

# Factory Village Cemetery

**Benjamin Billings** was born on November 4, 1744, in Stonington, New London, Connecticut to James Billings Jr. and his wife Margaret Fanning. Benjamin married Rhaumah Palmer in Stonington on November 6, 1766. Rhaumah was born in 1747, the daughter of Christopher Palmer and Esther Prentice. When the war came, he enlisted as a private in the 6th Connecticut Regiment of Militia, assigned to 5th Company, serving under Captain James Chapman. His term of service was from October 8, 1775, until his discharge on December 10, 1775. This regiment was initially raised on the first call for troops in April-May 1775. It was originally recruited from men of New London, Hartford, and present Middlesex Counties. The 5th Company was on duty at New London until June 17, when they were ordered by the Governor's Council to the Boston Camps. There the regiment took post at Roxbury in General Spencer's Brigade and remained until the expiration of term of service on December 10, 1775. Afterward the Regiment was adopted as a Continental Unit and re-organized under Col. Parsons for service in 1776. If Benjamin reenlisted in this redesignated Regiment is not known.

After the war, Benjamin and Rhaumah eventually relocated to the Town of Milton in Saratoga County by 1799. Benjamin had purchased a large tract of land on the south side of Geyser Road, near Stone Church Road, and encompassed the site of the present-day Milton Centre Cemetery. He operated a farm there. They had several children, including Perez and Mary. Rhumah Billings died on March 18, 1828, aged 81. Benjamin Billings died on March 11, 1829, aged 85.

**Stephen Earle** was born in (Dartmouth)Westport, Massachusetts on May 4, 1754, to William Earle and Mary Lawton. Stephen married Mary Hicks on May 5, 1782 in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Mary Hicks died in Tiverton Rhode Island in 1783. Stephen Earle remarried to Priscilla Hicks, a relative of Mary, in 1789.

When the Revolutionary War began in 1776, Stephen enlisted as a Sergeant of the Marines in the newly formed US Navy. In July 1776 he was attached to the US Frigate "Providence" under the command of Captain Abraham Whipple, based in Providence, Rhode Island. His initial enlistment was for one year and through vacancies Stephen was promoted to Lieutenant of Marines, after 6 months, and finally Captain of Marines. His service lasted until April of 1778. His pension was filed in Albany in 1838 in the name of his 2nd wife Priscilla Hicks Earle. The Pension Record Affidavits were sworn from Saratoga County in Ballston Spa. Stephen had two children with Mary: Pardon and Hezekiah, and several more children with Priscilla: Robert, Christopher, David, Mary, Barney, Phillip, Hannah & Edah. After the war, Census records show that Stephen and Mary relocated to the Town of Milton by 1820. Stephen died on May 8, 1833 in Milton Center.

**John Whitehead** was born on October 18, 1759. His service pension record states he enlisted in March 1776 for one year at Newburgh, New York. He joined the New York Line in March 1776, serving under Capt. John Belnap until December 25th 1776. After his discharge he reenlisted in the Company of Captain Thomas Lee under the command of Colonel Lewis Dubois in the 5th Regiment of the New York Line for 3 years. He was transferred to the command of Captains Dubois in the same Regiment, and later to the company of Capt. Paulding under Colonel Van Cortland's Regiment. In the record, John recalls having taken part in the Battle for Fort Montgomery, the Battle of Newtown, and Yorktown, as well as a number of smaller skirmishes. John was discharged after the surrender of Yorktown. For his service he was awarded the Regimental Badge of Merit for six years of Faithful service. His pension was issued on January 18, 1819 from Albany.

John returned to Newburgh after the war and married Mary(Margaret)Cosman in Newburgh in September of 1784. John and Mary had the following children: Elizabeth, Nancy, Martha, Susan, Oliver , James, Rensselaer, John, and William. The Saratoga County Census reveals that John had relocated his family to Factory Village by 1790. He owned over 160 acres north of Northline Road and east of the Kayaderosseras. After the war, John operated a sawmill in the hamlet of Cranesville in Milton, New York. He applied for a land bounty for his service in 1819. John died on May 25, 1847, in Milton Center, aged 87. Margaret Cosman Whitehead died on January 1, 1854, aged 87.

**Thomas Cheeseborough** was born in Stonington Connecticut on November 19, 1754, son of Jonathan and Bridget Minor. He married Joanna Tyler on October 15, 1775 in Preston, Connecticut. He and Joanna had seven children which included Polly, Jonathan, Anna, Eunice, and Henry.

When the war came in 1775, Thomas reportedly enlisted in the 8th Connecticut Regiment under Captain Joseph Jewitt on July 10th 1775. His Regiment marched to Roxbury in August and encamped. He describes a number of skirmishes he and his Regiment took part in during August. He then describes how sickness was spreading through his camp, which killed a few in his company. He eventually takes ill himself and is sent home at the end of the month. On October 30th he returned to camp, but was discharged again on December 10th, again ill. On December 25th, he reportedly was under the command of Captain Moses Tyler. He enlisted as corporal in Capt. Josiah Boardman's company of the Connecticut Line in 1776. He appears to have returned to service the following September and was called out for a number of expeditions around New Haven. Eventually his Regiment was sent to New York and fought in the Battles of New York and the Battle of White Plains. In his pension, he mentions their march to

White Plains where they engaged the enemy on October 28th, for 3-4 hours, and lost about 100 men. On November 9th, 1776, he was discharged and returned home.

His military service was evident from his diary entries: Entries on detached sheets attributed to Thomas but in his son Henry's bible included:

"July ye 10th, 1775, well then I listed myself under Capt. Joseph Jewit to go into the Provinshal Army."

"August 5th, then we marched from Preston, and ye 9th day we went into Roxbury, and ye 10th we pitched our tents, and a very stormy night it was."

"August ye 15th about 12 of the clock began a smart fire from the regulars into Roxbury and continued all night, one then wounded but none killed."

"August ye 27th then our Adjutant died with the camp distemper, in the twenty-first year of his age."

"August ye 29th day, 1775, then I was taken with the comp distemper."

"August ye 31st, then we had two of our mainguards killed, one of them belonging to our regiment, and the ball lodged in his body, and it was a nine pounder."

"September ye 11th, then I set out from the camp to come home; the 15th I got home, and a tiresome journey it was. About the 23d I began to grow better, October ye 30th, then I set out for the camp."

"December ye 10th, 1775, then I was discharged from the Continental Army on account of sickness, and the 11th day I set out to come home, and the 13th day I got home."

December ye 20th, 1775, Then I began to work for Capt. Moses Tylar."

"September ye 9th day I was warned to meet at Croten, and ye 10th day I marched to New London, and the 12th day we sailed to New Haven, and the 18th day we marched from New Haven and the 22d we arrived at Rye."

"October ye 1st, we marched to Hectcher."

"October ye 4th, we marched to Moresina Point."

"October ye 9th, there was three ships and three tenders went up the North River, and there was a smart fire from our batteries for an hour and a half. October ye 18th, we struck our tents and marched to King's Bridge, and the 19th we marched to Fort Independence and pitched our tents, and ye 21st day we struck our tents and marched to the North River and pitched our tents, and the 22d we struck our tents and went up the North River about 10 miles, and the 23d day we marched to the White Plains."

"October ye 28th, the enemy marched to the White Plains and attacked our lines. The engagement lasted 4-3 of an hour. Our loss supposed to be 100 killed and wounded."

"October ye 31st, we struck our tents and marched one mile and a half and pitched them again."

"November ye 9th I was discharged from the army and set out for home."

Thomas and Joanna Cheesebrough moved to Easton, in Washington County, after the war. He was a shoemaker, and in 1802 he purchased a parcel of land with a house and five acres of land, which included a tanning house, and yard west of the Kayaderosseras in Factory Village. Thomas died on April 4, 1807. He had not filed for his pension. Joanna, His wife left the area after his death.