

**Three  
Revolutionary  
Soldiers:**

**David Forman**

**Jonathan Forman**

**Thomas Marsh Forman**

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DAVID FORMAN.



THREE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
SOLDIERS :

FORMAN, CHARLES,

DAVID FORMAN,  
(1745-1797).

JONATHAN FORMAN,  
(1755-1809).

THOMAS MARSH FORMAN,  
(1758-1845).

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CLEVELAND,

THE FORMAN-BASSETT WATCH CO.,

1903

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CLEVELAND, O.

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*Charles F. ...*  
*Jan 10 1903*

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## PREFACE.

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The second of the following three sketches, that of General Jonathan Forman, has been kindly contributed by his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Charles S. Fairchild of New York City. The others are the work of the undersigned, who desires to record his thanks for help of various kinds to Mrs. Robert Edmonds of Virginia, Miss Mary F. Day of Maryland, Mrs. John Moses and Mrs. Weatherby of Trenton, N. J., Miss F. F. Randolph of Freehold, N. J., Mrs. E. P. Dismukes of Columbus, Ga., Mrs. Josephine F. Rogers of Washington City, Mr. Thomas F. Screven of Savannah, Mr. Marion H. Henderson of Elizabeth, N. J., Mr. James Neilson of New Brunswick, N. J., Mr. Frederic Shonnard of Yonkers, N. Y., Mr. Worthington C. Ford of Boston, and to Mr. A. H. Allen and Mr. S. M. Hamilton of the Department of State.

The portrait of General David Forman is from a crayon by Sharples, belonging to Mr. James Neilson. There is a large and handsome portrait in oil by Peale, which belongs to General Forman's great-granddaughter who also owns portraits of his wife and his daughters. The latter was found to be not so well adapted for reproduction.

The portrait of Gen. Thomas Marsh Forman is from a miniature owned by Mr. M. H. Henderson, who is a descendant, and was painted in 1798. There are other portraits taken at other periods of his life.

Unfortunately no portrait of General Jonathan Forman is known to exist.

CHARLES FORMAN.

719 Common Street,  
New Orleans.



## DAVID FORMAN.

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GENERAL DAVID FORMAN'S family Bible contains the record of his birth, probably copied from his father's Bible. It reads: "Sunday November the 3d 1745 three o'Clock in the Morning was Born our Son . . . . David." In the Monmouth Democrat during the seventies appeared an article entitled "Incidents in the Life of Gen. David Forman. Compiled by Miss Anna M. Woodhull." In it is contained a sketch written by Miss Malvina Forman, which is as follows:

"My dear father was born in New Jersey, Nov. 3, 1745. His parents were Joseph Forman and Elizabeth Lee. His father was a wealthy shipping merchant of New York, afterwards retired from business, and settled on one of his farms in Monmouth Co., N. J. My father was educated at Princeton College; my mother was born in Maryland, Dec. 3, 1751. On the 28th of February, 1767, my father was married to Miss Ann Marsh (daughter of Thomas Marsh, Esq., of Md.) by the Rev. William Tennent. In consequence of my grandmother's death [Mrs. Thomas Marsh], my parents were married in Princeton, at the house of Ezekiel Forman, Esq., the elder brother of my father, who married my mother's elder and only sister. I *think* my father left Monmouth, where he resided during the Revolution, on the 5th of February, 1794, and removed to Chestertown, Md. Gen. Forman left his own house in Chestertown, Sept. 10, 1796, in order to attend to a large landed estate which he owned at Natchez, Miss. On the

“19th of March, 1797, while at Natchez, he had a stroke of  
“apoplexy, and for three days continued in a state of perfect insen-  
“sibility. This terminated in apoplexy [paralysis?] by which his  
“left side was deprived of all power of motion. In this situation  
“he continued till Aug. 12, when finding his health and strength  
“considerably improved, he went to New Orleans to take passage  
“home. Finding a vessel bound for New York he sailed on Aug.  
“20. His anxiety once more to embrace his family appeared to  
“give supernatural strength both to mind and body. Fondly  
“cherishing the hope of having his wishes gratified, he was pro-  
“ceeding homeward, when the vessel was taken by a British  
“privateer, and sent into New Providence [Bahama Islands]. As  
“soon as the vessel was taken Gen. Forman abandoned the hope  
“of again meeting his family, thinking from his then very feeble  
“and debilitated state, he should be unable to bear the fatigue of  
“so long and circuitous a route. This anxiety and disappoint-  
“ment proved too much for his languid frame, and on the 12th of  
“September, 1797, at 2 o’clock in the afternoon, he surrendered  
“his life into the hands of Him who gave it, in the prime of his  
“manhood, aged 52.”

Gen. David Forman’s services in the Revolutionary War were important, and have never been adequately recounted. To do justice to his career would require more research than the present writer has been able to devote to the subject, but the notes here presented may serve in the lack of something better.

About the beginning of the Revolutionary War, in June, 1776, a brigade of militia was sent out by the State of New Jersey to reinforce Washington’s army at New York. The celebrated patriot, Joseph Reed, was chosen Brigadier General but declined the office, whereupon Colonel Nathaniel Heard, who commanded the Monmouth and Middlesex battalion, became Brigadier, and David Forman, who was Lieutenant-Colonel under Heard, suc-

ceeded to the Colonelcy. The term of service of these troops was limited to Dec. 1, 1776. After the disastrous battle of Long Island and the subsequent operations, Gen. Washington detached Col. Forman's battalion and sent them to suppress a Tory rising in Monmouth, Nov. 24, 1776.

Congress having authorized in December, 1776, the raising of sixteen regiments at large from the States, the command of one of them was offered by Washington to David Forman in January, 1777. Gen. Stryker states in his published Roster that "Forman's Regiment"—the sixteen regiments were named after their colonels—though it contained some Jerseymen, was recruited principally from Maryland, and was never completely organized. Such part as was organized, however, undoubtedly was in service, and some time in 1778 or 1779, it was distributed among other commands. Heitman's Officers' Register gives *July* 1, 1778, as the date of its disbandment, and says that officers and men were transferred mainly to the New Jersey Line. But the date given by Heitman is hardly consistent with the date of a return of *December*, 1778, showing but 68 men from New Jersey in the regiment, mentioned in Gen. Stryker's Roster. Gen. Stryker says also that Gen. David Forman of the militia resigned to accept the command of a regiment organized under the auspices of Congress. In this statement Gen. Stryker is undoubtedly in error, for on March 5, 1777, David Forman was chosen Brigadier General in the New Jersey militia. Therefore he did not become General in the New Jersey forces until *after* he had accepted the Continental Colonelcy. Obviously, therefore, he could not, as Gen. Stryker says he did, resign the Brigadier Generalship to accept the command of "Forman's Regiment." At least, so it seems to the present writer, who has much hesitancy in differing from Gen. Stryker, who was an authority on Revolutionary history.

In the summer of 1777 Gen. Forman was engaged in watching and reporting to Congress the movements of Lord Howe's fleet

as it conveyed the British troops round from New York to the mouth of the Delaware River. Some time before the battle of Germantown, Gen. Forman joined Washington's army with his brigade of New Jersey militia. Together with Smallwood's Maryland division, he was ordered to advance down the Old York Road and attack the enemy's right flank. The guides misdirected the troops, so that they reached the objective point too late, and the flanking movement failed as did most of the American movements on that day, and the battle of Germantown, though perhaps not a defeat, was not a victory for the Americans. The battle was fought October 4, 1777. A number of Gen. Forman's relations and connections were engaged in the battle, many of them belonging to his brigade.

After the battle of Germantown, Gen. Forman marched his brigade home, by Washington's order, and came back with other troops which he had collected—some of his Continental regiment and some mounted militia.

Early in November, 1777, David Forman resigned his commission as General in consequence of a difference with the New Jersey Assembly. Up to that date he had apparently held the Continental Colonelcy and the New Jersey Generalship simultaneously, it being a common practice at the time for the same person to hold several offices. The cause of his resignation is explained in a letter to Washington written at Princeton on Nov. 7, 1777. It seems the Assembly wished to investigate the election of himself and other gentlemen, (probably the election as Brigadier General at the session of the previous spring is referred to,) and Gen. Forman very naturally wished to be present when the proposed investigation was to be held. At the same time he was equally desirous of attending to his military duties. Though he told them this, and asked that the matter be postponed for a few days until the militia were assembled and put in some order, the request for postponement was denied, and he was confronted with the alternative of

having the investigation conducted behind his back or of resigning. He chose the latter. The matter is not fully explained in the letter, and he tells Washington that he will explain fully and that the step will meet Washington's approval. Governor Livingston tried to persuade Gen. Forman to withdraw his resignation, but he persisted in resigning.

On the 1st of January, 1778, Gen. Forman sent to Washington a memorial applying for a contract to supply the army with salt. He and his partners had invested ten thousand pounds in the works which were situated at Barneget. He was authorized to detain sixty men, two subalterns and a captain, out of the detachment of his regiment then in Monmouth, to guard the works, but late in March of 1778, the guard was withdrawn as the Council of State opposed the continuance of the guard, which was sent to join Col. Shreve's Regiment. It may be noted here that at the time of Sullivan's expedition against the Indians in the following year, the 11th Company of "Spencer's Regiment" was formerly part of "Forman's." Precisely when Gen. Forman gave up his Continental regiment the present writer has not ascertained—the date given in Heitman seems erroneous—nor does the writer know of any letter giving the reasons for so doing, but no doubt, Major Samuel S. Forman, the General's cousin, was correctly informed when he stated in his memoirs that Gen. Forman did not continue in active military service because he could be more useful by remaining in Monmouth.

At the battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, Gen. David Forman was present, though apparently holding no military command. (Mr. F. D. Stone writes in Winsor's History, Vol. 6—"The Jersey militia had turned out in a spirited manner, and under Dickinson and Forman were doing all in their power to retard Clinton's advance. They destroyed the bridges as they retired from Haddonfield to Mount Holly, and filled up the wells so that the enemy could not obtain water.") He was directed to accom-

pany Gen. Charles Lee who commanded the advance, and among Washington's papers is a dispatch from Gen. Forman written by Lee's direction at a quarter past six on the morning of the battle. We may suppose from this that Gen. Forman acted as a kind of special Aid-de-camp to Lee. From a paper drawn up after the battle by Gen. Forman, in which he criticized Lee's dispositions, and from his testimony at the Lee court martial (printed in the New York Historical Society Publications), it appears that the two officers got on badly together. Gen. Forman offered Lee his advice as to certain military movements, which advice was not heeded. As we know, when Washington arrived on the field, he was very indignant at the turn affairs had taken and called Lee sharply to task. Besides the court-martial, the matter resulted in a duel between Gen. Lee and Col. John Laurens of Washington's staff.

A letter written by Col. Laurens, who was one of the most prominent of the younger officers of the Revolution, is of interest. Washington had instructed Gen. Forman to facilitate Col. Laurens in getting on board the ship of the French Admiral D'Estaing, then off the coast with a fleet to help the Americans. It may be remarked that D'Estaing's attempt resulted in failure. The letter is printed in Laurens' "Army Correspondence."

18th July, 1778.

*My Dear Father :*

I am very happy in having an opportunity of introducing to your acquaintance, General Forman, a gentleman for whom I have the highest esteem, on account of his indefatigability and great sacrifices in the public service.

You will discover at a first interview that he is a man of enlightened understanding, and will receive much satisfaction from his account of the most interesting military transactions of the present day. I must refer you to this gentleman, likewise, for a more minute relation of the obstacles which have delayed the



French fleet. We were on board of the Admiral together, and he had an opportunity of being acquainted with the difficulties under which the Admiral has struggled.

Whatever civilities or services it may be in your power to offer to Gen'l Forman, will give particular pleasure to

Your most affectionate,

JOHN LAURENS.

To the Honble Henry Laurens, Esq.,  
President of Congress, Philadelphia.

During the latter part of the war, or from June, 1780, till late in 1782, Gen. Forman rendered very important service in giving reports of the movements of the British ships near New York. There were months during that period when no reports were made, but when important movements were on foot Gen. Forman would send dispatches to Washington four or five times a month. In June, 1780, he had established posts for upwards of fifty miles along the New Jersey coast, so that it was impossible for any number of ships to be off the coast without his being immediately informed of it. It seems strange that while performing these duties he held the title of General by courtesy only, but if he ever was re-chosen General after resigning in 1777, the writer has not discovered it.

Not only was Gen. Forman ready at all hours to forward news, but also to mount his horse and ride out to some high point to make observations personally. The zeal and fidelity of his work can be appreciated only by an examination of his letters to Washington (eventually to be printed by the Colonial Dames in their series of letters to Washington). The letters are full of the most minute details as to the movements and positions of ships in the waters adjacent to New York. As to the fidelity and intelligence with which Gen. Forman performed the work confided to him, it

is best to let the most competent judge, Washington himself, speak. The letter quoted was written while the movement resulting in the surrender of Cornwallis was under way.

HEADQUARTERS, HEAD OF ELK,

Sept. 7, 1781.

*Dear Sir:* I have received yours of the 6th inst. I feel myself not only personally, but with respect to my Country, so much indebted to you for your exertions on all occasions, that I cannot refrain from expressing my obligations on the subject. Be assured, Sir, it shall always be retained in grateful remembrance, and every opportunity embraced to convince you of my esteem and Friendship. It is with particular pleasure I inform you that Count de Grasse with twenty sail of the Line, arrived in the Chesapeake, \* \* \* [he then tells his plans.] Should anything of an interesting Nature come to your knowledge, I wish to receive the earliest account of it, and by your returning Expresses, I will forward the news of the day, and the success of our movements.

I am, Dear Sir, With every sentiment of esteem, Yours, &c.,

G<sup>o</sup> WASHINGTON.

Gen. Forman.

In the preceding July when the arrival of DeGrasse was expected, some of the militia cavalymen were taken into pay and stationed at such distances that dispatches could travel from Monmouth to Headquarters at Dobbs Ferry in 12 or 15 hours. After the army started south the letters were directed to be sent to a designated officer who re-forwarded them to Washington. The express-riders were taken off toward the close of 1781, but beginning in August, 1782, and for some months thereafter, Gen. Forman sent information by Washington's request as to the enemy's naval strength.

Besides sending information to Washington, Gen. Forman took a leading part in the troubled history of Monmouth County of the

period—a history which, could it be written in full, would be a most interesting one. He was very active against the Tories and Refugees, and the desperadoes known as Pine Robbers. By the Tories he was much hated, and was called by them “Devil David.” We may remark that the Loyalist name for Gov. Livingston was “The Archfiend.” As to the charge of undue severity often brought against Gen. Forman, it is difficult to judge without a more complete examination of the evidence than the writer has been able to make. Certainly the pillaging and burning raids of the Tories invited severe repression.

As to the sobriquet “Black David,” the writer is informed it properly belongs to Gen. Forman’s cousin who had the same name and became Sheriff, and was of swarthy complexion. The two are often confused by writers. They were intimate friends.

The celebrated Huddy affair and the events leading up to it should be mentioned on account of Gen. Forman’s connection with it. We learn from Gen. Stryker that early in the war Col. George Taylor of Middletown “refused to qualify and deserted.” He was to have been Colonel in the militia, but instead became active on the Tory side. Barber & Howe’s N. J. Historical Collections tell us that a young man named Stephen Edwards, at a date not specified except that it was in the latter part of the war, left his home at Shrewsbury and joined the Loyalists at New York. He was sent by Col. Taylor to Monmouth with written instructions to ascertain the force of the Americans. He was arrested Saturday at midnight at his father’s house, taken to the court house and tried by court-martial on the following day, and executed as a spy at 10 o’clock the Monday following. Gen. Forman was one of the judges who presided at Edwards’ trial; Captain Joshua Huddy was another of the judges (testimony of William Courlies at the court-martial of Lippincott, quoted in “Old Times in Old Monmouth,” page 66). Huddy was taken prisoner at Toms River on April 2, 1782, and was hanged by the Tories on Middletown Heights

ten days afterwards in retaliation for the death of Philip White, who had been shot in attempting to escape while being conveyed to jail. The reason for selecting Captain Huddy as the victim was his having been concerned in Edwards' trial (Ramsay's American Revolution, quoted in the Journal by R. Lamb, ex-Sergeant in the British Army). Gen. Forman took the leading part in obtaining evidence (see Old Times in Old Monmouth) as to the facts of White's death, concerning which false reports had been spread, and laid the matter before Washington by advice of the American Commissioners for the exchange of prisoners, to whom the matter had been first submitted. Redress having been sought at the hands of the British in vain—Lippincott, who was court-martialed for having hanged Captain Huddy, plead instructions from Governor Franklin and got off on that plea—it was determined to retaliate upon one of the British prisoners. A very youthful officer, Captain Asgill of the Guards, (later Sir Charles Asgill), was selected by lot, but his family were influential, and his mother having appealed to the French government to intercede in her son's behalf, Congress finally ordered the young man's release.

In concluding the account of Gen. Forman's services in the Revolution, it should be stated that his friend, the Rev. Dr. John Woodhull of Freehold often remarked, says his granddaughter Miss A. M. Woodhull, that Gen. David Forman was worth more to Monmouth than five hundred men. He was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Monmouth, and Justice of the Peace. He was an Honorary Member of the Society of the Cincinnati in New Jersey from 1783 to 1787, and Vice President of the same 1791-1793.

The list of Gen. David Forman's children is as follows, the names of those who died before him, six out of eleven, being printed in italics:—1, *Joseph*; 2, Sarah Marsh; 3, *Elizabeth Lee*; 4, Ann; 5, *David Lee*; 6, *Augustine* (a dau.); 7, Emma; 8, *Eliza*; 9, Malvina; 10, Rivine; 11, *Alfred*.

Sarah M. married her first cousin, Major William Gordon Forman ; Ann married Dr. Jonathan Longstreet ; Emma married Robert Cumming. Miss Malvina Forman, whose sketch of her father's life has been quoted, lived to an advanced age and died in Fauquier Co., Virginia. Rivine, the youngest daughter, married James Neilson, son of Gen. John Neilson, and died leaving an only daughter, who married the Rev. George Griffin. Mrs. Robert Edmonds, of Fauquier Co., Virginia, is a daughter of the last named, and hence a great-granddaughter of Gen. Forman.

The affection which his children had for him was great ; they are said to have almost worshipped him. Owing to his wife's extremely delicate health he took upon himself the care of them.

Gen. Forman was possessed of ample means and left a good estate. The tradition is that he used to go to church in Monmouth—the old Tennent church - in a carriage drawn by four horses, and with outriders.

His kindness to his slaves is shown by Major Samuel S. Forman, who relates in his memoirs (Narrative of a Journey down the Ohio and Mississippi) that when about sixty of the negroes were sent to Natchez in 1789, "General Forman purchased some "more, who had intermarried with his own, so as not to separate "families. They were all well fed and well clothed."

A very appreciative view of his character is given in Mrs. Richard Stockton's verses which are quoted by Miss Woodhull, and which are here reproduced. Mrs. Stockton, whose husband was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was one of the most interesting and attractive women of the Revolutionary period. An entertaining account of her is contained in Mr. Glenn's "Colonial Mansions."

C. F.

## LINES ON GENERAL FORMAN.

BY MRS. RICHARD STOCKTON.

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My muse, to simple subjects late confined,  
Now strives to scan the General's noble mind,  
Whose numerous virtues gracefully arise  
With mild effulgence to admiring eyes.

Where e'er I move, his praises meet my ear,  
Scandal is hushed, or hesitates thro' fear ;  
The high distinctions that from virtue flow  
On this good man th' Eternal Powers bestow.

Benevolence is pictured on his face  
And dignity his manly features grace ;  
But oh! his mind, rich source of lasting worth,  
Replete with charms, calls admiration forth.

With just enthusiasm my bosom swells,  
When e'er I hear that he each grief dispels,  
That soft humanity with power is joined  
In his exalted, generous, virtuous mind.

If, while unknown, his merit gives delight,  
If I admire him from a transient sight,  
His converse would improve and charm my heart,  
But not more admiration could impart.

May the all gracious power protect his life  
And guard him from invidious care and strife,  
For when such noble characters arise  
Their *mortal* frame, but not their *virtue*, dies!

## JONATHAN FORMAN.

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JONATHAN FORMAN, the elder son of Samuel Forman and Helena Denise his wife, was born at his father's house in Middletown Point (now *Matawan*), New Jersey, October 16th, 1755.

His parents were both members of the congregation of the celebrated William Tennent at Freehold. His grandfather, Judge Jonathan Forman, had been baptized in Freehold by the clergyman of the First Reformed Dutch Church of the Raritans in 1719, as is found by the original records (now at the Parsonage in Marlboro, New Jersey), and he aided in building the famous church still standing on the Monmouth battle ground.

Samuel Forman was a wealthy merchant; his sloop or sloops traded between New York City and the rich "back farming country" around Middletown Point, while in buying and selling and bartering at his "store," his old account books show the transaction of much business. Indeed the sloops sometimes went beyond New York, as far as to Rhode Island and Newport. He was so sincere a patriot that, although he suffered great loss by the burning and plundering of his mills and houses by the Tories when they descended on the village, he always refused to seek indemnity from the Congress, saying "the country could not afford it."

As not only all his immediate family, but all of their connections (save two) were said to be of strong Whig principles, it is not strange that his elder son Jonathan should have run away from Princeton college at the age of seventeen to join the company that

marched from Middletown Point—"to the tune of Duncan Davie"—on its way to join the American Army on Long Island. This is family tradition, but to come to the records, his Captain's commission (now in possession of his great grandson Hon. Horatio Seymour, of Marquette, Michigan, his successor in the New Jersey State Society of the Cincinnati) is signed by General Washington, November 23d, 1776.

There remain a few of his military papers, and some letters, and also unpublished memoirs of his younger brother Samuel S. Forman (who died at Syracuse, N. Y., in 1862), in which I find mention of the following events of his life :

On Nov'r 23rd, 1776, he was commissioned (says Stryker's "Official Roster of Continental Troops, Jersey Line,") Captain in the Jersey line of Continental Troops, Second Establishment in Colonel Ephraim Martin's (later Col. Moses Ogden's) First New Jersey Regiment of Maxwell's Brigade, and was honorably discharged at the close of the war Lieutenant Colonel.

The Brigade was engaged at the battle of the Brandywine, 1777, lay most of the winter of 1777-8 with Washington's Army at Valley Forge—was engaged at the battle of Monmouth 1778, was on Sullivan's Expedition against the Six Nations in 1779, was engaged at the battle of Springfield 23 June, 1780. In September, 1781, the Brigade landed on the James River, about five miles from Williamsburgh ; it was employed in all the labour of the siege, and was present at Cornwallis' capitulation.

This is borne out as to Jonathan Forman, by his papers, and his brother Samuel's statement, who said he was at Monmouth, Germantown, and the other principal engagements of the war, fighting in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, being present at Cornwallis' capitulation, and sharing the trials of Valley Forge ; in short, bearing his part in every engagement where Washington commanded.



On August 23rd, 1782, he was appointed to the command of a Battalion of Light Infantry under La Fayette.

In September, 1782, he commanded the Advanced Post at Dobbs' Ferry. In December, 1782, he was at Stony or Verplanck's Point. Upon the conclusion of Peace, he left the Army with broken health and fortunes, like so many of his brothers-in-arms.

When in 1794 troops from several states were called out and marched to the "back counties" of Pennsylvania, to subdue the formidable insurrection of the "Whiskey Boys," he headed the Jersey Regiment. It was always told with pride by his daughter and only surviving child, Mrs. Henry Seymour, that Washington, who commanded in person, upon meeting her father there after so many years of peace, embraced him with much feeling, exclaiming "Colonel Forman! always first in the field!"

In 1796 he removed from Middletown Point with his wife and daughter, Mary Ledyard Forman, to Cazenovia, New York, then a frontier settlement of three years establishment. He took with him his niece Helen (the motherless child of his sister Margaret, the wife of Major *John Burrowes*), afterwards Mrs. Samuel Sidney Breese, of Sconodoo, Oneida Co., N. Y., who has left an interesting narrative of their journey up the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers.

He was appointed "without solicitation" Brigadier General by Governor Jay. "This was of advantage to the militia, as he was a good disciplinarian, but it was a tax upon his already feeble health." "He was," however, says Mrs. Hammond's History of Madison County, "very energetic in forming the old Military Brigade of Madison County, then a part of Chenango County, and was always prominent at parades, having a true soldierly bearing."

He served one term in the Legislature of New York, and

engaged in more than one enterprise in business, for which he was unfitted, and in which he did not succeed.

He was a man of a singularly warm and tender heart, and much beloved, and famous for his sense of fun. Early in life he married Mary, daughter of Youngs Ledyard 1st of New London, Connecticut, niece to Colonel William Ledyard, who fell in 1781 at Fort Griswold. She was in New London at the time of the descent of Arnold, and on the morning after the massacre on Groton Heights went with her cousin Miss Fanny Ledyard of Long Island (later Mrs. Peters), to the relief of the wounded. In describing it she always said they stepped over their shoe tops in blood in the barn where the wounded lay. She was a woman of uncommon force of mind and character. She died in Cazenovia, May 31st, 1806.

After the subsequent marriage of their daughter to Henry Seymour, Colonel Forman was tenderly cherished at their home in Pompey Hill, ten miles west of Cazenovia, but to the latter place he was brought back after his death, May 25th, 1809, and there he was laid beside his wife in the village cemetery.

HELEN L. FAIRCHILD.

May 7th, 1902.





THOMAS MARSH FORMAN.

## T. M. FORMAN.

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THOMAS MARSH FORMAN was born on Kent Island, Maryland, August 20, 1758. He was the eldest son of Ezekiel Forman (an elder brother of General David Forman) by his first marriage with Augustine Marsh. Augustine Marsh was a half-sister of Mrs. David Forman and was descended from Augustine Herman who founded Bohemia Manor in Maryland in the seventeenth century.

At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, Thomas Marsh Forman and his younger brother were sent into the country in charge of a tutor, but he got out of a window at night and rode away to join the American army at New York. He attached himself as a cadet to Captain John H. Stone's company (afterwards Governor Stone) in Smallwood's 1st Maryland Regiment a few days before the battle of Long Island. He was in Washington's army when it crossed the Delaware. In the winter of 1777 he was appointed First Lieutenant in the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment, and soon afterwards received the commission of Captain in the Continental Regiment commanded by his uncle. He raised the largest company in this regiment. After the battle of Monmouth he was stationed at Elizabethtown, and on the 12th of January, 1779, he was appointed Aid-de-Camp to Major General Lord Stirling in the room of Major James Monroe who had resigned the month previous. He did not continue long with Lord Stirling, but received a furlough and returned home. The inscription on his tombstone recites that he bravely fought and endured at Trenton,

Princeton, Brandywine, Monmouth and Valley Forge. Tradition relates that during the occupation of Philadelphia by the British, he was stationed at the Green Tree Tavern to prevent the Tory market people from communicating with the enemy and bringing in provisions. The old market women would attempt to smuggle vegetables into the city and sometimes ludicrous incidents resulted.

He represented Cecil Co. in the legislature in 1790, 1792, and 1800. He commanded a brigade of militia from Cecil and Harford counties in defense of the city of Baltimore in the summer and fall of 1814, during the second war with Great Britain. A short time before, on May 19, 1814, he had married as his second wife, the beautiful widow, Mrs. Callender of Delaware. From this lady's journals many details are obtained concerning the family life at "Rose Hill," which was the name of his estate in Cecil Co., Md. Many well-known names are mentioned, Bayards, Willings, Morrisises, Livingstons, and others from Virginia, Georgia, Maryland, and other places. Alexander Hamilton's granddaughters were guests at "Rose Hill," and their grandfather at an earlier day. So also was Colonel Burr, it is said.

On Oct. 7, 1824, it is recorded: "Thursday the General went in his own carriage with four horses and two servants in livery to meet the Marquis de Lafayette, and took him in his carriage to Frenchtown where he took the steamboat to Baltimore."

Gen. T. M. Forman was fond of racing and owned horses in conjunction with John Randolph of Roanoke. He became the first president of the Maryland Jockey Club in 1830. He retained his activity in a remarkable degree, being able to ride horseback for long distances when a very old man. He died in 1845, and "Rose Hill" was bequeathed to a grandson, T. F. Bryan, who changed his name by authority of the legislature to Thomas Marsh Forman.

C. F.

## GENEALOGICAL NOTE.

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ROBERT FORMAN, who died at Oyster Bay, Long Island, in 1671, was one of the eighteen Englishmen who founded Flushing, Long Island, under Dutch authority in 1645. He afterwards lived at Hempstead and at Oyster Bay, and served as magistrate in each town. The record of his will and of deeds among the Oyster Bay records at Jamaica, Long Island, and the published Documents relating to the Colonial History of New York, together with the New Jersey records, published and unpublished, tombstones and family Bibles,—all these enable the history of the family to be clearly traced. Robert had three sons, one of whom was named *Aaron*. Aaron Forman had four sons, one of whom was named *Samuel*.

Samuel Forman, who removed to East New Jersey (as did also his father Aaron and brothers Alexander and Thomas) was commissioned High Sheriff of Monmouth Co., N. J., in November, 1695, and died October, 1740. He married Mary Wilbur of Rhode Island.

The children of Samuel and Mary (Wilbur) Forman were nine in number, as follows :

(1) SAMUEL, who removed to Rhode Island, and died, leaving his estate to his brothers and sisters.

(2) JONATHAN, who became Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Monmouth Co., married Margaret Wyckoff, and had the following sons : *Samuel*, who lived at Middletown Point and was the father of Gen. Jonathan Forman and other children ; *John*,

who removed to Middlesex Co.; *Peter*, who was Justice of the Peace during the Revolution; *Jonathan*, *William*, and *David*, who was Sheriff of the County.

(3) HANNAH (Mrs. William Madock).

(4) REBECCA (Mrs. Van Kleif).

(5) MARY (Mrs. Romine).

(6) AARON, married Ursula Craig. One of his sons, *Lewis*, removed to New Brunswick.

(7) JOHN, called on his tombstone "Captain John Forman," married Jane Wyckoff and had several children, one of whom, *Samuel*, was Colonel of the Second New Jersey Regiment of militia in the Revolution.

(8) JOSEPH, married Elizabeth Lee. Their children were *Joseph*, *Ezekiel*, *Elizabeth*, *Stephen*, *David*, whose career has been above described, and *Aaron*.

(9) EZEKIEL, who lived at Upper Freehold, married Elizabeth Seabrooke, and had sons: *Samuel*, *Thomas*, who removed to Kentucky in 1789, *Aaron*, who became a distinguished physician in Hunterdon Co., N. J., and *Ezekiel*; also daughters.

Credit for tracing the family history is mainly due to Mr. William Henry Forman of New York City, a descendant of Lewis Forman of New Brunswick, and also as to the early part to Mr. George W. Cocks of Glen Cove, Long Island.







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