

Jeremiah Cady
Gravestone Marking
Cady Hill Cemetery
Saratoga Springs, NY
October 03, 2010

Major Jeremiah Cady: Local Hero

Jeremiah Cady was born on October 17, 1731 in Windham County, Connecticut. He was the 2nd child of William Cady and Phebe Kingsbury, both of Plainfield. Jeremiah's siblings included William, Phebe, and Eleazer. Jeremiah would marry twice in his lifetime. His first marriage was to Abigail Lawrence on January 8, 1755. Their marriage produced nine children; William, Phineas, Jeremiah Jr., Warren, John, Lydia, Lucy, and Abigail, most of whom were born in Plainville. By 1767, Jeremiah removed his family to Massachusetts, where tax and land sale records identify him as a farmer living in the town of Dalton, residing there until 1786 when he sold off the last of his property. Soon after the American Revolution, Jeremiah moved his family for the last time to Ballstown, in Albany County (Saratoga). Jeremiah was living in Saratoga by 1790, at present-day Cady Hill. He died in Saratoga on October 1, 1798, survived by his second wife Letitia and all nine of his children, most of whom were living in Saratoga. Four of his sons also served the cause of liberty in the war.

It was while living in Dalton, Massachusetts, that Jeremiah took up the patriot cause. His first action was as a minuteman called out as British troops marched on Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. On May 27th, Jeremiah became a Captain in the 12th Massachusetts Bay Provincial Regiment under Col. John Paterson of Lenox. Jeremiah, and his sons William (age 19) and Phineas (16) took part in numerous actions in and around Boston, including the Battle of Cambridge (August 26-28), the Battle for Bunker Hill, and helped in the construction and the defense of a fort (#3) at Charlestown. In August of 1775, Jeremiah Cady was commissioned a Major, when Col. Paterson's Regiment was re-designated as a Continental Unit, the Massachusetts Line 26th of Foot. The 26th remained in the vicinity of Boston until the British evacuation of Boston in March of 1776. Major Cady, however, was ordered to Providence, Rhode Island under the command of Col. Seth Warner, as part of a detachment sent to Canada to relieve the ill-fated Canadian Expedition under General Benedict Arnold. In the dead of winter, the relief detachment left Providence, Rhode Island on January 1st, marching to Crown Point up the length of Lake Champlain to Fort St. Johns, then to Montreal along the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City, where they remained there until May 8, 1776. At this point, Arnold's troops were in retreat, having suffered a great number of casualties in battle, as well as disease, malnutrition or capture. As part of this expedition, Major Cady would take part in the disastrous Battle of the Cedars, as they beat a hasty retreat down Lake Champlain to the forts at Crown Point, then Ticonderoga. At this point the record of Major Cady's service is not certain, did he continue with the 26th Regiment, or had he returned to civilian life? If he had continued (which is probable), in November of 1776, the 26th Regiment was ordered to join General Washington at Newtown, Pennsylvania. When the 26th Regiment arrived in Newtown they numbered only 220 men, having begun the year with over 600. Despite their weakened condition the Regiment arrived in time to take part in the legendary Christmas Eve crossing of the Delaware, and took part in American victories at Trenton and Princeton, just a many of their enlistments expired. The 26th Regiment would also be present at the capture of General Burgoyne's Army at Saratoga in October of 1777. If Major Cady was present at this historic event, it may also been a motivating factor which lead him back to Saratoga with the end of the war. He and his children would become some of the earliest residents of the area.