



The opening wording on the William G. Pomeroy website for many of the awarded Patriot Burial historic markers reads, "The origins of the American Revolution can be traced back to 1775, when the first shots were fired between colonial and British forces at the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Soon after, the American Colonies declared their independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776. As the newly formed United States went to war with Great Britain, hundreds of men across the Thirteen Colonies joined the fight. These men came from different walks of life; some were farmers, others were tradesmen, lawyers, doctors and merchants. Despite their differences they desired the same thing: freedom and independence. Colonial forces faced severe challenges, including lack of supplies and military training; however, in the face of obstacles they were undeterred. After nearly 8 years the colonies defeated Great Britain and successfully achieved their independence. It is important to remember the lives and sacrifices made by those who fought for American freedom."

Although the York Settlement Cemetery Patriot Burial marker notes one Revolutionary War veteran, Darius Howard, who was born in 1763 and died in 1846, there is at least one other known at this time to be buried here. Though no less significant, incomplete burial records for John Featherly, Sr. did not meet the Pomeroy Foundation criteria.

John Featherly, Sr.

When the first settlers came to this area in the late 1700s, Wayne County was not yet established and was still part of Seneca and Ontario Counties. What would become Lyons was then part of the Ontario County Town of Phelps.

With a Native American trader named Wemple as their guide, two pioneering families, numbering 12 persons, set off from the Mohawk Valley in the spring of 1789 in a boat they built and launched on the Mohawk River. The pioneers' westward route traveled the entire distance by water or on foot, brought the families to the junction of the Clyde River and Canandaigua Outlet in May of 1789 in what is now the Town of Lyons but was then part of the Town of Phelps in Ontario County.

These first settlers were William Stansell, his son, Nicholas and daughter-in-law Margaret, and their six children. At 64 years of age, William was considered old for such an adventure in 1789. He is believed to have died in 1791 and buried without a tombstone in what was then Wayne County wilderness. The father of the second family of this pioneering group was the brother of Margaret

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

Patriot Burials at York Settlement Cemetery

EDITOR'S NOTE: Parker Maybe, a North Rose-Wolcott (NR-W) High School student who launched the Gone Graving project, contributed to this article.

York Settlement Cemetery in the Town of Huron is one of two cemeteries in that town designated as Patriot Burial sites, which serve as the final resting place for many of the community's early residents including those early pioneers coming to Wayne County from eastern states. Several of the individuals buried in Patriot Burial sites supported the cause for American independence.

Stansell, John Featherly, with his wife, Mary, and their first three children. Between 1789 and 1807, five more children would grace the Featherly family.

Nicholas Stansell and John Featherly served in the American Revolution. It is possible they served together as soldiers in General John Sullivan's Expedition, which traveled through Central and Western New York State - assigned by General George Washington to destroy the Native American villages and crops, pushing the Seneca Nation westward to Fort Niagara, opening this area for colonial settlement. Looking past the atrocities of the attacks on Native American villages, Stansell and Featherly must have liked what they saw of the land in this area. Ten years later, the men and their families made that journey west to their new home, settling about a half mile south of the former Village of Lyons along the Canandaigua outlet they built log cabins. A number of pigs, brought with them from the Mohawk Valley, were set free to roam the forests, and, becoming wild, were hunted as game along with deer and bear.

Born in 1760 in Canajoharie, Montgomery County, Featherly married Maria Katrine "Mary" Closs (1759-1840) in 1779 in Herkimer. They had eight children - the oldest born in 1782 and the youngest born in 1807, with the five youngest born in Wayne County. It is said that sometime between 1820 and 1825, Featherly sold his farm in Lyons and moved to Rose with wife Mary and their younger children. Featherly's oldest son John fought in the War of 1812 and eventually moved to Michigan. Other Featherly offspring also moved away. Three are known to have stayed in the area - the youngest, Marcus moved to Oswego, the second youngest, George stayed in Rose, and third youngest, Isaac lived in Sodus.

Mary died in 1840 at the age of 80; John died in Rose in 1843 at the age of 83.

Darius Howard

Born on June 11, 1763, in the quiet town of Hebron, Conn., Darius was the third of six children born to Isaiah Howard and Jemima Mattoon. As the American colonies edged toward revolution, Darius came of age in a time of turbulence and change.

At just 17 years old, in September of 1780, he answered the call to serve, enlisting as a Private in Captain William Latham's com-

pany under Colonel Ledyard in the Connecticut State Troops. For six months, Darius was stationed at Fort Griswold, standing watch as a sentry, guarding against enemy advances through the long, uncertain nights. When his duty ended, he was verbally discharged and returned to Hebron, but not for long. In 1781, Darius once again joined the fight for freedom, this time as a substitute for a man named Levi Bissel in Colonel Hezekiah Willis' Connecticut Militia. He was assigned to guard duty around New London, keeping a vigilant eye on one of the most vulnerable and strategic coastal towns. The task was grueling and constant, rotating shifts to keep watch for British ships or spies. When his three months were done, he was verbally discharged at Pequannock and went home.

Darius' service was not yet over. In 1782, he enlisted for a third time, now as a substitute for Samuel Lane in Captain Charles Nelson's New Hampshire Militia under Colonel Waite. Stationed in Corinth, Vt., Darius helped build fortifications to protect the frontier and joined scouting parties on the lookout for "Indians and Tories," the latter being American Loyalists still fighting for the Crown. That winter, after six months of service, he was discharged and settled in Lyme, N.H.

In 1793, Darius married for the first time. The name of his first wife is unknown. They had one child. Around 1807, Darius moved to Aurelius. When his wife died in 1815, he again uprooted, possibly driven by grief, and moved to the Town of Port Bay, known today as the Town of Huron.

On Aug. 16, 1816, he married Susan Davis, the widow of Asher Warner, the only casualty in the 1813 Battle of Sodus Point. Their wedding was officiated by Rev. Seba Norton. Darius and Susan built a new life together on the southwest corner of what is now Edmonds and Garlic Roads in Huron, raising three children in a home that no longer stands today.

Darius passed away in 1846 after 30 years of marriage. Susan remained a central figure in her family's life. The 1850 census shows her living in Rose, surrounded by her children. By 1860, her son John had assumed the role of head of household. Susan died on Jan. 19, 1860, in Huron, at the age of 71.

Appreciation goes out to the York Settlement Cemetery board for their encouragement in securing this Patriot Burial marker; Town



Pictured at the gravestone of John Featherly at York Settlement Cemetery in the Town of Huron, from left to right, are Huron Town Historian Rosa Fox; Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member Nancy Karasinski; Phyllis Lent, a Featherly family descendant; and Parker Maybe, a student who will graduate from North Rose-Wolcott (NR-W) High School's class of 2027. Maybe launched the Gone Graving project.



Shown standing by the Patriot Burial market at York Settlement Cemetery in the Town of Huron, from left to right, are Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member Nancy Karasinski; Parker Maybe, a North Rose-Wolcott (NR-W) High School student who launched the Gone Graving project; Huron Town Historian Rosa Fox; and Huron Town Supervisor David Fantuzzo.

of Huron Highway Superintendent Gerritt Reyn for overseeing the marker installation; Colonel William Prescott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Director Helen VanDuyne Camp; Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution President Timothy Middlebrook; Parker Maybe for the restoration of Darius Howard's gravestone; DAR member, Nancy Karasinski for support and participation in the dedication program.

Special acknowledgement 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.



Shown standing at the gravestone of Darius Howard, which was restored in the Gone Graving project, are Huron Town Historian Rosa Fox; Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) member Nancy Karasinski; Parker Maybe, the North Rose-Wolcott (NR-W) High School student who launched the Gone Graving project; and Melanie Maybe. Pictured in the back are Phillip Maybe and Tyler Maybe.