

### **SERGEANT JOHN SCHOFIELD**

John Schofield was born early in the year 1753, in the vicinity of Christ Church of Lower (South) Salem, now Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York, and baptized in that church, by the Rev. Solomon Mead, May 27, 1755. This church society was congregational in that year, later becoming Presbyterian. In his seventh year, John Schofield removed with his parents to that part of old Goshen Precinct in Orange County, New York, that in 1788 became the separate township of Warwick. By the time he was twenty-one years of age, he had left home and lived a while in New Windsor on the Hudson River, one mile south of the present city of Newburgh, and fifteen miles northeast of his father's house near Wickham Pond in Warwick Township. John Schofield's marriage, November 7, 1774, to Hannah Turner of New Windsor accounts for his presence there, where he remained for some time afterward. They were married by Rev. John Close who had come to New Windsor from Huntington, Long Island, in 1775. Their children were: Hugh, Benjamin, David, one other son and four daughters, names unknown (but specified in the United States Census return of 1790 for Clermont, on the Hudson River, New York, where their father, the soldier, John Schofield, was then temporarily residing).

A glass works was the chief industry at New Windsor before the War of the Revolution; during the early part of that war hundreds of muskets and bayonets were made for the Continental Army. John Schofield was a minuteman almost from the beginning of the war. New Windsor and vicinity was a region of much military activity, and the headquarters of Generals Washington and Lafayette, and of Governor Clinton. He being Sergeant of Capt. Samuel Logan's Company of Minute-men stationed at New Windsor (then in Ulster, now Orange County), New York, proves that he was able bodied. One of the services he performed as sergeant of this company of minute-men was to administer punishment upon those who had refused to sign the Pledge (of allegiance to the American cause) as well as a few who had signed the subsequent affidavit, and were therefore guilty of acts, according to the opinion of the Committee of Safety.

Rev. John Close, the minister who married John Schofield and his wife, enlisted as Chaplain in the Fourth Regiment of Militia of Orange County, as did John's father and brothers. John Schofield's voluntary and early membership in the company of minute-men was followed by a formal enrollment as private in the Fourth Regiment of the Militia of Ulster County, for which service he was granted a bounty as land. Since New Windsor was not annexed to Orange County until 1790, John's enlistment was in Ulster County; hence, he did not serve in the same regiment with his father and brothers. According to the records, this Fourth Regiment seems to have had a somewhat tortuous career.

A large part of the Continental Army encamped in New Windsor near the end of the war, the Orange and Ulster County Militia having also camped there earlier. From the spring of 1782 to August 19, 1783, General Washington made his headquarters in the Hasbrouck house in what is now the southern part of Newburgh. This house is now preserved to the nation with its surrounding military park, tower of victory, and adjoining museum of Revolutionary relics, and is visited by thousands of people annually.

(Sergeant John Schofield, 2 of 2)

After the war, John and Hannah Schofield removed up the Hudson River before the census of 1790, and became residents of Clermont Town, Columbia County, New York. He died in Schenectady, New York, January 1-7, 1805, at the age of fifty-two years.

Mrs. Edward Lee McClain (Lulu Johnson McClain), Greenfield, Ohio, descendant, is a member of the National Daughters of the American Revolution on this line. A more complete account of John Schofield's service record may be found in the files of this society.

Summary:

Richard Schofield = Mary (-----)

Richard Schofield = Ruth Brundish

Jeremiah Schofield = Abigail Weed

Hezekiah Schofield = Mary Waterbury

John Schofield = Hannah Turner

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\*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