

**23. LIEUTENANT ROBERT<sup>3</sup> MELVIN** 1716-, son of Captain David<sup>2</sup> Melvin (John<sup>1</sup>) and Mary (Farrar) Melvin, was born in Concord, Mass., November 9, 1716.

From 1741 to 1744 his name stands on the tax list of Litchfield, NH, as a resident. October 11, 1743, Robert Melvin of Litchfield, bought from Josiah Cummings of Nottingham, a parcel of land by Massabesic Pond, which lay partly in Nottingham and partly in Litchfield. (Nashua, NH, deeds, vol 29, p151) This comprised two hundred acres.

In 1746 a petition was presented to the Great and General Court of Massachusetts Bay by the inhabitants of Londonderry, Rockingham County, NH, in which they stated that before the line between the two states was drawn their part of the town was considered as belonging to Massachusetts and was a part of Nottingham West, but now they were cast to Londonderry, and they objected. Robert Melvin's signed this petition, as did Richard Marshall and John Marshall, Jr.

June 1, 1750, Robert Melvin sold to Eleazer Brown, both of Concord, two pieces of land in North Concord. (*Middx. Co. deeds*, vol 50, p 637.)

February 4, 1757, Robert Melvin made over to Ephraim Melvin and Simon Davis his rights to a piece of land in Acton, which were originally the rights belonging to his mother, Mrs. Mary Edwards. (*Ibid*, vol 54, p 510)

April 27, 1761, Robert Melvin, of Concord, sold to Ephraim Spalding, of Nottingham West, land lying by Bateman's Pond, in North Concord, Robert signing in Nottingham. (*Ibid*, vol 58, p 409)

May 11 1761, Lieutenant Robert Melvin, of Concord, sold for three pounds to Daniel Stickney, of Billerica, fifty-six acres of land in Concord. (*Ibid*, vol 60, p 678)

January 27 1754, Robert Melvin sold for three hundred and three pounds to Ezekiel Page of Londonderry, land in the eastern part of Ancient Dunstable, after called Nottingham, "which is now Londonderry," one hundred acres of which bordered on Little Masahesic Pond, and touched the boundary lines of Benjamin Melvin's farm.

Robert Melvin's name appears on a list dated April 25, 1757, of the Concord Militia, in Colonel James Minot's company, as lieutenant in the Train Band and the Alarm list (Colonial Rolls, vol 95, p 324).

His name is on a muster roll, dated Boston, December 1, 1757, under Captain Jonas Fitch, as "lieutenant, enlisted April 19, 1757, served until October 31, 1757, served twenty-eight weeks, scouting eastwards." (*Ibid*, vol 96, p 30)

July 30 1759 a sloop sailed from Boston with Robert McGown as captain, Robert Montgomery as mate, carrying as passengers the Rev. John Seccombe, pastor of the Congregational Church in Harvard, Worcester Co., Mass., Captain Timothy Houghton of Harvard, Robert Melvin from Concord, and many others, and put in at Chester, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia, where the passengers were landed. They were received by some of the people who were already settled there, and after a while Rev. John Seccombe, with some of his party and inhabitants, began to "view lots" for their own settlement.

The most reliable accounts are copied from a diary which the Rev. John Seccombe began as soon as they started. He kept full minutes of their progress, with a large infusion of what they found in the way of choice eatables, and his account was supplemented by another diary written by his daughter, which added much of value to her father's history. He closed with "A List of the First Class of Settlers of Chester" giving

each man's name, former place of residence, his wife's name and the number of children in each family. As every man's wife was named, and Robert's name was simply accompanied by the number of his children, namely four, it is evident that his first wife had died before his start for the Province.

April 27, 1761, Robert Melvin of Concord sold to Benjamin Melvin of Londonderry, NH, for thirty-nine pounds, seventy-four acres of land in the part of Londonderry formerly belonging to Ancient Dunstable, bounded by land of Noah Kidder and Ebenezer Spalding (Middx. Co. deeds, vol 101, p 189). This deed proves two very essential points, one is that Robert Melvin returned to Concord and remained there some two years before he went to settle permanently in Chester, and second, that his co-eval, Benjamin Melvin, who must have been his cousin, also settled in Ancient Dunstable and was the same with the Benjamin whose progeny were in and about Londonderry.

His last recorded deed was dated May 11, 1761, in which he styled himself as of Concord, and he returned to Chester very soon after this date. Among the Crown grants registered in the Adjutant General's office in Halifax, NS, is one dated October 31, 1765, in which is given to Rev. John Seccombe, Jonathan Prescott, Timothy Houghton, Simon Floyd, James Webber, Abraham Bradshaw, George Collicutt, Robert Melville, and many others under the seal of Governor Wilmot, a tract of twenty-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty acres of land in Chester Twp., NS, each share to consist of five hundred acres, on condition of paying a free yearly quitrent of one shilling sterling every Michelmass day, for every expiration of ten years, beginning with the date of the grant, for every fifty acres so granted, and so on, in proportions of fifty acres, forever.

The grantees promise to plant two acres with hemp [for the making of Naval rope] and a like quantity to be "improved." One family, at least, with proper stock and material for said improvement, to be settled on every five hundred acres on or before the last day of November, 1767. (Crown Lands Grants, vol 6, p548.)

August 14, 1784, he received another grant, in company with over a thousand others, under Governor John Parr, at Amherst, Nova Scotia, and in this same year, another grant at Point Mishpeck; the place then called Parr Town is now St. John's, New Brunswick.

June 1773, or four years before his will was drawn, he made a "deed of gift to my son, Eleazer Melvin, housewright, of Littleton, Middx. Co., Mass, of sixty acres of land at Nottingham West, in Massachusetts." This deed was signed at Halifax, before Jonathan Prescott, justice of the peace.

His will is recorded in the Probate Office at Lunenburg County, NS, and is as follows:-

In the name of God, Amen.

I, Robert Melvin, of Chester, being very sick and weak of body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God, calling into mind, the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend

my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in decent, Christian burial at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection

I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

First, I give and bequeath to Phebe Melvin, my dearly beloved wife, the one-third part of my Real and Personal estate in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and Province of New Hampshire in New England, to be raised and levied out of my estate in money and Lands, for the necessary support of my Executrix during her life, and the remaining two-thirds, both in New England and Nova Scotia, to be equally divided among my lawful heirs, of this my last will and testament, etc.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-seventh day of December, in the

year of our Lord, (1773)

Robert Melvin (seal)

Witness:

John Vaughan

Abraham Bradshaw

Thomas Floyd

This will was filed by his executrix, July 24, 1787.

Lieutenant Robert Melvin married (1) ca.1740, probably in Concord, Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, who died in Carlisle Precinct of Concord, February 18, 1756; he married (2) in Concord September 7, 1762, Phebe Wilson, daughter of William and Deborah Wilson, who was born in Concord, February 1, 1739/40.

He died in Chester, between December 23, 1773 when will was made and July 24, 1787, the day it was entered into Probate Court. Carol Garron of Lunenburg provides a death date of July 24, 1787, in Chester, Lunenburg, N.S.

Robert and Sarah Melvin had children:

85. i. Sarah<sup>4</sup>, b Concord, December 19, 1740

86. ii. Eleazer, b Concord, March 30, 1743

87. iii. a child

88. ix. James, b Concord in 1749

Children by Phoebe (Wilson) all b in Chester, NS:

89. i. Lydia<sup>4</sup> b May 10 1762, Chester, NS, d. Sep.9, 1763, Chester, NS.

90. ii. Nathaniel, b June 24 1765

91. iii. Elijah, b January 14 1767

92. iv. David, b April 9, 1770

93. v. Amos, b July 6, 1772

94. vi. Jacob, b December 1, 1774

95. vii. Robert, b April 25, 1777, Chester, NS

96. viii. Lucy, b October 8, 1780