



THE NICHOLAS ROBBINS FAMILY
A Genealogical Miscellany

THE NICHOLAS ROBBINS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2007

Some Massachusetts Ancestors in the American Revolution

Abstracted by Lawrence G. Robbins

(Note: The following list of Robbens/Robbins/Robens/Robines/Robins, suspected of being descendants of Nicholas Robbins, was abstracted from a compilation of military records entitled Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of Revolution, compiled by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and published in serialized form by Wright & Potter of Boston, commencing in 1899)

ROBBENS, ELEAZER, Plympton. Private, Capt. Nathaniel Shaw's Co., Col. James Warren's Regt., which marched in response to the alarm of April 19, 1775, to Marshfield; service 2 days.

ROBBINS, EBENEZER, Private, Capt. Joseph Stetson's Co., Col. Dike's Regt., muster roll for Dec., 1776-Feb., 1777; credited to the town of Plymouth; enlisted Dec. 10, 1776; regiment raised to serve until March 1, 1777.

ROBBINS, EBENEZER, Private, Capt. William Crow Cotton's Co., service, 2 days, guarding prisoners from (British) ship "Somerset". Roll dated Plymouth, Nov. 10, 1778.

ROBBINS, EBENEZER, JR., Private, Capt. Joseph Stetson's Co., Col. Dike's Regt., muster roll for Dec., 1776-Feb., 1777; credited to town of Plymouth; enlisted Dec. 10, 1776; regiment raised to serve until March 1, 1777.

ROBBINS, ELEAZER, Private, Lt. Francis Shurtleff's Co., Col. Thomas Lothrop's (Plymouth Co.) Regt.; service, 14 days; Company marched to Bristol, R. I., Dec. 11, 1776 on an alarm. Roll dated Plympton.

ROBBINS, JOSEPH, Middleborough. Private, Capt. Isaac Wood's Co., Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regt.; company return dated Oct. 6, 1775; also, order for bounty coat or its equivalent in money dated Camp at Roxbury, Nov. 17, 1775.

ROBBINS, JOSEPH, Private, Capt. Amos Turner's Co., Col. Titcomb's Regt.; service 2 mos. 6 days; company detached from militia, agreeable to resolve of April 11, 1777, and marched to Tiverton, R. I.; also, Corporal, Capt. Calvin Curtis's Co.; enlisted Sept. 30, 1779; discharged Dec. 1, 1779; service, 2 mos., 1 day (also given as 2 mos., 5 days), at Rhode Island; company made up from 1st and 2nd Plymouth Co., Regts. To serve in Col. Jacob's Regt. for 2 months from the time of their arrival at camp; also, Sergeant, Capt. Amos Turner's Co., Col. John Jacob's Regt.; engaged July 22, 1780; discharged Oct. 30, 1780; service, 3 mos., 12 days; regiment raised in Plymouth Co. to reinforce Continental Army for 3 months.

ROBBINS, LEMUEL, Plymouth. Private, Capt. Thomas Mayhew's Co., Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted May 1, 1775; service, 3 mos., 8 days; also, company return dated Oct. 7, 1775; also, Capt. Benjamin Rider's Co., Col. Lothrop's Regt.; service, 10 days; company marched from Plymouth to Bristol, R. I., Dec. 11, 1776, on an alarm; also, Corporal, Capt. William Crow Cotton's Co., Col. Josiah Whitney's Regt.; engaged July 29, 1778; discharged Sept. 13, 1778; service, 1 month, 16 days; company raised in Plymouth Co. and marched to Rhode Island.

ROBBINS, MOSES, Private, Capt. Perez Churchill's Co., Col. Ebenezer Sproutt's Regt., entered service May 6, 1778; discharged May 9, 1778; service, 3 days; company marched on two alarms at Dartmouth, one in May and one in Sept., 1778.

ROBBINS, RUFUS, Plymouth. List of men mustered between May 14 and May 26, 1777 by James Hatch, Muster Master for Plymouth Co.; Col. Bailey's Regt.; age 16 years; residence, Plymouth; enlisted for town of Bridgewater; enlisted by Capt. Allen; enlistment, 3 years; also, Private, 3rd Co., Col. Bailey's Regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from May 15, 1777 to Dec. 31, 1779; also, Capt. Jacob Allen's 3rd Co., Col. John Bailey's Regt.; company return dated Camp Valley Forge, Jan. 24, 1778; also, Capt. Adams Bailey's (late Capt. Jacob Allen's) Co., Col. John Bailey's 2nd Regt.; muster roll made up from Jan. 1, 1777 to Jan. 1, 1780; enlisted May 15, 1777; also, same Co. and Regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1780 to May 15, 1780.

ROBBINS, SAMUEL, Private, Capt. William Crow Cotton's Co.; service, 2 days, guarding prisoners from (British) ship "Somerset". Roll dated Plymouth, Nov. 10, 1778.

ROBBINS, SYLVANUS, Private, Capt. Jonah Washburn's Co., Col. Ebenezer White's Regt.; marched Aug. 1, 1780; discharged Aug. 9, 1780; service, 9 days; company marched to Rhode Island on an alarm. Roll sworn at Middleborough.

ROBBINS, WILLIAM, Plymouth (also given as Bridgewater). List of men raised to serve in the Continental Army from Capt. James Allen Jr.'s Co., Col. Edward Mitchell's (3rd Plymouth Co.) Regt.; residence, Plymouth; engaged for town of Bridgewater (also given as Plymouth); joined Capt. Allen's Co., Col. Bailey's Regt; term, 3 years; also, list of men mustered between May 14 and May 26, 1777, by James Hatch, Muster Master of Plymouth for Plymouth Co.; Col. Bailey's Regt.; age, 17 years; residence, Bridgewater; enlisted by Capt. Allen; also, Private, 3rd Co., Col. Bailey's Regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from May 15, 1777 to Dec. 31, 1779; also, Capt. Jacob Allen's Co., Col. John Bailey's Regt.; company return dated Camp Valley Forge, Jan. 24, 1778; also, Capt. Adams Bailey's (late Capt. Allen's) Co., Col. Bailey's 2nd Regt; muster roll made up from Jan. 1,

1777 to Jan. 1, 1780; enlisted May 15, 1777; also, same co. and regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1780 to May 15, 1780.

ROBENS, SAMUEL. Private, in a detachment from Capt. Joseph Cliff's 10th (Marshfield) Co., Col. John Cushing's (Plymouth) Regt.; marched Dec. 10, 1776; service, 14 days; detachment marched to Rhode Island on an alarm.

ROBINES, SAMUEL. Receipt dated Middleborough, May 9, 1781, for bounty paid said Robines by Nathaniel Shaw, Chairman of Class No. 48 of the town of Middleborough, to serve in the Continental Army for the term of 3 years; also Private, Capt. Sylvanus Smith's Co., Col. Rufus Putnam's (5th) Regt.; muster roll for July, 1781, sworn to at Camp near Dobb's Ferry; enlisted May 30, 1781; enlistment, 3 years.

ROBINS, BENJAMIN. Private, Capt. Luke Bicknell's Co., Lt. Col. Enoch Putnam's Regt.; enlisted Sept. 3, 1781; discharged Oct. 25, 1781; service, 2 mos., at West Point, including 12 days (240 miles) travel time; company raised in Plymouth Co.; regiment raised to reinforce army under Gen. Washington for 3 months.

ROBINS, ELEAZER, Plympton. Private, Capt. John Bridgham's (Plympton) Co., which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775, to Marshfield and then returned by order of Col. Cotton; service, 3 days.

ROBINS, JOSEPH, Middleborough. Private, Capt. Isaac Wood's Co., Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regt.; muster roll dated Aug. 1, 1775; enlisted May 4, 1775; service, 3 mos. and 5 days.

ROBINS, RUFUS, Plymouth. List of men raised to serve in the Continental Army from Capt. James Allen Jr.'s Co., Col. Edward Mitchell's (3rd Plymouth Co.) Regt., dated Bridgewater, Feb. 21, 1778; residence, Plymouth; engaged for town of Bridgewater; joined Capt. James Allen's Co., Col. Bailey's Regt.; term, 3 years; also, Private, Capt. Adams Bailey's Co., Col. John Bailey's 2nd Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Sprout subsequent to Jan. 1, 1781; muster roll made up from Jan. 1, 1780 to Jan. 1, 1782; enlisted May 15, 1777; reported discharged May 15, 1780.

ROBINS, RUFUS, Private, Capt. Joseph Stetson's Co., Col. Dike's Regt.; muster roll for Dec., 1776 through Feb., 1777; credited to town of Plymouth; enlisted Dec. 10, 1776; regiment raised to serve until March 1, 1777.

ROBINS, RUFUS, JR, Plymouth. List of men raised to serve in the Continental Army (year not given); residence, Plymouth; engaged for the town of Plymouth.

ROBINS, THADDEUS, Private, Capt. Stephen Churchill's Co., Col. Theophilus Cotton's Regt.; enlisted March 8, 1781; discharged March 12, 1781; service, 4 days, at Newport, R. I.; company raised by order of His Excellency John Hancock to serve for 40 days, unless sooner discharged.

ROBINS, WILLIAM, Plymouth. Private, Capt. Adams Bailey's Co., Col. John Bailey's 2nd Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Sprout subsequent to Jan. 1, 1781; muster roll made up from Jan. 1, 1780 to Jan. 1, 1782; enlisted May 15, 1777; enlistment, 3 years; reported discharged May 15, 1780.

ROBINS, WILLIAM, Private, Capt. Benjamin Rider's Co., Col. John Jacob's Regt; enlisted July 29, 1780; discharged Nov. 1, 1780; service, 3 mos., 6 days, at Rhode Island; company detached to reinforce Continental Army for 3 months. Roll sworn to in Plymouth Co.

Joseph Robbins: American Patriot and Nova Scotia Farmer

Compiled by Lawrence G. Robbins

Joseph Robbins, the son of Benjamin and Abigail (Cushman) Robbins, was born in Kingston, Massachusetts on December 12, 1757. At an early age he accompanied his parents to Nova Scotia, where his father laid claim to a land grant on Chebogue Point in Yarmouth County. Less than three years later, his father drowned in a lobster pond near their homestead. Soon after Joseph and his mother returned to Massachusetts, where he spent the balance of his youth. As a young man, Joseph apprenticed as a blacksmith to Nathaniel Wilder in Middleborough, where he was employed when the Revolutionary War broke out. Soon after Joseph enlisted and for much of the following five years, he served with distinction in various campaigns in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and upstate New York. His Revolutionary War records and pension claims give a good first hand account of his years in the militia and Continental Army. Excerpts from those records follow. After his war service, Joseph returned to blacksmithing in Massachusetts. Around 1782 he acquired his father's land grant and homestead in Nova Scotia and in 1788 he moved there with his family. He became a prominent farmer and blacksmith in Yarmouth County and raised a large family there prior to his passing in 1839. The family continued to farm on Chebogue Point and elsewhere in Nova Scotia in subsequent generations. In addition to farmers, his descendants included shipmasters, shipwrights, bankers and merchants. Many thanks to the Yarmouth Museum Library for supplying me with a copies of his Revolutionary War pension records from their files. In the portion of his pension file cited below, Joseph recounts his Revolutionary War experiences.

"...I enlisted the first day of May, 1775 in Middleburg, where I then resided, as a private soldier to the American Army in the Revolutionary war, for the first eight months service in Captain Isaac Wood's Company under Colonel Cotton, Jr., General Thomas's Brigade. I marched from Middleburg to Roxbury where I served my time out at the siege of Boston. Soon after this I enlisted in the same Company but under Colonel Bailey's command in General Heath's Brigade for the time of one year in 1776 and marched with the Army to New York. While I was in New York I worked considerable at my trade as an Artificer. On the 25th of December, 1776, I took part in the capture of the Hessians at Trenton. My time of service expired Jan. 1, 1777. Then I volunteered anew for six weeks longer and followed General Washington into the field of Battle at Princeton. I remained with the Army till my six weeks expired and then was discharged and came home and remained till June, 1779, then enlisted in the Army and went one campaign with General Sullivan up in the Wilderness in the Back Country to fight the Indians. I can not remember my colonel's name. I think my captain's name was Churchill..."

Joseph Robbins was later awarded an annual pension of \$80.00 by the U. S. Government for his service during the Revolutionary War. There is a copy of a hand-written note by John

Quincy Adams dated 27 March 1833 in the Yarmouth Museum Library file, authorizing the commencement of that pension without further delay.

Obituaries and Memorials

(Editor's Note: This segment honors our family members who have preceded us in death and will be a reoccurring feature of the Newsletter. Older as well as recent obituaries and memorials of Nicholas Robbins descendants and their spouses are welcome. They may be submitted as attachments to emails addressed to riaresearch@aol.com or by regular post to Lawrence G. Robbins, P.O. Box 8274, Portland, OR, 97207. Please identify your media source, i. e., newspaper, on-line site, etc., as well as the date it was printed, so that proper attribution can be included. Thank you.)

RAYMOND ROBINS "Brooksville, Fla., Sept. 26, 1954 (AP), Col. Raymond Robins, a confidant of Presidents and an adventurer who struck it rich in the Yukon, died today in his home atop near-by Chinsegut Hill. An invalid since 1935, when he was paralyzed from the waist down after a fall from a tree, Colonel Robins also had been suffering from a heart ailment. His age was 81.

He was a close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt and an advisor to former President Herbert Hoover. He urged President Franklin D. Roosevelt to recognize the Soviet Union in 1933.

Colonel Robins campaigned for William Jennings Bryan and was later active in the Progressive or Bull Moose Party. He ran for the United States Senate in Illinois on the Progressive Party ticket.

Colonel Robins was a settlement worker in Chicago and worked with William Devere, later Chicago's mayor, in cleaning up the city's Seventeenth Ward. He once was beaten for his activities in a labor union dispute.

Born on Staten Island, N. Y., Sept. 17, 1873, he attended country schools in Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. He graduated from Columbian University---now George Washington University---in Washington D. C.

He gave up a promising law career in San Francisco to look for gold in Alaska. He found it. A high point in his life was his embracing of Christianity when he was in the Klondike. It was after his journeys to the Klondike that he took up a crusade to better the lot of his fellow man.

Raymond Robins devoted many years of his life to serving the cause of social betterment. World peace, law enforcement and observance, and the application of Christian principles to national and world problems were some of the problems on which he expended untiring energy for more than four decades.

His career in progressive politics and social reform came after a youth packed with adventure. When he was 17 years old, he started out to make his fortune and within a year had organized a large phosphate mining company. A year later he came to New York on a steamer from Charleston, S. C. Walking into a Wall Street banking house, he came out two hours later with \$20,000 in his pocket, having sold the mine that later yielded large returns to the purchasers. He later staked out and worked a mining claim in Alaska which yielded enough to assure him a substantial income.

Soon, however, Colonel Robins became more interested in the human experiences of the mining communities at Dawson City and Nome than in his quest for gold. Fellow-diggers and the camp merchants soon recognized his capacity and courage for leadership in safeguarding property and life from gunmen, gamblers and vice lords. He stayed long enough to establish a town meeting for lawful government and to start a church, in which he taught and preached.

Among his other activities, he devoted much time to the care of homeless men, becoming superintendent of the Chicago Municipal Lodging House in 1902, a position he occupied for three years. At the same time he was active as head worker of Northwestern University Settlement and as a member of the Chicago Board of Education.

Entering national politics, he joined Col. Theodore Roosevelt in the movement for a Progressive party in 1912. He was chairman of the Illinois State Central Committee of the Progressive Party, and was the party's candidate for United States Senator in 1914. Two years later Colonel Robins was chairman of the Progressive Party's national convention. In 1932, after a tour of 286 cities on behalf of Prohibition, he suffered an attack of amnesia and was missing for three months. He was found living under a different name in Whittier, N. C.

He received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and commanded an American Red Cross mission to Russia in 1917 and 1918. He stayed on through the Russian Revolution." (New York Times, September 27, 1954)

NRD: Nicholas Robbins, John Robbins, Jeduthan Robbins (Sr), Lemuel Robbins, Ephraim Robins (Sr), Ephraim Robins (Jr), Charles Ephraim Robins, Raymond Robins

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