

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

War Heroes (Part 1)

The Revolutionary War was quite possibly the most significant military event in American history. Although the Civil War was the deadliest, it was the Revolutionary War that first secured the freedom and independence that millions have enjoyed for generations.

Many fathers and sons from rural communities fought bravely in this War. They were our nation's earliest war heroes. Counted among this group were soldiers from Bucklesberry.

In addition to the Herrings, Johnstons, Rouses, and Uzzells, to name a few, John Sutton and his purported wife, Ann, were one of the founding families of Bucklesberry. Although he died before 1773, prior to the start of the Revolutionary War, John's three known sons—Benjamin, John, Jr., and William—all saw military service in the War of Independence.

Benjamin Sutton (1752–1837) was a Private and served in Capt. John Creel's company under the command of Col. James Glasgow. Benjamin and 46 other men from then-Dobbs County committed to join the War effort in the following resolution:

"State of North Carolina—We the Subscribers belonging to the Dobbs Regiment of Militia Do acknowledge that we have Severally Voluntarily inlisted into the Service of our Country to Serve in the state of South Carolina for the Space of Three Months after Passing the Limits of the State Agreeable to the late Aud. Bill, and that we have received from the Colonel of the said Regiment the Bounty of Three Hundred dollars each. Witness our hands the 26th day of May, 1780."

Benjamin was married to Sally Hardy from Bertie County. In the Clellan Sutton Collection of Bucklesberry papers is a letter dated September 22, 1780 to Benjamin and Sally from her brother, William Parrot Hardy, who acknowledged Benjamin's membership in the Militia:

"Sally you wrote to us that Ben was Draughted but was not able [paper torn at corner] march I should be very glad to know whether he is gone or know [paper torn at corner] have not heard nothing from you since, I Expect to be Draughted now soon but God only knows whether I shall or not. This is to let you know that I remain your Loving Brother till death Wm Parrot Hardy I have not the time to write anymore Only I desire to be remembered to all friends [scratch out]."

John Sutton, Jr. (1758—before 1830) was also a Private in the Dobbs County Militia. A compensation notice issued by the State of North Carolina, New Bern District No. 723, dated March 5, 1783, verified war service wages to John, Jr. in the sum of five pounds and ten shillings, equivalent to about \$607 in today's economy.

John, Jr. married Ferebee Isler, daughter of William Isler. The late genealogist, Sybil Hyatt, wrote of John, Jr., "He had a sweetheart before he went to the war of the revolution. When he returned after seven years she was engaged to another man. At that time, he owned nothing but a musket and a suit of clothes somebody gave him." (*Kinston Free Press*, October 7, 1914).

William Sutton (1760–before 1820) was a Captain and served under Jacob Johnston. On November 8, 1813, William gave a deposition for the purpose of vouching that fellow soldier, Isaac Parker, served with him during the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Rock Fish so that Isaac would be eligible for war service compensation.

But William did more than prove Isaac's participation in the War. He saved Isaac's life. From sworn testimony provided at the deposition, Justice of the Peace, James Bright, wrote that Isaac "was severely Wounded in the Head, Arms, thigs & Legs, [and] this deponant [William] further Sayeth that he helptd to carry the said Parker between three & four miles on a Blanket, & assesed in Mursing him until he was nearly well..."