

Self-Guided Tour of Revolutionary War Veteran Graves in Chester Massachusetts



Chester Center Cemetery

D

D-14-1

D-11-6

D-11-14

D-9-1

D-8-5

D-8-7

D-8-10

D-6-13

D-5-3

D-5-7

D-5-11

D-4-5

D-4-11

D-3-2

D-3-4

D-3-6

D-3-13

School
House

C

C-8-1

C-7-11

C-6-4

C-6-5

C-3-4

C-3-12

C-2-1

C-1-6

C-1-13

C-1-17

Tree

Abiel Abbot (1749 - 1831) C-7-11

April 19, 1775 - May 1, 1775: Private, Captain John Prescott's company.

Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

September 21, 1777 - October 4, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to Saratoga.

John Abbott (1751 - 1798) C-6-5

September 21, 1777 - October 4, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to Saratoga.

James Campbell (1749 - 1818) C-3-4

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Matthew Campbell (1747 - 1818) C-2-1

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

John Elder (1749 - 1810) D-3-6

April 24, 1775 - October 7, 1775: Private, Captain Malcom Henry's company, Colonel David Brewer's 9th regiment. Lexington Alarm and Siege of Boston.

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Corporal, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence, near Ticonderoga.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Deacon of the First Congregational Church.

Thomas Elder (1747 - 1814) D-3-13

April 1775 - October 1775: Private, Captain John Ferguson's company, Colonel Timothy Danielson's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence, near Ticonderoga.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

William Elder (1758 - 1813) D-3-4

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence, near Ticonderoga.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

September 1777: Battle of Saratoga.

William Foote (1754 - 1823) D-8-5

April 24, 1775 - October 7, 1775: Private, Captain Malcom Henry's company, Colonel David Brewer's 9th regiment. Lexington Alarm and Siege of Boston.
May 1777 - July 1777: Private, Captain John Kellogg's company, Colonel Leonard's Hampshire County regiment. Northern Alarm.
August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

John Hamilton (1757 - 1816) D-9-1

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence, near Ticonderoga.
September 20, 1777 - October 4, 1777: Private, Captain Ebenezer Webber's company, Colonel Ezra May's regiment. Battle of Saratoga.

Andrew Henry (1752 - 1838) D-4-5

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Joseph Henry (1755 - 1822) D-14-1

April 24, 1775 - October 7, 1775: Private, Captain Malcom Henry's company, Colonel David Brewer's 9th regiment. Lexington Alarm and Siege of Boston.
1777: Captain Lyman's company, Colonel Lee's regiment. Northern Alarm. Battle of Saratoga, then assigned to escort prisoners as far as Springfield.
June 1782: Sergeant, Colonel David Moseley's regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

Jesse Johnson (1733 - 1821) D-5-3

August 1774: Appointed to the Committee of Correspondence. This committee communicated with Boston and other towns.
August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).
1778: Appointed to the Committee of Inspection. This committee oversaw the town's ammunition stores and also inspected local businesses to be sure they were not trading goods with Great Britain.

Jesse was one of the original 52 settlers of Murrayfield. He represented the town at the Massachusetts General Court in 1782. Johnson Hill Road is named for him.

John Kelso (1730 - 1814) C-8-1

1776: Served on the Committee of Inspection in Worcester. This committee oversaw the town's ammunition stores and also inspected local businesses to be sure they were not trading goods with Great Britain.

Stephen Lyman (1743 - 1811) C-1-13

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

June 12, 1782 - June 14, 1782: Captain James Black's (Chester) company, commanded by Lieutenant William Campbell, Colonel John Mosley's regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

Gideon Matthews (1741 - 1807) D-11-6

July 1777 - August 1777: Corporal, Captain Nathan Rowley's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched north to slow General Burgoyne's southward progress. Marched to Bennington to defend supplies.

March 1778: Appointed to Committee of Inspection.

Gideon was one of the original 52 settlers of Murrayfield. He also served as deacon of the First Congregational Church.

William Moor (Moore) (1743 - 1816) D-3-2

April 22, 1775 - May 20, 1775: Sergeant, Captain David Shepard's company, Colonel Seth Pomeroy's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

William was one of the original 52 settlers of Murrayfield.

John Parmenter (1743 - 1829) C-6-4

April 20, 1775 - May 3, 1775: Sergeant, Captain Abiel Wilder's company, Colonel Ephraim Doolittle's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

September 1776 - March 1777: Corporal (later 2nd Lt.), Captain Ezekiel Knowlton's company, Colonel Dike's regiment. Assigned to Dorchester Heights.

John was a deacon in the First Congregational Church.

Martin Phelps (1757 - 1838) D-5-11

August 16, 1777 - November 29, 1777: Private, Captain John Morgan's company, Colonel Benjamin Woodbridge's regiment. At the Battle of Saratoga.

Martin Phelps arrived in Chester around 1800 to be the doctor in Chester Center. He had graduated from Yale University in 1776 prior to his war service. After being excommunicated from the First Congregational Church of Chester due to political differences with the minister, he was one of the founders of the Chester Baptist Church.

Seth Phelps (1764 - 1817) C-3-12

June 27, 1789 - July 1, 1780: Private, Captain Ebenezer Strong's company, 2nd Hampshire County Regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

Zenas Searle (1765 - 1803) D-6-13

September 8, 1784: Private, Captain Ebenezer Sheldon's company, 2nd Hampshire Regiment. The company was sent to Springfield to protect the sitting of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Zenas was a farmer so being sent to protect the courts at Springfield, which were being closed by farmers disgruntled with economic conditions, was likely a tough decision but he felt it his duty to answer the alarm. Zenas was killed on his farm in 1803 when the oxen he was using got spooked and ran.

Abner Smith (1722 - 1794) D-11-14

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm.

Abner Smith, Jr. (1752 - 1831) D-8-7

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence near Fort Ticonderoga.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

The son to the Abner Smith mentioned above, both father and son answered the Bennington Alarm.

Joab Smith (1759 - 1840) D-8-10

June 12, 1782 - June 17, 1782: Private, Captain Silas Fowler's company, Colonel David Moseley's regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

Joab is the father of Hiram Smith and Isabel (Smith) Toogood, the two inhabitants of the granite boulder tomb known as Hiram's Tomb.

John Smith (1760 - 1847) C-1-17

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Private, Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort at Mount Independence near Fort Ticonderoga.

William Stone (1754 - 1824) C-1-6

June 12, 1782 - June 17, 1782: Private, Captain James Black's company, Lt. William Campbell, Colonel David Moseley's regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

William Toogood (1748 - 1818) D-4-11

1776: Adjutant to Colonel Timothy Danielson of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Army.

1777 - 1779: Promoted to Captain in Colonel Thomas Nixon's 6th Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Army. Took part in the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Saratoga.

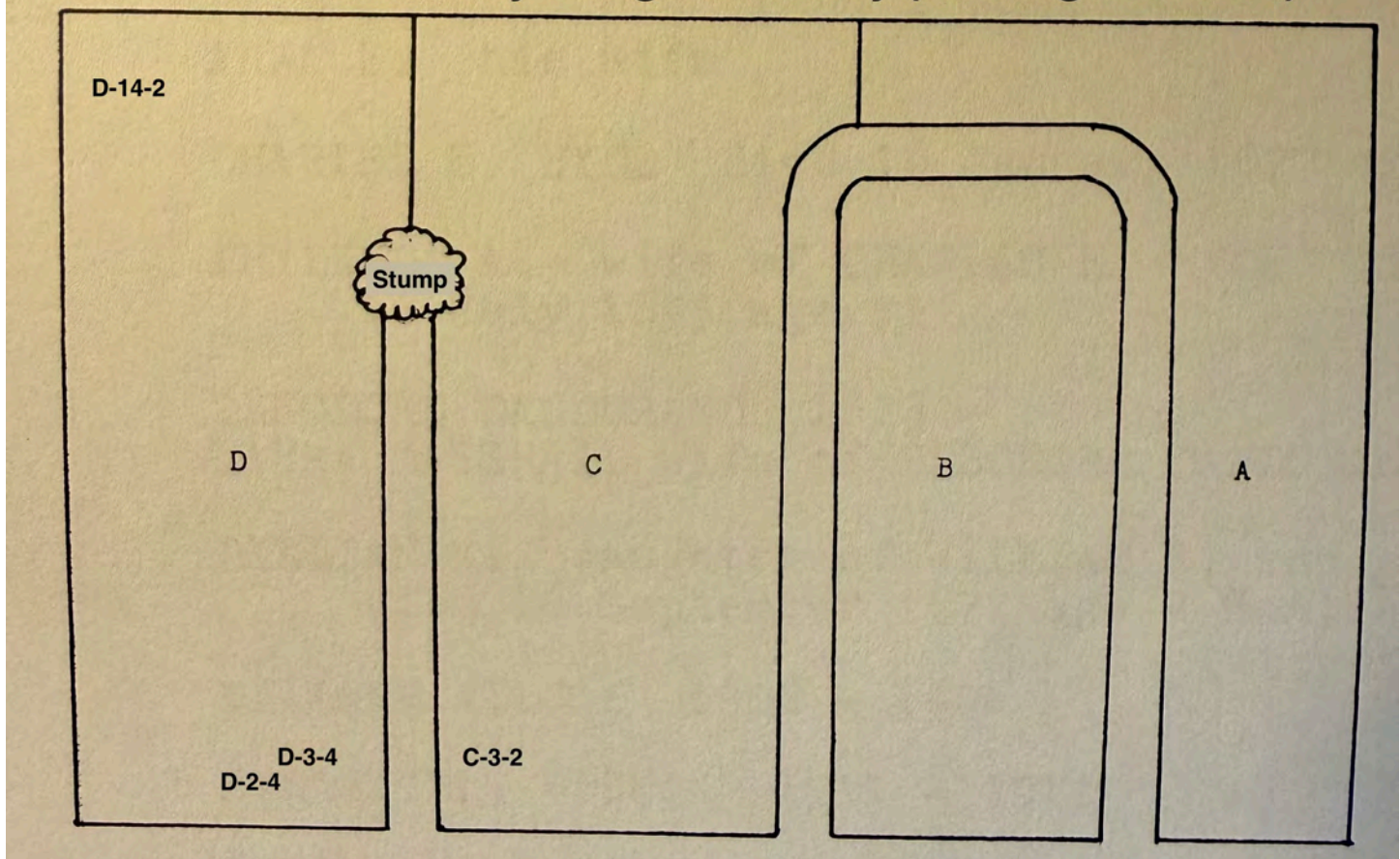
William is the only Chester veteran who was born in Great Britain. He came to Massachusetts as a British soldier during the French and Indian wars but when the Revolutionary War broke out he retracted his oath of loyalty to King George and dedicated himself to the Patriots cause.

Unfortunately his gravestone is buried but if it was visible you would see Masonic symbols carved on it as he was a founding member of the Federal Lodge of Masons which was constituted in 1792.

Elisha Wilcox (1745 - 1826) D-5-7

July 1, 1779 - 1780: Captain, Colonel Jedidiah Huntington's 1st Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Army.

Chester Factory Village Cemetery (Huntington Street)



Timothy Fay (1754 - 1799) D-14-4

April 19, 1775 - April 26, 1775: Private, Captain Seth Morse's company, Colonel Artemas Ward's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

April 26, 1775 - December 1775: Private, Captain Samuel Woods company, Colonel Jonathan Ward's regiment. Siege of Boston and Battle of Bunker Hill.

July 2, 1776 - December 1, 1776: Service in New York.

December 20, 1776 - March 1, 1777: Private, Captain Moses Harrington's company, Colonel Nicholas Dike's regiment of Massachusetts Militia. Assigned to Dorchester.

March 2, 1777 - January 1780: Private, Captain Joseph Walker's company, Colonel Samuel Webb's regiment of Connecticut Continentals. Served in NY, RI and NJ.

January 1, 1780 - February 14, 1781: Private, Captain Roger Well's company, Colonel Samuel Webb's 9th Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Army.

Timothy survived his long service during the war but drowned in Chester in 1799, possibly building the saw mill on Walker Brook for which his descendants became known.

Samuel Henry (1759 - 1832) C-3-2

April 26, 1776 - May 23, 1776: Private, Captain William Cannon's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to Fort Ticonderoga to support the Continental Army.

October 1776: Private, Lt. Colonel Timothy Robinson's regiment. Marched to Fort Ticonderoga to support the Continental Army.

Charles Shepard (1764 - 1813) D-2-4

1779: 9-month enlistment in the Continental Army.

Charles was 15 when he enlisted in 1779, at that age he would have needed his parents permission. His father was Colonel William Shepard of Westfield who was serving under General Washington in 1779 in various locations in New York and New Jersey. We don't have the details on Charles' service but it seems likely his father would have kept him close-by.

Gad Stebbins (1748 - 1826) D-3-4

May 8, 1777 - June 8, 1777: Private, Captain Aaron Graves' company, Colonel David Leonard's regiment. Supporting the Continental Army in the northern campaign against General Burgoyne's army.

EASTMAN, FISK, WEBSTER CEMETERIES
BROMLEY ROAD, CHESTER, MASS.

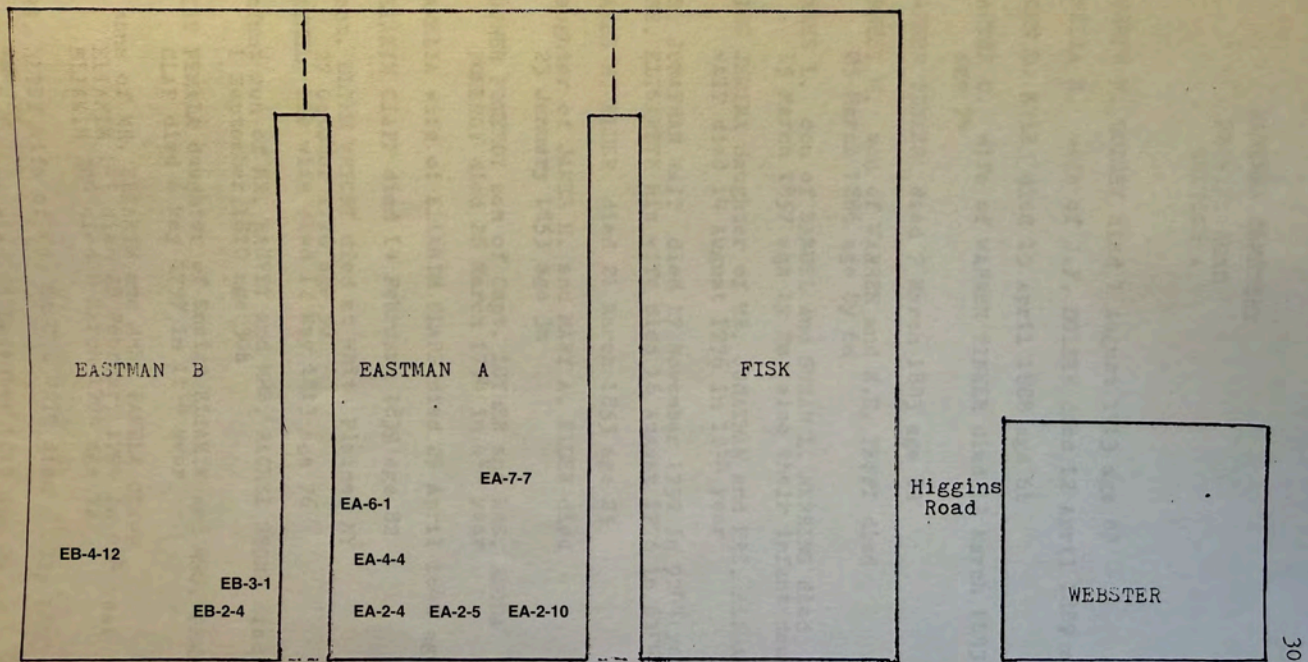


Figure 9.. Eastman, Fisk and Webster Cemetery Reference Map

Archelaus Anderson (1734 - 1782) EA-4-4

December 1774: Appointed to Chester's Committee of Inspection. One of the tasks of this committee was to inspect local businesses to ensure they were not selling any goods from Great Britain.

April 22, 1775 - May 20, 1775: Sergeant, Captain David Shepard's company, Colonel Seth Pomeroy's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

June 8, 1775 - December 1775: Captain Weber's company, Colonel Fellow's regiment. Siege of Boston.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

April 16, 1781: Enlisted for 3 years. Died of smallpox on February 23, 1782 at West Point NY.

His gravestone is a masterpiece carved by Elijah Sikes who was one of the preeminent carvers working in New England. He lived briefly in Chester in the 1790's. The inscription at the bottom is the first stanza from the hymn "Adieu to the Dying Saint" written in the early 1700's by Isaac Watts.

Eliakim Clapp (1758 - 1839) EA-2-5

April 1, 1777 - December 31, 1779: Major Allen's company, Colonel Rufus Putnam's regiment.

June 12, 1782 - June 17, 1782: Captain Hezekiah Russell's company, 2nd Hampshire regiment. Northampton/Springfield alarm (see Appendix).

Ephraim Miller (1744 - 1834) EA-6-1

April 19, 1775 - April 23, 1775: Private, Captain Timothy Bigelow's company, Colonel Artemus Ward's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

April 24, 1775 - May 8, 1775: Captain Hubbard's company, Colonel Jonathan Ward's regiment. Siege of Boston.

July 27, 1777 - August 29, 1777: Sergeant, Captain Jesse Stone's company, Colonel Job Cushing's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Gershom Rust (1738 - 1823) EB-4-12

April 22, 1775 - May 20, 1775: Sergeant, Captain David Shepard's company, Colonel Seth Pomeroy's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend Mount Independence near Fort Ticonderoga.

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Jonathan Wait (1703 - 1792) EA-2-10

We don't have the Revolutionary War records for Jonathan. He would have been in his 70's at the outset of the war but he did operate the first grist mill in Chester and was the Sealer of Weights and Measures for the town so it is very possible that he served on the town's Committee of Inspection.

Reuben Wharfield (1753 - 1833) EB-2-4

April 20, 1775 - April 28, 1775: Private, in Lt. John Shepard's company of Westfield Minute-Men. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

April 28, 1775 - December 28, 1775: Private, Captain Warham Park's company, Colonel Danielson's regiment. Siege of Boston.

January 1, 1776 - November 1776: Private, Captain John Shepard's company, Colonel Porter's regiment. Marched north to Fort Number Four on the Connecticut River to support the Continental Army retreating from the failed Invasion of Quebec.

Abner Witt (1756 - 1812) EA-7-7

April 19, 1775 - April 26, 1775: Private, Captain Jonathan Barn's company, Colonel Jonathan Warner's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix).

April 27, 1775 - August 1, 1775: Private, Captain Peter Harwood's company, Colonel Ebenezer Learned's regiment. Siege of Boston.

November 16, 1776 - December 16, 1776: Private, Captain William Todd's company, Colonel Thomas Craft's regiment. With the Continental Army occupying Boston after the British evacuation.

September 7, 1777 - November 29, 1777: Corporal, Captain John Bannister's company, Colonel Job Cushing's regiment. Marched in support of the Northern Army.

July 3, 1779 - April 1780: Captain Hamilton's company, Colonel S. Rice's regiment. In the Continental Army. With the Continental Army in New York and New Jersey.

June 5, 1780 - December 1780: Ensign Joseph Miller, Major Peter Harwood's 6th Massachusetts Regiment. With the Continental Army in New York, centered around West Point.

Nathan Wood (1735 - 1816) EB-3-1

August 14, 1777 - August 21, 1777: Sergeant, Captain William Clarke's company, Colonel Benjamin Simond's Berkshire County regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

July 22, 1779 - August 26, 1779: Captain Samuel Clarke's company, Colonel Powell's Berkshire County regiment.

October 12, 1780 - October 19, 1780: Captain Samuel Clarke's company, Colonel Benjamin Simond's Berkshire County regiment. Marched to support the Continental Army in the North.

Elihu Wright (1726 - 1776) EA-2-4

April 25, 1775 - June 10, 1775: Surgeon, Colonel John Fellow's regiment. Lexington Alarm (see Appendix) and Siege of Boston.

Ingell Cemetery, Ingell Road**Uriah Brown (1752 - 1841)**

We don't have the Revolutionary War records for Uriah.

Reuben Buckman (1760 - 1852)

May 15, 1776 - November 1, 1776: Private, Captain William Warner's company, Colonel Josiah Whitney's regiment. Siege of Boston and then coastal defenses at Hull.

July 2, 1780 - December 4, 1780: Continental Army. In the Continental Army in New York and New Jersey.

Zadock Ingell (1760 - 1832)

June 1775 - October 1776: Private, Expedition and Invasion of Quebec.

April 1777 - June 1777: Private, Captain Joshua Wilhore's company, Colonel John Hathaway's regiment. Served in Rhode Island.

September 28, 1777 - October 29, 1777: Private, Captain Edward Blakes company, Colonel George Williams regiment. Part of a secret mission to take Aquidneck Island in the Narragansett Bay. Due to bad weather and betrayal by an American spying for Britain the expedition did not succeed.

October 7, 1777 - October 24, 1777: Private, Captain Ichabod Wade's company, Colonel George William's regiment. Served in Rhode Island.

November 5, 1777 - December 10, 1777: Private, Captain Ebenezer Dean's company, Colonel Thomas Carpenter's regiment. Served in Rhode Island.

1781: Private, Colonel Carpenter's regiment. Served 8 months in Rhode Island.

Kinnebrook Cemetery, Kinnebrook Road

Othniel Belden (1755 - 1834)

1776: Captain Samuel Wright's company, Colonel Samuel Willy's Connecticut regiment. Siege of Boston and the defense of New York City.

1777: Captain Elias Williams company, Colonel Thomas Belden's 6th Connecticut regiment. Encamped at Peekskill NY.

Othniel's gravestone misspells both his first and last names as "Othinal Belding".

North Chester Cemetery, Bemis Road

Sylvester Bemis (1761 - 1831)

October 21, 1779 - November 23, 1779: Private, Captain Francis Wilson's company, Colonel Samuel Denny's regiment. Marched to Claverack NY to support the Continental Army.

Bell Cemetery, Lynes Road

Samuel Bell (1752 - 1829)

August 17, 1777 - August 23, 1777: Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Bennington Alarm (see Appendix).

Samuel's grave is no longer evident in the cemetery. It existed in 1920 according to William Mills (the author of Chester Folks) but a survey done in 1980 failed to locate it.

Wright Cemetery, Round Hill Road

Edward Wright (1720 - 1803)

October 21, 1776 - November 17, 1776: Captain Enoch Shepard's company, Colonel John Moseley's regiment. Marched to defend the fort on Mount Independence near Fort Ticonderoga.

Appendix

Background on three alarms to which many Chester patriots responded

Lexington Alarm

Around 5am on the morning of April 19, 1775 the first shots of the Revolutionary War are fired on the Lexington town green. By 10am post riders were sent west and south to alert Massachusetts and Connecticut towns that the fighting had begun and to request that militiamen march immediately to Lexington.

The post rider reached Springfield about midday on April 20 and word reached Chester on April 21. Twenty-four Chester men answered the call and assigned defensive positions in Cambridge and other towns to keep the British from marching out of Boston.

Once General Washington arrived with the newly constituted Continental Army most of the Chester MinuteMen returned home, though some remained with the siege for many months.

Bennington Alarm

This was part of the campaign to stop British General Burgoyne from marching southward from Canada. After early victories, including capturing Fort Ticonderoga, Schuyler's troops were running low on supplies. He heard of a lightly defended supply store near Bennington Vermont and sent a contingent of 700 British and Hessian soldiers to seize it.

The initial 700 swelled to over 900 as local Loyalists joined them as they marched toward Bennington. What they did not know was that the Americans had sent out appeals for New Hampshire and Massachusetts militias to march to defend Bennington. Twenty-four Chester men answered this call. By the time the British arrived there were 2,000 American troops there.

The battle was a decisive victory for the Americans with 207 British and Hessian soldiers dead and over 700 captured. The prisoners were to be sent to Boston and some of the Chester Minute Men returning home were asked to escort the prisoners as far as Springfield before returning home.

Northampton and Springfield Alarm

By 1782 the war had caused tremendous instability in the Massachusetts economy and no group was more greatly affected than farmers. They were forced to purchase their seeds, equipment and livestock with hard currency but when they went to sell their products the currency had devalued due to severe inflation. Those holding mortgages on the farms were also under pressure and started calling in the loans, causing many farmers to declare bankruptcy.

These bankruptcies were handled in the courts of Springfield and Northampton and a group of desperate farmers decided to close the courts in protest. Some of the agitators were armed and this led to arrests and further protests. To allow the courts to operate an alarm was issued in June of 1782 for militia to march to Springfield and Northampton,

The farmers in Chester were not immune to these pressures and likely had sympathetic feelings towards the protestors. It must have been a hard decision on their part to answer this alarm but many Chester farmers ultimately decided it was their duty and answered the alarm.

List of Chester residents serving in the Revolutionary War

Anderson, Archelaus * †	Elder, William *	Rust, Gershom *
Babcock, Daniel	Foote, William *	Rust, Quartus
Babcock, Nathaniel	Freeman, Ebenezer	Shepard, David
Barr, Moses	French, William	Shepard, Enoch
Bentley, James	Geer (Geers), Allen	Smith, Ebenezer
Black, George	Geer (Geers), James	Smith, Abner *
Blair, David	Gould, Asa	Smith Jr., Abner *
Blair, John	Harris, William	Smith, John *
Bolton, David	Henry, Joseph	Smith, Thomas
Brewer, Elijah	Henry, Malcom	Smith, Timothy
Brown, Elijah	Hill, Primus	Smith, William
Campbell, William	Johnson, Asahel	Snow, Ezekiel
Carlile, John	Johnson, Jesse *	Stanton, Elijah
Carlile, William	Jones, Jude (Judah) †	Stowe, Ebenezer
Clark, James	Kelso, John *	Toogood, William *
Converse, Abraham †	King, Patrick	Wait, Jonathan *
Converse, Isaac	Laccore (Lucore), John	Williams, George
Curtis, John	Laccore, Lemuel	Williams, Larkin
Dewey, Russell	Lyman, Stephen *	Woolworth, Eli
Eggleston, Benjamin	McIntire, John	Woolworth, Samuel
Eggleston, Jehiel	Matthews, Nathan	Wright, Edward *
Elder, John *	Moore (Moor), James	Wright, Jesse
Elder, Thomas *	Moore (Moor), William *	Wright, Nathan
	Mulholland (Holland), James	

* Buried in Chester

† Died in Service

This booklet was compiled by the Chester Historical Society in recognition of the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 2026.

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