



Iowa Society DAR

PATRIOT STORIES

Silas Allen, Massachusetts, A001836

Silas Allen was born 16 May 1754. He was the ninth child and fifth son of James Allen and Mary Packard. He was born in Bridgewater, Plymouth County, MA but moved some 80 miles to Oakham, Worcester County, MA where at the age of 24 he enlisted as a Private on 11 Jul 1778. Allen served until 9 Nov 1778.

Allen initially served under Captain Peter Woodbury in Colonel Jacob Gerrish's regiment of Guards. He also served with Captain David Jewett in Colonel Nathan Tyler's detachment of Guards.

Colonel Gerrish's Guards guarded Hessian prisoners after the Battle of Saratoga. In British General Burgoyne's surrender agreement to General Gates at Saratoga, NY of 17 Oct 1777, his troops were to leave their weapons on the field of surrender and march to Boston (250 miles) to be shipped home. At Cambridge, called the Winter Hill prison camp, the Brunswick and Hessen Hanau Regiments were kept in barracks for a whole year. By 9 Nov 1778 the Hessian troops were moved south to finally arrive in Virginia at Charlottesville, VA. (600 miles) in Jan. 1779.

Allen served as a guard at the Winter Hill prison camp at Cambridge under Captain Peter Woodbury from 11 Jul 1778 until 9 Nov 1778. Subsequently he served from 10 Nov 1778 until 12 Dec 1778 with Captain David Jewett as a guard. He was discharged in Lancaster, MA. which is almost 40 miles west of Cambridge, MA.

After the war he went north west fifty miles to Deerfield, MA. There he met and married Esther Hastings about 1781 at the age of 27. He died 12 Dec 1841 at the age of 87. His wife died 29 Dec 1826 fifteen years earlier. They are both buried in the Heath Massachusetts Cemetery.

Sources:

- <https://historicalshop.com/product/pay-abstract-of-captain-peter-woodburys-company-in-colonel-jacob-gerrishs-regiment-for-september-1778-massachusetts-troops-guarding-hessian-prisoners-after-saratoga/>
- Iseminger, Mary Platt. (2000). Warp and Woof. Decorah, IA. Anundsen Publishing Company. page 256.
- Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors. Vol 1, page 188.
- Mitchell, N., Mitchell, E. C. (1897). Mitchell's History of Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Bridgewater, MA. E. Alden. page 94.
- Vital Records of Bridgewater Massachusetts Births to the year 1850



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