

History of Samuel Belknap 1702

Samuel did not live as long as his father and grandfather. He lived to be about 55 years of age and was born about 1702 in Haverhill, Massachusetts. He died in 1757, before the 8th of June. He married Mary Dickinson on 9 July 1723. Mary was the daughter of James Dickinson of Rowley, Massachusetts and Mary Wood. Mary Dickinson was born 20 November 1703 and died after the 8th of June, 1759. We know of that date being the last recorded one of her life because of a judgement in suit against her by Almer Burroughs.

During the lifetime of Samuel and Mary, the colonies were in a continual state of expansion. The population of the English citizenry alone of the North American colonies had grown to 1,500,000 and was already 1/5 of the size of population of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland at that time. Attempts on the part of this rapidly growing population, largely of English origin, were met with an expansion into Vermont, New York, the Ohio River valley, all of which brought on a direct confrontation and a series of major conflicts with the French and Indians. These conflicts were known in British history as Queen Anne's War, which took place about the time of the birth of Samuel Belnap and terminated in 1713. The second one was called King George's War, named after King George II, and was a conflict with the French between 1744 and 1748. The conclusive, or major conflict of the so-called "French and Indian War" exploded in the Ohio valley during the terminal years of Samuel's life. The conflict with the French and Indians was to involve not only Samuel, but his sons, and his sons were to

continue to see action even down into the Revolutionary War with England and was to cost the life of his third oldest son, Samuel, in, according to oral tradition, the battle of Bunker Hill. As the final struggle with the French and Indians took place, the English government attempted to unify the 13 separate colonies. The colonies were invited to send delegates to Albany to consider uniform action for defense of the empire. Although they were unified in purpose and action, they never committed themselves to unification as a body politic until the confrontation of the Revolutionary War, 20 years later. Colonial disunity, therefore, hampered England in the war that ensued. When the war ended England determined to eliminate the hazard of this chronic separateness. The consequences were not pleasant and precipitated the Revolutionary War.

Samuel held residence in Mansfield, Connecticut in 1723, and Enfield, Connecticut in 1726, a part of which was set off as Somers in July 1734, where Somers church had been organized in 1727. Samuel's Occupation was that of a weaver in Haverhill; a farmer in Connecticut, but he called himself a "weaver" in a deed in his own handwriting dated 20 May 1735. The pattern of having a large family continued with Samuel and Hannah as they had eight children.

Samuel's death mentioned above is that of a probate of his will by his wife, Mary. The inventory of his estate contains the following entry: "To his wages, lawful money, 9 pounds 12 shillings 0 pence." One item in account of widow Mary as administrator of his estate reads: "To journey to Boston to get his wages." The

source of these wages, the reason for the collecting them in Boston, and the time and place of his death, are all unknown.