

Warren's Grandparents, Jeremiah Jr. and Elizabeth Daggett Reynolds

When the Senior Jeremiah died in 1768 Jeremiah Jr., at age 20, was out of reach of the courts deciding guardianship. How or what he did with his life over the next four years is unknown, except that he courted and prepared to marry Elizabeth Daggett of Charlotte Precinct, Dutchess County, New York. This he did in about 1773 in Amenia Precinct, Judging from the birth dates of his children.



The Revolutionary War

Jeremiah and Elizabeth were newly married when events were taking place throughout the Colonies that would decide the future of their land for centuries to come. Jeremiah represented the fifth generation of his family in America and exciting change was the mark of each day. Having observed the death and burial of his renowned grandfather James, the young man knew full well what loyalty to the English throne was all about. Both of his parents were gone, too, and there he was at age 27 the head of his father's family, but also wholly responsible for the care of his new bride who would deliver their firstborn son on 25 March 1775. Jeremiah and Elizabeth named him Shubal

in respect for his younger brother Shubel (Shubael) but changed the spelling in the name to a definitive "a".

To fully appreciate the War of Independence in terms of what it meant to this young couple and their Dutchess County home and neighbors, the reader is referred to events that took place in the Town of Beekman, just fifteen miles south of Amenia (Google "Town of Beekman Revolutionary War Petition" for an excellent summary of the beginning of the War and the dilemma forced on the colonists). Each citizen of their new land had to resolve which side to choose. History recorded that our Reynolds family chose to stand against the British; Jeremiah and his brothers each joined the American forces and served at various times during the next eight years of war.



Jeremiah's service in the Revolutionary War is a matter of record. It occurred after he moved his family to Albany County (now Rensselaer). In the work, "New York in the Revolution by Roberts, v. VI, p. 126." Jeremiah is listed as Private, 11th Company, 14th Regiment, Albany County Militia. He served under Colonels John Knickerbocker and Peter Yates. This regiment was raised in Hoosack and Schaghticoke, New York and was in existence by June 22, 1778. The regiment was still in existence on July 24, 1782. A payroll abstract copied and dated November 19, 1784 (after the late war) shows Jeremiah was paid 23 notes during his length of service for a total amount of £12s/11d.

It is not known what year Jeremiah moved his family to the Pittstown area of Albany County (later Rensselaer). Since his unit was raised in the Pittstown area, his move may have been as early as 1778.

After The War

In many ways, New York State was the principal battleground of the Revolutionary

War. Approximately one-third of the skirmishes and engagements of the war were fought on its soil. The Battle of Saratoga, one of the decisive battles of the world, was the turning point of the Revolution leading to the French alliance and thus to eventual victory. When Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown, Virginia, on 19 October 1781, the fighting was over. The people of New York were glad to return to their peaceful way of life. Soldiers returned home, and all of the wartime laws were ended. People could farm and trade without fear. In the Peace Treaty of Paris, signed April 30, 1783, the British agreed that the colonies were independent.

The first government of New York State grew out of the Revolution. To the north of Dutchess County, up the Hudson River, the area known as Albany was attracting many individuals and young families looking for a place to begin a new life after the war. Jeremiah and Elizabeth, with their young family and her parents, were among the number who joined in that group of early settlers. Within a decade Albany became the enterprise center of New York and in 1797 the capital of the State. The township of Pittstown was their area of choice. They had started their family in Dutchess County but their last four children, including Warren's father Asa Douglas Reynolds, were born in Pittstown.

Making a Home in Pittstown

"From the old book of records it appears that the Baptist Church of Christ in Pittstown was fellowshipped March, 1787, with the following members: Gershom Hinckley, Benjamin Eastwood, Benjamin Eastwood, Jr., Jared Carter, Elisha Clark, Henry Mead, Samuel Crandall, John Lamb, William Lamport, Jacob Miller, Samuel Halsted, Jr., William Cuthbert, Mayhew Daggett, Jeremiah Reynolds, Ebenezer Wilson, Nathan Jeffers, Thomas Martian.

Catharine Hinckley, Patience Eastwood, Elizabeth Smith, Doreas Smith, Millicent Mead, Anna Wilson, Beulah Lamb, Rebecca Gallup, Mary Eastwood, Lydia Eastwood, Keziah Martin, Mary Lamport, Rebecca Jeffers, Martha Cuthbert, Elizabeth Reynolds, Elizabeth Hinckley, Rebecca Allen, Ruth Mead, Elizabeth Francisco, Mercy Halsted, Sarah Miller, Anna Wait, Naomi Daggett.

It is stated in the history of the Shaftsbury association that this church was constituted in 1784. It is possible the society may have been formed and a church organized at that time. The date of "fellowshipping" stated above is, however, the one given in the volume of minutes still extant in Pittstown."

The names of Elizabeth's father, Mayhew Daggett and her husband, Jeremiah appeared on the charter fellowship roster of the newly organized Baptist Church of Christ in Pittstown when the church was founded in March 1787. Mayhew was a

widower, his wife Esther having died before the family's move from Dutchess County. The names of Elizabeth and her younger sister, Naomi were also on the list. What we may take from this show of religiosity by the four family members, other than the act of faith and loyalty to the institution of church, is difficult for us to determine since no artifacts of the family's specific beliefs survived the day. The closest that we can come is an assessment based on the later actions of Warren's father, Asa D., and his adherence to free masonry; and, in Warren's specific case, we have the several testimonies expressed in his two 1853-54 letters to Asa which witness his own degree of spirituality, though post-conversion to Mormonism. That our family members were devoted believers in Deity and the Savior seems obvious.



Church in Pittstown

The first census after the American Revolution was taken in 1790, under Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. From the census we learn that Jeremiah, 42, and his wife

Elizabeth with their children were firmly located in Pittstown, Albany County (Rensselaer), New York. Of the three Reynolds brothers, David was still in Dutchess County, had married and produced one daughter. Jeremiah's brother Shubael with a family of four sons and one daughter was recorded at Half Moon, eleven miles directly west of Pittstown and across the Hudson River.

On May 6, 1794, The Jeremiah Reynolds family purchased Lot #46 in the township of Pittstown, from the estate of William Smith "late Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec", for the sum of Sixty two Pounds. Recorded August 8, 1794.¹

The 1800 census recorded the families of Jeremiah as well as his two oldest sons, Shubal and Levi living close by in Rensselaer County near Pittstown. Jeremiah and Elizabeth then had a granddaughter and a grandson. Also living close by were members of the Daggett and Kennicutt families; Elizabeth's father, Mayhew Daggett; Thomas Daggett, her brother; and Daniel Kennicutt, the father of John Kennicutt. John married Elizabeth, third child and first daughter of Jeremiah and Elizabeth in 1797.

Ten years later, the 1810 census confirmed that Jeremiah and Elizabeth had moved twenty miles further west across the Hudson to Glenville, in the 4th Ward of Schenectady County. In this census, we see first son, Shubal is living close to Elizabeth's younger brother, Mayhew Daggett as well as his parents and has five children under ten, two sons and three daughters. Jeremiah, now 62 and Elizabeth 57-59, still have in their household one son over 16 and two girls under fifteen. One could be a granddaughter.

By Great-grandson Robert N. Reynolds

1 Personal conversation with Glenn G. Reynolds, M.D. who told me he had copies of the vital records.