



History Around Us: Revolutionary War Patriots in Lincoln

Supplemental information
compiled by Allison Horrocks
on the 23 Veterans of the American Revolution
buried in eleven of Lincoln, Rhode Island's historic cemeteries

Presented by
Blackstone Valley Historical Society
for Great Road Day
Saturday, September 19, 2026



LN009 Old River Cemetery

This well-kept lot is easily accessed on the west side of Old River Road just 1/10th mile south of the intersection with Albion Road.

Samuel Clark (1744-1818)

[SAR: 1781 Priv. in Capt. D. Sprague's CO.; Col. Tillinghast's Reg't]

Samuel Clark (1744-1818), sometimes spelled "Clarke," was the son of Robert Clark and Ann (Tefft) Clark Chapin (1711 - 1812) of Glocester, RI. Clark became a large landowner and farmer from Lincoln. He married Amey Mowry (1751-1827) before the war, in February 1773.

Clark was a private in Captain Daniel Sprague's Company in Colonel Thomas Tillinghast's Regiment.¹ He joined in August 1781.² That same month, Col. Tillinghast wrote to Captain Thomas Rice about the need to "equip and furnish" men who could come to East Greenwich and then "embark for Newport to relieve those now on duty."³ Later that fall, the Battle of Yorktown ended Oct 19, 1781, and this "put an end to the service which the militia of Rhode Island had for years been called upon to perform."⁴

Samuel Clark lived on "a large tract of land on the Smithfield side of the Blackstone River," and he "owned the Albion privilege" as well. He had a sizable working farm by 1790. Amey Clark "maintained through life, a high character of virtue and piety, and died lamented by a large circle of friends and relatives."⁵ She raised 10 children with Samuel on a family farm. That land stayed "in the family to at least Nelson R. Church in the sixth generation." The Clarks' eldest boy, Joseph Clark (1774-1820) was a sea captain.⁶ Samuel's namesake was a town clerk and later, the General Treasurer for Rhode Island.⁷

¹ [SAR: 1781 Priv. in Capt. D. Sprague's CO.; Col. Tillinghast's Reg't]

² [Return of Captain Daniel Sprague's Company in Colonel Thomas Tillinghast's Regiment, August 22nd 1781 – The Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

³ [Letter Lieutenant Colonel Commander Thomas Tillinghast, East Greenwich the 4th of August 1781, to Captain Thomas Rice, Warwick. – The Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

⁴ Edward Field, *Revolutionary Defences in Rhode Island*.

⁵ <https://www.genealogybank.com/nbshare/AC01230405181012071851782519135>

⁶ <https://www.rihs.org/mssinv/MSS1127.htm>

⁷ *The Mowry Family*, 154.

Samuel Clark died in January 1818 as a result of a horrific accident during a house fire.⁸

Some of Clark's land went to his sons, Samuel Clark and Mowry Clark. Mowry Clark and other local men, including Samuel Hill, Jr., "were the first to improve the water power," and they bought land on the east side of the river (in Cumberland) from Jotham Carpenter." Some called this area "Monticello."⁹

Later residents of Lincoln knew the Clarks' homestead as the Church Farm, and "it was very highly regarded in the dairy business." Later occupants (the Churches) were "renowned for their purebred Ayrshire milking cows and four-percent milk."¹⁰

Amey Clark's parents, Daniel Mowry and Anne (Phillips) Mowry, were prominent in town, and her brother, Daniel Mowry II, "was a member of the General Assembly when elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 1776. He was born in Smithfield, where he died."¹¹ He was a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1780, and was a member of the State Legislature.

Papers of some of the Clark descendants are at the Rhode Island Historical Society.

Samuel Hill (1741-1833)

[SAR: 1775 Capt. Of 1st Co., Smithfield Militia]

Samuel Hill is the eldest son of Lieutenant Samuel Hill (sometimes Hills) and Deborah (Cushing) Hill. He was raised in Rehoboth by Deborah and Samuel with three sisters. Later, his father remarried and Samuel gained a stepsister (Comfort Hill, born to Samuel and Sarah (Harden) Hill in 1756). Samuel Hill married [Rhoda Phillips](#) (1746-1828), daughter of Joshua Phillips ("of Smithfield") in 1766. Samuel Hill's father-in-law, Joshua Phillips Sr., was part of organizing the town of Hubbardstown in the early 1760s.

⁸ "Clarke, Samuel" in Arnold, James Newell. *Rhode Island Vital Extracts, 1636-1850*. 21 volumes. Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1891-1912. Digitized images from New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts. Clark "had retired to rest and during the night the house caught fire; he was putting the fire out before the hearth in which was a kettle of boiling water; the floor gave way carrying him to the cellar and the water overturning scalded him so severely as to cause his death. He leaves a wife and six children."

⁹ Steere, *History of the Town of Smithfield*, 106.

¹⁰ Charles Savoid, *Albion*, 50.

¹¹ Judge Daniel Mowry (DAR Lineage Book, 211)

[Capt Daniel Mowry Sr. \(1697-1787\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

In 1775, Samuel Hill was Captain of the 1st Company of the Smithfield Militia. Hill was responsible for “Raising troops and drilling of same and other duties required at times.”¹² Hill was “listed as 1st Captain of Smithfield Infantry, Providence County Regiment. The name of Samuel Hill appears in Military Census of 1777 as of Smithfield between the ages of sixteen and fifty, able to serve.”

Hill appeared in records “as Ensign in Capt. Joseph Jenckes’ 1st Company Smithfield Militia, Col. James Angell’s Providence Regiment, Militia Force, of the Colony of Rhode Island.”

A biographical sketch by Arthur G. Hill notes that the Smithfield Hills lived on a “poor, rocky farm” in Smithfield. The name Samuel was carried through the Hill family for generations. The sixth Samuel Hill used his middle name Lapham to distinguish himself. A biography of Samuel Lapham Hill reveals: “The Hill family were Friends or Quakers and the simplicity of the dress tastes and requirements of these pure religionists left impressions on the mind of Samuel L that remained with him through life.”

Samuel Hill, Jr. was on the Smithfield Town Council (1803-1808). He also served on the first school committee. Some called him “Judge Hill.”

Samuel Hill’s extended family has an extensive record of service. Joshua Phillips and his wife Freelove Phillips were the parents of seven children, including two sets of twins, and four patriots: Joshua, Richard, Gideon, and Paine Phillips. Rhoda’s brother Richard Phillips “accompanied Com. Whipple on his famous expedition to France with despatches from Congress to that government. The daring displayed in running the blockade in Narragansett Bay and their narrow escape from capture near Newfoundland on their return are reported as incidents of this expedition.”

Samuel Hill outlived his wife by five years. He called the area near his home “Monticello.”

Hill and his children saw the rise of early industry. In the early 1800s, “A partnership consisting of Thomas Mann, Samuel Hill, William Aldrich, and others purchased the Wilkinsons’ property along the Blackstone River. A wooden cotton mill was built, and the manufacturing operation was named the Unity Manufacturing Company.”¹³ This area is now known as Manville. In Albion, “Samuel Hill [senior or junior is not specified,

¹² Ancestry.com. *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

¹³ Charles Savoie, *Albion*. A more complicated version of this can be found in Steere, 99-101.

but likely Jr.] owned the Albion water privileges, and in 1830 sold them to a group of investors including Preserved Arnold and members of a branch of the Wilkinson and Harris families.”¹⁴

The families were further interconnected through marriage: Samuel Hill Jr. and Olive (Lapham) Hill’s daughter Olive Hill married Job S. Mann, son of Judge Thomas Mann (1769-1852).

The summer after Samuel Hill’s passing, his farm was sold at auction by George, Samuel, and Seneca Hill. The farm “situated in Smithfield, between the Maneville and Albion Manufacturing Establishments...being so well known a particular description is considered unnecessary...will be sold in lots to suit purchasers.”¹⁵

Samuel’s sister, Ann Hill (b.1748) married Joshua Phillips (b.1750) - this is Rhoda’s brother, the patriot. “He was a soldier in the Revolution, in Captain Jotham Houghton’s company, Colonel Josiah Whitney’s regiment, July 31 to September 13, 1778, on a Rhode Island expedition; roll dated at Petersham.” They named one of their daughters, born in Vermont, Rhoda (b.1786). Joshua Phillips’s decision to relocate happened with the timeframe of both marriages (Samuel and Rhoda, Ann and Joshua II).

More family information:

Olive Hill married Job S. Mann.

Veteran’s father: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hills-199>

Veteran: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21656704/samuel-hill>

Son: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21656714/samuel-hill>

Grandson: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39177598/samuel_lapham-hill

LN015 Whipple-Mowry Lot

This landlocked lot is located off Great Road opposite Lime Rock Baptist Church, and can only be accessed through neighbors’ properties.

Stephen Whipple (1727-1795)

¹⁴ Charles Savoie, *Albion*

¹⁵ <https://www.genealogybank.com/nbshare/AC01230405181012071851782520600>

[SAR: burial list]

Stephen Whipple (1727-1795) is the son of Capt. Job Whipple (1685-1750) and Silence (Pray) Whipple (1681-1767). He was the youngest of twelve children and a father to eleven.

The Job Whipple House, which still stands today, is attributed to Stephen's father in Lime Rock.¹⁶ The farm remained in the family for more than a century (1873). Many descendants of Job Whipple, including Stephen, "were extensively involved in the local lime industry and in Smithfield town affairs, both in the General Assembly and on the Town Council."¹⁷ The Cullen family later used the property as part of their dairy farm.

Stephen Whipple married twice: first, to Phebe Ballou (1728-1753), and second, to Anna Sprague (1729-1810). He lived in Smithfield his entire life, and was the father to patriot Major Simon Whipple (1760-1829). On the eve of the war, Whipple had a large household of fourteen people, including one person enslaved by the family.

In late April 1770, a house near Providence's "Long Wharff belonging to Mr. Stephen Whipple, of Smithfield" caught on fire – "had it been consumed, all the Buildings on the Long Wharff, with the Shipping, must have shared the same Fate, as the tide was low, and the Vessels aground."¹⁸

Stephen Whipple's SAR record is sparse, but his involvement in various forms of service during the war is documented. A *Lineage Book of the Charter Members of the DAR* notes Whipple "served on the committee of Safety and as Deputy from Smithfield."¹⁹ In 1777, Capt. Whipple made a list of the men serving under his leadership.²⁰ A Rhode Island militia roll also shows that a Stephen Whipple served with Colonel Stephen Kimball's regiment in 1781.²¹

Stephen and Phebe's daughter, Phebe (Whipple) Peck, married George Peck in 1770, and they were "divorced 1785 on account of his adultery. Because of the reason she was granted a widow's pension upon his death." Peck was "a man of much distinction

¹⁶ [linc_old-river-road_whipple-cullen-house.pdf](#)

¹⁷ National Register

¹⁸ <https://www.genealogybank.com/nbshare/AC01230405181012071851782530799>

¹⁹ *Lineage Book of the Charter Members of the Dar* (Vol. 37) - "Stephen Whipple, (1727-95), served on the committee of Safety and as Deputy from Smithfield."

²⁰ [Smithfield, 14 November 1777, The names of men belonging to my company in the expedition against Rhode Island October AD 1777...Captain Stephen Whipple – The Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

²¹ https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1309/images/MIUSA1775C_116649-00859?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=176688

in the town” of Cumberland. Peck “represented it in the General Assembly and held various offices. He held a colonel's commission in the Revolution in which he took an active interest.” George Peck abandoned his family for “another Phebe who seems to have supplanted the first in his affections and never returned to his native vicinage.” Adin Ballou explained: “What experiences Mrs Phebe Whipple Peck subsequently had we are not told, only that she'd probably among her chn...at the venerable age of 85 yrs...Their descendants no further traced.”

Stephen's father, Captain Job Whipple was raised in a home “near Lime Rock, about one mile west of the Blackstone River.” He “lived and died on his farm in the Louisquisset meadows.” In 1748, several members of Captain Job Whipple's family “were listed in District 5 of the Smithfield ‘Highway Act’ in which every able bodied man, at least 21 years of age, was required to work six days each year on the township's right-of-ways.”²²

In 1810, Anna Whipple died. “The virtues which adorn and bespangle the character of woman, shone in the deceased with particular lustre.” The Widow Whipple's “vigour of youth” shone through “while the locks of silver grey announced the approaches of the grave.” Anna was lauded as a wife, mother, and faithful friend.²³

Maj. Simon Whipple (1760-1829)

[Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W. 22602, Simon Whipple, R.I.](#)

[SAR: 1781-1783 Major 2nd Reg't Providence Co. Militia]

Stephen Whipple's son “Simon Whipple was also connected with the Smithfield Woolen & Cotton Manufacturing Company, one of the town's earliest factories.”²⁴ “The Smithfield Cotton & Woolen Manufactory's largest shareholder was Simon Whipple—this is the site of the Kelly House in Blackstone River State Park today.

Simon Whipple's daughter, Lydia, married [Abraham Wilkinson](#).

Col. Elisha Mowry (1735-1792)

[SAR: 1775-1777 Lieut. Col. 2d Reg't Providence Co. Militia]

²² [\[21\]](#)

²³ <https://www.genealogybank.com/nbshare/AC01230405181012071851782530395>

²⁴ National Register

Elisha Mowry, born in Smithfield in 1735, served as Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel Chad Brown's Regiment, 2nd Regiment Providence County Militia.²⁵

Mowry came from a well-established, well-connected family in Smithfield. He made a living as a farmer and merchant. A gentleman, Mowry "had a strong, firm mind, and was robust in body." He once slept on the floor of a house near Fall River (Col. William Cooke) when there were not enough beds for all in his regiment.

Elisha Mowry, his father, Capt. Daniel Mowry, Sr. (1697-1787), and his brother, Daniel Mowry, Jr., fill the pages of history books of Smithfield. Elisha is not a Junior through his father, but as a way of distinguishing him from another Elisha Mowry, a cousin.

In 1775, Elisha Mowry was part of the town's committee of inspection, and he worked to collect firearms. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Army of Observation (1775). When the General Assembly repealed the "Act of Allegiance," Mowry was made Lieutenant Colonel in Colonel in the Providence County Militia.²⁶

Elisha and his wife Phebe (Gulley) Mowry had ten children. Elisha left behind a very large estate, full of saddles, fancy furniture, and all the sundries needed on a sprawling farm. He was part of the "West India trade" and ran a "Ware House" and a store.

Phebe Mowry lived until 1823 (age 85). The "relict" was "deservedly lamented" when she passed following "a short illness."²⁷ Elisha Mowry's death was sudden: after "lifting a tierce of molasses, in Providence," Mowry "ruptured a blood vessel" and died in June 1792.

The Col. Elisha Mowry House (1759) is a farmhouse located at 10 John Mowry Road.²⁸ This is likely the other Mowry.

Elisha Mowry's brother was known as "The Lawyer:" "He was a Gentleman of Virtue and strong Abilities, and altho' he had not the Advantage of a learned Education, his natural Genius and unwearied Application to his Business, joined to his Integrity, rendered him useful in his Station. He was remarkable for good Nature and Affability, yet firm and steady in his Disposition and Conduct. He represented the Town of

²⁵ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

²⁶ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

²⁷ Mowry, William A. *The descendants of Nathaniel Mowry of Rhode Island*, Sidney Rider Publisher, Providence 1878. p. 93-110

²⁸ [smithfield.pdf](#)

Smithfield at the General Assembly, for several Years, with Fidelity and Diligence.”²⁹
Elisha Mowry’s sister Amey married Samuel Clark (1744-1818)’s – they were born 11 years apart. Their *other* brother, Daniel Mowry II (b.1729), was a patriot, tavern keeper, cooper, and farmer. Daniel Mowry II represented [Rhode Island](#) in the [Continental Congress](#) (1780-1782), succeeding Peleg Arnold.³⁰

LN019 Jenckes & Briggs Lot

This wooded lot can be accessed by climbing over a small stone wall on the western side of Dexter Rock Road, 200 feet north of Great Road.

John Jenckes (1736-1807)

[SAR: 1778 in Capt. Hezekiah Smith's Co.; Col. John Mathewson's Reg't in Expedition to Newport]

[LN019 John Jenckes](#)

The Jenckes (Jenkes) were a prolific family in early Rhode Island. This John Jenckes descends from William Jenckes Jr. (1702-1765) and was born around 1734-6.

William Jenks (John’s father) married Anphyllis (Smith) in 1723 and Inspersion (Peck) in 1736. John Jenckes (ca.1736) was born to Insperion and William Jenckes. John’s father was buried in a lot that [no longer exists](#); John and his mother, [Inspersion \(Peck\) Jenckes \(1713-1789\)](#) are in the Jenckes-Briggs lot in Lincoln.

John Jenckes was married to Ann/Annie (Bishop) Jenks (1744-1807) in Smithfield. They raised seven children.³¹ Their eldest, Benjamin, was born in 1768; William, Gideon, Warren, Cynthia, and Sabra Jenckes followed. A son named Washington Jenckes was born on an auspicious day: April 19, 1775.³²

In 1778, John Jenckes was in Captain Hezekiah Smith's Company. He served under Colonel John Mathewson's Regiment during the Expedition to Newport. John Jenckes is listed on the pay abstract of “Smiths’ Company” for the expedition. According to that

²⁹ Providence Gazette (Providence, Rhode Island) Oct 20, 1764, p.: 3

³⁰ [Daniel Mowry Jr. - Wikipedia](#)

Steere, 161

³¹ *The Jenkes Family of America*, 47.

³² *Jenkes Family of America*, 65.

document, Jenckes joined the service of the company August 6, 1778, and served 22 days.³³ This was just before the Battle of Rhode Island.³⁴

John Jenckes's gravestone notes that he died in his 82nd year, which puts his birthdate around 1735/1736, but sources vary. *The Rhode Island Republican* announced his death on March 11, 1818, but declared he was "aged 62 years."³⁵

This small plot captures a few generations of one family, before and after John. James Briggs (1771-1843) married John's daughter Cynthia (b.1776), hence the Jenckes-Briggs lot.

LN021 Henry Jenckes Lot

This cemetery is located at the entrance of Community College of Rhode Island's Flanagan Campus on Old Louisquisset Pike.

Henry Jenkes (1733-1803)

[SAR: 1775-1776 member of Smithfield Town Council; 1777-1778 President of same]

Henry Jenkes was born July 5, 1733, to John Jenkes (1710-1766) and Rachel (Lawrence) Jenkes in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.³⁶ Henry Jenkes shares an ancestor with John Jenckes (1736-1807) - **Judge William Jenckes** (1675 – 1765) – he is their grandfather.

Henry was the second of fourteen children. The family moved to Smithfield, where John Jenkes (b. 1710) worked as a doctor.³⁷ Henry married Amity (Harris) Jenckes (1735c.-1811).

A yeoman, Henry grew to be a prominent member of a prominent family. During the early days of the war, Jenkes was a member of the Smithfield Town Council, and he

³³ [Pay abstract of Captain Hezekiah Smiths' Company, Colonel John Mathewson's Regiment, in service of the United States, in Expedition to Rhode Island, August 1778 – The Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

³⁴ August 29: [Fighting Like Heroes: Accounts of the Battle of R.I., 1778 – The Rhode Island Historical Society](#)

August 27: [Lieutenant George Hurlbut to George Washington, 27 August 1778](#)

³⁵ <https://www.genealogybank.com/nbshare/AC01230405181012071851783015889>

³⁶ *The Jenks Family of America*, 42.

³⁷ *Jenckes-Jenks Genealogy*; Author: Bond, Thomas Edward

served as President, 1774-78.³⁸ Steere's *History of Smithfield* notes that Henry Jenkes was among the deputies and representatives for Smithfield in the General Assembly in 1781, 1793-95.

The Jenks Family of America has little to say about Henry, other than a mention of two sons ("Records missing.")³⁹ Jenkes's stone reads: "his mind was tranquil and serene, No terrors in his looks were seen, His saviours smiles dispel'd the gloom."

[Henry Jenckes \(1733-1803\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

John Jenckes (1759-1799)

John Jenckes, son of Henry and Amity (Harris) Jenckes, was born in Smithfield in 1759. John's brother Henry was born in 1771.⁴⁰

John Jenckes was just a teenager when the war broke out. He died at a young age (forty) on November 8, 1799, near the close of the century.⁴¹

John Jenckes married Sarah (Smith) Jenckes (1760-1822). They had four children: Henry, Elizabeth, Anna, and Sarah.⁴²

John was in the 3rd Division of the 1st Company of Smithfield Militia. He was subsequently excused from active duty to haul wood for troops.⁴³ A "John Jenckes" served on "a committee to 'inspect into the public letters and papers laid before this Assembly'" in November 1780.⁴⁴ This could be John (b.1759) or the elder John (b.1736).

In 1798, the Town of Smithfield compiled information on local homes of a certain valuation. This document reveals the great potential for confusion with men named John and Henry Jenckes in town.

³⁸ Steere, 188.

³⁹ Jenks, 69.

⁴⁰ Jenks Family of America, 70.

⁴¹ [Genealogy of the Jenks family of America : Browne, William Bradford, 1875-1953 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

⁴² [Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries - Person Details](#)

⁴³ [SAR: 1777 in 3rd Div. of 1st Co. Smithfield Militia; excused from active duty to haul wood for Militia in Providence]

⁴⁴ Steere, 46

LN022 Aholiab Spaulding Lot

Located behind neighbors' yards between Maria Street, Barbara's Way, and the Blackstone Canal (between Mile Markers 9 and 10). This cemetery adjoins LN023.

This small cemetery near the Blackstone Canal is named for Aholiab Spaulding. In addition to his and his brother's families, this cemetery is home to the Merrys, including Joseph Merry and Amey (Spaulding) Merry.⁴⁵

Nathaniel Spaulding (1751-1838)

Nathaniel Spaulding is the son of Joseph Spaulding (1718-1800) and Mehitable (Allyn) Spaulding (1724-1748), of Killingly, Connecticut. He was first married to Lydia (Harris) Spaulding (daughter of Preserved and Martha Harris) (1752c-1795). They had a daughter named Amey. Nathaniel's second wife, Thankful (b.1773), lived into her 90s.

With Thankful, Nathaniel had another eight children: Lydia, Mary, Nathaniel, Thankful, Hannah, William, Sarah, and John Spaulding. Nathaniel's longevity (and Thankful's – she lived until 1866) carried through daughter Hannah – “for some years Hannah [born 1808] alone survived, she occupying the old Spaulding homestead, where she died in April, 1904. She was a real daughter of the American Revolution, and a member of the Pawtucket Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.”⁴⁶ Hannah died in 1901, and she is joined by eldest daughter [Lydia Spaulding](#), who is also buried in the family plot.⁴⁷

Hannah Spaulding cared for her family's legacy as a key member of the DAR in RI. Some of her father's items were given to the Pawtucket DAR Chapter (for Daggett House). Spaulding also preserved her father's “mess kettle” he took from “a British officer in Newport.”⁴⁸

Nathaniel Spaulding had a “farm on the River Road” in Smithfield. He was a private in 1776 (minuteman) and served under Colonel George Peck. He earned a pension for his service.⁴⁹ Understandably, by the time Spaulding could get a pension (in the 1830s),

⁴⁵ [Records of Old Smithfield - 2](#)

⁴⁶ *The Newsletter of the Sherk / Shirk / Sherrick Family-V 3b* (Nov 1985); Author: Sherk Family Association (Ontario, Canada)

⁴⁷ [Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries - Person Details](#)

⁴⁸ Pawtucket gazette and chronicle

Friday, Jan 11, 1901

Pawtucket, RI

Page:1

⁴⁹ SAR: 1776 Priv. in Independent Co. Minute Men, Col. George Peck; pensioner]

the war was a distant memory. He recalled service in and around “Providence, Bristol, Little Compton and at Patuxet, Warwick and on both shores of the Narragansett Bay, and on the Sound of Rhode Island,” and the occupation of Newport. During his tenure, “all the Troops of every description [were] in almost continual alarm” until the British left the island. In 1833, Thomas Spears (age 79) recalled his time with Spaulding when they both “joined said Col. Peck's company as privates in June 1776. I continued in it until the end of the War. I have no hesitation in saying that from said June 1776 to 1780 said company was on actual duty in active service one half of the time. I know it was during this time I belonged to it, I have no doubt but said Nathaniel served upwards of two years in actual service while he belonged to said company as he has stated.”⁵⁰

After his death, Nathaniel Spaulding’s wife Thankful was able to continue drawing the pension for years to come.

Aholiab Spaulding (1743-1791)

Aholiab Spaulding (1743-1791) is the son of Joseph Spaulding (1718-1800) and Mehitable (Allyn) Spaulding (1724-1748). He was born September 20, 1743. Aholiab’s younger sister Rachel was born August 6, 1747. One Spaulding family book notes that Joseph and Mehitable likely “removed from town” (in Connecticut). This was because of “an entire silence in the records in regard to this family” there.⁵¹

A published family newsletter makes the connection between Aholiab and Nathaniel Spaulding apparent: Joseph was an early “settler” in Smithfield, and he was the father of Mary, Sarah, Chole, Aholiab, and Nathaniel.

During the war, Aholiab Spaulding was a private in the Smithfield and Cumberland Rangers. He served under Capt. William Bowen, Col. George Peck.

Aholiab Spaulding had two children: Joseph Spaulding (born to Hopestill) and Presilla Spaulding (born to Anna, married William Cushing).⁵²

Traces of this line of Spauldings are elusive. A footstone marked “Spaulding” from 1791 remains to mark Aholiab’s place in the world.

⁵⁰ [Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File W 1951, for Nathaniel Spaulding, Rhode Island](#)

⁵¹ *The Spaulding Memorial: A Genealogical History of Edward Spaulding of Virginia and Massachusetts Bay*

⁵² THE RECORD OF OLD SMITHFIELD FROM 1730 TO 1850. Vol. III, 1884-85

LN023 Joseph Wilkinson Lot

Located behind neighbors' yards between Maria Street, Barbara's Way, and the Blackstone Canal (between Mile Markers 9 and 10). This cemetery adjoins LN022.

The Joseph Wilkinson Lot - Maria St. & Blackstone Canal – is home to three patriots, all brothers in arms. Simeon, John, and Joseph Wilkinson are the children of Ahab Wilkinson (1734-1816), of Smithfield, and Abigail (Scott) Wilkinson (1735), born in Bellingham.⁵³ Ahab and Abigail Wilkinson married in June 1755 in Smithfield.⁵⁴ They had five children: Simeon, John, Joseph, Sarah, and George, all born before the Revolutionary War. All three brothers continued their service at war's end and were part of the Smithfield Grenadiers in 1791.⁵⁵

The eldest son, **Simeon Wilkinson (1756-1816)**, married Elizabeth Jenckes (1771-1834) in 1792. Simeon Wilkinson was a private. There is understandable confusion as to which Jenckes family members married which Wilkinsons in Smithfield. Simeon's wife is most likely the daughter of Joseph Jencks and Sarah (Tingley) Jencks – not Christopher and Hannah (Whipple) Jencks.⁵⁶

When he was 23, Simeon Wilkinson served with the Smithfield & Cumberland Rangers, under Capt. William Bowen and Col. George Peck.⁵⁷ In peacetime, Simeon and Elizabeth had eight children: Mira, Sarah, Ahab, Lydia, Rebecca, Washington A.J., Elizabeth, and John.⁵⁸ They made a living farming in Smithfield (now Lincoln), first on family land in “the large white house, a few rods distant from the original homestead, at foot of the hill.” Simeon undertook this project with Joseph, and they made all “the nails, hinges, etc.,” for the home. Simeon and his wife raised their family in a river-facing home, “later the canal for which land was granted by the Wilkinsons.” Later, their heirs sold some of their land to the Lonsdale Company (the home was located at 569 River Road, Lincoln).

⁵³ [Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries - Cemetery Details](#)

[Ahab Wilkinson \(1734-1816\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

⁵⁴ [Memoirs of the Wilkinson Family in America, published 1869
ssrn_id2652025_code2323437.pdf](#)

⁵⁵ Steere, 58

⁵⁶ [Elizabeth Jenckes Wilkinson \(1771-1834\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

⁵⁷ [SAR: 1779 Priv. in Independent Co. Smithfield & Cumberland Rangers, Capt. Wm Bowen, Col. George Peck]

⁵⁸ [Memoirs of the Wilkinson Family in America, published 1869](#)

Simeon and Elizabeth's sixth child, Washington Adams Jefferson Wilkinson, was named for the early presidents and raised in the family's "second homestead" in Lincoln.⁵⁹ Washington A.J. Wilkinson was born "nearly opposite the Berkeley Mills, his early years being spent upon the farm, but at the age of twenty-one he became engaged in manufacturing." Washington Wilkinson was the superintendent of the Ashton Mill and the Lonsdale Mill. Wilkinson, a "strict" manager "of few words" lived until 1887.⁶⁰

Ahab and Abigail Wilkinson's second child, **John Wilkinson (1757-1826)**, served with his brother in the Smithfield & Cumberland Rangers under Capt. William Bowen and Col. George Peck. John Wilkinson lived and died on the family land. His [widow](#), Martha, lived until [1851](#) and died "at the old homestead, which soon passed into other hands." Part of the family homestead, portions of the "one thousand acres owned by Lawrance Wilkinson," became the Town Farm or Poor Farm ("situated on the edge of the present Blackstone canal, shaded by venerable elm trees").

Simeon and John's younger brother **Joseph Wilkinson (1759-1812)** was a private in the Smithfield & Cumberland Rangers in 1776.⁶¹ Joseph Wilkinson married [Martha Jenckes](#) (1767-1823). Using Martha Wilkinson's dates from the family plot, this is likely the [Martha Jenckes \(1767-1823\)](#) who is the daughter of Henry and Amity Jenckes (Henry is a patriot).

Joseph Wilkinson on the family land "fronted on the River road where stood, for many years, until 1911, one of the largest elms in Rhode Island." Joseph and Martha had a large family: Samuel Scott, George D., Abby, Jenckes, Amey, Joanna, Joseph, Marcy, Julia Ann, Abah, and Martha. Joseph Wilkinson's land stayed within the family until it was sold to Nathaniel Spaulding ("first agent of the Blackstone canal.") One of Joseph and Martha Wilkinson's descendants is Ahab George Wilkinson – "for many years dean of the patent office in Washington, D.C."

These three patriots lived in a transitional generation: their ancestors were large landowners and farmers. Their children and grandchildren were involved in various pursuits, and slowly, the family land became subdivided, not just amongst themselves, but into villages.

Simeon Wilkinson + Elizabeth Jenckes (1771-1834)

⁵⁹ [Memoirs of the Wilkinson Family in America, published 1869](#)

⁶⁰ *New England Families*, 1146

⁶¹ [SAR: 1776 Priv. in Smithfield & Cumberland Rangers]

[Elizabeth Jenckes Wilkinson \(1771-1834\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

Daughter of Joseph Jencks and Sarah (Tingley) Jencks.

Joseph Wilkinson + Martha Jenckes (1767-1823)

[Martha Jenckes \(1767-1823\)](#)

Daughter of [Henry Jenckes \(1733-1803\)](#) & Amity

John Wilkinson + Martha Jenckes? (1776-1851)

[Rhode Island Historic Cemeteries - Person Details](#)

This may be the Martha who's the sister of Elizabeth, daughter of [Joseph Jenks \(1740-1821\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

LN025 Friends Burial Ground

Just behind the Friends Meetinghouse on Great Road, this well-maintained burial ground is among the largest of Lincoln's historical cemeteries, and adjoins LN026.

The Saylesville Meeting Friends Cemetery has three patriots: Israel Arnold (1754-1840)⁶², Luke Arnold (1738-1817)⁶³, and Benjamin Smith (1744-1812)⁶⁴.

Since the Friends were pacifists, many sought ways to abstain from military service during the American Revolution and subsequent wars. Benjamin Smith was among the able-bodied men who got an exemption from military service. He provided support in the form of drawing wood for troops. Smith's lack of formal service should not lead us to believe he was insulated from the war, especially when we consider his extended family.

Benjamin Smith (1744-1812) was the son of Benjamin Smith (1677-1749) and Anne (Smith) Hopkins (1717-1782). At his death, Benjamin Smith, Esq., was mourned as "a highly respectable member of the Society of Friends."⁶⁵

⁶² "of Bowen's RI Militia in Rev. War." [SAR: 1776 Sergt. In Capt. Days Co.; Col. Jabez Bowen's Reg't; 1777-1779 same]

⁶³ [SAR: 1775 enlisting officer Smithfield; 1777 hauling wood for troops; 1782 appointed to take Smithfield census]

⁶⁴ [SAR: 1776-1778 Excused from active duty in 2nd Co. Smithfield Militia to draw wood for troops]

⁶⁵ The Providence Gazette, AND COUNTRY JOURNAL.Saturday, Mar 21, 1812

Benjamin Smith II's family tree reveals the myriad ways people became kin in 18th century Rhode Island. For instance, the Smiths had multiple connections to the Hopkins family, who were also Quakers.⁶⁶ Benjamin's mother married Gov. Stephen Hopkins in 1755 after several years as a widow.⁶⁷ Benjamin II was 11 at the time. At 26, Benjamin Smith II married Mary Tillinghast (1753-1796) in 1770. Mary is the daughter of Daniel Tillinghast (1732-1806), who was a patriot.⁶⁸ Daniel Tillinghast was also linked to the Hopkins family – he was married to Stephen Hopkins's daughter, Lydia (1733 - 1793) in 1763.⁶⁹ In other words, Benjamin's stepfather's daughter (from a first marriage) was also his mother-in-law.

Just prior to the war, Benjamin's younger sister Ruth married Capt. George Hopkins (1739-1755), the governor's youngest child born to his first wife, Sarah (Scott) Hopkins. Ruth (Smith) Hopkins (1746-1812) lost her husband young. Governor Hopkins wrote to his "Beloved Ruth" in June 1775: "George, I expected to have seen here but believe he has gone to South Carolina." Hopkins, who signed the letter "Affectionate Father" asked Ruth to "Give my love to all parts of the family, and respects to all who may ask after me." The pair married in 1773, and in 1774, Capt. Hopkins was traveling to Surinam, with plans to return home via Charleston – but he "was never afterwards heard from."⁷⁰ It is assumed he died at sea.⁷¹

The Smith family is richly connected to local history. Benjamin Smith II's grandfather, Edward Smith (1633-1693), was born in England and was part of the 17th century migration to Providence. Benjamin and his wife Anne had a large family and repeated many familiar names (Benjamin, Sarah, George, Stephen Hopkins, Hopkins, Lydia). Benjamin and Anne's son Stephen Hopkins Smith (1784-1858) had Hearthside House built ca. 1810 and it is still standing, along with the Butterfly Mill, on Great Road today.⁷² This bachelor son was known as "a person of intellect, a traveller; and

⁶⁶ [Founding Father: Stephen Hopkins and the Hopkins House: Rhode Island's Delegate for the Declaration of Independence | Rhode Tour](#)

⁶⁷ [Benjamin Smith \(1677-1749\) - American Aristocracy](#)

⁶⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/104303957/daniel-tillinghast>

⁶⁹ [Lydia \(Hopkins\) Tillinghast \(1733-1793\) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree](#)

⁷⁰ [George Hopkins \(1739-1775\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

⁷¹ The Hopkins family had various connections to the slave trade and smuggling - Esek is his uncle - [Evaluating Whether to Remove a Statue or Other Honorific: The Case of Esek Hopkins - Online Review of Rhode Island History](#)

See also: [Sailing Illicit Voyages: Colonial Smuggling Operations between North America and the West Indies, 1714-1776 \(138-139\)](#)

⁷² [Hearthside Families — Hearthside House](#)

undoubtedly well acquainted with the best extant and newly-arising examples of architecture in nearby Providence.”⁷³

Luke Arnold, Esq. (1738-1817) is the son of Thomas Arnold II (1713-1749) and Amey (Smith) Arnold (1717-1749).

Luke’s father, Thomas (1713-1749) is a brother of Jonathan Arnold (1706-1796), whose plot adjoins this one.

Luke Arnold’s mother, Amey/Anne (1717-1788?) first married Thomas (1737) and married again [Daniel Mowry Jr. \(1756\)](#). Amey was born a Smith, then lived as an Arnold, and died a Mowry. Through his mother, Luke is also related to Edward Smith (1667 - 1726) - this was her father.

Luke’s paternal grandfather, Thomas Arnold (1675-1726), was the son of Richard Arnold (1642-1710), Eleazer Arnold’s (1651 - 1722) brother. Quakers in the area of the Arnolds’ farms first worshipped together “in private homes” in Smithfield. Then, a “tiny one-room meetinghouse” was completed in 1704, “built adjacent to the Great Road on land belonging to Eleazer Arnold, a prosperous farmer and later a tavern-keeper, whose own house (c. 1687) still stands a scant quarter of a mile north of the meetinghouse.” Eleazer Arnold later put “land in trust” for the meeting to select men, including Thomas Arnold II (Luke’s father).⁷⁴

Luke Arnold and Israel Arnold share a common ancestor: Thomas Arnold, who came from England to the colonies and died in Providence ca. 1674.

Luke married his cousin Phebe Arnold, during the early days of the war, in 1772. In 1775, Luke enlisted in service, and in 1777, he is cited for hauling wood for troops. He raised ten children with Phebe, and sought permission to work a marble quarry in present-day Lincoln (then Smithfield) in 1785.

Luke and Phebe managed nearly 200 acres, but their family was found in a state of “Suffering” after Luke attempted to abandon his wife and children. Luke threatened: “Phebe may shirk for what I care.” Family members were brought into the ‘wretched situation’ Luke had created, but some, seeing Luke’s “ugly disposition” did not want to be involved. Luke and Phebe are buried together.⁷⁵

Israel Arnold (1754-1840) is the son of Joshua Arnold (b.1729) and Amey (Bucklin) Arnold (b.1723).

⁷³ [linc great-road hearthside.pdf](#)

⁷⁴ [National Register Smithfield Lower Meetinghouse](#)

⁷⁵ Benson, 396-397.

Arnold's small, worn stone includes his name, dates, and the words "BOWEN'S R.I. MIL REV. WAR" across two lines. Arnold was interred in a place once so full of people from his family that it was called "Arnoldia." His great-grandfather, Eleazer Arnold, built a home that still stands near the cemetery, on the Great Road in Lincoln. It was Eleazer Arnold's descendants who turned family land into a notable meeting place for Quakers.⁷⁶

Arnold was part of the Rhode Island militia and served in seasonal campaigns for several years. By the war's end, Arnold achieved the rank of "Sergeant in Captain Day's company, Col. Jabez Bowen."⁷⁷ Arnold's pension file includes testimony from comrades and his own account. In 1835, at the age of 80, he appeared in court to testify about his time as a soldier in Providence, as well as when he was "stationed on the shores of the Bay," meaning Narragansett Bay. A teamster, Arnold was vague about timing (he could not "remember with certainty" when many of his short tours were) in part because he was "pretty much in the same places, I do not remember any difference [.]"⁷⁸ Arnold *had* recalled being paid but noted that he was "paid in continental money, a paper currency which greatly depreciated so much so that one occasion I remember of giving forty dollars for two pound of Sugar."⁷⁸

Many years after his service had ended, Arnold knew for certain that "he always went when it came to his turn & never hired any one to take his place as a substitute for him [.]"⁷⁹ This is notable phrasing for a Quaker, reinforcing that Arnold did not look to others to fill his place. At a time when other Quakers were admonished for serving, this decision ran counter to the values of many of his neighbors and loved ones. The example of General Nathanael Greene, who hailed from a local Quaker family, may have been enough to move Arnold to serve in the military.⁸⁰ Unfortunately, Arnold's

⁷⁶ Edward Field, *State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century: A History* (Boston, MA: Mason Publishing Company, 1902), 598.

⁷⁷ Israel Arnold, R.I., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application File S. 21050, Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. [online version available through Archival Research Catalog (ARC identifier 53836552) at [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)], accessed Nov. 3, 2024. Arnold's service is also documented in Chester Curtis Foster's Sons of the American Revolution membership application file. Foster, a descendant of Arnold, applied for membership in the SAR. This application file is part of the *Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1888-1970* collection, accessible on microfilm at the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in Louisville, Ky., or digitally courtesy of Ancestry.com.

⁷⁸ Arnold Pension File.

⁷⁹ Arnold Pension File.

⁸⁰ Gerald M. Carbone, *Nathanael Greene: A Biography of the American Revolution* (New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2008).

pension file is more factual than reflective. From the documents contained within the file, it remains difficult to determine if the desire to contribute and to travel throughout the state in service was entirely Arnold's own.⁸¹ Nor does the file shed light on the contributions of his wife, Deborah Olney Arnold.

Near the start of the war, Israel married Deborah Olney in September 1775.⁸² They welcomed their first child, a boy named Israel, in 1776.⁸³ He was followed by nine more children born between 1776 and 1798. Deborah Arnold died following "a long and distressing illness" in January 1799.⁸⁴ During Israel's time in service, Deborah was home near the Great Road and occupied with the close care of young children for more than two decades.⁸⁵ The National Register Nomination for the "Israel Arnold House" in Lincoln ignores the existence of Deborah entirely, only acknowledging that the house was originally owned by the Olney family, until it "passed by marriage into the Arnold family," through its namesake Israel Arnold.⁸⁶ The home was Deborah's through lineage, and her domain by birthright—after all, in life, she would have been associated with the stone hearth, and the labor needed to keep the wooden home warm.

Had Deborah Olney Arnold lived to give testimony for his pension file, she may have recalled her husband's intermittent absences from 1776-1779 in greater detail. If she had met Benjamin Cowell, perhaps she would have also shared why her husband risked alienating his fellow Quakers.⁸⁷ An American flag and a small grave marker from the SAR are planted next to Arnold's small marble grave marker in the Saylesville cemetery. It is unclear where Arnold's first wife, Deborah, or his second wife, Catherine Jenckes Arnold (1775-1805) are buried, for no monument marks their resting place near Israel Arnold's grave. In general, Quakers in that era resisted "formal burial

⁸¹ William C Kashatus III, *Conflict of Conviction: A Reappraisal of Quaker Involvement in the American Revolution* (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1990).

⁸² Richard H. Benson, *The Arnold Family of Smithfield, Rhode Island* (Boston, MA: Newbury Street Press, 2009), 503.

⁸³ *Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island* (Chicago, IL: J.H. Beers and Co., 1908), 1737.

⁸⁴ "DIED," *United States Chronicle*, January 31, 1799.

⁸⁵ Deborah Olney information

⁸⁶ Arnold (Israel) House, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program Records: Rhode Island, Records of the National Park Service (1785-2006), Record Group 79, National Archives at College Park – Electronic Records, College Park, MD [online version available through the Archival Research Catalog (ARC identifier 41375578) at www.archives.gov], accessed Feb. 16, 2025.

⁸⁷ Arthur Mekeel, *The Relation of the Quakers to the American Revolution* (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1979).

markers” and relied on ‘maps’ showing “family positions” on the landscape.⁸⁸ Arnold’s marble grave marker is not unique in the Blackstone Valley; Walter Allen, who is buried in the Friends Cemetery in Woonsocket, has a similar veteran’s marker. Even in a community where one might expect resistance to recognition for war service, first from the patriot, and then from family members, some people chose to document Quaker service during the American Revolution with grave markers.

OTHER:

Joshua is the son of Joseph Arnold (b. 1678) and Mercy (Stafford) Arnold (b. 1694). Joseph is a son of Eleazer Arnold (1651-1722). That makes Israel his great-grandson.

[Deborah \(Olney\) Arnold \(abt.1754-abt.1799\) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree](#) is a granddaughter of [Obadiah Olney \(1710-1798\) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree](#)

LN026 Jonathan Arnold Lot

This cemetery lies adjacent to the Friends Burial Ground at the Friends Meetinghouse on Great Road.

Asa Arnold (1748-1833)

Jonathan Arnold (1706c-1796)

Samuel Arnold (1736-1813)

Thomas Arnold, Esq. (1752c-1826)

The four soldiers buried in the Jonathan Arnold lot are all kin. This lot in what was once known as “Arnoldia” adjoins the Friends Burial Ground (LN025) on Great Road.

Jonathan Arnold, Esq. (1706-1796) died “in the 90th year of his Age.”⁸⁹ Arnold “was many Years a Member of the Legislature of this State, an honest man, and a good Citizen.”⁹⁰ Arnold served on the Town Council in Smithfield and appeared to be industrious. Although Arnold “was raised as a Quaker” but was not a faithful member of the Smithfield Meeting. He “did not appear in the Quaker records except for

⁸⁸ Karin Wulf, *Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America* (N.Y: Oxford University Press, 2025), 126.

⁸⁹ “Jonathan Arnold,” *The Providence Gazette*, Dec. 31, 1796.

⁹⁰ Benson gives him a birth year of 1709, but multiple sources note the “90th year” as 1796.

occasional attendance at a wedding.”⁹¹ Arnold married his wife Abigail around 1738. He was a landowner with property in Smithfield and Providence.

Abigail (Smith) Arnold (1714-1801), was well connected to the other Arnolds and Smiths buried in this area. Abigail was the daughter of Benjamin Smith (b.1672) and Marcy (Angell) Smith (b.1675). Abigail lived to see the new century, dying at the age of 87 in 1801. Abigail “was sharply rebuked by her elders for tippling ‘spiritous’ liquors ‘in excess.’” She lived on a 350 acre farm with her husband and children. News of her passing was announced in a column next to stories about how the Fourth of July had been celebrated in Providence.⁹²

In their younger years, Jonathan and Abigail raised patriots on their farm in Smithfield. They managed a portion of a lime kiln, a tanyard, and ‘a very old house’ for the family. Of their nine children, five “were active Quakers”--Benjamin, Jonathan Jr., Asa, Thomas, and Abigail.

Welcome Arnold (1754-1798) was involved in the *Gaspee* affair and is buried elsewhere. In this family plot, Jonathan and Abigail are buried with these patriots: Aza/Asa Arnold (1748c-1833) and Thomas Arnold (1752c-1826) as well as their daughter, [Elizabeth \(Arnold\) Arnold \(1740-1815\)](#), who married Samuel Arnold (1737c-1813).

Jonathan Arnold was a private in Capt. Amos Olney’s company, and he served in Colonel Mathewson’s regiment. Arnold was part of the expedition to Newport from August 6-27, 1778.⁹³ Jonathan’s sons, Asa Arnold and Thomas Arnold, both served in Capt. Ebenezer Trask’s Company of Smithfield. Their brother-in-law, Samuel Arnold, served from 1776-1778 in Capt. Thomas Rice’s Company and Col. John Waterman’s Regiment.⁹⁴

Samuel Arnold is the son of [Joseph Arnold \(1678-1746\)](#) and grandson of [Eleazer Arnold \(1651-1722\)](#). Samuel’s brother [Caleb Arnold \(1725-1784\)](#), a tavern keeper and deputy to the RI General Assembly, was a patriot as well. At least ten other members of his family also served.⁹⁵

⁹¹ Benson, 131.

⁹² “Abigail Arnold,” *The Providence Gazette*, Jul. 11, 1801.

⁹³ SAR: 1778 Priv. in Capt. Amos Arnold’s Co.; Col. Mathewson’s Reg’t; in Expedition to Newport.

⁹⁴ Additional links: [Welcome Arnold \(1745-1798\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#); [Thomas Arnold \(1751-1826\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#); [Aza Arnold \(1748-1833\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

⁹⁵ Benson, 173. He challenges the claim that it was a dozen.

Samuel and his wife Elizabeth Arnold had ten children. Samuel was chastised in 1772 for his 'language and apparel' by the Friends but he remained a member of meeting. Samuel Arnold's life was full of contradiction: he got an "exemption from service" in 1777, yet he served; Rhode Island passed a Gradual Emancipation Law in 1784, yet he was a slaveholder in 1790.⁹⁶

Aza Arnold lived in a 1760 home built by Henry Paget with Jonathan and Welcome Arnold before the war.⁹⁷ This was a large purchase for the men, and Aza stayed with the farm, later living with strangers (he did not marry). Paget sold his Smithfield estate along with other property and an unspecified number of enslaved people.⁹⁸ Pero Paget, who was enslaved by Henry Paget, built part of the building known as University Hall at Brown University.

Thomas Arnold studied with "Mr. Manning" and completed his studies at what is now Brown University in 1771. Arnold studied to be a lawyer and later became a fellow and trustee at Brown.

Arnold also married into the Brown family. Arnold married [Mary Brown](#) (1753-1829), cousin to the "Brown Brothers," and daughter of Obadiah and Mary Brown, in 1778.

LN031 Obadiah Olney Burial Ground

A small cemetery enclosed by a large stone wall, this cemetery lies within Lincoln Woods State Park, and can be found just outside the parking area, 1/3 mile south of the Twin River Road entrance.

Elisha Olney, Esq. (1755-1835)

Elisha Olney answered the call to serve early in the war. Olney was part of Capt. John Angell's Company, No. Providence Rangers, in 1776. He also served in Capt. General's Cavaliers from 1777-1781.⁹⁹ Like most veterans of the Revolution, Olney had "no documentary evidence of his services."

⁹⁶ Benson, 189.

⁹⁷ [Slavery and Justice | 2. Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Brown University | First Readings: Brown University's Slavery and Justice Report | Manifold Scholarship](#)

⁹⁸ [Slavery in New England | The Adverts 250 Project | Page 2](#)

⁹⁹ [SAR: 1776 Capt. John Angel's Co. No. Providence Rangers; 1777-1781 in Capt. General's Cavaliers; Pension file #W2186 - b. SM 17 Sept 1755]

Elisha married Dinah (Whipple) Olney (1756-1840) in 1777. They ran a family farm, work that was continued by Elisha's son and namesake.¹⁰⁰ Elisha and Dinah had twelve children.¹⁰¹

In his 70s, while battling an illness and home confinement, Elisha Olney sought a pension, and he enlisted other men who served to testify on his behalf. In an 1834 deposition, he explained that he could no longer "state with certainty the number of months he was in active service in each year" but that he served some part of 1777, 1778, 1789, and 1780. All of Olney's "services were as a private...in Rhode Island" with much time spent "watching the movements of the enemy," particularly in local waters.

In 1835, Elisha Olney died, leaving Dinah a widow. Dinah Olney sought a pension for his services, but she had "no record of her marriage" aside from a small handwritten document listing her children. Dinah Olney also did not "know of any person now living who was present at the wedding." Navigating this process must have been difficult for Dinah, who did not sign the papers herself, adding only an X, "her mark."¹⁰²

Dinah Olney applied for, and received, a pension for her husband's service. This long overdue payment was provided to Dinah for a few years, before her passing in 1840.

The Olneys are buried in Lincoln Woods in an often-overlooked family plot named for Elisha's father, [Obadiah Olney \(1710-1798\)](#). Elisha and Dinah bridge two worlds: Elisha's ancestors were among the earliest founders of Providence, and while they lived to see the beginnings of a new country, their children and grandchildren built the early infrastructure for industry.¹⁰³

Elisha Olney's birthday, September 17th, is celebrated as Constitution Day.

LN034 Simon Aldrich Lot

This cemetery is located just 600 feet southwest of the North Gate Toll House, in the woods between Old Louisquisset Pike and Wilbur Road. It can be accessed only through neighbors' properties.

¹⁰⁰ [Transactions for the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic... - Google Books](#)

¹⁰¹ A Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Olney: An Original Proprietor of Providence, R.I., who Came from England in 1635

¹⁰² [Olmstead, Ashbel - Olvie, Lorant](#) 898-924

¹⁰³ [Olney descendants to reunite at Olney Pond | News | valleybreeze.com](#)

Simon Aldrich (1743-1834)

Simon Aldrich was born September 23, 1743, to Solomon Aldrich and Martha (Jillson) Aldrich. During the war, Simon married Mary Matthewson (1746-1827) and they had five children. Their daughter Anna (Aldrich) Sayles (1774-1874) lived to be 100 in Limerock.

Save for the war, Simon Aldrich spent his entire life in Smithfield. In his pension file, Aldrich declared: "He lived in Smithfield aforesaid when he was called into service and since the War he always lived in said town + now resides there." His period of service as a private covered four critical years of fighting: 1776-1780.¹⁰⁴ He was part of Capt. George Peck's Company. Aldrich's company's "duties were arduous," as the men "were called upon to march to Providence + from there to various towns + ports on both sides of the Naragansett to defend them against the incursions of the Brittish who frequently sent [illegible] small parties to plunder the Country [.]" Aldrich's "company was so often called upon that it would be as difficult for him to say when he was not in service as to say when he was."

Late in life, Aldrich was seen as "a very reputable" member of the community. Aldrich lived with a disability but saw almost a century of change, living to his 91st year. Simon and his family are in a plot located near the Old Louisquisset Pike and Wilbur Road.

[Lincoln cemetery restored as part of statewide effort | News | valleybreeze.com](#)

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/53795496>

LN051 Christopher Wilbur Lot

Located just 100 feet from the third base line of the ball field at the eastern end of Lime Acres Park, this cemetery is one of the most difficult ones to access due to an abundance of fallen trees and thick vines.

Christopher Wilbur (1759-1812)

Christopher Wilbur was one of eleven children born to Daniel Wilbur and Ruth (Smith) Wilbur in Smithfield, Rhode Island. Christopher was born on January 7, 1759, and he married Rachel Sayles in November 1781.

¹⁰⁴ [SAR: 1776-1780 Private in. Minute Men of Cumberland & Smithfield; pensioner]

Wilbur was a private in Capt. Stephen Whipple's Company of Smithfield in 1777.¹⁰⁵ Wilbur was also part of Spencer's Expedition, a failed attempt to reclaim Newport.¹⁰⁶ This attack was an attempt to surprise the British, and even the soldiers, like Wilbur, who were chosen "were not told where they were going."¹⁰⁷

Wilbur was born on a farm and "passed all his days" on a family farm, except for his war service. Christopher's father Daniel Wilbur hailed from Little Compton, and he moved the family to Smithfield. Christopher's brother Daniel Wilbur, from the Lime Rock area, is the namesake for Wilbur Road.¹⁰⁸

Christopher Wilbur was only 53 when he passed. He is buried with family, with every marked stone in the plot bearing the name Wilbur.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁵ SAR: 1777 Priv. in Capt. Whipple's Co. Smithfield; In Spencer's Expedition to RI]

¹⁰⁶ [Spencer's Secret Expedition - The Battle of Rhode Island Association](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Rhode Island's Four Stages of the American Revolutionary War - Online Review of Rhode Island History](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Full text of "Representative men and old families of Rhode Island : genealogical records and historical sketches of prominent and representative citizens and of many of the old families"](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries - Grave List](#)