

## ***Nothing But A Plain Old Soldier Revolutionary War Veterans of Trumbull County, Part Four***

**T**he American Revolution was not just a defining moment in the formation of our nation but also for the people that lived through it. To the men, women, and children that lived through seven long years of strife between the fledgling United States and Great Britain, the Revolution was the catalyst for how many a person thought, acted, and lived, even long after the muskets fell silent. While Connecticut had a long-standing colonial claim to the land that is now Northeast Ohio—the Western Reserve—it wouldn't be until the conclusion of the Revolution that settlement of this region would occur. Indeed, among the earliest settlers to come to the Western Reserve were veterans of this conflict, Trumbull County included. In fact, the very namesake of Trumbull County was borne out of the Revolution, named for Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Lebanon, Connecticut, the only colonial governor to support the patriot cause and principal supplier of the Continental Army, coordinating shipments from his personal store to further supply lines. According to Katelyn Pfitus of the Trumbull County Historical Society, roughly 200 Revolutionary War veterans settled in Trumbull County, if counting the northern tier of Mahoning County, which was a part of Trumbull until 1846. By the 1840 Census of Pensioners, only 32 Revolutionary War veterans remained in Trumbull County, a dying breed. The fourth and final in a series of blogs written for the United States' 250th Anniversary, *'Nothing But A Plain Old Soldier: Revolutionary War Veterans of Trumbull County, Ohio,'* not only examines the lives of some of Trumbull County's earliest settlers but also their military service during the United States' defining conflict.

## ***Elizur Talcott Jr., Mesopotamia Township (1759-1835)***

**T**he third of four children born to Elizur and Mary (King) Talcott, Elizur Talcott Jr. entered this world on April 19th, 1759 in Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut, approximately seventeen years to the day before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Enlisting as a volunteer with Captain Parsons' Company, Colonel Sage's Connecticut Regiment, in the "summer of 1776," the regiment mustered at Enfield and was soon marched to New York, where that August, they participated in the Battle of Long Island and later the Battle of White Plains in October. Other than noting that his colonel directly participated at Long Island and, following entrapment there, had personally "left that place in a boat on a very foggy morning," Elizur had very little to say about his time at Long Island, with even less regarding White Plains. On tour for roughly six months, "perhaps more & maybe less," Talcott was discharged "late in the fall"; however, he re-enlisted back into Capt. Parsons' company for "three or four months" in 1777, the details of which aren't specified. In 1778, Talcott again re-enlisted, this time as a substitute for his brother Joseph, serving in Capt. Elijah Wright's Company, Col. Enos' Regiment. Serving under Gen. John Sullivan, it was here that on August 29th, Elizur fought at the Battle of Rhode Island, the first joint military operation between American and French forces during the Revolution. Regretfully, as with the other engagements he fought in, Elizur remains silent as to his experiences here. Discharged following the battle, Elizur left the service and returned to his hometown of Enfield, where on January 13th, 1791, he married Sarah "Sally" Baxter, herself also a native of Enfield. Residing in Connecticut until 1796, it was then that Elizur and Sally, plus their two children, Clarissa and Reuben, removed to Norwich, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, where they'd reside for the next twenty-seven years. In 1823, well past the age of a pioneer both in age and time, Elizur Talcott moved once more

with his family, which had now grown to encompass an additional seven children, to Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. Undoubtedly following his brother, Joseph, who had relocated to nearby Bristol Township three years before, it was in Mesopotamia that Elizur lived out the last decade of his life, quietly engaging in farming before passing away at the age of 75 on January 4th, 1835. Buried at Fairview Cemetery, Elizur rests beneath a simple marble tablet inscribed with his name, age, and date of death.



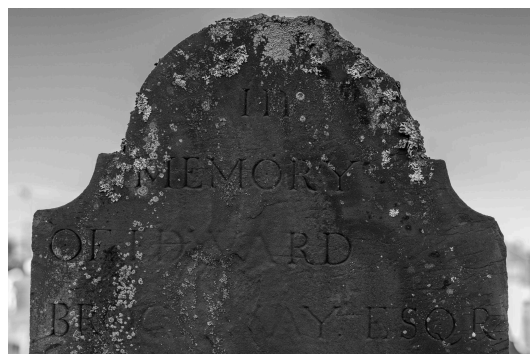
***Above: A simple marble tablet, inscribed with only his name, date of death, and age, marks the grave of Elizur Talcott, a volunteer in Captain Parsons' Company, Colonel Sage's Connecticut Regiment, and an early settler of Mesopotamia Township. (Photo by the author).***

## ***Sgt. Edward Brockway: Hartford Township (1735-1813)***

**A** native of Branford, Hartford County, Connecticut, Sgt. Edward Brockway was born there November 30th, 1735, the last of four children to Samuel and Lydia (Johnson) Brockway. Growing to adulthood in Branford, he wed what would be the first of four wives, Abigail Palmer on February 5th, 1760. Unfortunately, this union wasn't to last for long, as just nine years after marriage, Abigail died at the age of only thirty-four. The following year, Edward remarried again, this time to Martha Hoadley a year later on March 13th. Unfortunately, just as his first wife had, Martha too would pass away not long after marriage, doing so in 1777. Not wasting any time, Edward remarried a third time on October 21st, 1777, to Hannah Palmer (whose relation to his first wife, Abigail, is unknown). No doubt a joyous occasion, just as his first two marriages had been, the happiness of Edward's union to Hannah Palmer was undoubtedly magnified by news of British General John Burgoyne's surrender four days earlier at Saratoga, New York, an event in which Edward played a minor role in. Having enlisted as a sergeant in Capt. Jonathan Caulkins' Company, Latimer's Regiment that summer, Edward was assigned to Gen. Poor's Continental Brigade in Benedict Arnold's Division, where, on September 19th, 1777, he fought at the first Battle of Saratoga. Not even a month later, on October 9th, he re-engaged the British yet again at the second Battle of Saratoga, resulting in a decisive American victory, the result of commander-turned-traitor Benedict Arnold's aggressive tactics (and the severe injury of his leg). Following his discharge from the service and subsequent marriage, Edward relocated with his new bride to Hartland, Hartford County, Connecticut, where he constructed a house along Sunset Road, said by the historical society to be still standing. Unfortunately, on December 13th, 1781, Edward Brockway would become a widower for the third time, as Hannah passed away at only twenty-four years old. Nonetheless, four years later in 1785, Brockway remarried a fourth and final time to Sarah Morris.

**I**n 1799, Edward, along with Isaac Jones and Asahel Brainerd, would depart Connecticut for Hartford Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, becoming the township's first settlers. Undoubtedly attracted by the prospect of a better life for his sixteen children, Brockway, along with Jones and Brainerd, spent their first night in the new township "beneath a large tree," then standing "one fourth a mile" from the township's center. On September 23rd of that year, township proprietor Uriel Holmes Jr. deeded Edward Brockway 3,194 acres of land in Hartford Township in exchange for his farm back in Hartland. Returning to Connecticut shortly thereafter, Brockway gathered his family and on June 19th, 1800, arrived with them in Hartford. In January 1801, Edward was elected as Hartford Township's first Justice of the Peace, but in declining the position, his son Titus was elected instead. On September 17th, 1803, Edward, along with his wife and son Titus, plus five other members of the fledgling community, met with Rev. Joseph Badger and professed their faith in Christ within the Congregational tradition, thus forming the Church of Christ in Hartford, Vernon, and Kinsman. In early March, 1813, Edward Brockway passed away, aged 77 years. No cause of death was ever recorded; however, according to Harriet Taylor Upton, that year, an epidemic "which prevailed so extensively through the Western country" visited Hartford Township. Though Edward's name is not officially listed, it is not unreasonable to think he was among the "fifteen...mostly elderly persons" who were "carried off" by this dreadful disease. Buried at the Hartford Township Cemetery, Brockway rests underneath a primitive brownstone marker, the facade of which has been mostly eroded away by the hands of time.

***Right: carved by primitive hands, little can be discerned upon the stone of Edward Brockway, as the facade has been washed away by the hands of time. (Photo by the author).***



## ***Isaac Flowers: Vienna Township (1755-1813)***

**O**ne of Vienna Township's first settlers, Isaac Flowers was born August 16th, 1755, in New Hartford, Litchfield County, Connecticut, the fourth of six children of Elijah and Abigail (Seymour) Flowers. Following the outbreak of war on April 19th, 1775, Flowers enlisted as a private in Captain Abraham Sedgewick's Company of Connecticut militiamen at Hartford, Connecticut, raised immediately after the Lexington Alarm. The regiment's history is relatively obscure; however, according to Isaac's wife, Bathsheba in her 1855 pension application, they "stealthily made good their retreat from Long Island to New York in the night," indicating they were at least present at the Battle of Long Island. On January 1st, 1778, Isaac Flowers wed his first wife, Freelove Hopkins, a native of West Hartford, Connecticut. Following this union, the couple removed to Granville, Hampden County, Massachusetts, where on February 14th, 1791 at the age of 34, Freelove passed away. A year later, on December 24th, 1792, Isaac remarried to Bathsheba Burr, a distant relative of future United States vice president and rival of Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr. Perhaps becoming acquainted with the Western Reserve through one Timothy Burr, a relative of his wife and among the 57 original investors of the Connecticut Land Company, Isaac took a job in 1798 as a surveyor. Tasked with surveying proprietor Ephraim Root's holdings in what is now Vienna Township, he, along with Dennis Clark Palmer worked at surveying the land under the direction of Rapheal Cook. Returning to Connecticut the next summer following the conclusion of their work, by that fall both Flowers and Palmer set off for the Western Reserve with their respective families. By the time both arrived in Youngstown, the wagons they were traveling in were "more or less dilapidated," and the roads impassable, forcing them to walk the rest of the eighteen miles to Vienna. Nonetheless, as a reward for their troubles, on November 17th, 1799, the Flowers were blessed with a daughter that they named Lavinia, the first child of Anglo-American heritage born in Vienna Township. On September 22nd, 1805, Isaac Flowers was among those present following a rainy afternoon sermon delivered by Rev. Thomas Robbins, where he "publicly organized thirteen persons—seven men and six women—as a church of

Christ," thus establishing the Vienna Presbyterian Church. A resident of Vienna Township for fourteen years, Isaac Flowers would pass away on May 14th, 1813, at the age of only 57. His wife, Bathsheba though, would outlive him for another forty-two years, passing away in 1855 only four days shy of her 100th birthday. Both are interred side by side at the Vienna Township Cemetery



***Left: Carved by an unknown hand, Isaac Flowers' stone features a wonderfully executed weeping willow, as well as a flag and wreath placed by the Vienna Historical Society. (Photo by the author).***

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Written, researched, photographed, and compiled by Gavin Esposito