CENTENNIAL POEM.

BY MRS. S. E. ILSLEY.

A century of work in the vineyard done,  
We come to celebrate to-day;  
Where the race has been so swiftly run—  
We can count the mile-stones all the way;  
And many a martyr, many a saint,  
Has turned, full oft, a stake in the race;  
Some martyr, who bore, without complaint,  
Life's ills, and, patient, stood in her place;

Or a saint, whose life was good and true,  
All pure and blameless, free from guile,  
Who lived for the good that he could do,  
The poor to aid, or to cause to smile  
All those bowed down by grief or sin;  
To turn them from the old, dark ways,  
And lead them paths of gladness in;  
Make their hearts overflow with joy and praise.

This race that every muscle strained,  
And tested the fibers of every man;  
The goal by many has been attained;  
How long and eagerly they ran!  
They have finished the course, they strength re-  
new,  
For they upon the Lord did wait;  
On eagles' wings, not weary, they grew,  
But mounted aloft from this earthly state;  
Around the throne, now they radiant stand,  
A happy, ransomed, glorified band.

A century ago, the work began,  
A branch set off, full of gospel might,  
From the Parsonfield church—so the records ran,  
Built a meeting-house here on the present site.  
The laborer, who, first in this vineyard toiled,—  
A pioneer pious, earnest and true.—  
Elder Chadbourne,—his faithful efforts unfoiled  
To him is this church's origin due.

In 1796 this church ordained  
Ebenezer Kinsman, its first pastor dear,  
Who, long and well, the gospel truth main-  
tained,  
And garnered souls thro' each succeeding year,  
Till years of ministry—eleven—did close  
His useful efforts, full of zeal and love;  
Then another preacher in his place arose,  
To carry on the work, and faithful prove,

And so, thro' all the years, the harvest-fields  
Ready have been, and waiting, full-ripe white;  
And golden, bounteous, and precious yields,  
At times, have blessed the laborer's sight.

O dear-loved church, your century record past  
Has been all full of fountains, bubbling o'er  
With love for others, and, while life shall last,  
Still into others cups, shall joy and comfort  
pour

From these, God's people; for they want shall  
feel

Who keepeth, and the fountains smaller grow;  
While they who share these living streams that  
steal

'Tween banks of green, forevermore shall flow  
For them, these waters; and, in them springing  
up

Shall be a well of water, pure, undefiled;  
Whoso would pour it in another's cup  
Must first receive it, "as a little child."  
How many in the by-gone hundred years  
Have drank these waters of Eternal Life,  
That slaked their longing thirst, amid their  
tears,

Who now are safe, beyond this earthly strife!

O little church, a hill-top beacon light,  
O'erlooking miles of hill and dale around,  
Thy sacred walls with memories sad and bright,  
Thy joining churchyard is love's hallowed  
ground.

Beautiful for situation, founded high,  
Thy distant hills skirt the horizon's rim;  
Afar, the mountains, grand and cloud-like, lie,  
Now drawing near, and now in blue mists  
dim.

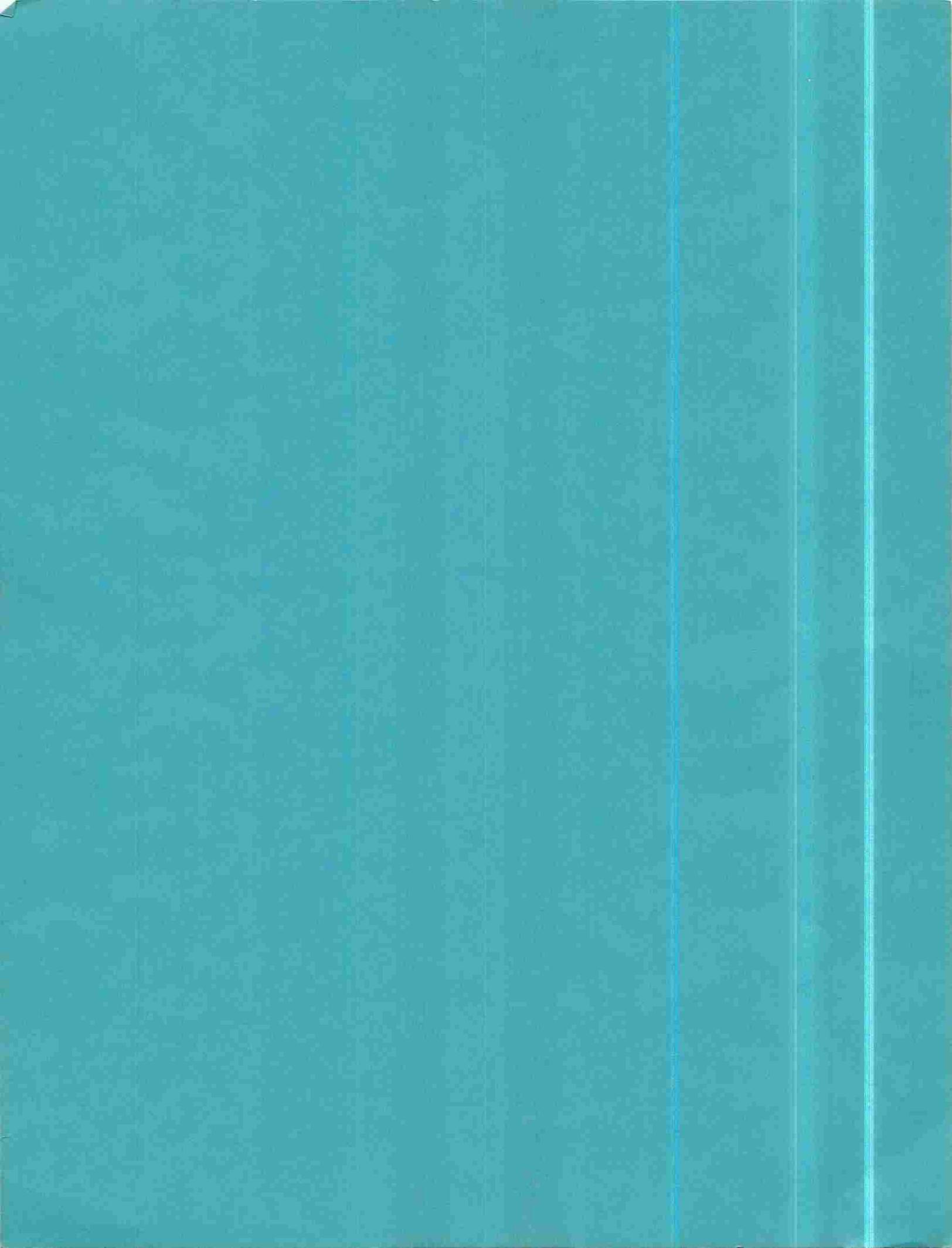
How beautiful upon the mountain's height  
Are feet of those who, the good tidings bring,  
Who publish peace, who make dark pathways  
bright,  
Proclaiming: "Thy God reigneth!" He is  
King!

O when we pilgrims leave this earthly scene,  
From this life's joys and toils are called away,  
On lofty mounts, in vales, and pastures green,  
By living streams and fountains, may we stray;  
The glories of the eternal world be ours, for aye!

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WALTON  
1978

# DUBROS

# TIMES

SELECTED DEPOSITIONS

OF MAINE

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

VETERANS



Augusta, Maine

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# DUBROS TIMES

SELECTED DEPOSITIONS  
OF  
MAINE REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

Edited by Sylvia J. Sherman

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction . . . . .	v
Report of the Joint Select Committee to Consider the Expediency of Granting Two Hundred Acres of Land to Each Officer and Soldier of the Revolution . . . . .	vii
<i>Jonathan Knox</i> . . . . .	1
<i>Caleb Gordon</i> . . . . .	3
<i>James Brown</i> . . . . .	4
<i>Jonathan Britton</i> . . . . .	7
<i>Jonathan Burrows</i> . . . . .	9
<i>Simeon Moulton</i> . . . . .	10
<i>James Boaz</i> . . . . .	13
<i>Benen Foster</i> . . . . .	15
<i>John Gardner</i> . . . . .	16
<i>Luther Cary</i> . . . . .	17
<i>William Plummer</i> . . . . .	19

## ILLUSTRATIONS

1792 Map of the Upper Kennebec . . . . .	2
1785 Map of Machias Bay . . . . .	14
Land Office certificate awarding 200 acres of land to Luther Cary . . . . .	18
Land Agent's lotting of T.3, R.8, W.E.L.S. showing grants awarded to Revolutionary soldiers and their widows . . . . .	20

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY  
INTRODUCTION

In 1893 the State of Maine published, by order of the Governor and Executive Council, a listing of the names of soldiers of the American Revolution who had applied for State bounty lands under a succession of Legislative Resolves passed between 1835 and 1838. The names were compiled from records of the Maine Land Office which was responsible for the selection of the bounty lots, qualification of claims and general administration of all land grants. The editor drew attention to the fact that the documents from which he had made his list contained "... a rich store not only of personal, but of war history... They tell us in the words of the very actors in that war, of Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill; of the siege of Boston, of Ticonderoga and Crown Point... of the retreat across New Jersey, of Trenton and of Valley Forge; of the surrender of Burgoyne and Cornwallis; of raids into the Indian country... of the campaign of Arnold through the wilderness of Maine; of camp fare and of prison life." In this Bicentennial year, it seems appropriate that a selection of some of the most interesting of these documentary accounts, carefully preserved by the State and now in the custody of the Maine State Archives, be at last made widely available to the public.

The accounts herein presented are legal depositions and other evidence submitted by Maine veterans of the Revolution or their widows as proof of actual service to qualify for State grants of land. Such grants were commonly utilized by States in the post-Revolutionary era as a means of compensating veterans; and, prior to 1834, Maine veterans had been entitled to bounty lands awarded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the District of Maine having been a part of Massachusetts at the time of the Revolution. In 1833, however, Massachusetts restricted her grants to residents of that State only; and the Maine Legislature, concerned that veterans living in Maine were thereby penalized because of the 1820 separation of the two States, accordingly passed Resolves to provide similar compensation. The Report of the *Legislative Joint Select Committee to Consider the Expediency of Granting Two Hundred Acres of Land to Each Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Revolution*, which follows this introduction, provides a lucid account of the background of the bounty land Resolves. Ultimately, a series of four related Resolves were enacted. The first, approved March 17, 1835, granted 200 acres of land to non-commissioned officers and soldiers who had served not less than three years; the second, approved February 8, 1836, extended the benefits of the 1835 Resolve to the widows and immediate heirs of non-commissioned officers and soldiers. A third Resolve of March 24, 1836 made it possible for those who could not meet the

full qualifications of the earlier legislation to receive a cash amount of \$50 if they could prove some degree of actual service. The fourth Resolve, approved March 10, 1838, granted 600 acres of land to commissioned officers or their widows.

Many of the veterans and their widows were severely hampered in making their applications by the lack of discharge papers and other official proof of service. Some had lost these documents in the course of the years, others had unwittingly sent original papers to the Pension Office in Washington or to Massachusetts in earlier applications for pensions or land grants; still others had never possessed any documentary evidence of service at all. To assist these individuals, the Legislature authorized the Land Agent to employ clerks to go to Washington and Boston to obtain certified copies of papers relating to Maine veterans, and some of the accounts published in this volume are in fact copies obtained by the Land Agent from Federal pension applications made as early as 1818. But a good many applicants had no recourse other than to go before a judge and swear out a formal deposition describing their service. If witnesses were available, sworn statements were also taken from them. Occasionally, abstracts of diaries kept during the war, family letters and other non-official materials were submitted as supporting evidence. These sworn depositions and some of the supporting documentation (such as the letter of Jonathan Burrows and the sailing orders of the Brig *Morris* on which the seaman James Brown served) have provided much of the material included in this publication.

To preserve the integrity of each document, all original spelling and punctuation have been retained, except in the case of Simeon Moulton's diary, where spaces have been inserted to represent natural breaks in the structure of his composition. The student of the Revolution will note that the veterans have made errors in chronology and in details about the events they describe; but the editor has chosen to indulge these aged warriors in their recollections of the past, and has not presumed to correct them. It might also have been helpful to the reader to have an editorial translation of the inimitable Maine dialect of some of the selections: To know, for example, that Simeon Moulton's captor "Col. Denalsee" was probably one of the DeLanceys, Loyalist officers in the British Army; and that when Denalsee/DeLancey said "I yould prould you", he was really indicating that he would have paroled Moulton and his fellow prisoners if circumstances had been different. Nevertheless, if these old gentlemen had been among us today, we would be delighted and grateful for the opportunity to hear, without editorial comment, their stories in the expressive and evocative authenticity of their own words.

REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE  
EXPEDIENCY OF GRANTING TWO HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND  
TO EACH NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER AND SOLDIER OF THE  
REVOLUTION

State of Maine

House of Representatives, March 1834

The Joint Select Committee, who by an order passed January 17th were instructed to consider the expediency of making a grant of land to certain officers & soldiers of the Revolution, and the widows of deceased officers and soldiers, have attended to that duty, and ask leave to report.

Your Committee have found no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion, that the proposed grant will be both expedient and just. It is well known that at an early period in our Revolutionary struggle, the most serious inconveniences were felt, and the most alarming consequences apprehended, from the shortness of the term for which the troops were enlisted. The necessity of a permanent army, enrolled for long periods, soon became apparent. Hence originated the system of enlistment for the term of three years and for during the war. Massachusetts, in order to induce her citizens to brave the dangers and submit to the privations of the war for such long periods of service, and in sufficient numbers to enable her to take a formidable stand in the contest, saw the necessity of holding out to the people strong pecuniary inducements. Accordingly that State passed resolves, offering to the soldiers who should thus enlist, a bounty in land, in addition to their monthly wages. Your committee do not find that this bounty was ever paid to the soldiers as proposed; and it is a well known historical fact that even their regular wages were paid in a depreciated paper currency. It is believed that in a vast number of instances the depreciation of this paper money amounted to an almost total loss to the soldier of his hard earned pittance.

Impressed with the justice of making the soldiers some remuneration for their losses, a Resolve was passed by Massachusetts, March 5, 1801, granting 200 acres of land in the then District of Maine to each non-commissioned Officer & Soldier who enlisted to serve during the war and received an honorable discharge after having served at least three years. This Resolve, as also another passed June 19th of the same year for the purpose of carrying its provisions into effect expired by express limitation in three years. Another Resolve was passed March 9th 1804, reviving & continuing in force the provisions of the former resolves for one year, and by a series of successive resolves, those provisions with some slight modifications were continued in force till March 1833. During all this time the benefits of the grant were shared indiscriminately by the soldiers residing in Maine & Massachusetts proper, as well after, as before the separation. These resolves were in the alternative,

giving to the soldier the option of receiving 200 acres of land, or \$20 in lieu thereof. Most of the soldiers who enlisted for during the war, availed themselves of the provisions of these resolves, but some few neglected to do so, at first because the value of the grant was at that period thought insufficient to justify the expense of proving their claims, and, more recently, when wild lands in Maine had assumed a higher value, because it was not reasonably known that those provisions had been revived & continued in force.

A Resolve was passed by Massachusetts, March 27th 1833, extending the grants to those non-commissioned officers & soldiers who enlisted for & served a term of not less than three years—but this grant is expressly limited to those who are now citizens of Massachusetts; thus excluding those officers & soldiers who now reside in this State, and who, but for the separation, would have been entitled to avail themselves of the provisions of this Resolve.

Your Committee are clearly of the opinion that this State ought to make the same provision for the few survivors of this meritorious class of her Citizens, which the parent State has made for those within her limits. By so doing, we shall have an opportunity of promoting the settlement of our vacant territory at some very important points, at the same time that we are performing an act of justice which has already been too long delayed.

With these views your Committee ask leave to report the accompanying Resolves.

S. W. Robinson

Per Order

*Times are very dubros at present for there  
is no news of Peace as yet.*

Private Jonathan Burrows  
to his family, 1782

*I Jonathan Knox of Berwick in the County of York, and State of Maine, aged Eighty years, do upon Oath declare, in order to obtain the benefit of a Resolve of the Legislature of Maine passed March 17 1835, entitled a "Resolve in favor of certain Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and the widows of the deceased Officers and Soldiers" and another resolve passed March 23<sup>d</sup> 1838, entitled a "Resolve additional to a Resolve in favor of certain Officers and Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and the widows of deceased Officers and Soldiers—that I enlisted, in the month of May 1775, in the Revolutionary War, in a company attached to Col. Scamman's Regiment, for Eight months—the officers of the company were Ebenezer Sullivan, Captain, Nathan Lord, Lieutenant—and Thomas Butler, 2<sup>d</sup> Lieutenant—I served out this term of Eight months, at Cambridge in Massachusetts—after the expiration of this term of Service, I again enlisted in the same company, under the same Officers for the term of one year, during which Service our company was attached to Colo. Pattersons Regiment—we formed a part of the Army which marched from New York to Canada by way of the Lakes under the command of Gen<sup>l</sup> Schuyler and afterwards of General Sullivan—after the expiration of this service I returned home—and afterwards in January 1777—I again enlisted for three years, in a company of which Amos Emerson was Captain, Jonathan Emerson, Lieutenant and Simon Merrill was Ensign—this company was a part of Col. Cilley's Regiment—of the New Hampshire Line—during this service I was present at the capture of Gen<sup>l</sup> Burgoynes Army—I was also in the Battle of Monmouth—and in various other battles & skirmishes—I have been engaged in about thirty different battles and skirmishes thirteen of which were with the Indians—I was captured by the Indians with my Lieutenant Nathan Lord, & saw him led out to be burnt to death, when he was ransomed, & rescued from death by a British Officer—I made my escape from the Indians & after enduring hardships and privations almost incredible, I obtained protection by surrendering myself a prisoner of war, at a British fort—my memory is remarkably good for my time of life and if necessary I could relate a great number of interesting particulars of my service—*

*After I had fully served out the term of three years for which I enlisted, I volunteered to serve six weeks longer, which term I served out; and received an honorable discharge from Col. Cilley, which discharge I have lost or mislaid—The evidence of all these services will be found at Washington on the files of the Pension Department which was furnished in support of my application for a pension under the Act of June 7th 1832—under which Act I now draw a pension of Eighty Dollars per annum*

*I do further on Oath declare that at the time of my said enlistment I was an inhabitant of Berwick where I now reside—and was on the 17th day of March 1835, have been ever since and now am an Inhabitant of the State of Maine residing in Berwick aforesaid, where I have resided for Eighty years past. Except the time I was absent from home in the war of the Revolution—that neither I nor any one claiming under me, has ever received a grant of Land as money in lieu thereof, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any other State—for my said Service or any other Service during the Revolutionary War, and that I am justly entitled to the Benefit of said Resolves*

*Jon<sup>a</sup> Knox*



1792 survey of the upper Kennebec, showing the wilderness route from the Kennebec overland to the Dead River (Western Branch) followed by Caleb Gordon under the the command of Colonel Benedict Arnold

## CALEB GORDON

*I Caleb Gordon, aged Sixty three years, a citizen of the United States, born in Brentwood in the State of New Hampshire on oath testify & declare (being now resident in Augusta in the District of Maine) that in April 1775 I enlisted as a private soldier for the Continental Service into what was called the Eight months service, into the company commanded by Capt Ballard— My Colonel I think was Colonel Jackson of the Massachusetts line — In August or September 1775 while serving under my first enlistment I volunteered to go with Col. Arnold in Capt Thayer's Company to Quebec by the way of the Kennebec through the woods. I went accordingly, and after great suffering by hunger and fatigue I arrived at Quebec. At the storming of the town, I partly ascended the wall in a scaling ladder, which was cut off by a chain shot from the enemy and I fell, having failed in our attempt upon Quebec. I afterwards was taken sick with the small pox and lay in a hospital near Quebec. After I had nearly recovered, upon an attack from the enemy, I effected my retreat with great labor, suffering and difficulty, and arrived at Bennington Vermont having passed by the way of Lake Champlain in August 1776, having served from my enlistment fifteen months. I was actively engaged with the enemy in the Battle of Bunker Hill. From the above campaign and service I took no formal written discharge. In August 1777 I again enlisted as a private soldier into the Continental Service of the United States against the common enemy for the term of three years into the Company commanded by Capt. Stone and regiment commanded by Col Brewer of the Massachusetts Line. Under this last enlistment I served two years and five months, and my wife being sick I hired for one hundred dollars a substitute for the remaining seven months. I myself by permission of my officers left the Army on the Hudson near New York in January 1780 — On my return, but within the three years, my right leg was amputated in consequence of a sore occasioned, as the Surgeon stated under oath, by the heats and colds of the Service. I took no formal written discharge, being unable in consequence of my misfortune to go and procure it. I am very poor, and in need of the bounty of the government. And I do hereby relinquish all my claim to every pension heretofore allowed me by the laws of the United States if any, but I am not to my knowledge borne on any pension list whatever — I request to be put on the Pension List for the District of Maine*

Caleb Gordon



## JAMES BROWN

*On this fourth day of October personally appeared before William Allen Hayes Judge of the Court of Probate in and for the County of York, James Brown a resident of Kittery in the County of York, and State of Maine 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 service of the United States, under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, I was born in Kittery in the State of Maine, on the first day of January seventeen hundred and seventy six, and have resided there ever since, I have no record of my age, In April in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six, I volunteered in a Company of Massachusetts Militia under the command of Captain Richard Rogers, and was at work on Forts Sullivan and M<sup>c</sup>Cleary and Fort Hancock at the mouth of Portsmouth Harbour, and continued thus as a volunteer for three months, and was discharged, I know of no one living by whom I can prove this service, In August of the year 1776, I enlisted in Cap<sup>t</sup> Samuel Leightons Company, in the first and Regiment of the Massachusetts line, Commanded by Colonel Francis, under General Ward, our company marched to Dorchester near Boston, and was there employed in building Forts and repairing the Castle for four months, the term of my enlistment. I can prove this service by Jonathan Horsom and Timothy Kinmond and Isaac Chick, who served with me, In the month of February in the year 1777, I shipped as a sailor, on board the United States Brig Morris, then in Portsmouth Harbour N.H. thence sailed to Virginia, took in a cargo of Military stores — Guns — Gun Locks, flints &c and also anchors, for the Navy, and reached Portsmouth N.H. on the third day of August 1779, having been absent two years and an half, The reason of our having been absent so long, was because, we were blockaded, in France by the English, I know of no one living by whom I can prove this service, Captain Benjamin Gunnison commanded the Brig and George Phipps, was second in command, they are both dead and also all the men known to me, who were on board said Brig, I had a written discharge, which I delivered to Judge Greene of said and which I shall endeavour to obtain and forward, to the War Department, There is no Clergyman living in Kittery, who knows me, but there are many respectable men in the vicinity, who knows that I have the reputation of having been a Soldier of the revolution, Captain T. F. Jewett and Charles N. Cogswell Esquire, both knows my reputation, and that it is generally understood, that I served in the Revolutionary War, He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension role of the agency of any State.*

James Brown



The following documents were submitted by James Brown in support of his deposition:

Passi January 14<sup>th</sup> 1779

*Sir, We have written to M<sup>r</sup> John Daniel Schweighauser of Nantes, to receive your Cargo, and dispose of it, but he writes us that he is apprehensive you will require a letter from us to you. This is therefore to authorize and direct you to deliver the Cargo of the Morris to M<sup>r</sup> Schweighauser or his agent, and to follow his directions concerning your future conduct, provided they be consistent with any orders you may have from Congress, or any Committee of Congress.*

*We are Sir  
your most obedient  
& very humble Servants*

*B. Franklin  
Arthur Lee  
John Adams*



Fredericksburgh 17<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1778

Cap<sup>t</sup> Benj.<sup>a</sup> Gunnison.

Sir,

*You have now on board the Brig Morris, whereof you are master 276 Hhs Tob.<sup>o</sup> addressed to the Honorable Commissioners of the United States of America Paris, and we hereby instruct you to hold said Brig in readiness to proceed on her voyage to France, under convoy of the Ship Lion, Cap<sup>t</sup> Michel, whose promise we have obtained to take you under his care, We understand the Ship Lion has now fallen down to Cedar Point in Potomock river, where we desire you will wait on Cap<sup>t</sup> Michel with our letter, who will appoint you a place of rendezvous, and give you sailing orders with the necessary instructions to be observed during the voyage, we recommend you to pay all due attendance to his signals and orders whilst at sea, and when you arrive on the Coast of France, you will run into the first convenient Port you can make, and immediately forward our letter to the Honorable Commissioners of the United States of America at Paris, and wait their answer for further proceedings. You will be assisted in forwarding your dispatches to Paris on application to the following Houses for advice at such Port as you arrive at, viz, M<sup>r</sup> John Daniel Schweighauser at Nantes, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Sam.<sup>l</sup> & J. H Deluss at Bourdeaux, M<sup>r</sup> Andrew Lomezin at Havre de Grace, M<sup>r</sup> Mark Gregory at Dunkerk, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Berard Tereres & C.<sup>o</sup>, at Port L'Orient. The Honorable Commissioners will in every respect direct your future proceedings.*

*With respect to the ten Hhds, you have addressed to M<sup>r</sup> John Ross, you will enclose our letter to that gentleman by Post immediately on your arrival, wherever he is, of which you will be informed by M<sup>r</sup>. Schweighauser at Nantes, or Mess<sup>rs</sup> Deluss at Bourdeaux, or if you to into any other Port, and cannot gain that information, you will enclose his letter under cover, to either of the above gentlemen, at same time writing him yourself what Port you are arrived at, and should you not have his reply before unloading your cargo agreeable to the Commissioners orders, you will deliver said ten Hhds. to the House above mentioned, at such Port as you are at, and take their treplicate receipts for same obliging themselves to hold said tobacco property of the Honorable Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris Esq<sup>r</sup>., at the disposal of M<sup>r</sup> John Ross of Philadelphia now in Europe, and to account with him for the nett proceeds thereof when sold. one of these receipts you will enclose to M<sup>r</sup> Ross, another by the first opportunity that offers to Rob<sup>t</sup> Morris Esq<sup>r</sup>. at Philadelphia, and the third you will reserve for yourself. The gentlemen you deliver the Tob.<sup>o</sup> to will pay the freight to the Honorable Commissioners by bill of lading.*

*We have only further to recommend all due attention to the interest, of your Honorable Employers, Strict economy whilst in Port and the utmost care whilst at sea, and wishing you a speedy and prosperous voyage.*

*We are Sir  
Your most ob.<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>  
James & Adam Hunter & Co.*



## JONATHAN BRITTON

On this fourth day of July 1839 before me Ezekiel Whitman, Judge of the District Court of the State of Maine for the Western District, personally appeared Jonathan Britton a resident of Otisfield in said County and State aged seventy eight 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States, in the year 1778, in the month of February in the Company commanded by Capt. Jeremiah Miller, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Vose of the Massachusetts line for the term of three years, and served in said company till the winter of 1779-80 – that he then served in Capt Cushing's Company, in the same Regiment, and afterwards commanded by Capt Hitchcock, & Capt Timothy Merrick, who successively succeeded to the command of said Company from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1780, to sometime in October 1782, except as herein after stated. after I first enlisted in 1778 we marched from Jonesborough to Valley Forge, and joined the maine Army, and in the Spring took the field & encamped in tents, soon after the Army marched in pursuit of Gen. Clinton who had left Philadelphia. I was in the guard of the tents and baggage at the time of Monmouth Battle, after this Battle, our Brigade was ordered to Providence and crossed the Hudson at King's Ferry. The following winter we passed on Providence. The next Spring we returned to the Hudson and the season was spent in Skirmishing marching & countermarching as occasion required, and we wintered at Budd's heights so called The next Spring the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1780, was the dark day, I was there on guard at the north redoubts The last of Sep 1780 I left the Army and went home, two other soldiers by the name Nathan Curtis & William Hollister, who wanted to take a furlough, as they called it, told me that they had that my two young brothers and sister were used roughly and abused by being put out in different places, after my father died, and who died after I had enlisted and been about fifteen months absent and they persuaded me to return with them and see how it fared with them, my mother died soon after I enlisted, I accordingly went home and found that they were used as well as other poor orphan children and not so bad as Curtis & Hollister had represented, and I felt sorry I had complied with wishes, & was determined to return to the Army, about five or six weeks after I had been home. I heard that Gen. Patterson was on a Furlough at Lenox where Curtis & Hollister belonged, which was the next town, and I went there and saw them and we all called on Gen<sup>l</sup>. Patterson, & told him we wanted to get back and join the Army, and he wrote something to Col. Vose in our behalf & gave it to Hollister, and we returned together & joined the Army, Hollister gave Gen<sup>l</sup>. Pattersons letter to Col. Vost, as I supposed, I was absent from Sept 1780 to Jany 1781. In September or October 1782 while our Army was at Colley Barracks or Series Bridge so called two men were detached from each company to go to Danbury in Connecticut to get pipe clay for the use of the Regiment. From our company Corporal Jeremiah Jones & myself were detached, at Danbury Jones

told me he had a pass for himself & me to go forty miles farther to procure feathers, and he shew me a paper on which was some writing and said it was our pass. I could not at that time write or read writing, and not doubting he was honest in what he said, I went on with him, but after we had been absent sometime I suspected all was not right and told Jones so, and he replied that he meant to go home and wanted me to go with him, that the paper was forgery and that it would not do to go back there, for we should be treated as deserters, and I being younger than Jones, and finding I was exposed to be punished as a deserter, altho, I never had the intention to leave the Army at the time, and Jones having sold our blankets I kept on and went home intending to return & Join the Army on the next proclamation of pardon from Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington, But Peace was soon after declared & I never returned to the Army, tho, it was my intention so to do, as above stated. I was at the Capture of Cornwallis and was at York Town & Monmouth, and was also at the storming & taking of the redoubt at York Town. That he served four years and eight months in all except his term of absence from Sept 30 to Jany 1, as stated above. That he made application for a pension several years since but was told by Mr John Anderson, then a member of Congress from Maine, and whom he employed to attend to his claim at Washington, that as he was marked a Deserter he could not be allowed his pension That the foregoing statement is candidly made whether his claim is allowed or not, But he cant help hoping that as he was restored to the Army after his first leaving it, as afore stated and was deceived by a Corporal when he left it the second time without any intention to desert, his application will be favorably reconsidered.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or any annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State that he knows.

Jona Britton



JONATHAN BURROWS

West Point April 16<sup>th</sup> 1782

Honoured father and Mother, brothers & Sisters—after our long absence I have now met with an opportunity to write a few lines to you to inform you all of my health and wellfair at this time. Blessed be God I am in a very comfortable state of health at present, and I hope these few lines will find you all the same. I shall inform you that I have not heard from any of you since I left home. I have wrote one letter to you for David when we was in Boston then he was well and hearty but now it is with great greif that I must write to you that he is dead which news must be very terrafing to all at home as well as the awful sight was to me present, and I hope that his death may be sanctified to you all; since we are all mortal dying creatures, may each one of us both at home and abroad be daily preparing ourselves for that exchange that whenever it comes we may have nothing to do but to die and after death be happy in the full enjoyment of God forever. Time would fail me to write the thousand part of what is fresh in my mind at this time, but you must needs think that my comfort is verry little here, since I am left alone and intirely comfortless — But I hope God will support and obhold me in all my troubles and trials in this present world that they may be for my everlasting good. Pray give my humble regards to my wife and child and all her folks and to all enquiring friends.—Pray write to me as soon as possible you can for I want to hear from you all very much, when ever you write to me direct your letters to me in the 5<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment in Capt. Bowmans Company—I have nothing remarkable to write to you at present—Times are very dubros at present for there is no news of Peace as yet. But the armies are all well diciplined and in wonderful good spirits and draw very good provisions but now money as yet. Since my misfortune has been so great I should be very glad to be free from the service but I no not how to get Clear. I have nothing more to write at present, but I hope these lines will find you all well and living in the fear of God and having in you that hope and faith as shall make you comfortable heras belo and happy hereafter in the full enjoyment of God forever. So I must close and subscribe my self your son till death.

Jonathan Burrows

Honoured Parents this is to inform you that it is some time since this letter was rote. I have been waiting for an opportunity to send it; and the chance is so sudden at this time that I han't time to write a new, but have the pleasure to write now that we have the greatest prospect of peace, so I subscribe myself your Son.

Jonathan Burrows

May 21<sup>st</sup> 1782



## SIMEON MOULTON

in the year 1777 I Simeon Moulton was in the war under the command of Capt John Darban  
 & in march 1778 I enlisted at Exeter N. Hampshire for the term of three years under the  
 command of Capt James Carr in the 2<sup>d</sup> N.H. Regiment commanded by Col. George Reed in  
 Ge<sup>n</sup> Poors Brigade 27<sup>th</sup>. we marched into Boston June 5<sup>th</sup> we got to Springfield  
 9<sup>th</sup> we got to Lichfield and we Joined the Regiment at kings farrey & marched to the  
 white Plaines here I was sent to horsnack on a Stacen gard for fourteen days & very ofen  
 on Scouting Partes in the nights threw the camppain cloes to the brittish gards & took Sum  
 Scatring refagees September 11<sup>th</sup> we marched from the White Plaines to Hartford & from  
 Hartford we marched to Reading for winter quators March 20<sup>th</sup> 1779. I marched on a  
 detachment 21<sup>st</sup> we got to Northfolk April 3<sup>d</sup> we marched 4<sup>th</sup> we got back to  
 Reading 8<sup>th</sup> we marched 10<sup>th</sup> we got to Soldiers fortten 19<sup>th</sup> I marched on a  
 detachment 20<sup>th</sup> we got to the white Plains May 12<sup>th</sup> we marched from the Plains  
 13<sup>th</sup> we got to Estetown June 18<sup>th</sup> we marched 23<sup>d</sup> we got to Wiome July 10<sup>th</sup>  
 I marched on a detachmt 14<sup>th</sup> we got to blanks mills 28<sup>th</sup> we got back to wiome  
 31<sup>st</sup> the army marched from wiome & I was taken out for one of the boat men we  
 went onboard the battoes & went up the Susquehanna rever, in about one hour we all had  
 to Jump over board & lead our boats up the repels & from this time we had Scares a dry  
 therad about us till we laft the boats at tyoga & going up one Pare of repels my Seting Pole  
 broke & picht me over board & I went down about a quater of a mile in the foming water  
 Sum times on the top and Sum times to the bottum here I com very ny being drowned  
 August the 10<sup>th</sup> we got to Tyoga but Sum men were drowned here I was drawn out on  
 a detachmt we marched all night 11<sup>th</sup> we got to Shemong & burnt thair huts &  
 distroyed thair corn & had seven men killed & a number wonded & that night we marched  
 back again here we were almost beet out being about forty eight hours on our feet  
 now we were Put upon half lownce by order of Ge<sup>n</sup> Sullivan our commander here we  
 wated for the other Part of our army that went up the mohoke river and were to take as  
 much Provisions at albany as thair boats could cary but thay did not & our Ge<sup>n</sup> was  
 afraid the indians had cut them all off & he Sent out two men up the river to meet  
 them & if thay did not meet in three days to return but thay did not return 16<sup>th</sup> I  
 marched on a detachmt with three days half lownce to meet them & we marched  
 three days and heard them fire thair evening gun & we Sit down & eate the little might we  
 had & in the morning we Started our march to meet them to git Sum Provisions but to our  
 grate disapointment thay had none but what thair men had in thair Pax & not half anuf  
 for themsalves then we marched the three days back without eating one morsel of any  
 kind of food & the third day a grate many of our men fanted & dropt we got them  
 onboard the boats & thay lay in the boats like dead men but we all lieved to get back to  
 tyoga 22 here Ge<sup>n</sup> Sullivan Put it to vote threw the army to See if thay yould go on  
 upon half lownce & told them that thay Should be made hool it was a general vote  
 26<sup>th</sup> we marched from tyoga 29<sup>th</sup> we mat the indians thay had made a brast  
 work with old logs & covered them with green bushes So that our rifel men got So ny  
 that the indians fired upon them before thay discovered the indians our men retretd  
 back out of shot the hole army holted here Co<sup>l</sup> Silley had orders to take five  
 hundred men off the right wing here I was on this detachmt we new not the number

of the indians we got Part round the mounting the army & indians begin a fire the  
indians retreated we met them & had a very hot fire for a Short time our men dropt  
very fast we charged baonat & run upon them thay retreated we killed & wounded  
Sum of them & found by Sum of thair wounded that thair was fifteen hundred of them  
we had about Sixty men killed & wounded in about one minite September 1<sup>st</sup> we  
marched into Catrene distroyed thair corn & burnt thair huts here we found one old  
Squah & one lame squah that could not get away these we did not kill here I have a  
Satled fever .7<sup>th</sup> we got to Sineca lake here thay that were Sick was Sent back with  
a strong gard the army marched a half a day forther 13<sup>th</sup> we got back to Tyoga we  
& Sum wounded men went on board the battoes & went down the river to wiome  
.10<sup>th</sup> I Joined the army & marched from wiome 15<sup>th</sup> we got to Esttown .23<sup>d</sup> we  
marched November .2<sup>d</sup> we got to clo .9<sup>th</sup> we got to Pomken .24<sup>th</sup> we marched  
.29<sup>th</sup> we got to Danbary here it is read in ge<sup>n</sup> orders that every man that was in the  
indian cuntrey with Ge<sup>n</sup> Sullivan Should receive a right of land in that cuntrey for thair  
extre hardship April .2<sup>d</sup> 1780 I mached on a detachment we got to Richfield here  
I got the Pan bone of my right nee Stove all to Peses by a fall on the frozen ground  
3<sup>d</sup> we got to white Plains here my nee became intilery stef & the Joint water run out  
So much that the docter Said that I must have a stef nee for life .22<sup>d</sup> we marched  
.23<sup>d</sup> we got to westpint August .4<sup>th</sup> we marched .8<sup>th</sup> we got to orring town  
.23<sup>d</sup> I marched on a detachment. .24<sup>th</sup> we got to English town here we are on  
half lownce September .4<sup>th</sup> we marched .5<sup>th</sup> we got to orring town October .7<sup>th</sup>  
we marched .8<sup>th</sup> we got to westpoint .16<sup>th</sup> we marched .17<sup>th</sup> we got to Badford  
we marched from Badford to Soldiers fort for winter quaters January 1781 I was on  
a detachment with fifteen hundred men commanded by Ge<sup>n</sup> Starks we marched for  
morresene we eat the last of our lownce Sunday night & monday morning at dawn of day  
we got into morrisene & took Sum cattle & horses & Sot fire to Sum buldings while the  
refagees were turning out and forming then we retreated back .8. miles to Estchester meeting  
house with fire from our rear gard here we formed the line of battel & cap up the fire  
till about the midel of the afternoon here I got a Slite wound in my right arm we  
took .70.00 Prisnors but I never new how many was killed & wounded on ether side the  
Seventeenth regiment of british horse was sent out to reinforse them thay got in about a  
half a mile & Saw the fire was so hot from our two feild Peeses & small arms that thay  
dare not com on but retreated back into the city of Newyork & told them that we had  
about three thousand men and .12. or .14 field Peeses the refagees retreated also & we  
marched off for horse nack to get Sum Provisen for we were almost Spet with hunger &  
hardship being .36. hours on the foot and .24. hours nothing to eat here to our Sad  
disapintment was not any provison in the Store then we were ordred into the houses  
in Small Partes to get Super & the house that I went into had bin So Plundered by the  
refagees that thay had not a nuf for our Supors the officer ordred me & two more to  
go to a house about half a mile off across the fields now the day light was about down  
& before we got to the house a Scouting Party of the refagees com out of the woods  
right upon us with guns cocked to thair faces in about one rod of us & said Stand &  
give up or you are dead in a moment So we had no chance for our lives but to give up  
thay marched us back for Moriscene So it was late in the night before we got any supper  
& marched till almost day before we got any rast here is the beginning of onspeakable

suftrings Such as no man can tell without undergoing the Same they marched us into morresene to Co<sup>l</sup>. Denalsee he asked us if we were nine months men or reglar contennattle Soldiers we told him that two of us were three years men & one during the war & said he if you had bin for nine or twelve months I yould Prould you right back to exchange for Sum of my men that is Prsnors but now I can not I must send you into the City of Newyork to Ge<sup>2</sup> Clinton to be exchanged for Sum of his reglar troops the gard marched us with about twenty more Prsnors into the City & Put us into the Newcity hall jail in a midle room in the thord loft on the north side & two large windoes to the room but nothing to keep any cold or Storm out but the iron grates & charcoal & ice was about one foot thick alover the floar thay gave us Sum tools to clean it out but neither mop nor broom & the Spikes heads Stuck up about a half an inch in three inches of each other & we were vary thin clothed & neither blankets nor straw but lay our bones on the cold frozen floor & hard Spikes heads here we were locked in fast & not a Spark of fier our lounce was Six ounces of bread & three ounces of old meet rotten with rust & con-damnd in thair Stores So thay gave it to us & the water was almost Poisen we could not drink one Swolar without gaging our flash went off very fast & when any of us got So week as not able to walk the floor were sent to the horspitel & thare was never one known to live twenty four hours after they got thare thare was a grate many of our men died thair here we were Parshing with cold threw the winter & in a State of Starvation the hool time here I lost my nature & health for life we were so much Parished that it was Judged that we had not one Pound of flash on one of our frames we were called out upon exchange the fust day of September .1781 .2.<sup>d</sup> we landed at Elesebeth town then we marched to Pixkills .10<sup>th</sup> I got my discharge & an order from M<sup>r</sup> Blancher the Pay master of the regiment to Exeter for my wagers Stating that I was mustred Prisoner of war from the fust of January .1781. to the .10<sup>th</sup> of the next September & no Pay hod bin drawn for me this is Part of my Journal that I capt while I was in the war part of the leves were So worne out that I could not git the hool but what I have got is correct and true

Attest

Simeon Moulton



JAMES BOAZ

*I, James Boaz of Portland in the County of Cumberland, on oath declare and say that I was born in Plymouth in Massachusetts which was my place of residence when I enlisted at Cambridge in the year 1780 or thereabouts and joined Capt Abraham Watson's Company which belonged to Col Graton's Regiment and Gen<sup>l</sup> Glover's Brigade. That I joined the army at Westpoint and marched to Pennsylvania to suppress the Insurrection. and that I belonged to Capt Samuel Jackson's Company in Col Sproul's Regiment, when discharged which was on account of the close of the war. although I served sometime after hostilities had ceased—in the whole three years. and I have been on the Pension Roll since April 1819. my pay commencing back to April 1818. My discharge is lost. My place of residence March 17 1835. and for many years before, was and is now in Portland I am Eighty One years old—have never received any grant of Land or money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, nor has any person claiming under me. I am justly entitled to receive a grant of Land under the Resolve of the last Legislature.*

*his  
James X Boaz  
mark*



*Portland June 26. 1835*

*William Wwart Jr Esq*

*De Sir*

*I send you the application of James Boaz for a grant of Land. As he is a very aged and poor old fellow (a negro) & not able to send any one to select for him, I must ask of you to select a lot as good as any if you know any difference, for he is really deserving of a good one having been a very good soldier. I send also the Deposition of Gen<sup>l</sup> John K. Smith and a letter from the Pension office which I think will, taken together, establish the fact of his having served three years. Smith & Boaz are both upwards of eighty years of age, and cannot be supposed to recollect with entire certainty. Please send the deed when executed to me and I will hand it to him*

*Yours respectfully  
Charles Harding*





## BENEN FOSTER

*On this fourth day of December A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Hon John Dickinson Judge of the Court of Probate now sitting, Benen Foster a Resident of the Parish of Wakefield, County of York Province of New Brunswick aged seventy two years, who being first 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.*

*That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein stated —*

*That in the early part of the year 1775 he was a volunteer and assisted at the capture of the British Armed Sch<sup>r</sup> called the Margretta, commanded by Capt Moore that soon after that engagement he voluntarily entered as a private soldier in a company of Massachusetts Militia of which Jabez West was Captain and John Scott Lieutenant—in this Company, he marched to the City of St. John N.B. & there attackd the Fort and took it, made prisiners of war of the troops in it & sent them to the State Authorities, a Naval Force then entered the River St John and attackd us we resisted them and after a smart engagement compled them to leave the River. We next meet the enemy at a place called the Mahogomy Road and after a sharp engagement with them there, we were compled to give away & retreat up the St John River,—We again fell in with the enemy about seventy five miles up the St John River and again contended with them, and again we gave away and they drove us up the River, and into the woods and we had no way of escape but to travel across the wilderness to Machias, which we performed after eighteen days hard march without any provisions except what we could get by Killing occasionally some wild Game of the forest, and also suffering very much by night and by day from the inclemency of the weather & in addition to all other misfortune we had a wounded fellow soldier which we brot all the way with us slung in a blanket, and thereby saved his life. In this Company I served nine months.*

*I then served in Col<sup>l</sup> John Allens Regiment of Massachusetts Militia in a Company of Artilery commanded by Capt Stephen Smith, of which William Albee was Lieutenant & when serving in this Company as a private soldier in the year 1776 he was in the engagement of Machias at the time the British attacked that place. In this Company he served for the term of two years or more, and that he had a regular written discharge which he kept for a long time, and that it is now lost. I was born in the town of Scarborough, County of Cumberland, State of Maine, in the year 1763 there is a Record of my birth in said Town of Scarborough, and he has also a Record of the same at his home. at the time he entered the service he was living at Machias in the County of Washington & State of Maine — Since the Revolutionary War, he has lived in the Province of New Brunswick, & that he expects hereafter to live in the City of Portland, County of Cumberland & State of Maine, that he entered the service as a volunteer, the particular day or month he does not now recollect, and that he has no documentary evidence. James W. Crocker & Joseph Getchell, are persons to whom he is known, and who can testify as to his character, for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution. 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 the Agency of any State.*

Benen Foster



JOHN GARDNER

*I John Gardner a resident citizen of the United States of America an inhabitant of Hebron in the County of Oxford and State of Massachusetts do testify and say that on the first day of May 1776 I shipped aboard the Brig Independence, which was a Government vessel as a mariner, and did service on board said brig, under the command of Simeon Sampson, until the twenty fifth day of November following when after an engagement of five hours with the British Brig Hope, commanded by George Dawson and the British Ship Nancy, we were obliged to surrender and were taken prisoners of war, were carried to Halifax in Nova Scotia, and put on board the British prison ship Bolongue, and there remained until April A.D. 1777 when we were turned over on board the British vessel Lord Stanley, and there continued till June following when I made my escape from said vessel and arrived at Machias in the District of Maine. On the day of my arrival at said Machias, I enlisted into the Army of the United States of America on the Continental Establishment as a private soldier in Captain West's Company. Col Allen's Regt in the Mass<sup>tt</sup> line, in which Company I served thirteen months, when I was, by order of said Col. Allen put on board a boat on duty with seven others and we were all taken prisoners and carried to Halifax. I remained a prisoner of war about two years and seven months, when I made my escape from the British Ship Rainbow then lying in Charlestown harbour South Carolina, and arrived at Wilmington in North Carolina when I immediately enlisted again into the Army of the United States of America on the Continental establishment as a private soldier during the war in Capt Gordon's Company, Col. Washington's Regt under the command of Genl Green, in which company I served about one year when I was again taken prisoner of war and carried to England, and remained a prisoner of war until the treaty of peace in 1783. I further testify that by reason of my reduced circumstances in life I stand in need of assistance from my Country for support, and that I am not borne on any pension list of the United States.*

his  
John X Gardner  
mark



## LUTHER CARY

I Luther Cary of Turner in the County of Oxford and State of Maine on oath, declare, that I am upwards of seventy one years of age, and that I served in the war of the revolution, in defence of the Colonies against the Common enemy, as follows. The first of July 1775 in the Town of Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth and State of Massachusetts. I entered as a fifer, for the term of six months, into a Company of Infantry, Commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> John Porter, in the regiment Commanded by Col Paul D. Sargeant, and marched to Cambridge near Boston, where I contined to serve as a fifer until the last day of December of that year, on the first day of January 1776, I again enlisted as a fifer, for the term of one year, at said Cambridge, into a Company of Infantry Commanded, by Cap<sup>t</sup> Frederick Pope in the Regiment commanded by the above named Paul D. Sargeant, while serving under this enlistment, I was stationed at Cambridge, until the British troops left Boston, we then marched into Boston, and continued to do duty there at Bunker hill and Castle William in Boston Harbour, until some time in July, when we were ordered to New York, where we arrived in August, we were stationed at Horns Hook near Hellgate. The British then in possession of Long Islands, soon commenced a severe cannonade, which we sustained for eight days, on the eighth day, the British troops effected a landing on York Island, and compelled us to retreat, off of the Island, the enemy persued us over Kingsbridge, we continued to retreat, at the whiteplains we engaged them, but were repulsed, and again retreated, and continu'd to retreat for some time, during this retreat, I lost my tent blanket & overcoat thus exposed to the inclemency of the weather, without any shelter, I found my health so impaired, that I was unable to do duty, and my health continued to decline, about the middle of November, I applied to Cap<sup>t</sup> Pope, and obtained leave to retire from the Camp, and find some place better suited to my condition, Cap<sup>t</sup> Pope being Senior Captain at this time, Commanded the regiment, Col Sargeant was absent for what reason, I do not know, Lieutenat Col Jackson was wounded, and removed for better accommodations, Major Astings was not long before this broke, I did not recover from this sickness until some time in February. The latter part of February 1777, at said Bridgewater, I again enlisted as a fifer, and a substitute for one Jeremiah Thayer, into a Company of Artillery Commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> Daniel Lothrop in the regiment Commanded by Col Thomas Craft, I was stationed with part of said Company on Noddles Island, in Boston Harbour, I continued to do duty there, as a fifer, until said Company was discharged the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May following. The first of July 1777, at said Bridgewater, I again enlisted as a fifer into a Company of Infantry Commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Cole, in the regiment Commanded by Col John Robinson, we marched to Rhode Island, and were stationed at various places within the said State, to prevent the enemy from landing on the main, they at this time having possession of the Island, I continued to serve as a fifer, in said Company, for the term of six months, and until discharged, the last day of December of that year. On the first day of January 1778, I again enlisted in a regiment Commanded by Col John Jacobs as his waiter, and served with him in that capacity for the term of one year, in the State of Rhode Island, I attended him on the Island, in an unsuccessful attempt made in August of that year, by the American Army, under the Command of General Sullivan to dislodge the enemy from New Port. I attended Col Jacobs off of the Island in General Sullivans memmorable retreat, after we left the Island, we were stationed at Little Comptons, I believe during the residue of the Campaign, where I was discharged, and

returned to my Parents at Bridgewater. I was born in Bridgewater in the County of Plymouth, that of Massachusetts in 1761. That I went to Turner in 1798, where I have resided ever since. I presume there is a record of my age in the Town records of Bridgewater. I have no recollection.

Luther Cary



STATE OF MAINE.

N<sup>o</sup> 446

Bangor LAND OFFICE, }  
May 14, 1839. }

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That Luther Cary  
of Turner in the County of Oxford,

by declaration sworn to on the twenty first day of July A. D. 1838  
(See Claim B: 760)

and other accompanying evidence has satisfactorily proved his claim to the benefits of a "Resolve in favor of certain officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary war and the widows of deceased officers and soldiers; approved March 17, A. D. 1835, and that "THE LAWFUL HOLDER" of this certificate is entitled, under the provisions of a Resolve additional to said Resolve, approved March 23, 1838, to **TWO HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND.**

Rufus W. Tuttle Land Agent of Maine.

WILLIAM PLUMMER

Danville may th 5—1835

*I william Plummer was born in the Town of scarborough In the County of Cumberland in the year 1757*

*In the year 1775—I inlisted & went cambridge in colonal finnys Ridgment—in 1776 i went home—& inlisted in Colo Mithels ridgme—in Portland then falmouth in 1777 I inlisted In capt Blasdels compeny in conolnal Edward Wigelswoths ridgment Went to Cambridge & from thence to Pekskills— from thence to albany from thence to saratogy and the 7<sup>th</sup> of october we had a decsive Batle With General Burgone & drove from his ground on the 17th of The same month he serrendered his hole armye to the brave general Gates— then we came to albany again from thence we came to Pekskills again almost naked— Crost N River at kings ferey With out shose or tents or clothing— Crost the dilewar at a place called bristol ferrey— went to white marsh— joined the grand armye— went to valy ford built huts & wintered their & had the small pox their—, in June 1778 we went to monmouth And had a very hot battle— from thence we marched to white Plaines— from white Plaines our Brigade marched to Rhod island and from their to Providence— in 1779 I went to Boston with some Prisoners— was taken to hospetle, from that drscharge— I wet to scarbough And went Sea & was taken to and carraed N york Put on board the cursed old Jersey— But with Gods blessing i lived to reach my home again to old scarbough— In the year 1807 I moved my famely to this town where i lived or staid ever sicnce I could Write a great maney particulers if I was well— Please to write Me an answer by the nex post after you reseive this*

Your aged friend w<sup>m</sup> Plummer





Copy of Plan of Township number 8 in the 3 Range W. E. L. S. a survey and Lotted on the month of May, June & July A. D. 1866 and produced on a scale of 40 chains to an inch

By Thomas Savage Jr.

Land Office Plan of Township 8, Range 3, West of the Easterly Line of the State (Aroostook County) showing lots granted to Revolutionary soldiers or their widows. Note lot 84, granted to Sally Moulton, widow of Simeon; and lot 64, originally granted to Luther Cary. Cary, like many veterans, immediately conveyed his lot to others for cash; and his grant appears here in the names of O. Hayford and E. Leonard

*Providence has thrown upon you a labour as extra service, but I trust your patriotism will make it pleasant to you especially should you see the grandchildren of the original claimants siting down upon the lots, felling the trees, breaking up the soil and causing the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose.*

Elijah Kellogg, Sr., former drummer  
in the Continental Service, to John  
Hodgdon, Land Agent, 1835

Maine

Donated  
Martha LaRoca Es

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

