

# City Patriots Responded

America's success in the Revolutionary War is all the more remarkable when it is considered that the contest was essentially one between a collection of inexperienced amateurs and an army of trained professionals.

And after 200 years it is difficult to realize that many patriots from Fall River, and the surrounding communities, left homesteads and farms to fight for liberty.

Many of them had been exposed to the rudiments of drill at militia "training days" ordered by the Massachusetts Counsel. Others here had seen combat against the French or Indians. But General Washington's first army was, as he observed, "a multitude of people... under very little discipline, order, or government."

The discovered lists of Bristol County residents who fought in the Revolution are few. But it is thought that hundreds from here actually fought in the revolution.

Death records of some 75 veterans of the War for Independence from Bristol County include residents of this city, Somerset, Swansea, Rehoboth, Dartmouth, Seekonk, Taunton and Dighton.

Some of the records list only the name, age, branch of the military, pension grant and date of death of the old militiaman. Some have fuller stories.

Fall River can boast of Peleg Babcock, who died July 4, 1835 at the age of 83. He was said to be a "worthy soldier."

Capt. Jonathan Barnaby from Fall River died in January 1835 at the age of 75. He had been a soldier. Also, Major Benjamin Brayton, an army man, died in 1829 at the age of 73.

Capt. James Briggs of Dighton, died in 1846 at age 87; and James Bushee of Swansea, died at age 80 in 1834.

All were veterans of the revolution. Time has erased their bravery, or the deeds they performed on battlefields. But they lived to remember the war and probably told their children about it.

Of Thomas Carpenter of Rehoboth, who died in 1807 at the age of 74, it is said: "a distinguished revolutionary patriot. A disciple of the good old school of Washington and Adams."

A fuller tale involves Christmas Hunt, who died in Rehoboth on March 6, 1822 at the age of 100 years. A native of Bristol, his parents were both Africans.

After his service in the revolution he was well known in Providence for a great number of years as a carrier of newspapers to Rehoboth and Seekonk "till retired to his little domicile in Seekonk because of infirmities. Regularly appeared in Boston as

supernumery in Ancient and Honorable Artillery Parade, clad in military uniform."

In Somerset in 1832 Wheaton Luther, age 76 died. His records show he served in the war, was at the battle of Princetown, and received a sergeant's pension under the Act of 1832.

That amount couldn't have been much. A private in the Continental Army was paid less than \$7 a month, out of which clothing was deducted. Sergeants and corporals were to receive \$8 a month under Massachusetts pay charts.

Capt. John Marston died in this city in 1846 at the age of 94. His record only states that he served as commandant of artillery under General Knox, "beloved and respected by all."

Henry Knox was an amateur soldier who became one of Washington's most trusted lieutenants. He had studied the volumes on artillery usage in his London Book Store in Boston before the war.

When Washington called for the transporting of Fort Ticonderoga's cannons from Crown Point, N.Y. to Boston, it was to Knox he gave the gigantic job.

Knox selected 59 of the fort's guns for the wintry, 300-mile trip to Boston. Hauled by sledge, his "noble train of artillery" was dogged by one mishap after another, including a cruel thaw.

The feat was achieved, said Knox, only "after having climbed mountains from which we might almost have seen all the Kingdoms of the Earth."

Was Marston among those on the superhuman task of dragging the cannons to Boston? Unfortunately, the pages of history don't say.

The travels of one Zachariah Padelford of Taunton who died "an old man" in 1840 rival the sea stories of Sinbad.

Born in June 1754 in Taunton he was called into the military as a soldier by a Captain King, and fought at the Battle of White Plains, N.Y.

The pages of history tell us what Padelford probably saw in that battle. Some 1,600 patriots, still suffering from defeats at Long Island, were holding three hills.

Towards this weak and exposed position British General Howe threw his main attack. Blue and red gunners of the Royal Ar-

tiller  
forwa  
crest  
the  
heav  
brass  
coats  
and  
coats  
flour  
Bron  
way  
Th  
fuse  
autu  
dead  
mili  
surp  
cohe  
cava  
Briti  
War  
minu  
D  
scen  
surm  
were  
His  
left t

**WARING-ASHTON** *Funeral Directors*  
SUMNER JAMES WARING INCORPORATED

Congratulations to all who have helped in any way to create our nation's Bicentennial celebration, as it reminds us of the many who are no longer here to share this fulfillment of their hopes and dreams.

As we all take justifiable pride in this achievement which our predecessors 'kept trying' during the decade ended by our Area. They helped to create the many successes. A good deal of their character and integrity is ours. Let us grow into a dynamic community of people!!

# d to Independence Call

tillery rolled their pieces forward, smothering the crests with their fire. When the bombardment lifted, heavy lines of Hessian brass helmets and blue coats, British cocked hats and bearskins and scarlet coats went plunging and floundering across the Bronx River, battling their way up the slopes.

There was a long, confused struggle among autumn-bare trunks and dead leaves, with the green militia levies showing surprising stamina and cohesiveness. But the first cavalry attack by the British of the Revolutionary War then occurred and the minutemen broke and ran.

Did Padelford witness the scene? Again we can only surmise. But his adventures were not over.

His records show that he left the land service in 1777,

sailed from Boston on a privateer "Hancock" under Capt. John Manley.

Manley on Jan. 1, 1776 was appointed commodore of a squadron of ships of the Massachusetts State Navy. His flagship was the schooner "Hancock" and in her Manley continued to harass the British merchant ships supplying "the Ministerial Assassins at Boston."

With Manley, Padelford was among the crew that captured a British ship as a prize and Padelford and others were placed on board to run it into the French West Indies.

But the ship was overhauled by the British and Padelford and another man said to be from Boston, jumped overboard and swam ashore. The governor there assisted in getting them aboard an American

vessel in the Harbor of St. Pierre and they set out, bound for Boston.

But Padelford was again captured by the British and was placed on a prison ship in New York. Miraculously, he managed to survive what usually ended in death. Apparently, the records say, he was exchanged as a prisoner.

Soon after he moved his family from Taunton to Savoy.

John Strange who died here in 1827 at the age of 70, once played an important role in the life of his military unit. He was a drummer.

All the commands in the camp life of the revolutionary soldier were told by various drum rolls. How often did Strange sound the long repeating drum roll for call to arms? One thing is for certain. His

drum beats accompanied troops on the long, painful marches. He survived the war and on July 4, 1826, about a year before he died, he played the drum at the Providence celebration for the holiday.

William Valentine of this city, who served as a Minuteman and answered the call to arms, died in June 1829 at the age of 80. For a time he served as a senator in Rhode Island.

Other Fall Riverites whose names are listed but about whom little is known include Col. Benjamin Weaver," a revolutionary patriot and most industrious and worthy citizen."

Also, Robert Irwin, a soldier of the revolution, who died here in 1821; and Ephraim Larkin, also a soldier who died here in July 1846 at the age of 96.