Joseph Lamb of Sheldon, Vermont
Soldier, American Revolution

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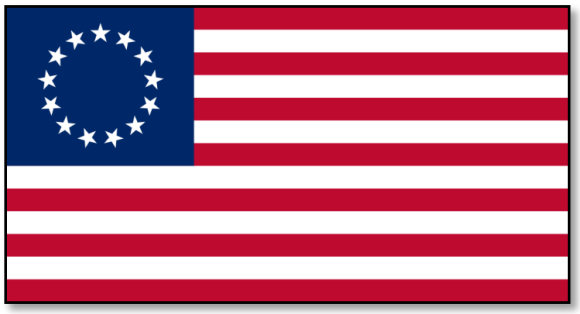


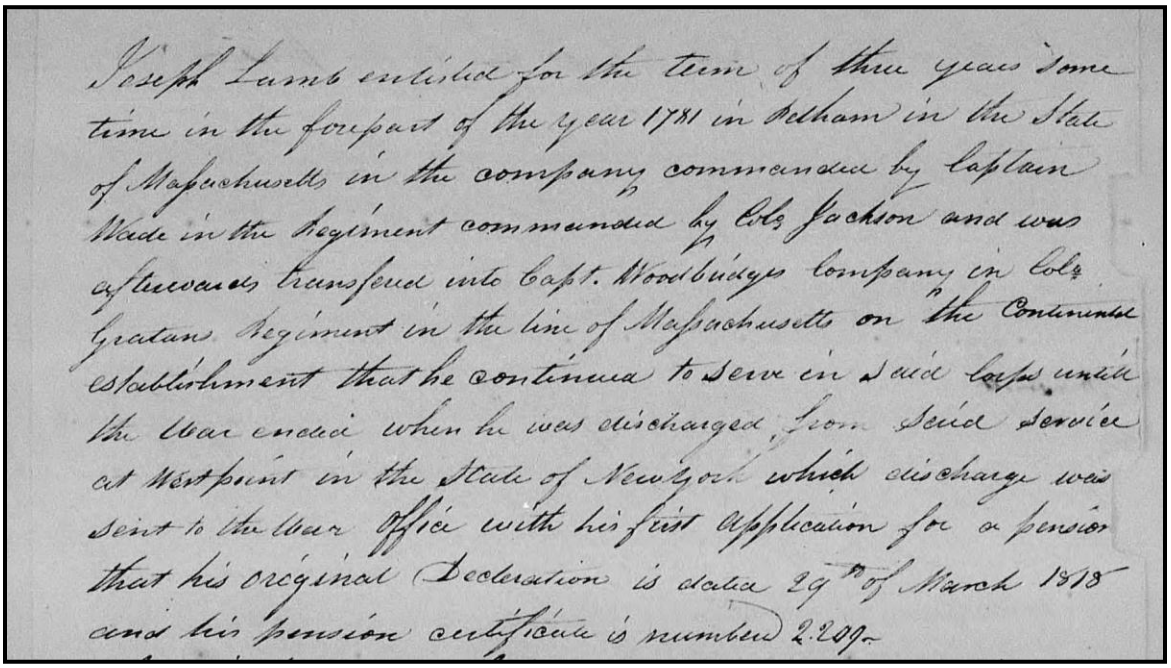
Joseph was born in Hopkinton, RI on May 22, 1763 to Nathan Lamb and Lydia Plumber; his birth, along with that of a brother Nathan, as well as the marriage of his parents, is recorded in the archives of that town. Joseph was a lad of thirteen when American Independence was declared. At the age of sixteen, he joined the Revolutionary forces as a private in the Continental army and served for four years.

Joseph Lamb's service in the American Revolution is summarized in a letter dated September 3, 1924 from a commissioner in the "Revolution and 1812 War's Section" addressed to Mrs. Pearl S. Weaver of Fostoria, Ohio. It states that, according to papers filed in the Revolutionary War Pension Claim W9105, Joseph Lamb

> enlisted in Ashford, Connecticut, in July 1779 and served as a private eight months in Captain Dana's Company, Colonel Wills' Connecticut Regiment. In July 1780 he enlisted and served six months as a private in Captain Shumway's Company, Colonel Starr's Connecticut Regiment.
>
> He enlisted in Pelham, Massachusetts, in January 1781 and served as a private in Captain Wade's Company, Colonel Michael Jackson's Massachusetts Regiment, was afterwards transferred to Captain Woodbridge's Company, Colonel Greaton's Massachusetts Regiment, and was discharged December 23, 1783.
>
> He was allowed pension on his application executed March 29, 1818, while a resident of Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont. He died March 25, 1848, in said Sheldon.
>
> Soldier married January 22 or 29, 1805 in Hartland, Windsor County, Vermont, Clara [Clora] Willard who was allowed pension on her application executed November 2, 1853, while a resident of Boston, Summit County, Ohio, aged 78 years.

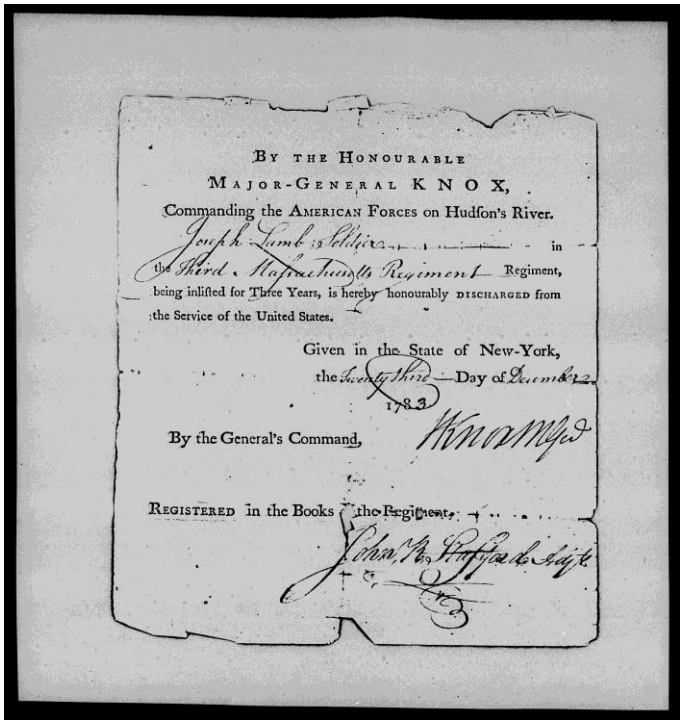
The above letter is found in the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, State of Connecticut, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). (Downloaded from Fold3 on January 8, 2014) There are a total of 81 pages in the file.

Unfortunately, Joseph's original application for a pension (Pension Claim W9105) is not there and appears to have been misplaced or lost. His war record is pieced together from other papers in the file.



Joseph Lamb enlisted for the term of three years some time in the forepart of the year 1781 in Pelham in the State of Massachusetts in the company commanded by Captain Wade in the Regiment commanded by Colo Jackson and was afterwards transferd into Capt. Woodbridges company in Colo Gradans Regiment in the line of Massachusetts on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve in said Corps until the War ended when he was discharged from said service at West point in the State of New York which discharge was sent to the War Office with his first Application for a pension that his original Declaration is dated 29th of March 1818 and his pension certificate is number 2.209.

Excerpt from the document " Declaration in Order to be Restored to the Pension", dated March 1, 1823, and found in the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application File for Joseph Lamb, State of Connecticut, p. 77, NARA Archives, downloaded from Fold 3 in January 2014.



By the Honourable
Major-General Knox,
Commanding the American Forces on Hudson's River.

Joseph Lamb a Soldier in the Third Massachusetts Regiment Regiment, being inlisted for Three Years, is hereby honourably Discharged from the Service of the United States.

Given in the State of New-York, the Twenty Third Day of December 1783

By the General's Command, H Knox Maj Gen

Registered in the Books of the Regiment, John R. Livingston Adjt.

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application File for Joseph Lamb, State of Connecticut, p. 62, NARA Archives, downloaded from Fold3 in January 2014.

Shortly after the war, Joseph and his brother Nathan moved north to Vermont.

A note on the settlement of Vermont is appropriate here. "During the French War, from 1755 to '60, many soldiers and scouting parties passed from the older New England States to and from Canada. [...] The reports of soldiers aroused the love of adventure incident to pioneer life, and an excitement was manifested in Connecticut and Massachusetts and on the banks of the lower Hudson, to secure an interest in the cheap lands and rich hunting grounds of the northern wilderness. In 1761 sixty towns were chartered in Vermont." (Source: Smith, H.P., Ed. *History of Addison County, Vermont*.

Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1886. p. 640-641.)

Both brothers married and settled in Randolph, Orange County, VT. Joseph married Dorcas Marcy in 1786 and lived in Randolph, VT for at least 25 years. His name appears a number of times in the Land Records, 1785-1810, of Randolph, VT. He either bought or sold land there in 1785, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1794, 1800, and 1810. In 1800, he sold land to Zebediah Marcy (father of Dorcas); in 1809 the heirs of Zebediah Marcy sold the same tract of land back to Joseph. Joseph and his brother Nathan are recorded in the 1790 census for that town. Joseph is listed as head of household. There are no other males, but four females listed in the household, presumably his wife and three young daughters. (In the 1790 census, only the name of the head of the household is given.) His wife Dorcas Marcy died in 1803, when their youngest child Charles was just an infant. Joseph married Clora Willard in Hartland, VT in 1804. Joseph's first wife Dorcas had family connections in Hartland. By 1820, Joseph and Clora had settled in Sheldon, Franklin Co, VT. Joseph is listed on the Census records of 1820, 1830 and 1840 as a resident of that town. He would remain there until his death in 1848.

Sources of information on Joseph Lamb's war record, other than those mentioned above:

Joseph Lamb is listed in the Patriot Index of the Daughters of the American Revolution. According to the DAR records, Joseph served as a private with the Massachusetts and Connecticut troops. Both he and his wife received a pension. The DAR record notes that Joseph was married twice. His first wife was Dorcas Marcy. His second wife was Clara Willard. (Source: Patriot Look Up Service. National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Information received 2/19/2008.)

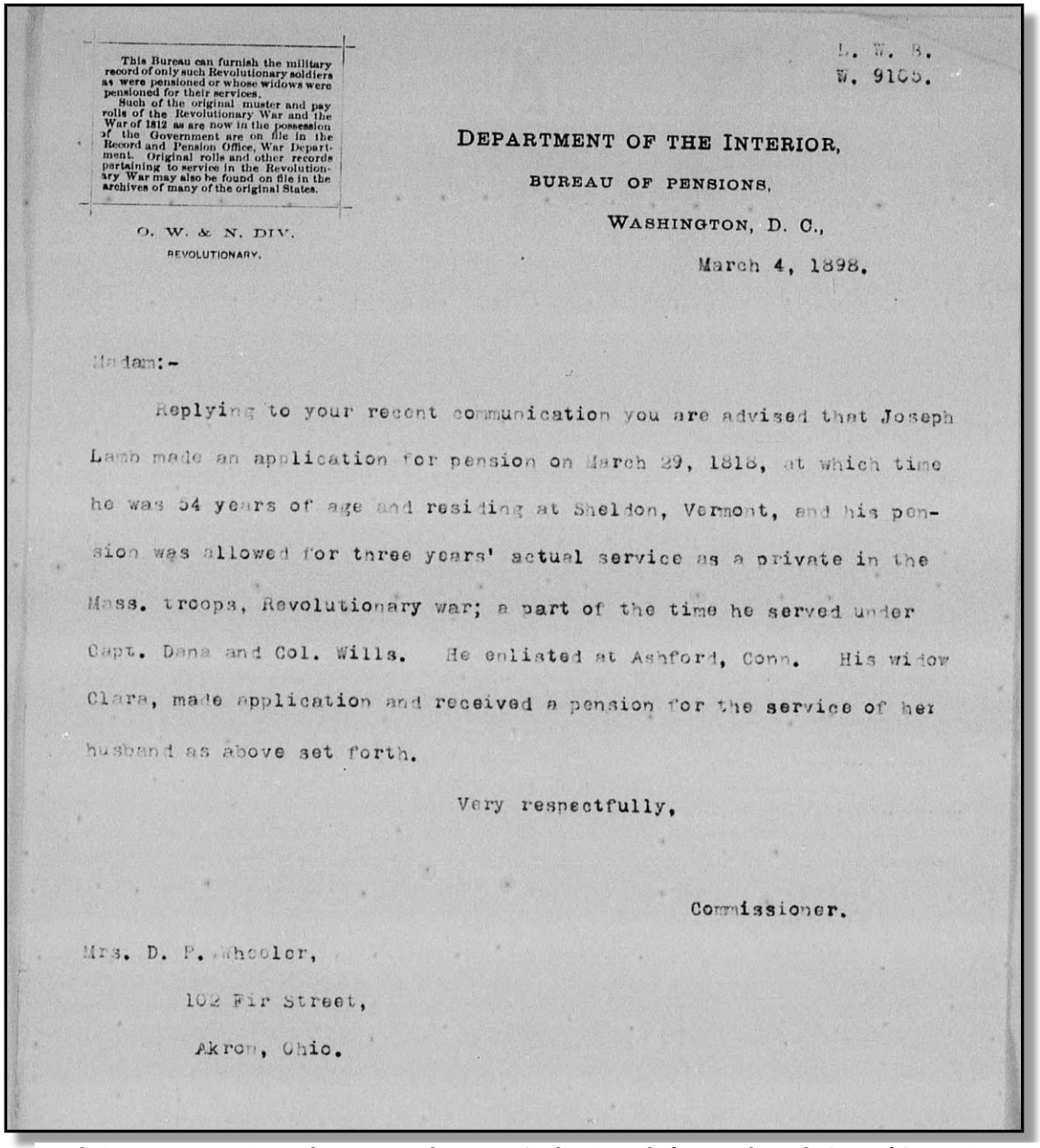
Records noting Joseph's Revolutionary war service are found in documents in the General Land Office, Book 2, p. 400 and Vol. 501, p 340, and in the "Sixth Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Service" published in Washington D.C., 1841. (Source: DAR application submitted by Florence Lamb Paterson on Feb 23, 1926.)

Joseph Lamb of Sheldon VT also appears on a list of revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Vermont. (Source: Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society, 1905-1906. List compiled by Walter H Crockett of St. Albans, Secretary of the Vermont Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and published as an appendix to the proceedings. Available online and downloaded on 2 /9/2009)

Joseph Lamb appears in an 1840 Census of Pensioners in VT with Revolutionary or Military Service. He is listed as eighty years old and living in the household of Nathan Lamb in Sheldon, Franklin Co VT. (Source: 1840 Census of Pensioners Revolutionary or Military Services returned by the Marshalls of the several judicial districts under the Act for Taking the Sixth Census, typed and reformatted by K. Leigh in March 11, 2001. Available online and downloaded on 10/21/2008.)

In an undated letter written by Joseph's grand-daughter, Sarah Amelia Lamb (the youngest daughter of Joseph and Clora's son Nathan), sometime before her death in 1932, she writes, "Found Grandpa Lamb died in Vermont in 1848, so he must have been 90 when he died in order

to have been a boy of 18 in the war. There was no mention of his birth or age. I was mistaken about that warrant of Grandma's. The original one was deposited in Washington in the land office. They gave pa another one signed by Chester Arthur, President and it reads that the warrant given the widow of Joseph Lamb, private Revolutionary Soldier, is deposited there in the land office. Father was given this one I have. It was signed in 1882 and was recorded in Kansas in 1884. Father you see had to get Uncle Anson to sign it over to pa."



This Bureau can furnish the military record of only such Revolutionary soldiers as were pensioned or whose widows were pensioned for their services.

Such of the original muster and pay rolls of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 as are now in the possession of the Government are on file in the Record and Pension Office, War Department. Original rolls and other records pertaining to service in the Revolutionary War may also be found on file in the archives of many of the original States.

O. W. & N. DIV.

REVOLUTIONARY.

L. W. B.
W. 9105.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

March 4, 1898.

Madam:-

Replying to your recent communication you are advised that Joseph Lamb made an application for pension on March 29, 1818, at which time he was 54 years of age and residing at Sheldon, Vermont, and his pension was allowed for three years' actual service as a private in the Mass. troops, Revolutionary war; a part of the time he served under Capt. Dana and Col. Wills. He enlisted at Ashford, Conn. His widow Clara, made application and received a pension for the service of her husband as above set forth.

Very respectfully,

Commissioner.

Mrs. D. P. Wheeler,

102 Fir Street,

Akron, Ohio.

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application File for Joseph Lamb, State of Connecticut, p. 48; NARA Archives, Downloaded from Fold 3 in January 2014.

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