

Thaddeus Davis Senior UEL

Thaddeus Davis Senior UEL (b 30 Jun 1738; d 8 Dec 1824) was on the muster rolls of Fairfield Co., CT, and, as a loyal British subject, served in the campaigns of 1756, 1757 and 1758 in the French and Indian Wars. He married Deborah Hall (b 1736; d 30 Aug 1818) in Milford, New Haven, CT in 1759. She was from a well-educated family that could trace her roots back four generations in Connecticut. Thad was 43 when he formally joined the British cause in 1781 under Captain Hubbell. Thanks to Governor Trumbull, Connecticut had proven to be no place to be a Loyalist. Hubbell's base of operations was Lloyd's Neck, New York, on Long Island's north shore, opposite Connecticut.

Hubbell's mandate went well past 5th column activities to outright acts of terrorism. Many of the British sallies of 1781 had revenge more in view than victory. Even the "Regimental name" attached to this and companies like them bespoke secrecy and intrigue: Associated Loyalists, "Associators" for short. The bitterness and frustration of the Chairman of the Board of the Associators, William Franklin, at General Clinton's deceit masquerading as ineptitude, resulting in Cornwallis' surrender to Washington at Yorktown in the fall of 1781, as well as a well publicised fiasco involving a questionable hanging, had led him to throw in the towel and retire back to England in the spring of 1782, leaving the rank and file Associators exposed and vulnerable both from within and without.

Almost 30 years later Thad Jr proudly described his father's activities in the Revolution and mistakenly (but probably with no intention to deceive) made him to be one of the characters involved in the sacking and burning of Danbury, Connecticut (This actually took place in 1777). Did he mean New London? Thad's personal testimony was that his time on the prowl in Connecticut was relatively short, a few weeks, before he was captured and imprisoned. Whatever the truth, Thad's reception at Niagara, relatively late (1798) in the grand scheme of things, was nothing less than deferential. In other words, whatever he wanted he got...

Thad Jr was the 9th of 11 children born to Thad and Deborah, born 9 May 1775. He fought in the War of 1812 as a Private but didn't receive his commission to Captaincy until July 29, 1820: 3rd Company 2nd Lincoln militia. Thaddeus Davis Junior, St. John's, Pelham, died 31 Aug. 1830, aged 56 years. This is the "Captain Davis" who is buried at Allanburg Cemetery, Niagara Historical Society NHS #19. Listed also is the broken stone of his mother, Deborah (died 1818 at 82).

The 1821 gravestone of the wife of Deborah's nephew, Joshua Hall, however, is one of the last few stones still standing at Allanburg. Deborah's sister, Milicent Hall, married Benjamin Fairchild UEL of Charlotteville settlement fame.

I descend directly through Thad Davis' oldest child, Jane Ostrander (nee Davis), born 22 Apr 1761, died on 25 Apr 1865, buried in Huttonville, Ontario, just four miles from my house.

.....Information provided by Paul L Bingle UE