

Chapmans in the Early History of Tolland County, Connecticut

This series began in the Fall 2004 issue, page 56 which you should see for background and source information. It all comes through the courtesy of Leonard Chapman, CFA Member #184, who sent the reprint for the CFA data collection. Names in the various lists in this segment were not clear in the source and may have been transcribed incorrectly. This is the first of two parts of the Military segment and it is loaded with Chapman information..

The Early History of Tolland

MILITARY

The first record of any military organization in Tolland is under the date of October, 1722. The General Assembly then approved of Joseph Hatch as Lieutenant, and John Huntington as Ensign of the train-band in Tolland. The number in the "train-band" was probably then too small to make a captain necessary. The following return, copied from the archives in Hartford, for 1725, shows the election of the first captain of the train-band in this town.

"Major Wolcott, Esq. Pursuant to that order from yourself for the drawing of the first company in Tolland, to a choice for their commissioned officers for said company in Tolland; said company accordingly met on the 20th day of April and orderly chose Lieutenant Joseph Hatch, captain; Ensign John Huntington, Lieutenant, and Joseph Pack, Ensign.

EBENEZER NYE, Military Clerk."

Samuel Chapman was chosen in 1735, to succeed Joseph Hatch as captain of this company. By a return bearing the date September 13, 1737, it appears that the roll of this company contained the names of eighty-seven rank and file. The militia were afterwards divided into two companies, called the north and south companies; the division of territory between the companies was a line nearly, east and west through the town, passing across the south end of the Street; and west of the Street was represented by the road running west from the present residence of Mr. William West to Vernon line.

The extent of the participation of Tolland in the wars previous to that which commenced in 1755, can not now be ascertained. All that is known with certainty is, that **Captain Samuel Chapman, Sr.**, commanded a company in the expedition to Louisburgh, in 1746, where he died the following January; and that Samuel Baker, son of Joseph Baker, in that, or a former war, died in captivity among the French and Indians.

In the year 1756, the colonies raised an army of seven thousand men for the purpose of aiding the mother country in an expedition against Crown Point, and placed them under the command of Major-General Winslow. Azariah Wills, of Tolland, (brother of Solomon Wills, of whom I shall by and by have something to say,) enlisted under Capt. John Slap, in the service of the colonies, on the second day of April, 1756, and served until the 25th day of June following, when he was unfortunately taken prisoner, with others, by the French and Indians, between Albany and Hoosick, and carried to Canada. He remained a captive and endured great hardships until November, 1758, when he attempted to return with Col. Schuyler and Major Putnam, but while on his journey home he was taken sick and died on the eighteenth of November, 1758. How many others from Tolland were in this expedition I am unable to say.

In August, 1757, there was an alarm that a powerful force of French and Indians was on the way to attack fort William Henry. Volunteers were called for, and Connecticut instantly poured forth several

thousand. On the roll of Capt. Samuel Stoughton's company are found the names of the following men of Tolland.

Ens. Samuel Chapman	Nathan Harvey	Solomon Loomis	Simon Chapman
Serg. Solomon Wills	David Hatch	Samuel Huntington	Francis West
Daniel Baker	John Eaton	Jabez Bradley	Rufus West
Elihu Johnson	Ichabod Hinckley	Samuel Barnard	Joseph Davis
John Abbott, Jr.	George Nye	Samuel Benton, Jr.	John Stearns, Jr.
Abner West	Timothy Dulano	Samuel Aborn	Amos Ward
Thashar Lathrop	William Benton	Jonathan Ladd, Jr.	Jacob Fellows

28 in all.

But the French General, Montcalm, had prosecuted the siege with his usual vigor; and the fort was compelled to surrender before any of the volunteers could arrive. Those from Tolland went no further than Kinderhook, in the state of New York; and returned home, receiving pay for only fifteen day's service. Pay was allowed for four horses from Tolland to Kinderhook, £2, 3s., 9d.; for nineteen from Tolland to Litchfield, £4, 18s., 11d.; and for two to bring them back from Litchfield, 14s. 5d.

For the campaign of 1758, Connecticut agreed to furnish five thousand men; and a company was formed in Tolland and its vicinity, of which **Samuel Chapman**, of Tolland, was captain. The following is a copy of the roll of his company.

*Capt. Sam Chapman	*Jonathan Boroughs	William Hoskins	*Lemuel Hatch
1 st Lieut. Titus Olcott	*Abner West	Daniel Pratt	*Jabez Bradley
2 nd Lieut. George Cooley	*Hope Lathrop	Abraham Whipple	*Joseph Luce
*Ensign Solomon Wills	Timothy Ladd	John Atchison	Abijah Markham
Serg. Samuel Benton	Jacob Newall	Oliver Chapin	Thomas Burns
*Serg. Jonathan Birge	John Laham	Hesekiah Spencer	Hesekiah Walls
Serg. Abner Webb	*Lathrop Shurtliff	John Fuller	Jacob Bills
*Serg. James Steel, clerk	John Gray	Joseph Nuell	Simeon Webster
Corp. Samuel Hall	*Joseph Davis	Alexander Gowdy	*Solomon Loomis
Corp. Jonathan Bill	Hesekiah Waters	Thomas Buck	Joseph Tilden
Corp. Asa Wood	Isaac Hills	Samuel Bartlett	Joel Daniels
Corp. Nath'n Boardman	Joshua Hutchiss	Luke Parsons	Samuel Carver
Drum'er Henry Bowen	Jonathan Dart	Thomas Waters	John Gordon
Drum'er Charles King	Joseph Spencer	James Kibbee	Samuel Dartling
Fifer, Joseph Conant	Beriah Bronson	James Pease	Joshua Bill
Privates	Hesekiah King	Nathaniel Braca	Joseph Pike
*William Benton	Samuel Hutchinson	Jacob Ward	Nathan Tiffany
*Moses West	Joseph Tucker	Abner Pease	Joshua Allen
*John Lathrop	Jonathan Buckland	John Ford	Josiah Fields
*Joseph Eaton	Samuel Blackmore	Jonathan Phelps	*Nathaniel Warren
Daniel Brewster	Jonathan Wright	William Russell	Joseph Crocker
Joseph Heath	Lamuel Jones	*Nathan Harvey	
Benjamin Burdon	David Talcott	Jonathan Bliss	Officers & musicians 15
Joseph Whitecomb	Moses Thrall	*Shubal Dimick	Privates 80
*John Barmand	Brimtom Payne	Benjamin Shephard	Total 95

Twenty-one of the above, viz.: those marked *, are recognized as belonging in Tolland, and probably there were others. Most of the remainder would be recognized by their names as having gone from the towns of Somers, Mansfield, Willington, Bolton, Coventry, and East Windsor.

In the year 1762, the King of England made a requisition upon the colonies for troops to join in the expedition against the island of Cuba; and a company was raised in the eastern part of the State, of

which Col. Israel Putnam was, by one of the then formalities of the service, nominally captain, but really under the command of its first lieutenant, Solomon Wills, of Tolland. This company went to the island of Cuba, and was present at the siege and capture of Havana, but was not in any serious engagement. When a boy, I was informed by a man whose name is on the roll that after the principal fort had been undermined and blown up, so that a column of British regulars carried it by assault, this company had the sad duty to perform of clearing the fort and burying the dead. The destruction of life was very great; the dead were represented as lying in winrows. The pools of blood were so deep in some places in the fort that, as my informant said, he was compelled to step over his shoes in human gore while removing the dead. Although this company was not under fire during the whole of this campaign, the mortality of its members was unparalleled. Of the ninety-eight persons of which the company was composed and who actually reached the Island, only twenty-two ever returned to their native land. Of the twenty-seven enlisted from Tolland and its vicinity, only four escaped the arrow of the fell destroyer. The names of two of these four persons were Solomon Wills and Edward Hatch. John Barnard, John Burrows, Constant Crandall, William Eaton, Aaron Eaton, Leonard Grover, Judah Hatch, Noah Stimson, Ezra Waldo and Oliver Yeomans, of Tolland, are known to have died on the Island of Cuba. There were no deaths in the company before the month of August. As returned on the roll, the deaths were, in August, fifteen; in September, eighteen; in October, eighteen; in November, eighteen; and in December, seven. Total, seventy-six. The survivors were paid off December 11, 1762. The average term of service was about thirty-five weeks. The following is the pay-roll of this company. Those marked # died during the campaign.

Israel Putnam, Capt.	#Daniel Brace	*#Judah Hatch	#Simon Strickland
*Solo. Wills, 1 st Lieut.	James Belbon	*Edward Hatch	#Samuel Stilles
Alex Chalker, 2 nd Lieut.	#Daniel Brewer	#Joseph Hayward	#Israel Saunders
#Isaac Dana, Ensign	#William Case	#Asahel Hollister	#Amos Staples
#Moses Earl, Sergeant	#John Crosswell	#Robert Hollister	#Isaac Staples
Samuel Hyde, Sergeant	#Edmund Caldwell	#Jacob Hollister	Nathaniel Stone
Samuel Cotton, Sergeant	#John Curtis	John Hero	#Jonathan Sampson
#Nath'l Wheeler, Sergeant	#Ebenezer Dana	#Jonathan Johnston	John Stark
*#Const. Crandal, Sergeant	#Reuben Downing	#William Kimball	Benjamin Shaw
#Jos Truesdale, Corp'l	John Dollaby	Thomas Knapping	Charles Shorvel
Silas Harris, Corp'l	#Elijah Durphy	#Ben. Langworthy	#Samuel Williams
#Thomas Brewer, Corp'l	#Cornelius Downing	#Benjamin Loveman	#Joseph Whitcomb
#Joshua Reed, Corp'l	#Joel Daniels	#John Negus	John Way
Privates	*#William Eaton	#Richard Orms	#Ebenezer Wheeler
#John Abby	#Joseph Edgerton	#Abraham Porter	*#Ezra Waldo
#Nathan Allen	*#Aaron Eaton	#Nathaniel Redington	*#Oliver Yeomans
#Squire Allen	Timothy Evans	#John Read	#Christopher Lucas
#Henry Bradley	#William Ellis	Ackley Riley	#Caleb Shepard
Samuel Bliss	#Abraham Forbes	#John Ripponer	#Ebenzer Shaw
#Jonathan Bliss	#David Fuller	#Thomas Rosa	
#Rinaldo Burdon	#Michael Grover	#Matthew Raymond	Taken by the Sheriff
*#John Barnard	*#Leonard Grover	#Daniel Roberts	Joseph Bisbee
*#John Burrows	#Stephen Goff	*#Noah Stimson	Samuel Stanley
#Stephen Brace	#Ezekiel Guernsey	#Amos Shurtliff	

The following names are marked, Deserted: Sanuel Blackman, Gideon Burnham, John Brown, Joel Brooks, Noadiah Bronson, John Part, Ephraim Foot, Lot Loveland, Joseph Prout, Asahel Hollister, John Adams.

The War of the Revolution commenced in 1775, and was most vigorously supported by the people of Tolland County, particularly by the town of Tolland. Their experience in the war of 1755, known as the French war, had made them acquainted with the trials and hardships of military life, and prepared

them for the duties of the camp in the approaching struggle with the mother country. Not only did the town furnish its full quota of men and officers for the field, but it was also forward in contributing to the relief of those who suffered for advocating the principles that led to our national independence. The first town meeting touching the difficulties between the colonies and England was held on the fifth day of September, 1774. Ichabod Griggs was chosen moderator. The following is a copy of the record of that meeting:

"Voted, That Messrs. Samuel Cobb, Solomon Wills, and Eleazar Steel be the delegates to attend the county meeting at Hartford on the 15th instant.

Voted, That Samuel Cobb Esq., Capt. Solomon Wills, **Capt. Elijah Chapman** and Ensign Eleazar Steel be a committee of correspondence for this town, to receive and answer letters from the committees of correspondence in the several towns of this and the other colonies relative to the public controversy.

Voted, That Messrs. Stephen Day, James Chamberlin, Hope Lathrop, Joseph West and **Simon Chapman**, be a committee to receive and transmit to the towns of Boston and Charlestown, such charitable donations as shall be subscribed for the use of the poor and necessitous inhabitants of those towns.

Voted, That the selectmen be empowered and directed by the town to procure powder and other ammunition fully to supply the town stock, in proportion as the law directs at the expense of the town.

Voted, That a copy of these resolves unanimously agreed to, be transmitted to the press; and the town-clerk be directed to forward them."

The appointment of the committee to receive charitable donations for the use of the poor and necessitous of the towns of Boston and Charlestown, was not an unmeaning formality, but was prompted by that generous sincerity with which the people of that age were actuated. The following copy of a letter dated Boston, October 24, 1774, about six weeks after this appointment, will show the object the town had in view, and the efficiency with which the committee discharged its duties.

"Gentlemen, This is to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and generous donation of ninety-five sheep by the hand of our worthy friend Mr. Hope Lathrop which shall be applied to the relief of our poor sufferers by means of the cruel and oppressive port bill,—according to the intentions of the generous donors. We are still struggling under the heavy load of tyranny. Our troubles are exceedingly great, but the kindness and benevolence of our friends in Tolland, as well as other places, greatly refreshes and raises our spirits. You may depend upon it, that by divine help and blessing, Boston will suffer every thing with patience and firmness that a cruel and arbitrary administration can inflict upon us, even to the loss of fortune and life, rather than submit in any one instance to the power of tyranny. We trust we have a righteous cause, and that the Supreme Ruler of the Universe will in his own time and way, arise scatter the dark clouds that at present hang over us. We submit to him and ask your prayers at the throne of grace for us. The sincere thanks of this committee in behalf of this greatly distressed and injured town are hereby presented to our worthy friends in Tolland, for their kind assistance in this our day of trial. We are with great esteem, gentlemen, your friends and fellow countrymen.

HENRY HILL, per order of the committee of Donations."

Nor did the liberality of the town cease on the commencement of hostilities, nor was it confined to direct drafts upon its own treasury for the support of the soldiers of the war and their families. The following document, copied from the original in the office of the town clerk, is evidence that the town was ever ready to do its part in relieving sufferers under all circumstances.

" Tolland, Dec. 21, 1781. Rec'd of the Selectmen of the town of Tolland in hard money £3.14.6; (\$12.42 ;) States money with the Interest—£3.12.1, (\$12.01;) as a donation from said town for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of New London

and Groton, agreeable to a late brief issued by his Hon. the Governor.

STEPHEN STEEL, Town Treas'r."

When it is remembered that the massacre at Fort Griswold, in the town of Groton, and the burning of New London took place on the 6th day of September, 1781, we can not entertain any doubt as to the cause of the sufferings which this donation, amounting to twenty-four dollars, forty-five cents, was intended to relieve. Under date of December 19, 1774, the town "voted that the selectmen do immediately double the town stock of ammunition at the town expense." On the same day, they "voted that Samuel Cobb Esq., **Capt. Elijah Chapman**, Ensign Eleazar Steel, Capt. Solomon Wills and **Samuel Chapman Esq.**, shall be a committee of observation for effectual putting in execution the doings of the continental Congress, expressed in the ninth article of the association and directed in the eleventh article of said association."

All these proceedings were preliminary to the commencement of hostilities, which event occurred at Lexington, Mass., April 19, 1775. When the news of this transaction reached Tolland, a company of men was immediately formed from this and several neighboring towns, which, under the command of Capt. Solomon Willis, served in Col. Spencer's regiment at Roxbury, near Boston, from May 1, to December 1, 1775, a period of eight months. The following is a copy of the roll of this company, kept by Comfort Carpenter, its orderly sergeant, and filed by him in the Pension Office as evidence of his service in the war of the revolution, with his application for a pension, under the act of June 7, 1832.

*Solomon, Willis, Capt.	Amasa Buck	*Samuel Benton	*Tyrus Preston
Jona Parker, 1 st Lieut	Elijah Bradley	Ebenezer Grant	*Ammi Paulk
Samuel Felt, 2 nd Lieut	*Jonathan Burrough	*John Huntington	Nathan Root
Noah Chapin, Ensign	Josiah Bradley	*David Hinckley	Joseph Root
*Com Carpenter, Serg.	*Josiah Benton	Ezra Holmes	Jeremiah Rider
Abel Parker, Serg.	*Jonathan Benton	*Abner Hatch	Daniel Rice
Jacob Orcutt, Serg.	*Azariah Benton	*Dan Hatch	Stephen Rice
Noah Cooley, Serg.	Asa Baldwin	Levi Hamlin	John Scriptor
*Heman Baker, Jr., Serg.	Jacob Brown, 2 nd	Nathan Jennings	*Peres Steel
Jonah Brown, Serg.	Nathan Carpenter	Samuel Johnson	John Shurtliff
* Elijah Chapman, Corp.	Eliphalet Cushman	Caleb Johnson	Elisha Stubbins
Asa Fenton, Corp.	*Richmond Crandal	Daniel Johnson	Isaiah Sparks
Matthew Buel, Corp.	*John Carlton	Daniel Kibbes	Simeon Stimson
*Luke Washburn, Corp.	*David Carlton	James Kibbes	Jeremiah Sparks
*Samuel Steel, Corp.	*Richard Carlton	Bildad Kibbes	*Nehemiah Sabim
*Jas. Steel, Jr. Drum'r	*Ebenezer Cook	John Lewis	Joseph Sexton
*Joel Stimson, Fifer	John Charter	Edward Lawrence	Elijah Sexton
Elias Newton, Fifer	Charles Day	Andrew Miner	*Henry Stevens
Privates	*Edward Dimcock	Caleb Orcutt	Stephen Taylor
Amasa Allen	William Elmer	John Orcutt	Justus Thompson
*John Abbott	Adonijah Fenton	Peter Pinney	Samuel Wright
Moses Amadon	John Furman	Abner Pease	*Jabez West
Jude Brown	*Isaac Fellows	*Rufus Price	*Elijah Washburn
Jacob Brown	Christopher Frantz	Moses Pelton	Noah Whipple
Alexander Brown	Simeon Griswold	Joshua Parks	

Those who have been ascertained with certainty to have gone from Tolland are marked *, but it is known there were more. The number on the roll are—Officers and musicians, eighteen; privates, eighty. Total, ninety-eight. The names indicate that the men were from Tolland, Somers, Stafford, Willington, and Coventry. Arrangements for enlisting were made in Tolland and men engaged on the day the news of the battle of Lexington reached the place. It is known that other persons from Tolland were at Roxbury, but were either temporary substitutes, or in other companies; among them were Joshua Griggs and Solomon Eaton. Thirty-four are known as belonging in Tolland, which town was ascertained the previous year to contain twelve hundred and forty-seven White, and fifteen black inhabitants. The last survivor of the Tolland men on the roll was Capt. Ammi Paulk, who died in 1848. Moses Pelton was

from Somers, and the next year when the Americans retreated from New York, he was killed by a cannon ball from the British shipping.

On the first day of April, 1777, the town voted to furnish the families of men who would enlist into the continental service, with provisions and other necessaries, and appointed Capt. James Chamberlin, Lieut. Stephen Day, and Ensign Eleazar Steel, a committee for that purpose. The town also voted to present to each soldier that should so enlist, a bounty of ten pounds in money, (thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents;) one-half to be paid at the end of one year from April 1, 1777, and the other half at the end of the second year: "Provided the Honorable Assembly shall not raise money for the purpose; but if the Assembly shall add to the soldiers bounty or wages, the sum of ten pounds, then the town is quit and free from this vote and obligation aforesaid; and if the assembly shall add any part of said sum of ten pounds to the soldiers [bounty or pay,] as aforesaid, then it is to be understood to be in part pay of said sum of ten pounds to be given as aforesaid." It appears by the other proceedings that these enlistments were to be for three years or during the war.

From the record of the Committee of Payables, under date of July 16, 1787, I find the vote of April, 1777, was responded to, and the bounty of ten pounds therein named, was paid to the following persons, viz.:

William Johnson	William Sowle	Joseph Cogswell	Andrew Miner
Solomon Eaton	Simon Stimson	Elijah Haskell	Tyrus Preston
Ebenezer Brown	Joseph Sparks	Richard Carlton	Nehemiah Sabin
Isaac Squier	Jonathan Luce	Jacob Haskell	Andrew Peterson
John P. Burrows	Clement Miner	Elijah Benton	Elihu Johnson
Abel Crandall	Brisley Harris	George Hubbard	Ebenezer Stubbins
Ammi Paulk	William Huntington	Elias Newton	

Twenty-seven in all, who received £270. Solomon Eaton, the last known survivor, died in Tolland in September, 1843. The above named men belonged to Capt. Ichabod Hinckley's company, and formed a part of the second Connecticut Regiment. There is a roll of Capt. Hinckley's company still extant, from which the following names are copied. Those marked *, were from Tolland:

*Capt. I. Hinckley	Corp. Nehemiah Sabin	*Martin Davis	*Abel Crandal
* Lieut. E. Chapman	*Jonathan Luce	*William Huntington	*John P. Burroughs
*Lieut. Rufus Price	*Elihu Johnson	*William Johnson	*William Sowle
*Dr. Jeremiah West	*Tyrus Preston	*Solomon Eaton	*Shubael Dimick
Serg. Eben'r Stubbins	*Andrew Paterson	Ebenezer Brown	*Edy Hatch
*Serg. Ammi Paulk	*Elias Newton	Isaac Squier	*Simon Stimson
*Jonathan Delano	John Crandall	Joseph Sparks	David Pierce
*Clement Miner	*George Hubbard	Amos Harris	Roswell Miner
*Jacob Haskall	*Elijah Benton	*Richard Carlton	

On the 23d of September, 1777, the town "voted to comply with the resolve of the Governor and Council of this State, in providing articles of clothing for the soldiers in the continental army belonging to the town." The following persons were appointed a committee for that purpose:

Samuel Cobb, Esq.,	Hope Lathrop	Daniel Edgerton	Elijah Yeomans
Capt. E. Chapman, Sr.	Adoniram Grant	Eleazar Hammond, Jr.	Lieut. David Jewett
" Jas. Chambertim	Samuel Nye	Shubael Dimick	Elenathan Strong
" Stephen Steel	Rufus Price	Titus Baker	Samuel Ladd
" Stephen Day	Elias Holbrook	Eleazar Steel	Jonathan Ladd
" Stephen Stimson	John Palmer	George Nye	29 in all
Col. Solomon Wills	Jabez Bradley	Azariah Post	
Eleazar Kingsbury	Amos James	John Steel	

December 8, 1777, Aaron Woodward, John Tyler, John Steel, and Joseph West, were chosen a

committee to provide for the families of non-commissioned officers and soldiers belonging to the continental army from Tolland, for the year ensuing.

January 1, 1778. Under this date I find the following vote:

"Voted, that we accept and approve the articles of confederation drawn up by the Congress of the United States; and do view them as a well-formed plan of confederation and perpetual union. Voted nem. com."

In making provision for the soldiers of the revolution, it became necessary to have a deposit for military stores, and on the 28th day of December, 1778, Elias Holbrook was appointed to take care of the military stores belonging to the town.

Hope Lathrop and Benoui Shepard were on the 28th day of June, 1779, appointed a committee "to provide clothing for the officers and soldiers in the continental army belonging in Tolland;" and the selectmen were empowered "to settle with the committee appointed to provide such clothing and pay them therefore."

The war had now continued about five years, and the issue was still doubtful. The credit of the government had depreciated, and the circulating medium of the country had become nearly worthless. The army began to complain as well for the non-payment of its wages as the worthlessness of the currency in which it was paid, It was impossible to find men willing to leave their families for the continental service, without further guarantees that their services should be fairly compensated. The town of Tolland was required to furnish sixteen men for the continental army for the year 1780, besides its quota of cavalry. In order to obtain this number by voluntary enlistment, the town, on the 26th day of June, 1780, voted that the wages of forty shillings per month should be kept good, and made up to each effective man belonging to the town who should enlist to serve until the last day of the then next December in the Connecticut line of the continental army; in wheat at four shillings per bushel; rye at three shillings per bushel, and Indian corn at two shillings per bushel. And as a further encouragement the town voted to pay each man that should so enlist, the sum of thirty shillings, lawful money, on the first day of January then next. By the same vote they extended the benefit of the same allowance to such effective men as should enlist into the cavalry to serve in the continental army the same time. On the fifth day of July, 1780, they offered the same benefit to such as should voluntarily enlist for three mouths, except the bounty, which was fifteen shillings instead of thirty—and to be paid January 1, 1781. The following persons received the bounty of thirty shillings in silver, voted July 5, 1780, to wit: Samuel Steel, Lot Burgess, Aaron Delano, Sylvanus Gage, Eleazar Hatch, William Johnson, Ezra Rawdon, Andrew Steel, Zadock Bentou, Samual Chase, Hezekiah Huntington, Samuel Reed, Manoah Crowell, Clement Miner, Luther Delano, and Solomoll Loomis. They were in the second Connecticut Regiment, and served in Capt. Ichabod Hinckley's company, except Samuel Steel and Luther Delano, who died before the term of service expired. Samuel Reed, who died in Tolland in July, 1851, at the age of ninety-one, was the last survivor of the above, and *the last* revolutionary soldier in Tolland.

The same year, 1780, Benjamin Kimball, Charles Stearns, Ichabod West, Titus Hammond, Jacob Benton, and Joel Crandal, (six in all,) performed a tour of duty of three months. Jacob Benton died in Tolland in June, 1843.

These several obligations made it necessary for the town to provide means to discharge them, and many expedients were resorted to, to sustain the plighted faith of the town. Taxes payable in provisions as well as money, were laid; and such taxes as would frighten the tax payers of modern times. The Assembly had voted a tax of sixpence on the pound, payable in provisions, but it would seem that this tax was not fully paid, or was insufficient for the purpose. The town, therefore, on the 13th day of November, 1780;

"Voted to raise a rate of one shilling on the list given in last year, for the purpose of raising the town's quota of provisions for the army and navy, *to be paid in silver or gold*, by the 15th of January next, provided the inhabitants of this town or

any of them, should not pay sixpence on the pound as the law directs in provisions. But in case they or as many of them as shall pay and deliver in provisions said sixpence on the pound to the receivers of provisions in this town according to law at the stated price and produce receipt therefore from said receivers, shall be discharged from said tax or vote."

Eleazar Steel and Medad Hart were appointed receivers of provisions for the town.

It became difficult to obtain a sufficient number of persons to make up the quota of the town in the continental army by voluntary enlistment, so many of its men being already enlisted either for a long stated term or during the war. Notwithstanding the encouragement the town had from time to time given, they were compelled to resort to such compulsory measures as should enable them to meet the demand. One mode adopted was to divide the inhabitants of the town into classes and require each class to furnish one man. At the town meeting held on the 13th day of November, 1780, Col. Solomon Wills, Eleazar Kingsbury, Stephen Stimson, Benoni Shepard, **Elijah Chapman**, Hope Lathrop, and Miner Hilliard, were appointed a committee to class the inhabitants of the town for the purpose of furnishing its quota for the continental army. January 10, 1781, **Ashbel Chapman** and Jabez West were appointed a committee to provide clothing for the soldiers. February 9, 1781, Col. Solomon Wills, Hope Lathrop, **Capt. Elijah Chapman**, Capt. Benjamin Norris, and Samuel Ladd, were chosen a committee to enlist five men to join a regiment and go to Horseneck for one year's service. They were empowered to divide the town into five classes, provided they could not hire the men by the 19th of the month.

It appears that the committee could not hire them within the time specified, and they made a report of their classification of the town to an adjourned meeting held on the twenty-first of the same month, which was accepted and established. The town also voted to pay to each of the five classes, twelve pounds in silver money, (\$40.00,) immediately upon their procuring a man for the class to enlist into the State service for one year. The following persons were hired by the classes, and received the bounty of twelve pounds each, promised in the vote:

William Barnard	JohnHaskell	Noah Johnson	Walter Holmes
Abner Squier			

On the 25th day of February, 1792, the town voted to "raise five men for the service at Horseneck, by a rate on the town at large." **Simon Chapman**, Col. Solomon Wills, John Steel, Medad Hunt, and Capt. Ichabod Hinckley, were appointed a committee to hire the men. The selectmen were empowered and directed to pay this committee the sums of money that they were "obliged to give the recruit as bounty for encouraging (engaging) in the service out of the town tax granted in December previous." In

this instance, instead of determining the bounty themselves, the town left it to the discretion of this committee. There was some difference of opinion in regard to the number of men Tolland ought to furnish for the continental service; and at the meeting last-mentioned, the town appointed Col. Solomon Wills a committee to wait on the county committee and adjust the matter, as well as that relating to the year's men at Horseneck. Under the vote of February 25, 1782, as above, the following persons were engaged to serve one year at Horseneck, and each received twelve pounds bounty, viz.: William Barnard, John Haskell, Charles De Wolf, Abner Johnson, and Edy Hatch.

In 1782, the inhabitants of the town were divided into twenty-one classes, and procured for the continental army the twenty-one men whose names follow: Abel Stimson, Solomon Eaton, Ichabod West, Ichabod Case, James Covil, Samuel Parks and Allen Carpenter, Joshua Simons, John Haskell, Moses Coy, Samuel Dimock and Oliver Scott, Eliphalet Kilbourn, William Coltrain, Eleazar Hatch, Jonathan Creasy, John Dimick, Caleb Thomas, Sylvanus Gage, Reuben Robinson, Joel Barnard and William Eldredge.

The following document, copied from the original in the town clerk's office, is valuable for locating the persons therein named:

"Received of **Colonel Samuel Chapman**, thirty-nine able bodied men, viz.:
 Eliab Allen, Thomas Buck, Jr., Lot Burgess, Zadoc Benton, William Barnard,
 Samuel Billings, Jedediah Cady, Abner Cady, Samuel Chase, Samuel Davis, Job
 Davis, Eliab Edson, Israel Furman, Timothy Green, Ede Hatch, Walter Holmes,
 Timothy Herington, Philemon Holt, Hezekiah Huntington, William Johnson, Joseph
 Lamb, Jasper Marsh, Henry McNeil, Clement Miner, Benjamin Jones Orcutt,
 Solomon Parsons, Jeremiah Philips, Samuel Philips, Edy Pratt, Charles Pease,
 Samuel Reed, Sanford Richardson, Ezra Rawdon, Joshua Simons, Samuel Taylor,
 Brodwell Watkins, John West, Asa Wood, to answer as part of the quota to be
 furnished by his Regiment to serve in the continental army.

JOHN P. WYLLIS, Capt.,
 Hartford, July 6, 1780.
 Continental Army."

There is a memorandum on the back of this paper, as follows:

TOLLAND	SOMERS	STAFFORD
Edy Hatch	Samuel Davis	Charles Wood
Samuel Reed	Edy Pratt	William Washburn
William Barnard	Job Davis	Asa Allen
Joshua Simons	Thomas Buck, Jr.	
William Johnson	Solomon Parsons	
Luther Delano	Jermiah Phillipps	
Samuel Chase	Israel Inman	
Ezra Rawdon	Asa Wood	
Hezekiah Huntington	Charles Pease	
Abner Johnson	Ben. Jones Orcutt	
Lot Burgess	Sanford Richardson	
Walter Holmes	John Archer	
Clemet Miner	Samuel Billings (13)	
Samuel Park		
Zadoc Benton		
Moses Delano (16)		

The following are the names of the officers, citizens of Tolland, who served in the war previous to the war of the revolution, viz.:

Samuel Chapman, Sr., was a captain in the war of 1745.

Samuel Chapman, Jr., was a captain in the war of 1755.

Samuel Huntington was an ensign in the war of 1755.

Solomon Wills was an ensign in the war of 1755; and Lieutenant commanding a company in the expedition to Cuba, 1762.

Probably there were several others who can not be now identified.

The following named persons, citizens of Tolland, were officers in the army of the Revolution, viz.:

Samuel Chapman, Colonel of the twenty-second Regiment of militia, from May, 1775, to May, 1792. His regiment was at New York in the year 1776, and performed a tour of duty of two months. He was in the service at other times.

Solomon Wills was Colonel during several tours of duty, either of State or Continental troops.

Ichabod Hinckley was a captain in the continental line.

Elijah Chapman (afterwards sheriff) was a captain in the continental line; and a part of the time in Lafayette's light infantry.

James Chamberlin was a captain of cavalry two campaigns.

Amos Fellows commanded one of the Tolland companies at New York.

Lieut. Lathrop, of the militia, was in active service.

Ichabod Griggs, ensign of the Tolland militia, campaign at New York.

Joshua Griggs, adjutant. His services were principally at Roxbury, New York and Saratoga.

There were two companies of militia in Tolland in 1776, both of which were in Col. **Samuel Chapman's** regiment at New York. But at this time only the names of the officers above given can be ascertained.

The following are the names of the persons, citizens of Tolland, who died in the various wars prior to the close of the revolutionary war in 1788:

Samuel Chapman, Sr., Captain, died at Louisburgh, January, 1746.

Samuel Baker died in captivity among the French and Indians.

Azariah Wills died during his return from captivity, November, 1758, aged 25.

William Benton died at Oswego in 1760, aged 35.

Samuel Huntington, Ensign, died at Lake Oneida, August 18, 1760, aged 32.

Constant Crandall died at Havana, Cuba, August 27, 1762.

Noah Stimson, do. Sept. 13, 1762, age 20.

Jonathan Burroughs, do. " 7, "

Wm. Eaton, son of William, do. Oct. 18, " age 80.

John Barnard, son of Dr. Thos., do. "

John Burrows, do. "

Aaron Eaton, do. "

Judah Hatch, son of Ichabod, do. " age 42.

Oliver Yeomans, do. "

Ezra Waldo, do. "

Leonard Grover, do. "

Reuben Heath, son of Isaac Heath, died at Roxbury, Mass., September, 1775, aged 20.

A Mr. Scott, of Tolland, died at New York in 1776, before the city was evacuated.

Ichabod Griggs, Ensign, died at New Rochelle, N. Y., September 30, 1776.

Moses Barnard, son of Dr. Thomas, died at New Rochelle, October 15, 1776.

Azariah Benton, son of Daniel, died in a prison ship near New York, December 29, 1776, aged 22.

Amos Fellows, Captain, died in captivity in New York, February 17, 1777.

William Hatch, son of Joseph, Jr., died at Chatham, New Jersey, March 20, 1777, aged 30.

John Lathrop, son of John, was killed by a sabre cut at Horseneck, December 10, 1780, aged 18.

Heman Baker, Jr., died of small pox, at East Hartford, on his way from captivity.

Samuel Steel died in 1780.

Luther Delano died in 1780.

Aaron Steel, son of James, died in New Jersey.

Amos Cobb, son of Samuel Cobb, M. D., was killed at the White Plains.

The above are collected from the records. It is known there were many others, particularly at New York in 1776, but their names can not be ascertained.

It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the number of men belonging in Tolland who served in the army of the revolution. The quota usually assigned to it was from sixteen to twenty-one. I understand this did not include those who served in the cavalry. There can be no doubt that the town constantly had no less than twenty-five men in the field, besides those who served in what were called the *short levies*, and when the entire military force of the town went on some alarm or emergency. Nearly twenty can be enumerated as having gone from the present limits of the fifth school district; and probably more than one hundred and fifty persons, residents of Tolland, comprising nearly every man of suitable age and strength, participated in that struggle by marching against the enemy. Several persons were in the field during almost the entire war, among whom Capt. (afterwards Gen.) **Elijah Chapman**, Jonathan Luce, Isaac Fellows, Solomon Eaton, and Elihu Johnson are remembered. Several times almost the entire active male population was absent in the army, and ordinary work upon the farms was done by female hands. Elderly ladies sometimes spoke of their share of it in earlier life, as if it was among their most interesting recollections. I have heard a venerable lady, daughter of one of the revolutionary officers of

Tolland, relate that she, assisted by her younger sisters, frequently yoked the oxen, and harvested the autumnal crops with their own hands. These necessary out of door duties had not the effect of producing masculine habits in those who engaged in them, or in making them less useful and agreeable in their proper sphere. In the instance above alluded to, they detracted nothing from the eminent social refinement and feminine graces of the individuals spoken of.

Although Tolland furnished its full proportion of men in the revolutionary contest, and although so many of them perished in the service, yet I have not been able to ascertain either by record or traditionary evidence, that any were slain in battle, except Amos Cobb and John Lathrop, before referred to. The record of John Lathrop's death, in the town-clerk's office, is as follows: "John, the son of John Lathrop, and Lucy his wife, departed this life December the 10th day, 1780, by the sword of the enemy at Horseneck." He was under eighteen years of age, and was struck dead by a blow on the head with a sabre, by a dragoon. Col. Solomon Wills, to whose wife Mr. Lathrop was nephew, assisted in wrapping him in his blanket and laying him in the grave of the soldier.

Nor is there now any evidence that any Tolland soldier received any dangerous wound, or so severe an one as to occasion his dismissal from the service.

Several kinds of domestic manufacture were attempted in Tolland in the revolution. Linen cloth was then made in families from flax, and exclusively used for summer clothing. There was a family named Mercy who lived at the south end of the village street, near the residence of the late Jeremiah Parish, Esq., who used to print this home-made linen for ladies' dresses. The cloth being first whitened, was then impressed with figures engraved on a thin board very similar in size to the hand-cards used in those days—the impression being entirely done by hand. The only color distinctly recollected was a dark brown. It is much to be regretted that none of this cloth or the stamps have been preserved as most interesting revolutionary relics.

There was also an attempt to manufacture molasses from green corn-stalks, ground in a common cider mill, and pressed like pomace of apples. The particular mill used for this purpose stood just back of the site on which was afterward built the house in which Col. Elijah Smith kept a tavern for half a century.

In the south-west part of the town resided Mr. Titus Baker, a blacksmith, and his brother, Mr. Joseph Baker, who possessed great natural ingenuity in the mechanical arts. In the scarcity of muskets, they contrived to manufacture a number, (it is not known how many,) which, though clumsy and heavy, were reputed to be serviceable weapons. The makers estimated that the labor bestowed on one of them amounted to the time of one man a fortnight.

During the war there were several instances in which British prisoners were sent to Tolland for support and safe keeping. In the year 1781, when the progress of the war in the South rendered it necessary to remove the army of Burgoyne from Virginia, where they were sent for cantonment after their surrender, many of them were removed into Connecticut. Companies of Hessians were quartered on the premises of Col. Wills, lately the property of Jonas Green; also at the house now occupied by Theodore Chapin. At one time, two Hessian officers had a dispute and arranged for a duel, which was only prevented by the assurance that in case of the death of either, our laws would in due season, without fail, send the survivor after him.

A party of English officers were lodged in the house of **Deacon Elijah Chapman**, (now occupied by **Daniel Chapman**.) and were there while Yorktown was besieged, and a son of **Deacon Chapman** was a captain of Lafayette's Light Infantry employed in that siege. These officers were always represented by those who remembered them, as making a splendid appearance, and as being very

courteous and gentlemanly in their limited intercourse with the inhabitants of the neighborhood.

In concluding the general subject of the revolution, it should be remarked that there were no Tories in Tolland. With the exception of two or three odd, crusty, eccentric men, who generally opposed what others approved, and who being in the main respectable persons, whose whimsical opposition was generally amusing, there was entire unanimity in Tolland from the first manifestation of opposition to the tyranny of England until the final establishment of American Independence.

Most of the citizens of Tolland who were conspicuous in the war of the Revolution were the descendants of the first settlers. Among these, the name of **Chapman** is prominent. They were the descendants of **Simon Chapman**, who was one of the original proprietors of the town. He lived in Windsor and owned several tracts of land in Tolland, but his son Samuel, (the progenitor of all of the name in the western part of the town,) settled, about the year 1725, on a tract of about forty acres, lying south of a pond called Shenipset pond, deeded to him by John Huntington, of Tolland. To this tract he made great additions from adjacent lands, and his sons still more, until the three brothers, besides outfields, owned a tract extending two miles or more from southeast to north-west, though of less, but irregular breadth. It was not until about thirty-five years ago that this tract, on which were eight houses, seven of which were of first-class size, and all inhabited by families of the name, began to crumble away and fall into the possession of others. **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, the first settler, (whose decease at Louisburgh has been mentioned,) was grandson of **Mr. Edward Chapman**, who came from England, settled in Simsbury, and lost his life at the storming of Narraganset Fort in December, 1675. He was the only justice of the peace in Tolland for nine years, and was for eleven years a selectman. Very reliable tradition speaks of him as possessing many estimable qualities, among which was that of being an excellent neighbor. He first lived in a house situated above the entrance of the road that runs south from the fifth district school-house. He then built the house now owned and occupied by Mr. Oliver Eaton, and which, though nearly one hundred and twenty years old, is still in good repair and elegant condition—promising fair to outlive the present century.

Capt. Samuel Chapman had three sons and five daughters, all of who married and settled in Tolland. The sons became the wealthiest men in the town, and until superannuated, were among the most active, influential, public-spirited citizens.

SAMUEL, eldest son of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, was a very eminent citizen, and a very remarkable man. He was a captain in the French war, and colonel of the twenty-second regiment of Connecticut militia during the entire war of the revolution. He was at New York with his regiment in 1776, and when the American forces evacuated that city, his regiment, stationed near Kip's bay, with the brigades of Parsons and Fellows, animated by their colonel did not participate in the shameful panic of the American troops on that occasion, but made an orderly and honorable retreat. He was also in several other tours of duty; his personal courage and astonishing hardihood were proverbial among his soldiers. His frame and nerves seemed as if made of iron, (for example, he never wore mittens in the coldest weather,) and such was his mental temperament, that disasters which would discourage even superior minds, only aroused his undaunted spirit to more fearless action. Few men could be found so unflinching in moments of danger; and his firmness and energy never faltered under any circumstances. The almost unexampled number of times he was elected a member of the General Assembly, exhibits the regard in which he was held by his townsmen; his was the master spirit that brought the citizens of Tolland; into unanimous and energetic action in the revolutionary contest. **Col. Chapman** was one of the most wealthy men of Tolland carried on a large business besides farming; would give employment to a poor man who wanted work, regardless of advantage to himself; and even embarrassed his estate by becoming responsible for the debts of the unfortunate.

In person, **Col. Chapman** was rather under the middle stature, with blue eyes, and his voice was remarkable for its loudness and energy. He was what is called a great reader, was rather taciturn, and of studious habits. He never laughed, and a smile seldom lighted up his austere countenance.

Col. Chapman was born in Windsor, a few years previous to his father's settlement in Tolland; and occupied during his life the house before-mentioned as built by his father. He died March, 1803, aged 83 years, regardless to the last of inclemency of weather or his own personal comfort. He was found dead in his bed. Such was his apparent health and uncomplaining habits, that the disease which occasioned his death, was only a matter of conjecture.

Col. Samuel Chapman married Sarah White, of Bolton, September 20, 1750. Their children, five in number, were:

Ruth	born	October 9, 1751
Sarah	"	January 15, 1753
Samuel	"	April 10, 1755, died July 15, 1756
Samuel	"	August 18, 1757, settled in Ellington

ELIAKIM CHAPMAN, the youngest son of **Col. Samuel Chapman**, married Roxalana, daughter of Col. Solomon Wills, who died November 21, 1783, after which he married Nancy, the sister of his first wife. He had several children, one of whom, Mrs. Joseph Bishop, is a resident of Tolland. He always resided on his father's farm, was a colonel of militia, representative in the General Assembly, selectman, and a useful citizen.

ELIJAH, second son of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Sarah Steel, daughter of Rev. Stephen Steel, of Tolland, May, 28, 1747. He died ____ aged ____ years. She died ____ Their children, twelve in number, of whom eleven lived to maturity, and most of them to old age, were:

Joanna	born	May 16, 1748
Reuben	"	December 8, 1749
Sarah	"	July 28, 1752, died in infancy

Elijah	"	July 13, 1753
Ashbel	"	June 28, 1755
Marah	"	April 1, 1757
Ruth	"	February 20 1759
Mether	"	April 8, 1761
Roxana	"	November 14, 1763
Aaron	"	September 17, 1765
Dorcas	"	September 25, 1767
Daniel	"	September 23, 1769

Of the sons, **REUBEN**, the oldest, married Mary, daughter of Doct. Samuel Cobb, April 21, 1774, and died October 25, 1776, of consumption, occasioned by hardships suffered while in the revolutionary army, leaving only one child—a son named Solomon, who was born July 3, 1775; whose grandchildren still occupy the lands of their forefathers.

ELIJAH, second son of **Deacon Elijah Chapman**,—captain in the revolutionary army, sheriff of Tolland county, &c., received an extended notice in the History of Tolland County, published in the Tolland County Record, which it is unnecessary to repeat here. He married Sarah Keeler, of Ridgefield, a lady of unusual worth, and his home and place of his death was in a house (now owned by John Doyle) which he built on the land of his ancestors. He was the father of **Elijah Chapman**, first cashier of Tolland County Bank, who united an unusual elegance of manners with an excellent character, and who died at Akron, Ohio, in 1840, aged fifty-nine years.

ASHBEL, third son of **Deacon Elijah Chapman**, married Miss Lord, of Marlborough, and continued through life on lands received from his father. His sons were: **Col. Ashbel Chapman**, lately of Tolland, deceased, who always resided on the paternal acres; **Col. Carlos Chapman**, now of Windsor Locks; and **Col. John B. Chapman**, late of Warehouse point, deceased.

AARON, fourth son of **Deacon Elijah Chapman**, resided during life in the house built by the first **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, for his son **Elijah**, father of **Aaron**, and in which he (Elijah) had resided after marriage, all his life,—the same house being now owned by **Daniel**, son of **Aaron**. **Deacon Aaron Chapman** married a Miss Buel, of Marlborough, and died in December, 1842, aged seventy-seven years, leaving two sons—**Novatus and Daniel**.

SIMON, youngest son of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Eunice Preston, April 22, 1762. He died in 1828, aged ninety – years. Their children were :

Eunice	born	February 28, 1763
Simon	"	June 17, 1764, died December 25, 1767
Henry	"	March 31 1766, died April 11, 1775
Simon	"	February 12, 1768
Nathan	"	November 5, 1769
Hannah	"	August 23, 1773

Eunice, wife of **Simon Chapman**, died April 12, 1775. He married for his second wife, Lydia Charlton, of Tolland. Their children were:

Alexander	born	February 14, 1780
Jacob	"	August 29, 1782
Lydia	"	July 9, 1784, died July 27, 1784
Ariel	"	June 24, 1786
William	"	April 19, 1789
Erastus	"	April 19, 1792
Lydia	"	November 13, 1795

SARAH, daughter of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Nathaniel Kingsbury, March 16, 1737, and died July 14, 1794. He died June 23, 1796. Nathaniel Kingsbury was a son of Nathaniel Kingsbury, of Coventry, settled in Tolland about the time of his marriage, on lands granted to him by his father-in-law, and on which his posterity continue to reside. Nathaniel Kingsbury was a deacon of the church in Tolland many years. The children of Nathaniel and Sarah Kingsbury were:

Hannah	born	January 25, 1788
Sarah	"	February 15, 1739
Three in succession who died in infancy.		
Ruth	born	October 5, 1750
Nathaniel	"	May 5, 1753
Jabez	"	March 10, 1756
Samuel	"	February 2, 1763

Jabez, son of Nathaniel and Sarah Kingsbury, married Anna Hatch, daughter of Joseph Hatch, 2d, August 15, 1776. He died March 25, 1844, aged eighty-eight years. His wife died June 12, 1842, aged eighty-three. Their children were :

Sarah	born	December 18, 1776
Mary	"	January 1, 1778, died February 7, 1778.
John	"	October 26, 1782.

Jabez Kingsbury was many years deacon of the Congregational church, was a justice of the peace twelve years, was six years a selectman, and was elected to the General Assembly three sessions, discharging his various public and private duties with unusual ability. He was one of the few who can carry on a very extensive farming business with perfect success, and without noise, hurry, or confusion.

Col. John Kingsbury, son of Jabez and Anna, married Sally Dimock, November 1, 1804. She died December 11, 1819, aged 37 years. Second wife, Sally Edgerton, November 1, 1821, who died April 20,

1824. Col. Kingsbury married for his third wife, Mary Brigham of Coventry. Their children are:

John Brigham born October 1, 1826

George Henry " November 22, 1828

Col. John Kingsbury died in March, 1861, aged seventy-eight years.

RUTH, daughter of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Eleazar Steel, as before stated in the notice of the Steel family.

HANNAH, daughter of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Stephen Steel, Jr. as also previously noticed.

MARGARET, daughter of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Samuel Ladd, April 28, 1768, and died February 14, 1813. He died May 18, 1814. Their children were :

Ruth born January 18, 1769

Samuel " May 11, 1770

Margaret " October 8, 1772

Mary " November 28, 1775

Warsham " April 28, 1778

Jacob " December 14, 1781

MARY, daughter of **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, married Solomon Loomis—the date I can not find. She died February 24, 1774, aged forty-two years. Their children were:

Simeon born March 7, 1758

Solomon " September 27, 1760

Luke " April 11, 1764, died April 27

[not legible] " September 10, 1768

The **Chapman** family has been eminently distinguished in civil as well as military life. **Capt. Samuel Chapman**, the first settler, was the only justice of the peace in Tolland for nine years, holding

the office at the time of his death, and was selectman eleven years.

Col. Samuel Chapman was elected to the General Assembly forty-three times, when the election of members was twice a year, and attended at fifteen special sessions of that body. He was a member of the convention in January, 1788, and voted for the adoption of the present constitution of the United States. He was two years selectman, and twenty-six years, (from 1772 to 1797,) a justice of the peace, when there were but two justices in the town.

Dea. Elijah Chapman, (also captain of militia,) was four times elected to the General Assembly, and eight years selectman.

Gen. Elijah Chapman, (captain in the revolutionary army and major-general of the militia,) was sheriff of Tolland county twenty-three years, and a member of the legislature two sessions. For his biography, see county history.

Capt. Ashbel Chapman was justice of the peace, holding the office at the time of his death, selectman three years, in the Legislature four years, and was a member of the convention in 1818 which formed the present constitution of the state, and voted in the affirmative upon the question of adopting that instrument.

Dea. Aaron Chapman, (of the Baptist church, of which he was the deacon, leader, and principal support for many years previous to his death,) was a selectman three years.

Col. Eliakim Chapman was in the General Assembly one year, and one year a selectman.

Simon Chapman, Sr., was selectman two years.

Simon Chapman, Jr., was a captain of militia, a deacon, (which title in those days superseded the other,) and four years a selectman.

Col. Ashbel Chapman, son of Ashbel, was representative one year, and justice of the peace ten years, holding the office at the time of his death.

Col. Carlos Chapman was selectman one year, representative two years, sheriff of Tolland county two years, and four years a justice of the peace.

Novatus Chapman was representative two years, justice of the peace four years, selectman three

years, sheriff of Tolland county three years, clerk of the courts one year, and judge of probate for the district of Tolland four years.

For nearly seventy years there has been a family of **Chapmans** in Tolland, distinct in descent from the foregoing, but descendants from **Robert Chapman**, one of the earliest and principal settlers of Saybrook. I allude to the late **Capt. Ezra Chapman**, whose residence was in the village of Sknugamug. He was the son of **Ezra Chapman**, who was an ensign of Capt. Horton's company of artificers, in Col. Baldwin's regiment in the revolutionary contest, entering the service for the war, August 6, 1777, and continuing therein until his death, September 1, 1778. His only child—Ezra, of Tolland, was born in Hebron, March 26, 1773; was apprenticed to the trade of a blacksmith, (which was that of his father,) and when of age settled in Tolland, where he resided until his death, February 18, 1851, at the age of seventy-eight years. In the apparent enjoyment of his usual health, and while seated at his fireside, he fell into that sleep that knows no waking. **Capt. Chapman** married Lydia M. Whittlesey, July 6, 1797, by whom he had four children, two of whom still survive, and (with their children and grandchildren,) are citizens of Tolland, viz.; **Capt. Sherman Chapman**, born January 23, 1808, and Mary, wife of Ansel S. Barber, born March 30, 1805. **Mrs. Lydia M. Chapman** died December 14, 1806, and **Capt. Chapman** married for his second wife, Abigail Morgan, May 20, 1809, by whom he had seven children, one of whom, Mrs. Mason Agard, is now a resident of Tolland.

Capt. Ezra Chapman was a man of some prominence. He was quite early made captain of a militia company in Tolland, was a selectman six years, a justice of the peace six years, and a member of the General Assembly two sessions. He was a very industrious man, honest and upright in his dealings, and in every way a worthy citizen. He read more than ordinary men, reflected much, and was very happy in expressing his ideas upon paper. He had a ready pen in drawing the ordinary written agreements used among his neighbors, and excelled in his epistolary efforts—many of his letters bearing marks of thought and scholarship.