

HEZEKIAH SCHOFIELD

Hezekiah Schofield was born in or about the year 1723, on his father's farm on Clabord Hill, in the Stanwich section of the township of Stamford, Colony of Connecticut. This section, lacking the advantages of location essential for the development of commerce and manufacturing offered little for the financial advancement of a youth prior to the War of the American Revolution. After the death of his father, Hezekiah Schofield sold his land in Stamford and removed into Poundridge- Salem section of New York. He married Mary Waterbury 1751-2, at Stanwich Parish, Stamford, Connecticut. Their children were: John, Mary, Jonathan, Lewis and David.

Although fifty-two years old at the beginning of the War of the American Revolution, and so was above the age at which he could have been drafted for military service, Hezekiah later volunteered and served in the Fourth Regiment, Orange County Militia, under the same Colonel John Hawthorn who afterward obtained possession of the confiscated estate of Hezekiah's cousin, Jonathan Schofield. Hezekiah was eligible to join the company called "Associated Exempts", composed of men unable to take the field or preferring home duties, and who could only be called out to repel an invasion of the enemy. Later, the age limit for the draft was raised to sixty years.

The chaplain of the regiment was the Rev. John Close, of New Windsor, who had officiated in 1774 at the marriage of Hezekiah's eldest son, John Schofield, who enlisted at another time in a company of Minute Men in the Ulster County Militia. Hezekiah and his son John were the only ones of his family in the regiment or county to be recorded as members of a "class" that held a right to a land bounty. The bounty in land was not given for service rendered, but was offered to secure soldiers for the Continental Army from the militia of a county. Four out of the five males of this Schofield Family enlisted. Hezekiah and two of his sons served in the same regiment. This Fourth Regiment was a very strong one, having 1,595 men and 160 officers upon its rolls. Its service was chiefly within New York, where occurred a large part of the fighting of the war.

The son David was at the Battle of Minisink, and probably his father and brother, Jonathan, also a militiaman, which battle was the result of the sudden reappearance, on July 19, 1779, in Orange County of Indiana and Tories bent upon murder, pillage, and destruction by fire. The militiamen were commanded by Joseph Brant who had figured in the massacre at Wyoming, Pennsylvania, in the year before. The militiamen were hastily summoned by orders of Colonels Tusten and John Hathorn, and marched under Colonel Tusten's command on the western border of Warwick, about four miles march from the Schofield farm. Well did the militiamen know, also their wives and children, the meaning of the arrival of Brant's marauders within eight miles, so they willingly responded to the call. It was in this battle that David suffered along with the other soldiers, hunger, and felt obliged to eat almost anything they could find to support life. At one time David was without food for three days and what tasted the best to him was a piece of leather fried or roasted in the fire, which was eaten in various ways.

Hezekiah Schofield resided until his death, between October 22 and November 22, 1804, on or near David's estate below the southern end of the long Greenwood Lake, and in the river valley east of the mountain range, in New Jersey.

(Hezekiah Schofield, 2 of 2)

Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain), of Greenfield, Ohio, descendant, is a member of the National Daughters of the American Revolution and National Founders and Patriots Societies on this line. "A more complete account of Hezekiah Schofield's service record may be found in the files of these societies, respectively."

Summary:

Richard Schofield = Mary (-----)

Richard Schofield = Ruth Brundish

Jeremiah Schofield = Abigail Weed

Hezekiah Schofield = Mary Waterbury

*Note: A complete history of the Schofield Family, ancestors of Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain), Greenfield, Ohio, may be found in Volume III of the genealogy, "The Washington Ancestry and Records of the McClain, Johnson and Forty Other Colonial American Families", in the Library of the Memorial Continental Hall Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Edward Lee McClain