

# The Revolutionary War

Stidhams\* for and against America's independence from England



The study of history and the pursuit of genealogy share the goal of learning about the past. Historians track the major events through time common to a large segment of any given population. Genealogists follow individual family lines back through history, marking significant events in the lives of related people.

One can argue the point that most historians are—although interested in history of course—not necessarily interested in genealogy. On the other hand, most genealogists, once they start successfully extending their family lines further and further back into history, become very interested in that subject and just how their ancestors might have figured in it.

At some point in the family historian's research when a particular line has been extended far enough back into the 1700s, the question arises 'just what did my ancestors do during the Revolutionary War?'

A study of the period shows that only a portion of the American colonists actually supported the break with England. The others were divided between those wanting to remain loyal to the mother country and those just wanting to be left alone to pursue their own interests.

Stidhams\* of course, can be found in all three categories. Careful search of important books on the subject document who some of the participants were and which side they came down on.

From the book *Revolutionary Patriots of Delaware 1775-1783*, by Henry C. Peden, Jr., M.A., 1996, Family Line Publications, Westminster, Maryland (reprinted with permission from the author), the following:

This book has been compiled as a research tool for locating the men and women of Delaware who served in the military, rendered material aid to the army and navy, took the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity, served in an office or on a committee at the town, county or state level, or in some fashion contributed and supported the fight for freedom by the American colonies from the rule of Great Britain during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783.

Information has been gleaned from many primary and secondary sources. For most of the approximately 5,000

persons named herein genealogical data has been included, such as places and dates of birth, death, marriage, and names of wives, husbands, children and other relatives, physical descriptions, occupations, as well as pension and probate information. It is hoped that this source book will encourage and enable interested persons to become members of such patriotic organizations as The Sons of the American Revolution, The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Sons of the Revolution, and The Society of the Cincinnati.

Each entry in this book has been documented from primary and secondary record sources, and a key to that documentation has been included with the entry. A letter is the code for a source followed by the page within the source. For example, "(Ref: A-555)" indicates that the source is "Delaware Archives, Volume I, page 555." In some cases the number refers to a file or volume rather than a page.

Editor's note: the key to the sources cited in Peden's book are found after the entry for "Stidham, William [#124]" in this section. The number in brackets immediately following a soldier's name refers to this individual's number designation in the book *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, by Jack Stidham, and is not part of the book by Mr. Peden.)



## STIDHAM\* PATRIOTS

**Stidham, Cornelius** [#72] (March 16, 1737-1803). Second Lieutenant, Capt. Robert Pierce's Militia Company, Upper District of Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, 1778. He married Christina Justis and is buried in Old Swedes Cemetery at Wilmington (Ref: B-754, H-14, P-644).

**Stidham, Henry** [#86]. Private, Capt. Paul Raulston's Militia Company in the Western District of Brandywine Hundred in New Castle County, on March 7, 1778, being 50 years of age and upwards (Ref: B-757). One "Henry

Stedham, farmer” died testate in Brandywine Hundred in 1787, naming wife Mary, daughter Mary Beeson (and her children Henry, John Edward, and Alice Beeson), and grandchildren William and Hannah Low (Ref: I-112). [THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY believes Hannah Low was his daughter, not his granddaughter, and that Mary Beeson had sons John *and* Edward, not one individual named John Edward].

**Stidham, Isaac** [#132] (1761-1821). On September 26, 1777, he and Jonas Edenfield were accused of treason in dealing the enemy (buying salt, rum, and molasses from a British man-of-war), and it appears he took the Oath of Allegiance on October 1, 1784. Isaac Stidham is buried in Old Swedes Cemetery (Ref: B-1002, C-1248, H-14).

**Stidham (Stedham), John** [#71] (baptized January 2, 1735-died 1795). Private, Capt. William Robinson’s Company, 1st Battalion of Militia in New Castle County, on March 7, 1778, being between 21 and 50 years of age. He married Anna Ford and died testate in Christiana Hundred in 1795, naming sons David, John, Jonas, and William (Ref: B-752, I-137, P-644, R-92). [The DAR accepted Anna Ford as his wife; however, THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY believes his wife (and only wife) was Catharine Hendrickson. Anna Ford married a John Studham 1 Jun 1767 at St. Michael & Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, not John #71 Stedham].

**Stidham (Stedham), Jonas** [#56] (February 24, 1720-1795). Private, Delaware Line. He married Anna Mary Colesberry (Ref: P-644). [THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY has his birth year in 1724 and that his wife’s name was spelled either Colesburg or Kalesberg].

**Stidham (Stedham), Jonas Jr.** [#75] (baptized October 17, 1744-died August 2, 1811). Private, Capt. Robert Pierce’s Militia Company in the Upper District of Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, 1778. Private, 5th Class, Christiana Company of Militia, 1779. He married (1) Ellinor Derrickson and (2) Ingeborg Sinnex, and is buried in Old Swedes Cemetery at Wilmington. He was a cousin of “Capt. Joseph Stidham,” q.v. (Ref: B-754, B-765, B-788, C-1203, E-211, H-14, P-644).

**Stidham, (Stedham), Joseph, Esq.** [#116] (July 5, 1744-April 22, 1791). Captain, 1st Company, Col. John Haslet’s Regiment, Continental Troops. Commissioned January 13, 1776, and in quarters at Dover on April 12, 1776. He

subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity in 1778, and was Sheriff of New Castle County in 1782. He was a cousin of “Jonas Stidham,” q.v. (Ref: A-36, A-39, A-40, B-997, C-1236, D-33, E-211). He was compensated for “damages in Christiana Hundred done by the enemy” (British Army) in 1777 (Ref: C-1196). Reference M-150 lists him as a pensioner, but he is not listed in Reference G-3309 or G-3341. He married (1) Sarah Hedges, (2) Elizabeth Bouldin, and (3) Rebecca \_\_\_\_\_. (Ref: P-644). [THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY has Vanderver as his third wife Rebecca’s maiden name].

**Stidham, Lucas** [#126] (1756-1803). Lieutenant in the Delaware Militia, commissioned on August 4, 1780, 2nd Delaware Regiment, to serve in the Army of the United States until November 1, 1780. He is buried in Old Swedes Cemetery at Wilmington (Ref: B-631, C-1275, H-14).

**Stidham (Stedham), Luke** [The Society believes this is the same Stidham, Lucas #126 mentioned above] Private, Capt. Morton Morton’s Militia Company, 1779-1780 (Ref: B-772, B-807).

**Stidham, William** [#124]. Second Lieutenant, Capt. Morton Morton’s Militia Company, 1779 (Ref: B-772, B-807).



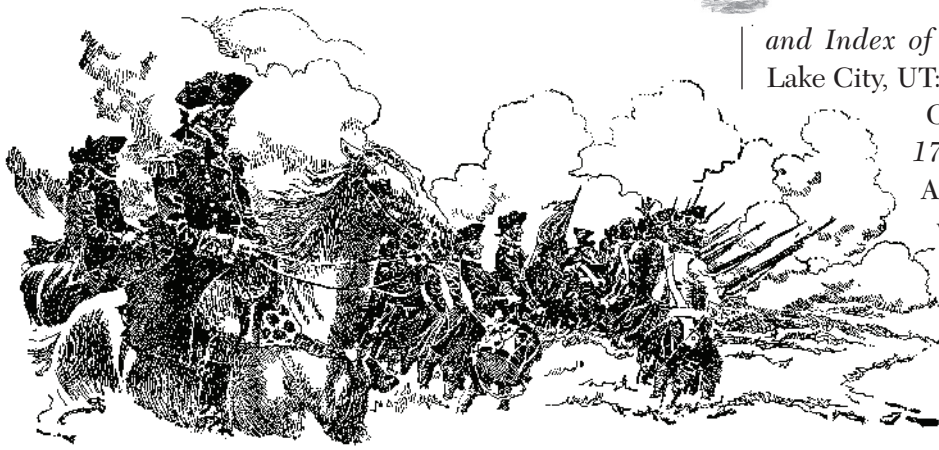
Key to abbreviations in the material above found in the book *Revolutionary Patriots of Delaware 1775-1783*:

A = *Delaware Archives, Military, Volume I* (Wilmington, DE: Mercantile Printing Company, 1911).

B = *Delaware Archives, Military and Naval Records, Volume II* (Wilmington, DE: Mercantile Printing Company, 1912).

C = *Delaware Archives, Revolutionary War Records, Volume III* (Wilmington, DE: Charles L. Story Company Press, 1919).

D = *Governor’s Register, State of Delaware, 1674-*



1851, *Volume I* (Wilmington, DE: The Star Publishing Company, 1926).

E = Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware, 1609-1888, Volume I* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1990, reprint; originally published in 1888).

F = *Maryland and Delaware Genealogist*, Volumes 27 to 31 (Published at St. Michael's, MD, 1987-1990, Raymond B. Clark, Jr., editor).

G = White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files* (Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Company, 1990).

H = Clark, Raymond B. Jr. *Delaware Tombstone Inscriptions: 700 Revolutionary Soldiers in Three Counties* (St. Michael's MD: The Maryland and Delaware Genealogist, 1989).

I = *A Calendar of Delaware Wills, New Castle County, 1682-1800*. Abstracted and Compiled by the Historical Research Committee of the Colonial Dames of Delaware (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969, reprint; originally published in 1911).

J = deValinger, Leon Jr. *Calendar of Sussex County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1993, reprint; originally published in 1964).

K = deValinger, Leon Jr. *Calendar of Kent County, Delaware, Probate Records, 1680-1800* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1995, reprint; originally published in 1944).

L = *Rejected or Suspended Applications for Revolutionary War Pensions*. A Report of the Secretary of the Interior to the 32nd Congress in 1852 (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969, reprint; originally published in 1852).

M = Newman, Harry Wright. *Maryland Revolutionary Records* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1980, reprint; originally published in 1938).

N = Neagles, James C. *Summer Soldiers: A Survey*

and *Index of Revolutionary War Courts-Martial* (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, Inc., 1986).

O = *Oaths of Allegiance and Fidelity, 1778-1779*, maintained by the Delaware State Archives and the Historical Society of Delaware.

P = *DAR Patriot Index, Volume I* (Washington, DC: National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1966).

Q = *DAR Patriot Index, Volume II* (Washington, DC: National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1979).

R = *DAR Patriot Index, Volume III* (Washington, DC: National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1982).

S = *Revolutionary War Files* (Unpublished Volume VI). Manuscripts maintained at the Delaware State Archives in Dover, Delaware.

T = *Records of the Sons of the American Revolution*. The Maryland Society Membership Applications (1930-1990) and The Delaware Society's First Battle of Camden Memorial Project (T-1995).

U = Hehir, Donald M. *Delaware Bible Records, Volume 4* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994).

V = Virdin, Donald O. *Delaware Bible Records, Volume I* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1991).

In addition to Stidhams listed in Peden's book *Revolutionary Patriots of Delaware 1775-1783*, other sources name the following:

**Stidham, Beniah** [#129a]. An article by Howard Pyle in an 1895 issue of *St. Nicholas Magazine* includes a story about Beniah Stidham shooting a Hessian soldier. Pyle described Beniah Stidham as a "Delaware Revolutionary veteran who was still living in 1850 when he had his daguerreotype taken."

**Steddom, Henry** [#170]. *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, pg 89: "The Newberry Co., South Carolina H. & G.," pg. 9 refers to the Revolutionary War patriot, Private Henry Steddom. However, Henry's religious beliefs (Quaker) indicate this may have been another person. The Friends were conscientious objectors, and refused to fight.

**Stedham, Isaiah** [#168]. *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, pg 67: killed during the Revolutionary

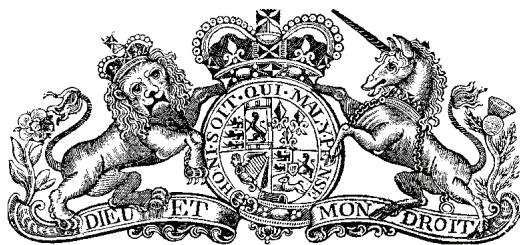
War. (Ref: Joseph E. Steadman Sr.)

**Stedham, John** [#136]. *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, pg 80: Jonas [#56] Stedham, John [#71] Stedham, his son, John [#136], and Charles Paulson—all served in the same Company, returned on the same list and reenlisted.

**Stedham, John** [#174]. *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, pg 90b: He was a patriot, and served in Georgia and South Carolina as a "Minute Man". (Ref: *Revolutionary War Records* in the State Archives, Columbia, South Carolina, file AA7330; *Georgia D.A.R Historical Collections, Vol. 1*, p. 173).

**Stedham, Tobias** [#167]. killed during the Revolutionary War. (Ref: Joseph E. Steadman Sr.)

**Stidham, Zachariah** [#172]. *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, Vol. 1*, pg 90, 90a (also pg. 33 of Joseph E. Steadman's *Barton and Stedman also Steedman and Steadman Families*): He served with the patriots, serving in South Carolina and Georgia. (Note: his father and a brother were loyalists; another brother a patriot.) He fought in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina, during which he was severely wounded (musket ball through his face), for which he was furloughed for the remainder of the war. (Ref: *Revolutionary War Records* in the State Archives, Columbia, South Carolina, files AA7330 & 404-A; *Laws of South Carolina-Acts of the Legislature* for 18 Dec 1813, pps. 30 & 87; Knight's *Georgia Roster of the Revolution*, pps 429 & 452).



## STIDHAM\* LOYALISTS

The strength of the British army was boosted by local loyalists. Besides and incalculable number of Indian warriors who aided the British on the frontier of the 13 colonies and in Canada, there were white loyalists who joined the regulars and many more who served in specially-created provincial corps or in formation of loyalist militia. Estimates vary considerably, but for the provincial ser-

vice alone 19, 000 seems a reasonable figure (Ref: Stephen Conway, *The War of American Independence, 1775-1783*, 1995, London, GB, p. 46).

Only three Stidhams\* are to be found documented as Loyalists or Tories in the militia ranks:

**Stedham, Adam** [#173] Private. Pay Abstract Nr 2, Major Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Militia, Ninety Six Brigade, Captain Shadrack Lantrey's Company, men who came to Orangeburgh, SC, with Lieut Colonel John H. Cruger, 14 Jun-13 Dec 1780 (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. 1*, p. 323, Murtie June Clark, 1981).

Pay Abstract Nr 59, Colonel Daniel Plummer's Regiment, Fair Forest Regiment, Ninety Six Brigade, 183 days pay, 13 Jun-14 Dec 1780, for men who came to Orangeburgh with Lieut Colonel John H. Cruger at the evacuation of Ninety Six, paid 14 Mar 1782 (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. 1*, p. 327, Murtie June Clark, 1981).

South Carolina Casualties. (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 417, Murtie June Clark, 1981).

**Stedham, Amos** [?] Private. Muster Roll, Captain John Barbarie's Company, Third Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, Ninety-Six, 24 February 1781 to 24 April 1781, 60 days inclusive (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 137. Murtie June Clark, 1981).

Muster Roll, Captain John Barbarie's Company, Third Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, Ninety-Six, SC, 25 April 1781 to 24 June 1781, 61 days inclusive (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 137. Murtie June Clark, 1981).

Muster Roll, Captain John Barbarie's Company, Third Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, Charleston, SC, 25 October 1781 to 24 December 1781, 61 days inclusive (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 138. Murtie June Clark, 1981).

Muster Roll, Captain John Barbarie's Company, Second Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers, Newton, 25 December 1782 to 24 February 1783, 61 days inclusive (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 139, Murtie June Clark, 1981).

**Stedham, Zachariah** [#105] South Carolina Casualties (Ref: *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, Vol. III*, p. 417, Murtie June Clark, 1981).