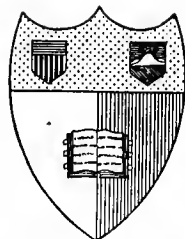


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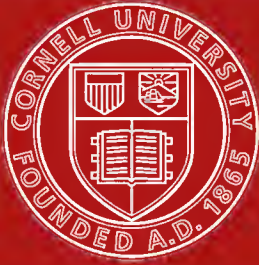
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Elisha Stevens, fragments of memoranda,



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ELISHA STEVENS

Fragments of Memoranda

Written by him

in the

War of the Revolution

A520364



LISHA STEVENS, a soldier in the War of the American Revolution, kept a memoranda of some important incidents of his experiences, but did not keep a diary. He was a native of Glastonbury, Connecticut; he was a member of a company of minute-men organized in that town which marched for Cambridge on receipt of the news of the Battle of Lexington. December, 1775, he enlisted in Colonel Wolcott's regiment and served during the siege of Boston. Next he was a member of the crew of a privateer which sailed from New London. During that cruise his wife and his son Oliver died; he immediately made arrangements for the care of his two remaining children and enlisted for the war in Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin's regiment, Captain Clark's company. He served in the army immediately under Washington and was present at Battle of Brooklyn Heights; Trenton; Princeton; Brandywine; Germantown; was in camp at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78; and was present at the Battle of Monmouth; Siege of Yorktown; Surrender of Cornwallis; and many other engagements.

After the close of the Revolutionary War, he married for his second wife, Agnes Kimberly of Southbury, a sister of one of his tent-mates, and settled in what was then Salem Bridge, now Naugatuck, Connecticut, where he owned several hundred acres of land, conducted a tannery, and manufactured boots and shoes, often employing twelve workmen. He was the first deacon chosen by the Congregational Ecclesiastical Society of Salem Bridge; and his name was first on the list of charter members of Harmony Lodge, No. 42, A. F. & A. M., of Waterbury, chartered in 1797; was elected its treasurer, and held both of these offices until his death. He had eleven sons and three daughters: Elisha, David, Oliver, Oliver, Ashbell, Rebecka, Ransom, Barzilla, Milton, Clarissa, Her- shall, Harvey, Alfred and Minerva.

This reproduction of a portion of the memoranda made by Elisha Stevens is made by his great-grandson, H. Wales Lines of Meriden, Connecticut, December 1, 1922.

Presented to Cornell University Library

By H. Wales Lines

 This is but

A small part of the arrangement
of Elisha Stevens Services in the
Army of the Revolution of 1776
which planted that tree of Liberty
Brought in my humble opinion
extended in the course of 150
years to another remote
by which from all stations
Reached the blessed Father
and become blessed

September 12th 1777

The Battle was at Brandywine it began
in the morning and held til night
with out much slaughter of arms
Cannons Roaring muskets Cracking
Drums Beating Bumps & lying all
round: men a dying wounded, Horred
Groans which would have made the Heart
of Hearts to see such a Bloody
fight as this to see our fellow
Creators Slain in such a manner
as this

October 3rd 1777

our army incamp in a place called
Scipbaker Road and when it came night
they all turned in as usual and then came
orders a boat ten of the Clock at
night for every man to turn out
under arms and they all turned
out and there came orders for them
to march to wards Germantown and
they marched on the Road

And they came with in the inner
lines a Bout the Brack of the Day
October 4 the 1777 and there they found

A Line of Battel run benoove to the
English and kept on them and the
Battel went on very well and
they drove them out of there in a manner
there was a very fair prospect of our

Gaining the Day But General
Stevens gave orders to Retreat and

that sent our army in Confusion
So that they was a Pliged to Retreat
and loof the Day

and He was put under a Reske for it
and Brack and sent Home

June the 1777

I sent with my Brother
John Stearns Eighteen Dollars

July the 1777 I sent to Brother John
Stevens By Sam^l Samuel ~~Stoby~~
Fifty Dollars in Cash

October the 1777

I sent to Brother John Stevens
By Serjeant John Osborn of
Wallingford Twenty ~~Dollars~~
Five Dollars in Cash

March 2^d the 1778

I sent to Brother John Stevens
By devereous Carrington
of Wallingford thirty Dollars in Cash

and there came a Guard and seized about
all a Barrell of whiskey from our officers
the fore part of the Day and in the
after noon they was in sound that they had more
and they came a gain and seized from our
officers three Barrells more for I think
it was time to disarm them for they sold
whiske all winter to a very Extrageant price
we bought one Barrell and our Capt mill
it and took it from our and gave our
our Capt and His infine sold it out
~~at the rate of two Dollars more in a barrel~~
the gave our

day the 1st of march 1778 General Washington
led his Camp west down to Germantown
to make a general Exchange for prisoners
April the 14th 1778 there was a Court Marshal
in some whiske that was seized from our
officers Vanat George Cary and His majestys
was called for Evidencees
April 5th the 1778 General Lee was
Exchanged and came to Head quarters at the
and was Receivd with Great Joy

I tried a Post some Days in Philadelphia
and there came orders for every one to march
to Brister then that was Lable and of that I
Self Lable to march Sixteen miles So I marched
to Brister and there I tried three Days
and I grew very heavily so that the doctors
put me to help take care of the wounded
there came orders for the Sick and wounded
to be carried to Bethlehem a bout fifty or Sixty
miles from Brister so they carried the wounded
so far and I marched so far that I got
when I got to Bethlehem

I heard fit of Sickness and a bout
twenty of October I came out of the hospital
and went into a tent or lived in a tent
til the Sixth of november and then I went
into a house with a part of a Company
of artificers belonging to Capt Gallard
and there I tried til the 23 of December 1777
and then I came I set out for the Company
and I got to the Company the 26 Day of
December 1777 March 2 of the 1778
I went out to a place a Post seven miles
to a place called the Backlands and many
I came back to the Company

Wilmington about 15 miles from Derby
I was taken Sick there this was a Boat
18 of August and I was carried from
to Concord meeting house and there I was
more then two weeks and I got my
lth so well that there come orders
Every one that could walk to march
Middleton a Boat Six or Seven miles to a
meeting house and I marched there and the
day the Battle was to Brandevine Pass
I came orders to march a boat 9 miles
meeting house and there came
the next morning to march into
for the army was upon the Retreat
reached into Chester I was weak and
and there that day til some a clock
there was a Schooner prepared for us to go to
Philadelphia by water and we set sail and came
Philadelphia the next day a Boat seven a
and I had not very much to eat
at time but the people was very kind to
Philadelphia they gave me to eat Caffe
Chocolat and that was good for
with it

Life playing Down Peating and all
the Bands of music

April 6th 1778 The wife went to meet
the english at ^{the} town in Pennsylvania
to consult on some affairs a Post
an Exchange of Prisoners and to settle
the affairs of the war in America

April 8th 1778

James Peardon had a discharge from the
Service set out to home

James Peardon had a discharge and
set of with him an William Baskitt
Hired as man and gave one Hundred
Dollars for him to take his place

During the war he be set out for
Home April 8th 1778

Saturday April 11th 1778

Joseph Stevens left six and forty
Dollars in Continental Currency

April 15 the 1778
the Flag came from Newtown
and left the English and they could
not do their Business our Congress
would sign the articles and we would
General Howe but they would not
Expect of His signing of it for it
is except that it is going to the
King and Parliament

April 18 the 1778 our Commanders
went from Lancaster to meet
the English a gain to try to settle
the Disturbance that has Bin be
tween Great Britain and America

April 30 AD 1779
Clyphlet Rice had a safe charge
of During the war and set out for
Hawaii

April 30th 1778

I sent to Brother John Stevens
by Elizabeth Rice Sixty Dollars
in Cash to keep for me

August 12th 1778

I sent by David Walle to Brother
John Stevens Seventy Dollars
in Cash to keep for me

April 30 A.D. 1778

George Cary had a Dunlow
and ~~was~~ set out for Home to be
Absent forty two Days and then
to Return to his Company that
he respectively belongs to

May 6th 1778

The news came to these quarters
that France and Spain had Declared
the seven united States to
be independant and the King of
Great Brittain had for Bid Cary for
troops coming through his Dominions
to fight Amartica on the account
of hearing this news the Grand
Army was all provided and they
fired thirty one Cannon and the
Hol Army fired three rounds a
Each man and Gave three Cheers
one for the States one for France
and one for Spain

May 6th 1775

Our Capt Mill came of Duvalon and
brought his Company of Artificers
and he seemed to be void of all Grace
and he cared on to a very High Rate
Singing all manner of Rordy Songs
I think it is a Shame for Soldiers
Much More for Artificers

June 8th 1775 He got in A very High
Caric all Night Drinking and Carousing
Disturbing all that was finish time
all Night all the Night and quiet
in the morning He stole a pig from one
of the inhabitants that ~~was~~ ^{was} all
night forty weight and filled it ^{and} Dressed it
and put a dattel in it He think that
his Company took too much notice
of it but we thought it was time
to Enter Complaint against him
for we had suffered it ^{by} a long
time we thought we could not in
conscience we could not ever take
it and so Entered Complaint

June 19 AD 1778

There came orders for us to leave
our winter quarters at the Red Bank
We marched from there to Cornells
in three Days it being the 22 Day of
June when we crossed the Delaware
River in to the Jerseys and after
the Army crossed they marched
on with great Expedition to meet
our Enemy and the 28 of June
~~in the morning we pitched our~~
in the morning A party of men went
out under Sir major's General Lee
to bring on a general engagement
with them and General Lee brought
them on in to the field where a part
of our main Body engaged them
and the Battle went on in the field
for some time and at last the British
troops gave the Ground and our men
left the field with but a very
few men killed or wounded

on our side

There was great on
there side of saw them by
very thick in the field
and they left some part of these
wounded we hind which fell into
our hands almost two hundred
in one hour that they left with
saw

August 9th 1778

Leicester Carington ~~at~~

Departed this side in disguise
Belonging to Wollington in Captain
Company of Artificers He was very
belov'd in the company that he
belong'd to

August 01st 1778

Miss Hutchins was sent away sick
to the Hospital

and then we crossed several rivers
to Malbury and from there to ... with an
from there to ... and from ...
to ... with in five miles
of Philadelphia and then we returned
wards ... to ... and
then to ... Upon our march August
15 men died with the heat in the ...
three more on the 10 August ... about 12
at night there was a very heavy thunder
and the rain came down so powerfull
we was all in the water that night
About the 24 of August we struck our
about 4 a clock in the morning and ...
within a boat 4 miles after Philadelphia and
we pitched our tents that night and
we meant that night till 3 a clock
and then we struck our tents and ...
Philadelphia it being out into the country
in boat 8 or 9 miles to a place called ...
it was a boat the 16 of August and
we pitched our tents the 17 of August
there was a very hard ... storm at ...
storm that there was some ... down
that night. the next day we struck
tents and marched through ...

M^r Wiggelsworth Doem

to I Lay Slumbering Sleeping all alone in bed
A Vision Very Strange then Came into my head

I Thought undoubtedly the Day of Drums was Come
and Christ him self was there to judge both old and young

I heard a trumpet sound sounding both Loud & shrill
Saying all Souls Come hear your Sentence good or ill

I had gotten there but Satan Came I thought
and he had a Douful Scrawl of my sad Life before
and laid it before our Judge & said I was his one
in help for me there was my sins so grate was graced

then said our Saviour Dear those words to end the strife
if the sinners Name be in the book of Life

if his Name be there he Ever more is blest
his sins are Wash'd away and his soul with me shall

then Satan he took the book and Leaf by Leaf he told
and there he found my Name in Letters lined with gold

then Satan he was wroth at this so had a sight
saying unto our Judge your judgment is not right

then said our Saviour Dear those words then presently
then thou knowest full well that I for sin did

Redeeming of this world who was by the over throne — ^{gone}
and for poor sinners sake whose sins so great were
then later he was with thinking heid Lott his prayer
Exceeding Next he was and he Vanished away —
then from Slumbering sleeping my self I did awake
Not knowing what to do to further I did betake
and I fell down on my knees at Other sinners may
hoping to fit my self against the judgment day

Come Soldiers all in Cores going
to pay the tribute at this Prime
of brave mongomery of brave mongomery

With love

winning No force could ever Repell
truples Who had just behaved so well
under ... had a fate under so hard a fate
With scarce one third part of his force
then for Quebec he bent his course
that grave of heroes same that grave of heroes same
the grate mount Calm the pride of France
and Wolf. the strength of Brittons Armes
both fell on Abrams plains &c
Button tis said was set to yeald
slowly proclaimed it in the field
what true a friend he'd shown what true a friend he'd

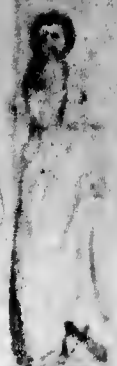
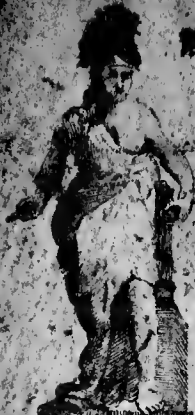
Alpha Stevens
of Glassbury

78	96	3	16	10	3/4
68	54	6	12	11	2/4
46	78	7	13	6	1/4
86	34	5	12	3	2/4
25	46	7	11	4	1/4
16	34	3	16	3	1/4
22	65	5	3	3	2/4
24	62	1	16	4	3/4



This is the account of my Cloaths
I bought when I was in the
Capt. Wm. Williams' Company
one pair of trousers
one shirt
one pair of breeches
one pair of stockings
one blanket
one pair of shoes
one pair of shirts
one linen handkerchief
one silk handkerchief
one vest
one outsid waistcoat
one pair of breeches
two pair of stockings
one shirt





GRAND LODGE
 Of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of
 CONNECTICUT

To all whom it may concern,
 These are to certify that our Brother
 Elisha Stevens ... who
 hath signed his name in the margin
 hereof is a Regular Master Mason
 of Lodge N^o 42 on the Registry of
 Connecticut as appears by the certificate
 of said Lodge, and Registered in
 the books of the Grand Lodge the
 17th day of May in the year of
 M. DCC. LXXVIII

In testimony whereof I have
 hereunto subscribed my name
 and affixed the seal of the Grand
 Lodge, this 14th day of October
 in the year of our Lord 1778.

Le présent est pour certifier
 à tous ceux à qui il appa-
 raitra que le Fr. Elisha
 Stevens ... qui
 signé en marge ci-dessus, est Maître
 Maçon, de la Loge du Commerce
 N^o 42, comme il paraît par le
 Certificat de cette Loge, enregistré
 sur les livres de la Grande Loge
 le 17^{me} de May de l'an de la liberté
 1778.

En foi de quoi, j'ai signé, et
 posé le sceau de la Grande Loge
 sur le présent, ce jour 14^{me}
 d'Octobre de l'année 1778.

John W. G. Seal

TO VIEW

Elisha Stevens





Anno DOMINI 31
Luce 24
John 20

anno DOMINI 31

56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

57 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified.

57 ¶ When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus's disciple:

6 He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word.

60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

9 ¶ And, as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

62 ¶ Now, the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

11 ¶ Now, when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

64 Command, therefore, that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch; go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

66 So they went and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

CHAP. XXVIII.

67 Christ's resurrection is declared by an angel to the women, 9 Christ himself appeareth to them, 11 The chief priests bribe the soldiers to report that he was stole away by the disciples, &c.

16 ¶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

IN the 3^d end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, to see the sepulchre.

17 And when they saw him they worshipped him: but some doubted.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

18 ¶ And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

19 ¶ Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. †

¶ The

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Chap. xxviii. 1. The remorse of conscience Judas felt when he saw

the fulfilment of the prophecies which God had foretold

The following elevated and noble passage is extracted from the **THE SACRED SCRIPTURES** "Twice and thrice he came down upon earth, and all was yet silent as the solitary Death held his sceptre over the Son of God still and silent the hours passed as if the night flood at their posts; the rays of the midnight moon gleamed on their helmets, and on their spears; the enemies of Christ, excited in their success; the hearts of his friends were sunk in depondency and in sorrow: it's spirit of glory waded in anxious suspense to behold the event, and wondered at the depth of the ways of God. At length the morning star, arising in the east, announced the approach of light; the third day began to dawn upon the world; when on a sudden the earth trembled to its centre, and the powers of heaven were shaken; an angel of God descended; the guards throng back from the terror of his presence, and fell prostrate on the ground; his countenance was like lightning, and his raiments white as snow; he rolled away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, and sat upon it.

But who is this that cometh forth from the tomb—with dyed garments in his appearance, walking in the greatness of his strength? It is thy Prince, O Zion—Christian! it is your Lord: He hath trod the wine-press alone; he hath stained his raiments with blood; but now, as the first born from the womb of nature, he meets the morning on his resurrection; he arises a conqueror from the grave; he returns with blessings from the world of spirits; he brings salvation to the sons of man. Never did the returning sun shiner in a day so glorious! it was the jubilee of the universe; it the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shined aloud for joy. The Father of mercies looked down from his throne in the heavens; with complacency beheld his world restored; he saw his work that it was good. Then did the desert rejoice; the face of nature was gladdened before him, when the blessings of the Eternal descended as the dew of heaven for the refreshing of the nations."

Chap. xxviii.

RECORD OF THE
STEVENS FAMILY

PRESENTED TO

CHARLES TRACY STEVENS

AND

EMELINE M. UPSON

BY

OLIVER STEVENS.

1844.

Reprinted from the original documents by H. WALES LINES,

MERIDEN, CONN., March, 1893.

9
H

CHARLES TRACY STEVENS,

Unto you is this old manuscript most respectfully presented,
not for the intrinsic value thereof, but as a memorial to be
handed down to the latest posterity, that each
one may see from whence he derived
— his pedigree, —

And here follows the regular line Family of Stevens:

TIMOTHY STEVENS, born in Bristol, Wales.

JOSEPH STEVENS, born in Hartford, Conn., in 1705.

ELISHA STEVENS, born in Glastenbury, Conn., in 1752.

OLIVER STEVENS, born in Waterbury, Conn., 1782.

CHARLES TRACY STEVENS, born in Edmonston, N.Y., in
1818.

TO MISS EMELINE M. UPSON.

This is most respectfully presented by her grandfather Oliver Stevens, fourth son of Elisha Stevens, who was five years in the revolutionary war, and was in the battle of Monmouth under Gen. Washington, and in the battle of the Brandywine under Gen. LaFayette, and under Gen. Washington at the taking of Lord Cornwallis at York Town, which secured the independence of the United States of America, and was in several other small engagements throughout the Colonies of Great Britain. He emigrated from Glastenbury, Conn., and was the eleventh son of Joseph Stevens, who was born in Hartford, Conn., but settled in Glastenbury, and was the third or fourth son of Timothy Stevens, who emigrated from Bristol, England, with three brothers, and landed in Boston, and was the first orthodox minister that was ever settled in Hartford,* as will be found in the late history of Connecticut, and who de-

*Probably error of writer. Barber's History, page 520, says: Timothy Stephens, first minister at Glastenbury, ordained October —, 1693. Died April 16th, 1725.

scended from an ancient family in Wales, who by deeds of valour under the reign of King Alfred became entitled to a coat of arms, which were (but I am not certain) a gold emerald shield with cross swords and a tasseled ———.

This is but a small part of the memorandum of Elisha Stevens' services in the army of the revolution of 1776, which planted the tree of liberty, whose branches in my humble opinion will extend in the course of 150 or 200 years to the earth's remotest bounds, by which time all nations will have tasted of the blessed fruits thereof, and become completely renovated.

This manuscript having never been discovered until after the death of the author, my father, which was in March 1813, and then it was so little thought of, that the heirs slung it into an old chest of drawers among some old writings which were considered to be of no value, and I, living in the state of New York at the time, had no knowledge of it until twenty years after. The Congress of the United States then having passed a law that all widows after 1833, of deceased husbands, should, by procuring sufficient evidence, draw half that their husbands were receiving when they were discharged from the army of the revolution. When the law was first enacted the rest of the heirs thought it to be impracticable, and when I was informed of the fact I immediately commenced my operations, and after a few days' or two weeks' hard toiling and grubbing my mother happened to recollect something about this book, and search was immediately made for it; and as illegible as it is and as poorly spelt, and, no doubt, much of it written in a hurry and bustle of a camp ground, it proved to be worth (with some other small testimony that is that she was married to my father in the time of the revolution) a little more than five hundred dollars, and as poor as it was written and as illegible and as unintelligible as it may appear to those who are not interested with the contents, it may be a sort of satisfaction to those descendants who are fond of and are undoubtedly right to feel a sort of pride to be able to trace their pedigree to the country from which they took their migration. It is a gratification to me at this late day to think that I

have (unlike many Yankees) taken the pains, and can trace my pedigree as far back, I think, as any other man in this country, with tolerable degree of certainty, and I never have found but one of my name who was capable of doing it any further back than the third generation. But my principal object, which is to transfer to my posterity the active part which my father and several of his brothers took in the hard struggle for that liberty which they and I sincerely hope under God may enjoy until the end of time; it appears that my father began a journal, and for the want of time or several causes that interfered, he never was able to complete it, for he was in land service five years, and was not discharged until the fighting was all over, which was in 1782, and peace was ratified in 1783.

I will now write, as near as my memory serves (which I think is in no way impaired), the history of my father's services as related to me, and not only to me directly, but a great many long evenings I have sat in one corner of the fire-side and listened to their tales of hardship and some of their forced marches; they would talk over with as much glee as if they had been on a party of pleasure, and then again the extreme suffering that they witnessed and endured themselves, especially the fifth year of the war when by desertions and other distressing causes our army was reduced to about fifteen hundred (while the enemy had twenty thousand) effective men and then without food and clothing; there they would talk over with a great deal of feeling. When war was declared my father and three of his brothers, viz: Samuel, Joseph and Ashbell, went on board of different privateers. Ashbell was a lad of fourteen years old, was taken prisoner and carried to Halifax, and was never afterward heard from. Joseph, in the course of the war, was taken prisoner and died on board of the Jersey prison ship at Wallabout, where our navy yard now is on Long Island. Samuel, I believe, continued privateering more or less through the war, and at last became master of a vessel. My father, coming off from a cruise, landed at New London, hearing of the death of his wife and his youngest son Oliver (after whom I was named), returned home to Glastenbury on the Connecticut river, settled his affairs, left directions

about his two little surviving boys, Elisha and David, and enlisted into the land service during the war; and as it respects the battle of the Brandywine, what he has neglected in writing, I shall make up the deficiency as I received it verbally from his own mouth, after I had arrived to the stature of a man. The British landed here under cover of their cannon, which was loaded with canister, grape and chain shot, together with bomb shells, plowing in every direction. Gen. LaFayette commanded and led his men into action in solid columns, and the fire took such effect that it would cut a swarth right through and sweep down whole companies as it were in an instant, upon which our men could close and fill up the vacancy and in an instant have the same fate; the General got wounded and our army retreated. This has the name of being the hardest fought battle, according to the duration of time, of any during the whole course of the war. The next, which was the battle of Germantown, does not vary much from what I have heard him relate, except that Gen. Stevens paid too much attention to an old church which was of but little consequence, as it contained but about 250 British and Tories, and by which means he lost the victory and his reputation. The next, in June, 1778, was the battle of Monmouth, of which I perceive he has but a small sketch. As I have heard him in conversation with other old soldiers who were in the action, that the day after Gen. Lee commenced the attack, the action became general, and was strongly contested through the day until both sides were overcome with heat and so exhausted that they left the field of battle, and neither gained the victory; and further I don't recollect much about him, except he was some time at West Point, sometimes skirmishing about in the Middle States under LaFayette or Count DeKalb, and the last and great movement he was under Washington at Kingsbridge, who was at that time rallying all his forces at different stations contiguous to New York, as though he was going to make a desperate rush to retake it from the enemy, as it was then in their possession, and to carry out his design more complete he had letters intercepted which fell into the hands of the enemy which confirmed their opinion that this was his intention, and the time arrived when every thing was properly arranged; every man was ordered under

arms at sundown and crossed the Hudson river above New York in the night, and the next morning at daylight they were all under way for Yorktown in Virginia, where lay Cornwallis with the flower of the British army in America, and Count DeEstang, according to previous arrangements, had left Rhode Island with the French fleet, and arrived in the Chesapeake the day previous to the arrival of Washington with his army by land, so that they were now prepared to make a simultaneous attack upon the enemy, both by land and sea. They fought one day with the enemy, and the evening found them loosing ground, and plead for an armistice for the term of thirty days; but there was but twenty-four hours allowed, for Washington did not mean to allow Cornwallis an opportunity of obtaining reinforcements from Lord Howe who then was in New York with a large army and a powerful fleet. The enemy improved every moment of these twenty-four hours in making additions to their fortifications, but as soon as they were up the French fleet opened a heavy fire upon them, and Gen. Washington attacked them with heavy artillery and small arms at every vulnerable point by land, which in the course of half a day of hard fighting his Lordship thought it most prudent, however mortifying it was, to surrender to the despised rebel Yankees, as he had formerly pleased to call them; on making out the terms of surrender his Lordship requested one indulgence, that is, that they should not be compelled to march out of their own encampment under the tune of "Yankee Doodle," as this was a tune composed by the British as a disgrace to the Yankees; but Gen. Washington left that to his generals to decide upon, and they agreed that they should be favored with the tune, as it was of their own composition, and one that they had much delighted in. Thus fell fourteen thousand of his Britannic Majesty's troops into the hands of the Americans, together with all their arms, ammunition and baggage, and what of the British fleet there was, were surrendered to the French. This was the finishing stroke of eight years of hard struggle for liberty, and your grandfather, Elisha Stevens, had as much to do with it as any other man, according to his capacity, for he was seven long years in the service of his country both by sea and land and

after the ratification of the treaty of peace he was honorably discharged at West Point and returned home. Much unlike very many young men, who, when they enlist into the army, go in with unblemished characters but when they return home they will have imbibed all the bad habits of a soldier's life; but when he and those of his brothers (John, Elijah, David and James) who survived the tug of war, returned with unblemished characters, excepting my uncle Elijah, he was somewhat given to drink, but I suppose died a reformed man. My uncle Peter he was in the army, but being young he stayed at home to raise produce, but after the war he settled in Vermont, raised a large family and became very rich. Uncle Thomas had not much to do with the war, but was very useful in ship-building at Glastenbury and he had two sons that were also in the same business. My uncle Daniel had lived in Philadelphia from the time he was fourteen years of age, had followed the Liverpool trade until he had become immensely rich, and when the British took Philadelphia, he had two heavy ships and a wholesale store of goods, all of which fell into the hands of the enemy; but after the war, he, together with his sons, soon recovered and became men of wealth. Uncle Elijah moved from Glastenbury (which I have as yet omitted to mention, is the native place of my grandfather and all my uncles on my father's side) to Vermont where he raised a family of boys, and some of them, I understand, have done well. Uncle Samuel, after accumulating a handsome property by seafaring, settled in Lanesborough, Mass., raised three sons; and they were men of first class. Uncle James moved to Lowville, N. Y., where he raised two sons. Uncle Joseph, who died on board of the prison ship, I think left two sons, and, for what I know now, live in Glastenbury. My uncle John moved to Sandersfield, Mass., and, I think, every one of my uncles were professors of religion, and were all firm supporters of good society and well established republican government. My father was a man six feet in height, well proportioned and of undaunted courage, and commanded respect amongst all classes of people of every age and was very fond of giving good advice to young people of both sexes, was very liberal to the poor, but in this

case he was careful not to let his left hand know what his right hand did. He was a firm supporter of the preaching of the gospel and very public spirited and was for more than twenty years in some public business; he was very systematic in his family, which was large, for he commonly had eight or ten besides his own children. His hours of devotion were regularly attended, both night and morning, and holy time, twenty hours, was strictly kept for the Sabbath by his family, apprentices, journeyman and the stranger that was within his gates. He was deacon of the Congregational Church for about thirty years. He carried on the largest business of tanning, currying and shoe making of any man in the county of New Haven, and, I believe, of any in the state. He was somewhat illiterate, but of a powerful mind. Besides raising a large family, he accumulated a handsome property. He had three children by his first wife: Elisha, who settled in Lowville, N. Y., and had three sons and one daughter; David, who settled in his native town, Waterbury, and had three sons and five daughters; Oliver, who died an infant. By his second wife he had eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, viz: Oliver (which is myself), Ashbell, Rebecka, Ransom, Barzilla, Milton, Clarissa, Hershall, Harvey, Alfred, Minerva, all of whom lived to have families but two, Barzilla and Harvey, the oldest of which till he was sixteen, and me and our children are all scattered about the State, except David and Ashbell they settled in their native town, Waterbury; but some of their children have moved to Alabama and four of Ashbell's have gone to Cincinnati, Ohio.

I must be excused, in my haste I have omitted one other engagement my father was in which was a severe one, under Gen. Gates at Camden with Lord Cornwallis, and which Gates lost by mismanagement, and with it all the glory and honor he had acquired by taking Burgoyne and his ten thousand men at Saratoga, at the northward; so, of course, his northern laurels dwindled into southern willows. And now, Charles Tracy, as you are my fifth and youngest son, and I cannot do by you as I would were it in my power, I take some satisfaction in leaving this behind me with you as a sort of legacy, not for any in-

trinsic value but as a memorial that your ancestors had the honor of taking an active part in the great struggle for that liberty we are now enjoying, and which your descendants down for generations to come, no doubt, notwithstanding the rough appearance of this old manuscript, will esteem to be worth possessing, some on account of its antiquity, and some on account of its information they can receive from, as it respects their pedigree, and from what country they came from on the other side of the great waters. I myself was born in Waterbury, New Haven county, Connecticut, and am the fourth son of Elisha Stevens, who was born in Glastenbury, Conn., and was the fifth son of Joseph Stevens who was born in Hartford, and, if I am not mistaken, he was one of seven or eight sons (now I am coming to where I do know from all old writings which are now extant in some parts of the State unless they have been lost). Timothy Stevens who was the first orthodox minister that was ever settled in Hartford, Conn., as I have seen from some of my ancestors' writings, and it is also mentioned in one of the histories of Connecticut, and my father had some books, such as law books, etc., that his grandfather Timothy brought from England, that was printed in the reign of Queen Anne, King James the Second. This my great-grandfather, Timothy Stevens, was one of three brothers who came over from Bristol in Wales into Boston. One by the name of Samuel settled in New Hampshire. Joseph, the third, was a sea-faring man and married in Boston. My great-grandfather received his education at the famous University in Oxford, England. These three brothers were the descendants of an ancient family in Wales, where but a few years ago stood the ruins of an ancient castle in the time of the feudal system, when each great Lord had his particular coat of arms, and as many armed tenants as his estate would with princely dignity maintain. The Stevens coat of arms were an enameled shield, a brawny arm with an uplifted broad sword, tasseled hurlbent, and the head, neck and shoulders of a horse, well caparisoned. And now all these descendants who shall for ages to come feel anyways interested in this little narrative,

I do not hesitate in the least in affirming that the foregoing is substantially true (although somewhat abridged), and as I received it from my father, and some books belonging to my great-grandfather, printed in England.

OLIVER STEVENS.

A. D. 1844.

H. WALES LINES

MERIDEN, CONNECTICUT

February 12, 1923

Cornell University Library,
Ithaca, New York

L. Farrand, President

Dear Sir:

I take pleasure in presenting to you a photographic reproduction of memoranda made by my great-grand-father, Elisha Stevens, during the Revolutionary War. I have seen, and have several years had in my possession, the original.

Included with it is photograph of a Masonic certificate of Elisha Stevens, which has his actual autograph in the margin; also a picture of his Family Bible which my mother presented to me many years ago. The family record is missing from this. It has been suggested this was removed, to serve their own purpose, by some one interested in a lawsuit. I also own a candle stand which probably stood near the head of his bed and a bureau which the father of his second wife, Agnes Kimberley, built and presented to her as a wedding gift.

Oliver Stevens wrote a sketch of his father, in which he made some mistakes. He speaks of an ancestor, Rev. Timothy Stevens of Hartford, Connecticut. The Connecticut residence of Rev. Timothy Stevens was always Glastonbury, and there is still standing there, in good preservation, the house built by him. In the Hartford Probate Records are preserved the will and inventory of Rev. Timothy Stevens and in the Probate Records of Waterbury the will and inventory of Elisha Stevens. All of these things were carefully prepared and are of great interest to me.

I am giving duplicate copy to;

Harmony Lodge #42, A. F. & A. M., Waterbury, Conn.
Shepherd Lodge #78, A. F. & A. M., Naugatuck, Conn.
Howard Whittmore Memorial Library, Naugatuck, Conn.
Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, Conn.
Free Public Library of Glastonbury, Conn.
Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn.
New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Conn.
Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.
Curtis Memorial Library, Meriden, Conn.
The Connecticut Society, S. A. R., Hartford, Conn.
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass.
Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.
Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Mass.
Congressional Library, Washington, D. C.

A twin son, Harvey, died in infancy, burial March 9, 1795, and his was the first grave in what is now Hillside Cemetery.

Naugatuck, in which are the graves of Elisha Stevens and many of his descendants. Elisha Stevens was a sincere Christian, a good husband and father, a useful citizen. To the character and record of such men we are indebted for our institutions of civil and religious liberty.

Some of my ancestors were, Ralph Lines and Richard Sperry, who built the first 2 houses within the limits of the present town of Woodbridge and who co-operated in concealment and care of the Regicides, when they were at Hatches's Harbour and Judges' Cave; Elder William Brewster and Stephen Hopkins, members of the Mayflower party and signers of the Mayflower compact; Rev. Thomas Hooker, founder of the Connecticut Colony; Rev. Roger Newton, (whose wife was Mary Hooker, daughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker), the first Minister of the First Congregational Church in Farmington, and second Minister of the First Congregational Church in Milford; Deputy Governor Penn; David Atwater the first name on the New Haven Colony list; Eliasaph Preston, clerk of the first town meeting in Wallingford; Major Moses Mansfield of Wallingford; Ensign Nathaniel Bunnell and Sergeant Enos Bunnell of Cheshire; Sergeant Walter Booth of Woodbridge; Rev. Timothy Stevens, the first Minister of the First Congregational Church in Glastonbury; and some additional men and women from whom I descended appear in the Genealogical Record filed by me with the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Faithfully yours



