

86. ELEAZER⁴ MELVIN 1743-1792, joiner or housewright, son of Lieutenant Robert³ (Captain David², John¹) and Sarah (___) Melvin, was born in Concord March 30, 1743, died in

Lincoln, Mass. in 1792, m. Sep. 4, 1764 in Concord, Sarah Hartwell*, daughter of Josiah Hartwell and [*Bethiah (Wood) Hartwell* Hartwell Genealogy] or Hannah -- [PG].

He must have been sixteen years of age when his father started for Chester, NS. No statement has yet been found which would show whether he was one of the four children who went there with their father, and one evidence to the contrary is in the Colonial war records, vol. 96, p 523, where the fact is put that Eleazer, son of Robert Melvin, served under Captain Thomas Adams in Colonel Nichol's regiment from April 5, 1758, to November 11, 1759, and was reported as discharged on October 29, 1759. This was in the ensuing fall of the same year that his father sailed for Chester, and by this entry we seem to furnish sufficient proof that Eleazer was left in the army when his relatives departed.

By this war record, we see at once how natural it was that Eleazer should continue his devotion to the English cause, and the one thing remarkable is that the son who remained among the colonists should have been of the Loyalists, while the son [James] who was carried to the Nova Scotia English should have been so zealous in the cause of the young, rebellious colonies of New England as to give the greater part of his young manhood to fighting against his father's friends.

That Eleazer was a son of Lieutenant Robert, of Chester, is shown by the following deed, given by Robert, of Chester, NS, June 7 1773, of a tract of land of sixty-three acres in Nottingham West, NH, to his son, Eleazer Melvin, housewright, of Littleton, Mass., and this deed was sworn in the presence of Jonathan Prescott, Justice of the Peace in Halifax. (Middx. Co., Mass., Deeds, vol 27, p178).

That he always remained a Loyalist is shown by various records. In Mr. Dinsmore's Hartwell Genealogy, he states that "Eleazer Melvin, a Loyalist during the war, had his lands confiscated by General Court, went to Nova Scotia, where he received liberal compensation from the British government. He lived in Lincoln, Mass., some years after the end of the war." (Hartwell Genealogy, p 182 et seq.)

This record is substantiated by other prints and by his family letters, written while he was living at Halifax, NS. In these he offered a home to any of his relatives who might be suffering from the hardships arising from the losses entailed by the protracted struggle. The books of the Crown Grants in Halifax do not give any made to this Eleazer, nor of any sale of the same, which must have taken place, since he returned to Concord in a few years after peace was declared.

His adherence to the British side caused his immediate family as much distress as such, to them, misguided devotion did in all the New England families and was the more embittered in Concord, inasmuch as to separate husband from wife, father from children in the little hot tempered town, where even the very name of the erring was buried under a grim silence which was more eloquent than the severest words and wrought more highly on the imagination of the younger generations, who, outside of the rush of wounded feeling, naturally believed that the men whose very existence was a blight, must have committed some enormous crime.

Thus it was with the children of Captain Eleazer Melvin. They not only held a deadly silence but even his memory was shut away from all ken and thus the impression

perpetuated that his conduct was too grievous for their knowledge, and it was not until the later recognition by the New England people that there was justification for the adherents to their mother country in the conflict of those early days that the thought gained ground that Eleazer Melvin might have had some toleration for his actions.

His first home was in that Carlisle District which early and late was constantly importuning for its separate existence, ever sending in petitions to General Court for permission to set up its own tabernacle in its own precincts, to hold its own town meetings in its own hall, and in other ways to manifest its own individual existence. At times it succeeded, and then its records were “writ” in its own books, but mostly it seems to have been rather snubbed and rather “put down,” whereby those men who owned property and resided in this, North Concord, at times could record the data in their families, more often than not, much to the distress of seekers in the present, who can only garner occasional statistics.

Eleazer Melvin married (1) in Concord, by Thomas Whiting, Esq., September 4, 1764, Sarah Hartwell, both giving their residence as Littleton. That she was a daughter of Josiah and Hannah Hartwell is proven by her father’s will, in which he gave five shillings each to his grandchildren, the heirs of his daughter, Sarah Melvin, late deceased. She was born September 24, 1744, died in Littleton, January 3, 1783.

** See Hartwell pedigree in Biography Chapter*

From Hartwell Genealogy:

150. (272Y) SARAH⁵ HARTWELL (Josiah⁴, Jonathan³, Samuel², William¹) was born at Littleton, Massachusetts

24 September 1744 (LVR 55) and died there 3 January 1783, age 39 (LVR 107, 336). She married at Concord, Mass., (Thomas Whiting, Esq. officiating) ELEAZER Melvin, born at Concord 30 March 1743 (CBMD 207), son of Robert and Sarah (-) Melvin. After Sarah’s death Eleazer married (2) (int.) Littleton,

Mass., 14 June 1783 (LVR 274), “Mrs.” Anna Brown of Lincoln. Children:

1. SARAH Melvin b Littleton 03/14/1767 d. c1807, m 01/22/1783 JONATHAN JEWETT (2) 06/03/1790 EZEKIEL WRIGHT

ELEAZER MELVIN STORY

ANCESTORS OF SARAH HARTWELL (86a), WIFE OF ELEAZER MELVIN (86)