



The Town of Huron's Patriot Burial Markers, Part II:

Patriot Burials at Huron Evergreen Cemetery

The Patriot Burial marker at Huron Evergreen Cemetery notes that at least five Revolutionary War veterans are buried in that cemetery. However, there are at least three others buried there, no less significant, but because military or burial records did not meet the Pomeroy Foundation's application criteria.

These eight men were honored at a Memorial Day service on May 26, making Huron Evergreen the first of two cemeteries in the Town of Huron to be commemorated as a Patriot Burial site. The other, York Settlement Cemetery, was commemorated as a Patriot Burial site on June 22.

Information on these soldiers was derived from a June 1925 Lake Shore News article written by Rev. Charles Marion Boughton of Huron; John Ogden Wadsworth's "Wolcott, Old and New," and Lewis H. Clark's "Military History of Wayne County."

Captain Buckley, or Bulkley, Johnson

Called either Buckley or Bulkley Johnson, Boughton wrote, "Buckley Johnson never had any kind of marker at his grave that I could find. He was one of the strong men who rowed the boat that conveyed General Washington across the Delaware River on Christmas eve, 1776, when he and his Continental Army marched into Trenton - which is represented by a famous painting." Now, when people chance a viewing of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," they may think of Captain Johnson at one of the oars.

Ezra Knapp

Ezra Knapp was born in 1748 in New Marlboro, Mass. With his wife and six children, Knapp came to this area in 1807 with the families of Jarvis Mudge, Nathaniel Hale, John Hyde, and Adonijah Church. The Knapp family settled three-quarters of a mile east of the, at the time, Helm homestead—no different than Thomas Farm near the hamlet of Resort—on what was a rough Native American trail and is now known as Ridge Road. Knapp died in 1821 in his early seventies.

Isaac Richardson, Sr.

Born in Stafford, Conn., in March 1752, Richardson married Rachael Spridgen in West Springfield, Mass., with whom he had a family of 13 children. Richardson moved to Cherry Valley, Otsego County, and after the war, relocated to Huron. Boughton wrote that Richardson "died in 1818, twenty hours before his wife died. They were both buried in one grave, which is marked by a large tombstone on which is inscribed, 'A Soldier of the Revolutionary War.'"

Roger Sheldon

Born in Windsor, Conn. in circa 1756, Roger Sheldon married Elizaebth Marsh, and they had 11 children. Roger Sheldon and his family came to Huron in 1809. Judge Johnson, Mrs. Johnson gave the children some pears. The pears tasted so good,

the children saved the seeds. When the Sheldon children got to their new home, they planted the seeds, and so, began the "Sheldon Pear," a popular 19th and early 20th century fruit considered an heirloom fruit today.

Noah Seymour

Noah Seymour was born in New Hartford, Conn. in 1759, where he married Miriam Kellogg in 1784. Noah and Miriam Seymour moved to Sodus in about 1812. He was a trustee and elder in Wolcott Presbyterian Church—then the combined units of Huron Presbyterian Church and Wolcott Presbyterian Church. Noah Sheldon died in Sodus in 1832; his wife Miriam also passed away in Sodus.

Thomas Hale

Born in Wethersfield, Conn. in about 1760, Thomas Hale married Elizabeth Deming. They had eight children, and their daughter Mary was wed to Elisha Benjamin, one of the founders of the Town of Huron, which was formerly known as Port Bay until 1834. Thomas Hale died in 1823.

Gad Hall

Boughton wrote, "Hall was with General Wayne's division of the American Army at Valley Forge. He had such a strong affection for his old commander, that when this COUNTY was named in honor of General Wayne, Hall came from the East to make his home here. Up to June 1917, the grave of Gad Hall was marked by a small marble slab about 18 inches high, with his name and the date of his death on it. In September of the same year, the stone had disappeared, and his grave is now without any kind of a memorial to mark it." Boughton went on to say that he "tried to find the stone several times, with the assistance from others, but without success." Hall was born in 1760 and died in 1840.

Roswell Green

Boughton wrote that Green, who was born in 1761, "died Memorial Day 1862, at the advanced age of 106 years. At the time of Roswell's death, it was stated in the press that he had the distinction of being the last living Revolutionary soldier in the state."

Some newspaper accounts—like his obituary—note Roswell's age as being 106 at his passing. His gravestone, however, has his birthdate as April 2, 1761 and his death as May 30, 1862. That puts him at 101 years of age.

In a letter to the Democratic Press in October 1860, George W. Paddock, having visited Roswell Green, then living in Huron, at the age of "one hundred and four



Pictured standing at the Huron Evergreen Cemetery Patriot Burial Marker, from left to right, are Huron Evergreen Cemetery Board members Jerry Fisher, Art Chapin, Phil Eynor, and Doug Chapin; Huron Town Historian Rosa Fox; Colonel William Prescott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Director Helen VanDuyne Camp; and Huron Town Supervisor David Fantuzzo.

years and six months," wrote, "When I expressed my surprise at finding one so advanced in age, he said he was not so old as his grandmother was who lived to be one hundred and twenty, and he feared he would have to sit here as long. He lives with his grandchildren. I think that he is comfortably provided for."

These men certainly add to the color and fabric of the Huron community. It is with pride that the Town of Huron was able to obtain the Patriot Burial Markers for both Huron Evergreen and York Settlement Cemeteries.

Appreciation goes out to the Huron Evergreen Cemetery board for their support in securing the Patriot Burial marker; Huron Town Superintendent of Highways Gerritt Reyn for overseeing the installation of the marker; Colonel William Prescott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Director Helen VanDuyne Camp, who has placed Betsey Ross flags at each of the grave sites with the exception of Johnson and Hall - who have no grave stones; and Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution President Timothy Middlebrook. Special acknowledgment goes to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for their ongoing support in funding historic markers across the nation, which cover many historical topics, including the Patriot Burial historic markers.



Huron Town Historian Rosa Fox and Helen VanDuyne Camp, director of the Colonel William Prescott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), are seen standing by the gravestone of Isaac Richardson, Sr.



Shown is Emmanuel Leutze's famous 1851 portrait "Washington Crossing the Delaware." Captain Buckley, or Bulkley, Johnson, who is buried at Huron Evergreen Cemetery, was one of the men who rowed the boat that conveyed George Washington across the Delaware River.