

SOME SONS OF NOTED SIRES

MASSACHUSETTS DESCENDANTS OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

A Surprisingly Large Number of Citizens Who Proudly Present Their Claims for This Distinction—Brief Sketches of the Patriots and Their Services in the Times That Tried Men's Souls—A Few Daughters Incidentally Mentioned.

From The Boston Globe.

There are not many men in Massachusetts to-day whose fathers were soldiers in the revolution. The few who still live among us naturally are all advanced in years. They have their homes in various towns throughout the Commonwealth, and nearly all of them long since have given over the active toil for daily bread and await in peace the call of the trumpeter who long ago summoned their fathers to eternal rest.

One of these sons of revolutionary sires has had his home in the City of Boston for above half a century, and another for many years was a resident of this city, and yet spends his working days at a desk in the Boston Custom House. The fathers of Andrew J. Parker and Luther L. Tarbell carried muskets in the defense of their country more than 100 years ago, and the sons are here to-day to tell the tale of that patriotic service.

When the news of the conflict at Bunker Hill reached the town of Groton, Joshua Parker, the father of Andrew J., was sixteen, and at work in a turning shop. He left his turning tools and enlisted in the American Army. He enlisted in the Fourth Regiment for the siege of Boston, and he remained a soldier till the siege was ended. He didn't get so good a chance as others had to show how well he could fight, but to prove how good a patriot he was it may be mentioned that when the Government wanted troops to put down the celebrated Shay's rebellion, Joshua Parker enlisted again, and, in 1812, when the war with Great Britain broke out, Joshua Parker was on hand once more.

One of Andrew's brothers was a sea Captain, and he fought for his country in the celebrated sea battle with the British frigate Guerriere.

Luther Lewis Tarbell is one of the most distinguished citizens of Marlborough. His father was William Tarbell, who not only served in Washington's Army, but who came into personal contact with the great commander, and at one time enjoyed the distinction of being his amanuensis.

William Tarbell was a Groton boy, and when the war broke out was too young to go into active service. But when only seventeen years old he enlisted for the last three years' service, which began in 1781. His father was a farmer, but he gave William an uncommonly good education for those days.

In the Summer of 1783 William was stationed with Gen. Prescott's division at a village called New-Windsor, about eight miles from West Point.

It happened that Gen. Prescott and Gen. Washington were very great friends and prominent Masons. Washington frequently rode over from his headquarters to visit Prescott, and the two gentlemen, it is recorded, often played cards and had familiar conversation for hours together.

One day Washington asked Prescott whether there was any one in his command who could write a good hand, and Prescott told Washington that young Tarbell was a great scholar. Washington thereupon employed Tarbell, and later on instructed the young fellow to make a colored view of the encampment, which was done. This was a very large and skillful drawing, and Washington was very much pleased with it. Luther L. Tarbell retains that drawing to this day, and it is in a very good state of preservation.

William Tarbell used to tell his impressions of Washington, and he often said that Washington was a man who used very strong language.

But the Father of His Country was a genial, good-natured man, when he wanted to be, which, however, wasn't often. Washington was exceedingly grateful for any little service that a soldier happened to render, and had a pleasant way of expressing that gratitude.

When the war was over, William Tarbell went back to Groton and taught school there. He afterward became a brickmaker. He was a very pious man, and perhaps the strong language which the Father of His Country used seemed stronger to the holy youth than it would have to a more sophisticated soldier.

A well-known figure on the streets of Hyde Park for the past quarter of a century is the venerable Joseph Hill, the son of a revolutionary soldier. Mr. Hill is more than ninety years old. He was born at Exeter, N. H., Feb. 8, 1804.

Mr. Hill's father was a carpenter by trade. In 1777, at the age of eighteen, he enlisted in the Fourth New-Hampshire Regiment. He enlisted for three years, or the time limit of the war, which, in his opinion, would not cover more than six months. He spent seven years and eight months in the service.

Elbridge Boyden of Worcester is the son of Amos Boyden, who fought in the Revolutionary War. He was born July 4, 1810, and was the third in a family of five children, of whom he is the only survivor. He is in active business to-day, and when The Globe correspondent called on him he was busy at work on the plans for a new City Hall.

His father was born April 15, 1763, and died April 1, 1837. He for several years before his death received a pension. He enlisted in 1779 from the Town of Sturbridge, with six others, and Mr. Boyden remembers to have heard his father tell of their departure. He said there was a public meeting in the town. The six recruits for war sat in the front pew of the gallery, and the minister, the Rev. Joshua Paine, preached to them. He told them they were enlisted in God's cause, and if they were killed in battle they would be sure of eternal happiness.

"Uncle" John McClure is Revere, the oldest citizen of that town, of one of the few men in this vicinity whose fathers fought in the Revolutionary War. "Uncle" John is the son of Col. David McClure, who, when eighteen years old, enlisted in the service, and in the closing year became a Colonel. He commanded a regiment of New-Hampshire volunteers, and did valiant service with Gen. John Stark in his New-Hampshire campaign.

Uncle John thinks the greatest event in his life was when the cornerstone of Bunker Hill monument was laid. He was four feet behind Lafayette at the exercises, and describes him as a six-footer, with gray hair. He heard all of Webster's oration.

The centennial of the battle of Lexington was another great day with him. As a Son of the Revolution he was a special guest on that occasion, and rode in a carriage nearly all that day, not a great distance behind President Grant.

Ethan Crandall Ring, whose home is on Wyoming Avenue, Melrose, was the youngest of the twelve children of Eleazer Ring, who served as a private in the Revolutionary War. The brothers and sisters are all dead, and the eldest was born more than 100 years ago.

Eleazer Ring was born in Kingston, Mass., Dec. 30, 1749. He enlisted from Chesterfield, and was with Washington at Valley Forge. He is credited with eight months' service on the Continental rolls, serving under Col. John Fellows in Capt. Robert Webster's corps, and was sixteen days with Lieut. Abner Dwelllee's corps on the expedition to Manchester, Vt. He participated in several battles, and was reputed a brave soldier.

The Rev. John Wood, so far as known, is one of the only two sons of revolutionary soldiers living in Fitchburg.

His father was Col. John W. Wood of Alstead, N. H., East Parish. He was not a Colonel in the war, the title coming to him afterward.

He was a twin brother, Benjamin, the "other fellow," having been a revolutionary soldier also serving three months.

John went through the struggle with the mother country. He took part in all the important battles, excepting the battle of Bunker Hill. The commanding position occupied by the British was responsible for this. His company was near by, but could not get through from Roxbury Neck to Bunker Hill.

Of his twelve children, the Rev. John Wood was the only son, and he was the youngest and is the last of them.

He was born in East Alstead, N. H., eighty-five years ago, Tuesday, the 24th day of July, and is yet able to preach, though he is not a located minister.

Elbridge Gerry Snow of Fitchburg is one of the youngest of the living sons of revolutionary soldiers. He knows of one other in the country who is younger, a resident of Cambridge, whom he met at a meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in Boston a few years ago.

Mr. Snow's father was John Snow of Sterling, Mass. He was born in that town, March 18, 1760, and his son was born on March 17, 1835, which made his father's age seventy-five years lacking one day when he was born.

James Faxon, living at 70 Summer Street Salem, and his brother, Elisha J. Faxon whose home is at 4 Linden Street, Salem have the distinction of being sons of a soldier who served in the war of American Independence.

From meagre records at hand it is learned that James Faxon, father of the above, was

born in Braintree, Aug. 24, 1764, and when fifteen years of age he enlisted in a Braintree company as drummer. He served with the company until the close of the war.

"Yes, Sir, my father was a soldier in the revolution," was the response made by venerable Thomas Hooper of Bridgewater, "and he used to tell us boys some good stories of the exciting times in which he was engaged. He was but a lad when he entered the service, and he never engaged in any of the large contests, but, if I remember correctly, he went to Rhode Island and assisted the home troops in repulsing the British from that State."

Nathan Willis of Bridgewater, aged eighty-nine, is a well-seasoned old gentleman, alert, and active for one of his years, and he remembers the stories that his father used to tell of the days of the revolution, and the exciting incidents of the occasion.

"Yes, I can remember the stories my father used to tell of those days, and the incidents which led up to the great war. He was a young lad, and when the battle of Lexington took place he, in company with an aged neighbor, was plowing in a field in what is now Westdale. They heard the cannon booming and knew of the conflict, as the events leading up to that contest were well known to the colonists. My father said that it seemed to imbue the love of liberty into the young men, and he could hardly wait for the time when he should be old enough to enlist."

Of the 110 graves of soldiers of the revolution found in the town of Acton, there is but one on which the laurel wreath is placed each Memorial Day by a son of the honored sleeper.

While there are at least eighteen "Sons of the American Revolution" in Massachusetts whose fathers had an actual part in the struggle, Luke Smith of Acton is the only one whose father was at old North Bridge and Bunker Hill, and who has had the story from the lips of the participant.

Joseph Greenleaf was born at Lancaster, N. H., Aug. 31, 1809. He is the son of David Greenleaf, a soldier of the revolution, who was a native of Haverhill, Mass., where his father settled soon after coming to the colonies from England. He was in no pitched battle, but did duty as a scout and spy through Vermont, Northern New-York, and on Lake Champlain. He was married four times, and was the father of twenty children. His last wife was Ruth Stockwell, the mother of the subject of this sketch.

According to Joseph Greenleaf, his father was a stout, robust, rugged man, 5 feet 9 inches in height, and tipped the scales at 235 or 245 pounds. He was noted for his great feats of strength.

David Greenleaf died March 28, 1832, lacking one month of being eighty-two years of age. Two children are still living, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, and Jane (Greenleaf) Pearson, eighty-three years, of Bakersfield, Vt. Nearly all the boys died young, the family being short-lived, with occasional exceptions.

One of the few remaining sons of revolutionary soldiers is James Alexander Montgomery, a thrifty, upright farmer, a native and, with the exception of about eleven months, a life-long resident of North Andover. He was born March 13, 1817, and, with a sister, Mrs. Catherine Poor, of Andover, Me., now in her eighty-first year, is the only representative of a family of nine children.

His grandfather, John Montgomery, was of Scotch-Irish descent, and, as an emigrant, came to Londonderry, N. H., and settled, establishing himself as a weaver. During the war of the Revolution he received from Congress the sum of £40 and a diamond ring as a premium for weaving the finest and best linen for the ruffles and cuffs of Gen. Washington and the officers of his army. The ring is now in the possession of Mrs. Mary Pratt, Buskirk's Bridge, N. Y.

June 2, 1778, at the age of forty years, John Montgomery enlisted as a private in Capt. Johnson's company at Andover and served nine months in Col. Samuel Johnson's Fourth Essex Regiment.

Alexander Montgomery, son of John and father of James A. Montgomery, at the age of seventeen years, enlisted at the same time and continued nine months in the service of the Continental Army. He also enlisted June 22, 1780, for a term of three months as a private in Capt. Abbot's company, Andover, in Col. Wade's regiment, which was on duty at West Point.

Among the "Sons of the Revolution" is the Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Stone of Bolton, now in his ninety-fourth year, with a mentality and memory clear as the proverbial bell, and apparently destined to round out his century of life. Dr. Stone is a native of Waterford, Oxford County, Me. He is the oldest living graduate of Bowdoin College, and attended the recent celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of that institution.

His father, Solomon Stone, who died in 1841, enlisted as a private in 1771 at the age of eighteen, but did not participate in any battles. He was stationed at West Point during his term of service.

Dr. Stone's grandfather Treadwell took part in the battle of Bunker Hill. His grandfather Stone in the days of the Revolution was stationed at Saratoga, doing detached service, although an enlisted soldier. Both grandfathers had for many years been supposed to have served as privates only, but research by the doctor after joining the Sons of the Revolution informed him that both had risen to the rank of Sergeant.

Porter Nutting of Northampton is now in his eighty-first year, and is nearly as active as he was at fifty. He was born in Amherst and was the seventh of the eleven children of John Nutting. John Nutting enlisted in the Continental Army when he was sixteen years old. John was a youngster about nine years old when the ringing of the village church bell announced the opening of the patriots' war, and the hired man left the plow to fight for his country. When the boy became old enough he enlisted and was assigned to duty at Fort Ticonderoga. He did his best for the nine months before Cornwallis surrendered to Washington and peace was declared.

Mr. Edmund Harvey Newton Blood of Pepperell is the youngest son of one of the soldiers who helped to establish American independence, and was born April 13, 1835, on the farm on Chestnut Street, which has been his home ever since. His father, Edmund Blood, a native of Pepperell, was born July 25, 1764, being the youngest son of John and Abigail Blood. Before he had reached the age of sixteen years he enlisted in the old Eighth Regiment of Massachusetts militia, and passed muster at Springfield. He then went to West Point, where, on his sixteenth birthday, he saw two young men shot for deserting the army, which he always remembered with thrilling interest. At one time he was a member of Capt. Berry's company of Col. Dyke's regiment.

He returned from his first enlistment in 1781, and afterward enlisted on board the Hague or Deer, a man-of-war commanded by Capt. Manly, a British traitor. He returned from his last service in the Continental forces in 1782. After the war he attained to the rank of Captain in the State militia.