

Capt. Jesse Sawyer Time Line History 1750 – 1825

Sources.

A few words about sources. Vanderpool 1899 “History of the White Family” is used throughout. It is the oldest reference found dedicated to the White’s and by marriage, the Sawyer family. It is a secondary source not always correct in all detail. It has been quoted by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society in a very comprehensive history of the White family by Leudemann with the following notation, Vanderpool contains: “data apparently gleaned from family records and oral history without attribution.” (NYGBR Jan 1992, p.1). Vanderpool also notes p. 69, “Of the branch of the Sawyer family to which Jesse Sawyer belonged, it seems impossible to find any records” If in 1899, Vanderpool could not find vital records after about 140 years, it is more difficult now after about 250. Vanderpool used Amory Carter as a source, but as it turned out, Capt. Jesse Sawyer’s line descended from the 6th son of Thomas Sawyer 1616 about whom Carter said only: “John Sawyer, sixth son of Thomas Sawyer, we cannot trace. He must have died before his father, as he is entirely ignored in the will.” (Carter 1883, p. 26). Vital records from CT fail to list Jesse Sr. 1721 or Capt. Jesse Jr. 1750.

Another source used by this compiler is from his family. This is the Tatum Letter, written from one Sawyer cousin to another, in original handwriting dated March 13, 1941, laying out the family of Jesse Sawyer as then known as copied from a family bible. Still another family source is the “A Record of Some of the Sawyer’s in America” and the “Civil War Diary” written by Charles Walton Sawyer 1825, grandfather of Col. Charles Gildart of Fort Dix, New Jersey. Data in George Sawyer’s files and posted on the Internet as collected from individual researchers is also used. Published sources are listed and referenced throughout this short work. Each source is given equal weight and conflicts in the information presented are noted. A brief reference is made to each source as it appears in the time line and a complete list of reference materials used is provided at the end. Three brief appendices are provided giving information from original family papers. A final appendix is provided, not for any genealogical value, but as an example of the type of complete, embellished story that was passed along from generation to generation.

1750. Birth of Jesse Sawyer - Lyme or Canaan, CT.

A good primary source for his birth date has not been found. A complete review of all CT vital records in this time frame found no Jesse Sawyer listed. Secondary sources abound and inferences must be drawn about this date by looking at data concerning his parents and other family members.

The papers of Col. Charles A. Gildart USA, a Sawyer descendant now deceased, show Jacob Sawyer 1689 named his son Jesse Sr. 1721 as executor of his will dated Lyme May 18, 1758. The parentage of Capt. Jesse Sawyer Jr. is father Jesse Sawyer Sr. b. 10 Dec 1721 Lyme CT. d. 1795 Old Canaan CT, m. Sarah Barden. Jesse Sr. 1721 enlisted to fight in the French and Indian War. Jesse Sr. was absent in 1762 when his father's estate was distributed in Lyme. Sarah Sawyer signed in his behalf. Sometime after the war, land was opening up around Canaan CT and Jesse Sr. decided to settle there. He purchased land in Canaan in 1776 but must have lived there long before that. Jesse Sr. died in Canaan about 1795.

The date 10 Nov 1749 or 1750 is given as the birth date for Capt. Jesse at Lyme, CT. Gildart states that siblings of Jesse Jr. included: Aaron born 21 Feb 1745 in Lyme and married Rhoda Spencer, Joel born 20 Aug 1747 also in Lyme. Abel born 11 Nov 1753 in Lyme d. 1841 in Oxford NY at age 80. John, a soldier in the Revolution, no birth date or place specified and Huldah b. 22 Feb 1759 in Lyme, CT. Sources mentioned include, Vital Records of Lyme, CT 1665 – 1850 and deed of Jonathan Bedding to Jesse Sawyer, Canaan CT Dec 1777 as well as personal letters from others in CT that Gildart used in his research. (Gildart 1947)

The remembrances of Lucy Sawyer, granddaughter of Capt. Jesse's brother Joel provide supplemental information. The names of Jesse's brothers were Abel, Aaron, Joel and John. Jesse was a prominent scout mentioned in Revolutionary War stories and all of the brothers were in the war. Lucy's mother remembered seeing the smoke when the British burned the Fort at New London, CT in 1781. Lucy's notes also state that her father John, son of Joel, was born in Canaan, CT. (Millspaugh 1968)

Note: This rare reference was copied May 14, 1968 in the home of Lee Millspaugh from the original notes of Ella Millspaugh 1858 – 1947, daughter of Lucy Sawyer, from her remembrances. Unfortunately no dates or place of birth for Capt. Jesse are given.

The Vital Records of Lyme CT, do show: “Huldah, daughter of Jesse and Sarah born in Lyme Feb 22 1759 AD.” (Lyme Vital, p. 54)

Note: This may place Jesse Sawyer Sr. 1721 and Sarah in Lyme as of 1759. Taking this information along with Jesse and siblings being born before 1759 helps support the Gildart assertion that all of Jesse Sr’s children were born in Lyme.

One source is from the patriotic society, SAR (Sons of the American Revolution). The approved application of Christopher John Robinson dated Mar 7, 1994 SAR National # 142153 and his father Frederick H. Robinson dated Oct 21, 1992 SAR # 139666, give 1750 at Hebron CT as Jesse’s birth place and date. (SAR 1992/1994)

Note: This Hebron place of birth is not accurate. This is a SAR approved membership that was “grand fathered” from earlier data that is not verified. It also contains obvious errors such as son Elisha was born in Walton, NY rather than VT which is correct.

There are many on-line genealogies including George Sawyer’s and Alan Lunstedt’s indicating 1750 as the date of birth. Of ten postings on the Internet, 8 show Canaan, CT as the birthplace for Capt Jesse Sawyer the other two do not specify a place.

The notes of Eleanor Grace Sawyer author of “Sawyer Families of New England 1636 – 1900” also show the date 1750 and the place as Canaan, CT. She has a record on file in Headquarters of DAR in Washington DC that says Canaan CT for Jesse 1750. (SawyerEG 2005, p. 302)

Capt. Jesse probably born between two wars.

In America King George’s War occurred from 1744 – 1748. It’s cause was the conflicting land claims of France and Great Britain. France claimed the Great Lakes, parts of Canada and the Connecticut River valley. Great Britain

countered these claims with force. During this time there is record of a Major Josiah Willard attempting to provide supplies for British forts along the Connecticut River including Fort # 4 north of Deerfield , MA. This fort was built 1740 – 1743 and was the northernmost extent of English territory. It has been recreated and is now in New Hampshire. Provisioning the Connecticut River forts was such a difficult task that horses and supplies of wheat were impressed (seized) from the settlers in the area to support the troops. In October 1748 at the end of open hostilities, Maj. Willard resigned the office of commissaries (military supplies) due to the difficulties in supplying the Connecticut River forts. The commissary account book which survived lists the names of those military men who were in King George's War and were involved in supply activities. This list includes names of those who were not from the Deerfield, MA area. In a long list of names is found that of Jesse Sawyer. (Sheldon 1895/6, pp. 566 -567)

Jesse Sr. after serving in King George's war ending in 1748 appears again in the colonial record of Massachusetts. About 32 miles west of Deerfield and the Connecticut river was a town called West Hoosac (Renamed Williamstown in 1765). The records show that a number of new residents came there from Connecticut in 1756. A number of these settlers became displeased with the support they were receiving from Fort Massachusetts at Adams and sent a letter of grievance to the colonial government. The letter dated 11 Jan 1757 was signed with 21 signatures including that of Jesse Sawyer.

(Perry 1894, p. 415)

Note here that the earliest known Jesse Sawyer in New England as listed by Eleanor Grace Sawyer is Jesse Sawyer Sr. 1721, son of Jacob Sayer (Sawyer) 1689 and Martha Loomer 1689. The next earliest Jesse is of the year 1748. (EGS 2005, p. 260 and p. 280; Shepard 1880, p. 7). This Jesse 1748 is of an entirely different line than Jesse Sr. 1721 and son Capt. Jesse 1750. Since Jesse 1721 is the earliest of this name, the record in King George's war must be his, showing that he was involved in military activities well before the French and Indian War that came eight years later.

In 1750 a joint British - French commission failed to settle the land dispute and by 1755 open hostilities began again. France again claimed the entire Mississippi valley, the St. Lawrence River valley, Great Lakes and the Connecticut River valley. France built forts to protect their claims and so did the British. Great Britain sought settlers to volunteer to form a colonial

militia to help the King in support of the British effort. The French and Indian War began in 1756 with a major British defeat.

In the French and Indian War, the record shows Jess Sawyer, of the 4th Regiment with Regimental Commander Col. David Wooster (1710 – 1777) and 11th Company Commander Capt. Joseph Canfield (1710 -1776), taken from muster rolls of 1758. (Bates 1903, p. 88). The papers of Col. Gildart also state that Jesse enlisted to fight in the French and Indian War and the troops mustered in at “the fort #4 on the Connecticut River.”(Appendix I)

(The information for the following several paragraphs is taken from from (Orcutt 1882, pp. 226 – 228):

The scene now shifts south along the Connecticut River and then west into the Canaan/New Milford area of that state. The family of Capt. Canfield kept the old musty papers from that time and they were sent to the Gazette of New Milford, Ct. in June 1882 where they were published. The military portion if these papers date back to the French and Indian War in 1756. Capt. Joseph Canfield kept detailed records of that time. The earliest of these is from then Governor Fitch of Connecticut:

“Wheras it is proposed to raise some independent companies at their own charge and expense to assist the army in the expedition to Crown Point, this may certify then that if such companies appear and desire commissions for proper officers, I shall be ready to give them. This I thought proper to signifie for encouragement of such as are inclined to serve as aforesaid.

Norwalk ye 12 September 1755 Thomas Fitch”

In the spring of 1758, Capt. Joseph Canfield raised a company which served in the campaign under Col. David Wooster (afterwards General), and many of the original enlistment papers have been preserved.

A portion of the company was raised from Canaan, Litchfield County, Ct. The names of ten men have been recorded including Jesse Sawyer, enlisted April 10th for the fourth regiment of Col. David Wooster and Col. John Read, Esq. During the month of April 1758, other men were enlisted from

New Milford, Woodbury and Farmington to fill out the regiment. (Both Col. Wooster's and Col. John Read's names are mentioned). The enlistment papers took the following form with the names of the enlistee inserted:

*“Jesse Sawyer of Canaan, in Lichfield County. I do acknowledge to have voluntarily inlisted myself a soldier to serve his Majesty King George the Second in a Regiment of Foot raised by the Colony of Connecticut to be commanded by Col. David Wooster of New Haven, for invading Canada and carrying War into the Heart of the Enemy's Possessions. As Witness my hand in Kent this 10th day of April in the year of our lord 1758.
Jesse Sawyer”*

Accompanying the enlistment is a certificate of a justice of the peace in the form as follows:

*“These certify that Jesse Sawyer ye above signer, came before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Litchfield and acknowledge to have voluntarily inlisted to serve his Majesty King George the Second in the above Regiment. He also acknowledges he had heard the Second and Sixth Sections of the Articles of War against Mutiny and Desertion read unto him, and taken the Oath of Fidelity mentioned in the Articles of War.
John Beebe, Justice of the Peace”*

On May 22, 1758 Col. Wooster sent a dispatch to Capt. Canfield directing him to march with the company and necessary baggage to Albany to await orders from the commander-in-chief. (Orcutt 1882, p. 230).

On June 10th 1758 before departure, several guns, ammunition belts and cultlass were impressed from Woodbury residents for use by the soldiers for which appraised valuations were paid. The impressed items were returned the following January 3rd of 1759 except for one gun and ammunition belt which were lost in a fight at Ticonderoga (NY). (Orcutt 1882, pp 230- 231)

It is likely that Jesse Sr. was involved in this late 1758 Ticonderoga battle in which the French were defeated. Other than that it is not known if he served until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763; however, his daughter Huldah was born in Lyme, CT all the way across the state on 22 Feb 1759. The Jesse Sawyer serving in both King George's and the French and Indian War beginning in the mid 1740's seems certain to have been Jesse Sr. (Any thought that Capt. Jesse 1750 served in the French and Indian War as a foot soldier for the British King and then as an officer in the Revolutionary War against the King of Great Britain by assuming an earlier birth date seems most unlikely).

Jesse Sr. was born in Lyme, CT. in 1721. As with most military men he apparently moved about a lot during his life. Thus he is spotted near Deerfield, MA at the time of King George's War in 1748. Next he is seen at West Hoosac (Now Williamstown, MA) in 1757. Where he was between 1748 and 1757 when Capt. Jesse was born in 1750 is not known. By the spring of 1758 he has moved south to join the French and Indian War from Canaan, Litchfield County, CT. According to Gildart, most of Jesse Sr.'s children including Capt. Jesse were born between 1745 and 1753. Exactly where his sons were born is not proven although we know his daughter Huldah (daughter of Jesse and Sarah Sawyer) was born in Lyme, CT in 1759 as listed in the vital records. Jesse Sr. was absent when his father Jacob's estate was settled as Sarah Sawyer signed the settlement papers at Lyme, CT. in 1762. In 1776 he purchased land in Canaan, CT. and died there about 1795.

Note: The conventional wisdom is that Capt. Jesse Sawyer was born in 1750, and so that notation will be used throughout this history with either Lyme or Canaan CT taken as his birth place.

1766. Jesse Sawyer Indian Story.

(From this point forward Jesse Sawyer refers to Capt. Jesse Sawyer 1750)

This is one of a number of stories about Jesse Sawyer's adventures during the 1700's that was passed down from generation to generation. This tale was recorded by Charles Walton Sawyer 1825 and written about 1865 during the Civil War. A very short summary follows:

Jesse when about 16 years old was placed in the employ of a man who mistreated him. One day the man slapped Jesse and so Jesse knocked him down running off to an English encampment nearby. He hired on as a teamster and was soon sent in the month of June with a group of others to deliver supplies to an English fort. They were on the way with oxen and carts when they were surrounded and captured by Indians. The Indians killed one of their group after which they revolted and fought back. Jesse escaped by jumping a tall brush fence, running through a hail of rifle balls. Five Indians pursued him on the 17 miles toward the fort, and he out ran all but one. This one threw his Tommy hawk at Jesse, missing him, but Jesse picked it up and threw it back at the Indian. They exchange the Tommy three times until Jesse grabbed a pine knot and hit the Indian in the stomach knocking the wind out of him. Jesse made it to the fort and didn't go out again for six months as he was completely "melted." "Jesse never made peace with the Indians and said that he never saw a stone wall or a rail fence, from the time he was 16 years old till he was 45 but what he could run and jump over." (CWS 1865, pp 33 - 34)

Note: Charles Walton Sawyer was a descendant of Joel 1747 brother of Captain Jesse. His handwritten Record of 'Some of the Sawyer's in America' is in the hands of the Gildart and Lewis family of CA. This full story is embellished with scenes of torture and killing by the Indians. The fort mentioned seems most likely to have been one of the Connecticut River forts where Jesse's father enlisted for the King George's and French and Indian War.

1766. Jesse's Sister in Law Moves to Sunderland VT.

Jesse Sawyer's wife was Catherine White. Catherine's sister was Cornelia b.1743 m.16 April 1761 to Gideon Brownson in Salisbury, Litchfield County, CT. They moved to Sunderland, Bennington County, VT and lived there from 1766. Their first child was born in Salisbury CT 3 Sept 1763, later children in VT. Gideon was first town clerk of Sunderland in 1796. Gideon Brownson was a cousin of Ethan Allen's first wife Mary Brownson. (NYGBR July 1992, p. 166)

CA 1768/1769 Jesse Sawyer and Catherine White Marriage.

Jesse Sawyer married Catharine White. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 70; Tatum 1941, p. 4; NYGBR July 1992, p. 166; Virkus 1968, p. 737)

Catharin(e) White dau. of Isaac and Magdalen b. April 25, 1749. (SVR p. 73)

Magdalen was sometimes called Helena and her unmarried name was Rynders.

Note: That Jesse Sawyer 1750 married Catherine White 1749 either in Salisbury CT or Pownal, VT is believed correct. The date 1768/1769 is consistent with birth of first children after marriage.

Note: It is not known when Jesse and Catharine came to Vermont. Vanderpool places him in Pownal in 1770 at the time of his eldest son Harmon's birth. It appears that Catharine White's sister Cornelia and Gideon came to Vermont before Jesse so that the approximate time would have been after 1766 and before 1770.

1770. Jesse's First Child Harmon Born.

Name Harmon most often used, but sometimes spelled Harman, Herman or Harmanus.

Harmon b. at Pownal, VT. (Vanderpool, p.70; Tatum 1941, p.4)

b. April 1770 (Vanderpool 1899, p. 88)

b. Dec 25, 1770 (Tatum 1941, p. 4)

d. Dec 25, 1826 (Tatum 1941, p. 4)

Harmon m. Catharine White his cousin in Salisbury CT. (Vanderpool 1899, p.74; NYGBR Oct 1993, p. 216; Tatum 1941, p. 4)

White, Catherine dau. of Herman and Sarah (Dean) White, b. in Salisbury, Oct 11, 1775. (SVR, p.118)

Catherine died Dec 11, 1836. (Tatum 1941, p. 4)

Note: The actual date of Harmon's marriage to Catherine White has not been proven

Sawyer – White Family Marriages.

Both Jesse Sawyer's son Harmon and daughter Elizabeth (Betsy) married their cousins in the White family. This chart provides understanding of the somewhat complex marriage relationships:

Isaac White 1710 m. Magdalen Reynders ca. 1710¹

3rd. Isaac White 1745 m. Sarah Peck ca. 1752²

2nd. Benjamin White 1774 m. 1795³

4th Catherine White 1749 m. Jesse Sawyer 1750⁴

1st. Harmon Sawyer 1770 m.⁵

2nd. Elizabeth Sawyer 1773

6th Harmon White 1753 m. Sarah Dean 1757⁶

1st. Catharine White 1775

¹ Vanderpool 1899, pp. 9,13; NYGBR July 1992, p.164; Mossel 1999, p. 20.

² Vanderpool 1899, p.14; NYGBR Oct. 1993, p. 214; Mossel 1999 p. 22.

³ Vanderpool 1899, pp. 14, 19; NYGBR Oct. 1993, p.214; Mossel 1999 p. 22.

⁴ Vanderpool 1899, pp. 10, 70; NYGBR July 1992, p.166.

⁵ Vanderpool 1899, p. 74; NYGBR Oct. 1993, p. 216.

⁶ Vanderpool 1899, pp. 10, 13; NYGBR Oct. 1993, p. 215.

Note: NYGBR Oct. 1993, p. 214 erroneously states Benjamin White married his cousin Betsy Sawyer dau. of Harmon. Should be daughter of

Jesse. This error was called to the attention of the NYGBS and a correction was issued in the October 1999 NYGBR, p. 263. Some Vanderpool birth dates are in error by a year or so and are corrected by NYGBR. Mossel used the vital records of Salisbury, CT for birth dates.

1771. Jesse Listed in the Vermont Census of 1771.

Name: Jesse Sawyer, Year of Record: 1772. Residence at the time: Bennington (VT).

Note: The census of 1771 was a collection of documents that provided for a study of population growth, mortality and origin of VT counties and towns. This collection was done by the State of New York as a part of its attempt to administer and tax the land known as the New Hampshire Grants (now Vermont). The inhabitants of the 'grants' rebelled with riots and violence common. The information provided covers a time span of about 1761 to 1775 when the Revolutionary War began. The town of Bennington was settled in 1761 and Pownal in 1762. (Holbrook 1982, pp. i-xxv and p.74)

The settlers of the land now called Vermont had been given grants of land from New Hampshire. The British King then gave this same land to New York. New York in turn sold the land to others through land speculators. This was the basis for all the trouble between the Vermont settlers and the state of New York. New York attempted to evict the original settlers who resisted. Ethan Allen took up their cause and the Green Mountain Boys were formed in response. (Hemenway 1868, Vol 1. pp. 149 – 150)

22 March 1772. Jesse Sawyer Farm Near Bennington.

In 1772 Governor Tyron of New York offered a substantial reward for the capture of Ethan Allen and several others. John Munroe who was an active partisan of New York resolved to capture at least one of these declared outlaws. He assembled some of his friends and they surrounded the house of Remember Baker of Arlington. These armed men broke into Baker's home seriously wounding Baker his wife and son. (Ingraham 1903, p. 38). Although her arm was broken, Baker's wife slogged through the snow to the

nearest farm house arousing a group of neighbors. (Bellesiles 1993, p. 98). This action was part of the conflict with New York over the New Hampshire land grants. Area residents came to his rescue. (Hemenway Vol I, 1868, pp. 124 – 126) lists 14 men including Jesse Sawyer as being associated with this rescue from a sled with the beaten Baker being transported toward Bennington, VT. (Hall 1868, pp. 124 –126 footnote) states these 14 were all from Arlington and Sunderland, VT and were neighbors of Baker. Hall also points out that the Jesse Sawyer group was not the group from Bennington that rescued Baker, but a group of neighbors who joined up with the rescuers after the fact.

Jesse's wife Catherine White 1749 had an older sister named Cornelia 1743. She (NYGBR July 1992, p.166) married Gideon Brownson 1739 in Salisbury, CT in April 1761. Their first child was born in Salisbury in 1763, the others in Sunderland VT. The notes of Ruby Mossel, a White descendant and researcher, go further to state that Gideon and Cornelia came to Sunderland VT in 1766 and that Gideon was first Town Clerk in Sunderland in 1796. Jesse's farm in VT is described (Vanderpool 1899, p. 70) as being near Bennington. Sunderland is about 16 miles north of Old Bennington and is in Bennington County.

Between Bennington and Arlington lay towns of Sunderland and Shaftsbury. The first settlers of Sunderland included Ethan Allen's in-laws such as Gideon Brownson. The Brownson's arrived in 1766 from CT. Gideon encouraged people from CT to move to Sunderland and settlers to VT came in family groups, many knew each other before they moved in. (Bellesiles 1993, p.37)

Note: It would be likely for Jesse/Catherine, who came to VT later than Cornelia/Gideon, to locate near Catherine's sister in the Sunderland VT area. The references given above support this idea as Jesse is described as a 'neighbor' of Baker who lived in East Arlington and these 14 people including Jesse were all residents of 'Arlington and Sunderland.' Sunderland is also 'near Bennington.' Cornelia/Gideon were residents of Sunderland and he was a town official there after 1766. Jesse Sawyer's farm was probably in that small area including Arlington and Sunderland, just north of the old Bennington town and from Manchester south.

The vital records of Arlington prior to 1777 were lost after the Arlington Town Clerk became a Tory and removed to Canada. (Thompson 1853. Part 3; pp. 4-5)

1773. Jesse's Second Child Elizabeth Born.

Elizabeth (Betsey) born in Pownal, VT 1773 (Vanderpool 1899, p. 88)
b. April 4, 1773 (SawyerG 2000)

Elizabeth m. Benjamin White her cousin in Salisbury Oct 15, 1794.
(SawyerG 2000)

d. Jan 24, 1826. (SawyerG 2000)

Benjamin White b. Salisbury, CT Feb 25, 1774. (Salisbury Vital Records, p.214)

1773. Jesse Buys Farm Near Bennington, VT.

Jesse Sawyer after his marriage with Catharine White lived in Pownal, VT, until after the birth of their daughter Betsey in 1773, when he became owner of a farm near Bennington, VT. (Vanderpool 1899, p.70)

1775. Jesse's Third Child Mary Born.

Mary (sometimes called Polly) born at Bennington VT 1799 (Vanderpool 1899, p.88)

b. 1775 in Bennington VT 1775. (SawyerG 2000); b. 1775 (FCBP 2005)

m. Elnathan Goodrich. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 71)

m. Elnathan Goodrich June, 1796. (SawyerG 2000); m. Elnathan Goodrich
4 June 1776. (FCBP 2005)

d. 1810 Walton, New York. (SawyerG 2000);

Elnathan Goodrich b. May 17, 1776. d. Feb 25/28 1846, Springfield Twp.
(SawyerG 2000); b. 11 May 1776 Sharon, Litchfield County, CT. (FCBP 2005)

(The correct spelling is Elnathan as seen in other sources including NYS Census of 1810)

Six children; Myra 1797, Hiram 1799, Elisha 1801, Anna 1804, Elizabeth 1806, St.John 1809 (FCBP 2005)

1775. Jesse Sawyer - Rioter – Another Vermont Census Entry.

Name: Jesse Sawyer, Year of Record: 1775. Residence at the time: Durham, Purpose of Record: Rioter, Attacked Hough. From the Vermont Census of 1771. (Holbrook 1982, pp. i–xxv and p.74)

Note: The place name Durham was changed to Clarendon, VT before 1882 and is located south of Rutland, VT. (Child 1882, p. 65)

Jan 30 1775. Jesse's Participation in the Hough Affair.

Jesse Sawyer was one of a jury held at Sunderland, Bennington County, VT Jan 30 1775 to try Rev. Benjamin Hough, of Clarendon. Hough was appointed Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Charlotte by New York State to try New Hampshire grantees for sundry offenses. Although he was warned repeatedly not to exercise any authority derived from his appointment, he persisted. He was therefore arrested and taken before the Committee of Safety at Sunderland. Jesse Sawyer was one of several jurors who tried Hough for his offenses against the New Hampshire Grants. The other jurymen were Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, Robert Cochran, Peleg Sunderland, James Mead and Gideon Warner. Mr. Hough was convicted by the jury. (Vanderpool 1889, p.71; Hemenway 1877, Vol. III, p.558)

The sentence was pronounced: "That the prisoner be taken from the bar of this Committee of Safety and be tied to a tree, and there, on his naked back, receive two hundred stripes; his back being dressed he should depart out of the district, and on return, without special leave of the convention, to suffer death." (Rann 1886, p. 99)

Note: Without any further authority than having a force of arms, the Green Mountain Boys headed by Ethan Allen took it upon themselves to act as a court to try perceived grievances against the people. Further detail about this

affair comes from Hemenway. Ethan Allen read the sentence to Hough and he was tied to an apple tree in front of Allen's house where the sentence was carried out in full view of a large assemblage who came to witness this action, thus insuring that this event was well documented and not forgotten. The Bennington area was called the County of Charlotte by New York administrators.

Then Allen furnished him a certificate to carry back to New York certifying that Hough had been punished for his crimes against this country. As in the Remember Baker affair three years earlier, the activity centers in Sunderland so that Jesse probably lived nearby.

“Sunderland, January 30, 1775.

This may certify the inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants that Benjamin Hough hath this day received a full punishment for his crimes committed against this country; and our inhabitants are ordered to give him, the said Huff a free and unmolested passport toward the city of New York, or to the Westward of our Grants, he behaving himself as becometh. Given under our hands the day and date aforesaid.

Ethan Allen
Seth Warner”

(Hemenway 1877, Vol III, p. 558)

March 30 1775. New York Assembly Votes to Apprehend Jesse and Others.

Hough returned to New York and petitioned the council for protection against the rioters. Then the Lt. Gov. of NY addressed the NY Assembly about the Hough affair, discussing the anarchy in the New Hampshire Grants. The assembly voted for ‘apprehending and confining in any jail of the colony, the following named persons being rioters named in the act of the last session, to wit: Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, Robert Cochran and Peleg Sutherland, and that a reward of fifty pounds be voted for apprehending and securing the aforesaid, James Mead, Gideon Warner and Jesse Sawyer for assisting the first four mentioned in committing sundry

violent outrages on the person of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Charlotte.' (Hall 1868, p. 194)

Hough now being destitute with no means of support, was given a license to beg on the streets of New York. (Mason 1886, p. 560)

Note: This was the dying effort of the colonial government of New York against the New Hampshire grants. The revolution soon overshadowed all other events. (Hemenway 1877, Vol. III p. 558)

April 19 to May 9/10 1775. Revolutionary War Begins and Taking Fort Ticonderoga.

With the battle of Lexington over, the governor and council of CT requested Col. Ethan Allen raise the Green Mountain Boys and take the garrisons of Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Allen met at Bennington with his principal officers to make plans for taking these forts by force. (Allen 1798, pp. 42 – 44)

Early in May 1775, Ethan Allen's messengers came through Manchester summoning the Green Mountain Boys to join the expedition. As was noted in 1876 it was even then unknown to whose houses they stopped and just who came forth armed and equipped in response to the call. Col. Allen had only small arms for weaponry but with the assistance of his officers raised about 180 men and marched on Ticonderoga, NY the night of May 9th 1775. This was the first offense taken against Great Britain in the American Revolution. (Allen 1798, pp. 42 –44; Munson 1876, p. 21)

Jesse Sawyer's role in this engagement is summarized by Vanderpool 1899, p. 77:

THE TAKING OF FORT TICONDEROGA, MAY 10, 1775.

“Directions being sent from the then colony, now state of Connecticut, to raise companies of “Green Mountain Boys,” and if possible with them to surprise and take the fortress of Ticonderoga, Col Ethan Allen raised several companies. Seth Warner was Lieut.-Col, Sam'l Safford, Major, and Jesse Sawyer Captain, of one company. After carefully guarding the several passes that led thither to cut off all intelligence between the garrison and the

country, they made a forced march from Bennington, and arrived at the lake opposite Ticonderoga on the evening of the ninth of May, 1775, with 230 valiant Green Mountain Boys, and with the utmost difficulty procured boats to cross the lake, a distance of five or six miles. However, they landed 83 men near the garrison and sent the boats back for the rear guard, commanded by Col. Seth Warner, but the day began to dawn and it became necessary to attack the fort before the rear could cross the lake, and as it was viewed hazardous, Col. Allen proposed to the soldiers that all that were willing to make the attempt, to poise their firelocks. The men being drawn up in three ranks, each poised his firelock, he ordered them to face to the right and they marched immediately to the wicket gate, Captain Sawyer taking the lead. There they found a sentry posted, who instantly snapped his fusee. Col. Allen ran toward him. He retreated through the covered way into the parade, within the garrison, gave a loud “Halloa” and ran under a bomb proof. The men immediately entered the fort, the garrison excepting the sentries being asleep. They gave three huzzahs, which greatly surprised them. A sentry made a pass at one of the officers with a charged bayonet, and slightly wounded him. The officer struck him on the head with his sword, whereupon he asked quarter, which was granted him. Col. Allen demanded where the commanding officer was. He was shown a flight of stairs in front of the garrison – which led to a second story in the barrack – to which he immediately repaired and ordered the commander, Captain De La Place, to come forth, or he would sacrifice the whole garrison, at which the Captain came with his breeches in his hand. When he ordered him to deliver the fort instantly, he asked on what authority he demanded it. Col. Allen replied with a stamp of his foot, that shook the building, “In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress.” He began to speak, but, with drawn sword, the intrepid Col. again demanded an immediate surrender of the garrison, with which he complied at once, and ordered his men to be forthwith paraded, without arms, as he had given up the garrison. This surprise was carried into execution in the gray morning light of the early morning of the 10th of May, 1775”

Note: This is the only detailed source found for the account of Jesse Sawyer’s participation in the taking of Fort Ticonderoga. At the time of Ticonderoga, Jesse was listed in other sources as being a Lieutenant and not yet a Captain. No official list of participants in the Ticonderoga activity was ever made, as no one apparently made a record at the time. There are several websites on the Internet seeking to find sources and names of the 180 or so

soldiers who were actually there. In fact, the total number of men in this action is estimated from 160 to as many as 270 depending on the source consulted. (Jennings 1869, p.66; Merrill 1911, p. 17)

May 9/10 1775. Salisbury, CT Records Concerning Ticonderoga.

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From the Salisbury records: “Here then is a peg on which to hang our recollections. Probably within a stone's throw of this building was collected the nucleus of the force with which Ethan Allen, both by word and deed, surprised Capt. De La Place, and from what we know of Ethan, I have a lurking suspicion that what he said to the British Commandant was couched in language considerably more familiar and picturesque than the generally attributed order to surrender in "the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

Three of the Salisbury volunteers in this expedition were Josiah Stoddard, Levi Allen (a brother of Ethan) and Samuel Blagden. The party proceeded to Bennington, picking up recruits along the line, and was finally augmented by the addition of one hundred Green Mountain Boys, with Allen at their head.

Benedict Arnold with a force raised under the authority of Massachusetts was present at the capture, but he acted independently,

(*) Record of Service of Conn. Men in the War of the Revolution (State pub. 1889), p. 29.

(+) Records of the State of Conn., Vol. I, pp. 292-3.

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as he refused to serve under Allen, and the credit of carrying out the idea conceived in Connecticut was given to Allen and his men.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the Salisbury contingent in the American forces was the number of commissioned officers it contained, serving either in Connecticut Regiments or with the Green Mountain Boys-- remarkable because it shows that Salisbury, even then, could produce men of the best type, qualified to command and to share in the conduct of important

affairs. This list of thirty-three names is certainly deserving of special notice:--

Lieut. Col. Elisha Sheldon	Timothy Holcomb
Lieut. Col. Samuel Blagden	Adonijah Strong
Nathaniel Buell	Roger Moore
Joshua Porter	Nathaniel Chipman
Major Luther Stoddard	Heman Allen
Capt. Eleazer Claghorn	Richard Bignall
Josiah Stoddard	James Holmes
Gamaliel Painter	Daniel Brinsmaid
John Chipman	James Claghorn
Noah Lee	Jesse Sawyer
Nathaniel Everts, Jr.	James Skinner
Ebenezer Fletcher	Surgeon Darius Stoddard
Samuel Lane	Lemuel Wheeler
Joshua Stanton	Ensign Nathan Dauchy
David Beebe	Luke Camp
Timothy Chittenden	Samuel Waterous
Ruloff Dutcher (sometimes called of Canaan)”	

(SVR 1913, pp. 142 –143)

Note: This is the best source other than Vanderpool that places, at least by inference, Jesse at the Ticonderoga affair. The above information is presented exactly as published so the reader can make judgment if Jesse was there at Ticonderoga when it was taken by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys.

June 23 1775. Green Mountain Boys Legitimized.

From the Continental Congress, "...Information being given that Col. Allen and Capt. Seth Warner who brought the letter were at the door, and had some things of importance to communicate. Ordered, that they be called in. After they withdrew, the congress took the letter and information into consideration, Resolved, that it be recommended to the convention of New York, that they, consulting with General Shuyler, employ in the army to be raised for the defense of America, those called Green Mountain Boys, under

such officers as they said Green Mountain Boys shall chuse.” (JCC 1775, p. 104 –105)

Note: It was by this action of the Continental Congress that the Green Mountain Boys ceased being “outlaws” and were now a legitimate force defending the fledgling country. The information presented to the NY congress follows in the next section.

July 4 1775. NY Provisional Congress Action on US Congress Resolve.

“The Congress (NY) then resumed the consideration of the Resolves of the Continental Congress bearing the date the 23d instant, and after some time spent therein, the Congress was informed that Ethan Allen was at the door & desired admittance. Ordered that Ethan Allen be admitted. (Members for Albany, New York and Richmond Counties voted against the admission of Ethan Allen). He delivered a list of officers, which is filed: A list of the Field Officers, Captains and Part of the Lieutenants of the Regiment of Green Mountain Boys Consisting of Seven Companies.

“Ethan Allen Field Officers

Seth Warner do

Captains.

Remember Baker

Robert Cochran

Michael Veal

Peleg Sutherland

Gideon Warren

Wait Hopkins

Heman Allen

Levi Allen Adjutant

Elijah Babcock Commissary

Jonas Fay Doctor & Surrurgeon

First Lieutenants.

Ira Allen

John Grant

Ebenezer Allen

David Ives

Jesse Sawyer

July 4th 1775

Col Allen’s royal List of Loyal Officers”

Ethan Allen & Seth Warner having been heard they withdrew.

Ordered, that in Consequences of a Recommendation from the Continental Congress a Body of Troops not exceeding Five Hundred Men, officers included, be forthwith raised of these called Green Mountain Boys, that they elect all their own officers except Field Officers.” (Fernow 1972, p.16)

Note: The next act in this drama was a controversy that seemed to arise among the Green Mountain Boys according to Gen Schuyler, that led to a democratic meeting in the New Hampshire Grants for the people to chose the officers of the Green Mountain Boys. (Fernow 1972, p. 27) Ethan Allen was considered a “hot head” and a “firebrand” by some and not suited for leadership of the legitimized group of Green Mountain Boys.

July 27 1775. Jesse Sawyer Green Mountain Boy.

Sawyer, Jesse 2nd Lt. Green Mountain Boys. 27th July to December 1775. (Heitman 1914, p. 483)

July 27 1775. Committee Meeting at Dorset

“At a meeting of the Committees of the several Townships on the New Hampshire Grants, West of the Range of Green Mountains, convened at the house of Mr. Sephas Kents in the Township of Dorset, July 27th 1775— Voted as follows, to wit:...Chose Mr. Seth Warner Lieutenant Colonel for the Regiment of Green Mountain Boys....Chose Mr. Samuel Safford Major for said Regiment....”

In addition, of the seven Companies formed, the 6th was as follows: Captain- Michael Vail; First Lieutenant- Ira Allen; Second Lieutenant- Jesse Sawyer. (Fernow 1972, p. 27; Hall 1868, pp 211 –212; Goodrich 1904, p. 815; Hemenway Vol II 1871, p. 390; Heitman 1914, p. 483)

The 6th company in the Regiment of Green Mountain Boys was further defined as consisting of men from Danby, Arlington, Colchester and vicinity. This helps place Jesse and family in that area. (Aldrich 1889, p. 63)

Interestingly, the uniforms for the Green Mountain Boys were also ordered by the New York Provisional Congress: “Each of them shall be furnished with a coat....purchase coarse green Cloth for that purpose and red Cloth sufficient to face these Coats and to have two hundred and twenty-five Coats of a large size made of the said cloth.” (Fernow 1972, p. 28)

Note: By this vote of the people, Ethan Allen was put out of command and Jesse was reduced in rank from 1st to 2nd Lieutenant. Jesse’s immediate supervisor was Ira Allen, brother of Ethan. By the same action Ebenezer Allen, cousin of Ethan Allen (Belesiles 1995, p. 255) was named a first Lieutenant in the 2nd company formed. He became Jesse’s supervisor a few years later, and their careers in the VT militia were parallel. The fact that Ebenezer Allen was Ethan Allen’s cousin might have had something to do with the fact that Ebenezer ended the war as a Col. while Jesse remained a Captain. New York apparently set the size of the Green Mountain Boys at 225 instead of the 500 authorized by the Continental Congress. In the Dorset vote Gideon Brownson, Jesse’s brother in law, was named a Captain of the 5th company formed. Gideon became a general in the Vermont Militia later on.

1775. Jesse Appointed Lieutenant.

Harmon (Jesse’s son) b. 1770 was only 5- years old when Jesse Sawyer was appointed Lieutenant of a company of Green Mountain Boys. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 74)

1775 – 1776. Canada.

In late 1775 the Green Mountain Boys at the request of the Continental Congress penetrated Canada defeating the British force causing them to abandon Montreal. The British then defeated American forces in Quebec and reinforcement action was requested from the New Hampshire grants to Col. Warner who had just honorably discharged the Green Mountain Boys regiment a few weeks before. He beat up for volunteers and was soon heading another regiment headed north. No list of the officers or men in this regiment has been found. A fragment of a payroll shows that several of Jesse’s associates were involved and he may have been as well. The Continental Congress was so pleased that on 5 July 1776 a separate

Continental regiment of regular troops was formed that remained intact throughout the war headed by Colonel Warner and Lieut. Col. Safford. (Hemenway 1868, Vol 1., pp. 154 – 155)

1777. Indian Action.

This is another story about Jesse Sawyer that comes down to us from those early days: During this time, word came to Capt. Jesse Sawyer that twin boys had been captured by seven Indians from their cabin home in VT. Jesse selected five men from his company for the search. He could follow a trail as well as any Indian, only needing to find here and there a broken twig or an almost impossible foot print. Knowing the Indians would camp at night in the chill of October, the group of soldiers waited. When they saw the camp fire and smoke they moved in close enough to hear the conversations. Jesse could understand the Indian language well enough to comprehend the meaning. The Indians were arguing among themselves whether to kill the twins or take them to Canada seeking a reward. Capt. Sawyer led the attack on the Indian camp killing them and rescuing the little boys. The boys were returned to their overjoyed mother. Capt. Sawyer said, “he and his men left the house as soon as possible, for hardened soldiers as they were, they could not witness the joy of the mother unmoved.” (Vanderpool 1899, pp. 72 –73)

July 22 1777. Capt. Jesse Sawyer gave receipt for 51 pounds for bounty to soldiers of his company. (Goodrich 1904, p.790)

July 23 1777. Receipt of Lt. Gideon Ormsby for 31 pounds, 16 pence for bounty to soldiers of Capt. Jesse’s company. (SE-118; ID-38695, V.8, p. 479)

August 16 1777. Time of the Battle of Bennington.

At the battle of Bennington the British troop under Baum were defeated by Col’s Stark and Warner. During this difficult time, the incident reported in the poem “My Great Grandmother’s Ride,” took place. This was a story in poem form of the wife of Jesse Sawyer living in a little log house in VT. Her husband was at war while she was taking care of the farm with baby Bess

and little son (Harmon). When the British came, she left with two children to go for safety with her brother to wait the coming of Captain Jess. The poem describes how the next day she saw the British driving her cattle they had stolen. She is said to have swung a broom at a soldier who waved his sword at her. She said “If you harm my head by a single hair, you’ll pay with your own worthless life. I’m Captain Jesse Sawyer’s wife.” The officer wheeled his horse and rode out of sight without a word. (Vanderpool 1899, p.48 and pp. 78 – 80)

Note: This poem is attributed to Catherine White Sawyer’s g granddaughter Elizabeth Hoard McGuiness ca. 1886.

Jesse’s wife was described in the language of the time: “Catherine Sawyer was well fitted to be the mate of the intrepid soldier she had married. In the secluded place where she lived she had become accustomed to dangerous and unwelcome visitors, but if the sheep and cows were safely housed, the wolves might howl and panthers screech unheeded in the darkness. Savage looking Indians occasionally called, but beyond asking for something to eat, they never molested her.” (Vanderpool 1899, p.74)

1778 Jesse’s Fourth Child Elisha Born.

Elisha White Sawyer was born in Bennington in 1778. (Vanderpool 1899, p.70)

b. Jan 1778 (SawyerG 2000)

b. 1778 (Walton 1975)

m. Elizabeth Smith 1806, Walton NY (SawyerG 2000)

b. 1787 (Walton 1975)

d. Sep 12 1829 (SawyerG 2000)

d. 1829 and buried in the Old Burying Ground, Walton (Walton 1975)

Elizabeth Smith b. May 1786, d. Sep 18 1824. (SawyerG 2000)

d. Sept 1824 and buried in the Old Burying Ground. (Walton 1975)

1778 – 1781 Jesse’s Role in the Revolutionary War.

From about 1777 Jesse became part of the Vermont militia and in particular was with Col. Herrick's and Maj. Wait's Regiment. On 15 Jul 1777, Samuel Herrick received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment that would become known as Herrick's Rangers. Herrick established his headquarters in Manchester adjacent to Colonel Warner's regiment. Col. Herrick sent out his captains to scour the countryside for volunteers to fill their companies. The regiment began with the 43 recruits brought in by Captain Ebenezer Allen and 28 from Captain Pawlet. By July 25, he still had only 110 men. (See Bennington historian Jepson's, Herrick's Rangers for more detail)

This is in contrast to the regiment of regular Army forces headed by Col Warner. As part of the Vermont militia, Jesse was again as closely associated with Ethan Allen as he had been with the original Green Mountain Boys. The militia was similar to what we today call a state's National Guard. Militia members were not on continuous duty but were called up for specific purposes or campaigns. The rest of the time they were expected to farm or go about everyday tasks to keep the state going.

Aug. 18th to Sept 25th 1777. Doctor Samuel Porter paid on account for service doctoring Capt. Sawyer's company, Col. Herrick's, Regiment. – sundries at various dates.
(Goodrich 1904, p.793)

Aug. 25 1777. Receipt for 130 pounds for the purpose of paying a bounty to the soldiers of his company. (SE-118; ID-38687, V. 8, p.425)

Jan 22 1778. Continental Congress authorizes an irruption into Canada with authorization to expend funds and appoint officers for this purpose. (JCC 1778, p.84)

Feb 10 1778. Jesse appointed Captain to Maj. Wait's regiment for an intended expedition to Canada. (Vanderpool 1899, p.71) and Col. Herrick and Maj. Wait to command a Regiment to be raised to assist to carry into execution a plan for penetrating into the Province of Quebec. Capt. Wood to raise fifty men. Jesse Sawyer mentioned in connection with the raising of troops. (Goodrich 1904, p.783)

Feb 20 1778. Capt. Jesse Sawyer gave receipt for 120 pounds for the purpose of raising a company to serve on an expedition to Canada under Col. Herrick. (SE-118; ID-38681, V. 8, p. 394)

Feb 20 1778. Receipt of Capt. Jesse Sawyer for 70 pounds from the council, to be delivered to Capt. Parmalee Allen for the purpose of raising a company to go to Canada in the Regiment of Col. Samuel Herrick. (SE-118; ID-31334, V. 8., p. 394)

Feb 21 1778. Payroll matter. Capt. Jesse Sawyer gave receipt for 100 pounds for recruiting a company of men to serve in an expedition to Canada. (Goodrich 1904, p.791)

Mar 2 1778. Continental Congress resolves that difficulties attend the irruption under Lafayette which make it hazardous and extremely imprudent. (JCC 1788, p.217)

Mar 6 1778. A report that the intended expedition to Canada is dropped. (Goodrich 1904, p.785)

Note: this expedition to invade Quebec was to be headed by Gen. La Fayette. Extensive preparations were made and funds expended but nothing came of it. The records of the Continental Congress provide great detail about the lack of progress and waste of time and money that occurred in this ill-fated effort.

Mar 19 1778. Voted in the General Assembly of VT that the council take the express (Sent from Capt. Sawyer in Clarendon) into consideration and report to the house. Ebenezer Allen (Jesse's supervisor) is mentioned twice regarding pay to be provided for officers serving at Ticonderoga. (Goodrich 1904, p. 771)

Note: The express was a message sent by Capt. Jesse Sawyer to the General Assembly regarding pay matters.

April 1778. That Jesse Sawyer was on active duty with a company of men is confirmed by the history of one of his men at that time. Eli Pember enlisted in April 1778 and served two months as a private in Capt. Jesse Sawyer's Company in the Vermont militia. He served at Castleton near Rutland. (Pember 1939, p. 79)

Ethan Allen had been captured by the British in 1775 and was exchanged in May 1778. "Ethan Allen, on his arrival in this country, waited on Gen. Washington at Valley Forge and then returned to Vermont, where he was received with great joy. 'Three cannons were fired that evening, and the next morning Col. Herrick gave orders and fourteen more were discharged' welcoming him to Bennington; "thirteen for the United States and one for young Vermont." (Champ 1909)

Allen then was first a Colonel then a Major General in the Vermont militia. Governor Chittendon of VT appointed him commander of the militia on his return from captivity. (Goodrich 1904, p. 67; Badamo 1992, "Flatlanders")

May 28 1778. Names of the regiments of the state (militia) were assigned. The 2nd Regiment belonging to Col. Herrick consisted of companies and their commanders from Bennington, Shaftsbury, and Sunderland. The names of the commanders of the two Pownal companies were not listed with any explanation given.
(Goodrich 1904, p. 786)

Note: One of the Pownal companies may have been Jesse's or he was operating independently on individual assignment.

May 28th 1778. Search mission. Capt. Jesse Sawyer ordered with 6 soldiers to search for inimical persons in towns north of Arlington. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 71)

May 30 1778. A search for Tories. To my own time and five men, expenses two days back in search for Tories, by order of his Excellency and council, at 18 pounds per day. I certify upon honor that the above account is justly and truly charged in all its parts. Signed Capt. Jesse Sawyer. Approved by Thomas Chittenden and paid by Ira Allen, Treasurer July 6, 1778. (Goodrich 1904, p. 693)

June – July 1778. Account of Capt. Jesse Sawyer, 8 days spent forwarding provisions from Manchester to Rutland; to cash paid out for my own and other people's provisions. June 28, 1778, Two days and one night spent in Apprehending and Guarding Jones and Fairchild to Bennington; cash paid Felix Powell for his assistance guarding a suspected person, guarding Asa Baldwin from Dorset to Bennington. I took with me for an assistant Mr.

Felix Powel – The time spent was two days & two nights. Three horses travel and expenses; cash paid to Butterfield for his assistance; to hire of one horse, to cash paid Noah Chittenden for assistance. July 8, 1778, to two and one half days spent in escorting the Tories that were going to Albany. Treasury Office, Arlington Sept. 3, 1778. Received of M. Lyon Ast. To Ira Allen, Esq. treasurer fifty five pounds, 14 shilling and three pence. Signed. Jesse Sawyer. (SE-118 ID-38659, V. 8, p. 358; SPV Vol VI. pp. 295 -296; Goodrich 1904, p. 694)

August 1778 - Manchester, Bennington County VT. Government.

A roll was published of the freemen of the County of Bennington, Township of Manchester, VT prior to 1800, stating they were pioneers who had to contend not only with the Indians but the conflict over the New Hampshire grants. The very first roll of men with titles was for those who were there before 1778 include the name of Capt. Jesse Sawyer. Also the old town records for the Township of Manchester list the name of Jesse Sawyer during the Revolutionary War.

(Aldrich 1889, p. 351 – 352 and 358)

Town officers list from 1771 – 1778 include Capt. Jesse Sawyer who in August 1778 was moderator of a town meeting in which Martin Powell was made Justice of the Peace. These were part of a series of local government meetings to administer the Manchester, VT town. (Aldrich 1889, pp. 348 – 349)

Sept 3 1778. Receipt of Capt. Jesse Sawyer, for payment of the account of Matthew Lyon, Assistant Treasurer. (SE-118; ID-38661, V. 8, p. 358)

Sept 12 1778. Capt. Jesse Sawyer named on account of Gideon Ormsby – paid for assistance of in transporting wheat and pork from Rupert to Dorset to Manchester in July 1777. (SE-118; ID-38691, V. 8, p. 466)

Nov 1778. Another Jesse Sawyer. The only other Rev. War soldier found in VT by the same name was Pvt. Jesse Sawyer in Capt Ormsby's Company on alarm in Col. Warren's regiment of militia in Nov 1778. (Goodrich 1904, p. 91) This man is believed buried in Bennington, VT. (Crockett 1973, p. 29) There is still another Jesse Sawyer who was a Lt. in the Revolutionary War serving at Valley Forge with General Washington but of another state. He is listed later with his own family line specified.

Nov 3, 1778. Capt. Jesse Sawyer – Item in the account of Mathew Lyon, Assistant Treasurer. (SE-118; ID-38660, V. 8, p. 318)

Jan 1779. Jesse Sawyer – Certificate from John Fasset (Commissioner of Sequestration) regarding purchase of a farm in Manchester forfeited by Benjamin French. (SE-118; ID-38667, V. 37, P. 94). Justice of the peace certified the sale (SE-118; ID-9813, V37, p.94) and Daniel Harmon witnessed the purchase on the same date. (SE-118; ID-29023, V. 32, p. 94). Benjamin French a Tory forfeited property in Manchester sold to Capt. Jesse Sawyer. (SE-118; ID-37554, V. 37, p. 94)

Complete text of Jesse Sawyer’s deed through Sequestration:

“CERTIFICATE OF JESSE SAWYER

These may certify whom it may concern that on the month of January 1779 I received a deed from the Honorable John Fassett Jr. Esqr. Commissioner of sale for Confiscated Estates in the probate district of Manchester County of Benington of a certain farm or lot of land Namely one hundred acres Lying in said Manchester being No. 30 in the first Division Daniel Warner Esq. being the original Grantee Bounded as follows Beginning at the South East Corner of a Beech Tree being the North East Corner of Reuben Purdees Lot No. 4 Thence running west 10 degrees North one hundred and Sixty rods to a stake and Stones thence North 10 degrees East one hundred rods to a stake and stones Thence East 10 degrees South one hundred and sixty rods to a stake and stones, thence south 10 degrees West one hundred rods to the first mentioned Bounds said land being forfeited to this State by Benjamin French by his Treasonable conduct for which hundred acres I paid the Said John Fassett Esq. at the time of giving the deed above mentioned Three hundred and fifty Pounds Lawful money and no more.

Jesse Sawyer

*Jonathan Robinson
Daniel Harmon*

Benington Sept 28th 1785

Personally appeared the above named Jesse Sawyer and made solem oath to the Truth of the above Certificate.

*Before me
Jonathan Brace Just Peace”*

(SPV VI, p. 392)

Jan 7, 1779. Item in the account of John Fasset, Commissioner of Sequestration and Sale of confiscated estates. Land sold to Jesse Sawyer. (SE-118; ID-38690, V. 37, p. 64).

Note: The land that Jesse bought had been taken by a Court of Confiscation that met in Arlington on April 23, 1778. At that time a large number of persons including Benjamin French were deprived of their property due to “Notorious and Treasonable Acts” and the monies from property sales was to placed into the public treasury. (SPV VI, pp. 14 – 17)

Obtaining a farm that was seized (sequestered) from a Tory (English sympathizer) in Manchester gives credence to following accounts of his being in the Manchester area from this time forward including birth location of his final two children.

The idea that property of “Inimical persons” called “Tories” be confiscated to the use and property of the state originated with Ira Allen, became historically famous and served to tide the state over serious financial crisis during the Rev. War. (SPV II, p. iii)

May – June 1779. A pay roll of the men belonging to Manchester who assisted the sheriff in the execution of his office in May and June 1779 in Cumberland County on which several officers including Capt. Jesse Sawyer are allowed for 8 days each. (Goodrich 1904, p. 802)

May 1779. In this month a body of volunteers from the Manchester side of the mountains went over to assist the sheriff of Cumberland County in the execution of laws. This included capturing Tories, and sometimes pulling down their houses. This service was quite popular and officers came to the front in large numbers. Volunteers from Manchester included Maj. Nathan Smith, Capt. Gideon Ormsby, Capt. Jesse Sawyer and others. (Munson 1876, pp. 37 -38)

May 13, 1779. To the account of Capt. Gage for keeping teams when carting provisions from Manchester to Rutland under care of Capt. Jesse Sawyer. (SE-118; ID-40539, V. 8, p. 267)

Oct 27 1779. Jesse is Proprietor in Several Vermont Land Charters.

Record of both Jesse 1750 and his son Harmon 1770 are found in the Vermont land charters of 1779. In early Vermont the General Assembly and officers of the new state established new towns by issuing “charters” to selected citizens so that they could settle and establish these areas. Thomas Chittenden, the new Governor of Vermont, signed these charters on October 27, 1779 in the 3rd year of the independence of the state. (Black 1922, pp. 103 –104)

Isle of Mott was one of these charters:

Several of Jesse’s associates in the Revolutionary War can be found in this charter, including Ira Allen, brother of Ethan the paymaster for Jesse and Ebenezer Allen, who was Jesse’s supervisor in many of his war activities. Samuel Herrick, Colonel and Regimental commander in the Vermont militia was included as well as Thomas Chittenden, the governor of Vermont and Benjamin Wait, who was Jesse’s company commander in the original Green Mountain Boys roster. The names of both Jesse Sawyer and Harmon Sawyer appear on this charter. The charter was for prime land located on an island in Lake Champlain, 8 miles south of the Canadian border. The island was about 6 miles in length and two in width. It was covered with original forest with areas well suited to fruit and farming. Each of the 99 proprietors of this charter “shall plant and cultivate two acres of Land, or have one Family settled on each respectice Right within the Term of Two years next after the conclusion of the Present War.” (Hemenway Vol. II 1871, p.554; SPV II, p. 103)

Charter of Fair Haven:

It was similar to Isle-La Mott but located on the east side of Lake Champlain. This land was considered by New York to be in their County of Charlotte. (Hemenway Vol. III 1877, p. 672) In this case Capt. Ebenezer Allen petitioned the Governor, Council and General Assembly of Vermont for a grant of a Tract of unappropriated land. Again Col. Samuel Herrick, Jesse Sawyer and others were granted land. Each proprietor in the Township of Fairhaven was to plant and cultivate Ten acres of Land & build an house

at least Eighteen feet square on the floor, or have one Family Settled on Each respective right or share of the Township within the Term of Four years after the War with Great Britain was over. (SVP II, pp. 73 -74)

Later on Jesse and George Foot acquired additional land for a total of 100 acres in two fourth divisions. This land was first sold at public auction and then resold 5 April 1784 for 17 Pounds sterling. (Adams 1870, pp 23 – 24)

Charter of Two Heroes:

This charter was established by Col. Ethan Allen and Col. Samuel Herrick. This was another island in Lake Champlain well situated with timber. Again the Green Mountain Boys including Jesse Sawyer were well represented in the list of proprietors. This charter was large and consisted of about 23 thousand acres total. In this case each grantee was to plant and cultivate two acres of land, or have one Family Settled on each respective Right or Share of Land within the Term of one year after the Rev. War. (Black 1922, p. 192; SVP II, pp. 193 – 195)

Note. In these charters the proprietors could sell their land and many did rather than settle there. Holding the land for a few years and then selling could bring profit to these conditional original owners. There is no evidence that either Jesse or Harmon ever actually lived there. By having two of these land rights assigned to his family, including one parcel for young son Harmon, Jesse could have doubled his profit when the land rights were sold.

1780 Jesse's Fifth Child Catherine Born.

Catharine or Katharine born in Bennington (Vanderpool 1899, p.70)
b. ca. 1780. (GS Files)
m. McClelland or McPherson. (Vanderpool 1899, p.70)

1781 Jesse's Sixth Child Sarah Born.

Sarah born in Bennington. m. Unknown Franklin, settled in Monroe County (NY) about 1800. (Vanderpool 1899, p.70)

b. ca. 1781. (SawyerG 2000)

(Note: These last two births may actually have been in Bennington County, Manchester Township.)

April 25 1780 - Jan 10 1781. Jesse's Vermont Militia Payroll.

A Pay Roll of Capt. Jesse Sawyer's Company of Rangers, belonging to Maj. Ebenezer Allen's Detachment, raised for the defense of the State of Vermont, beginning April 25, 1780, and ending Jan. 10, 1781, both days included. On this document Capt. Jesse Sawyer is shown as entering service April 25, 1780 and ending service Jan 10, 1781 for a period of 8 months and 16 days. He was paid a wage of 8 pounds per month. His total pay was 68 pounds plus officer's subsistence of 17 pounds. His principal officers, Lt. Nathaniel Spencer and Lt. Elias Hall were paid 5 pounds, 8 shillings per month. They received subsistence allowance of 8 pounds 10 shillings. There were a total of 49 enlisted men in the company, none serving the full term. Most served on the average about 7 months at a base pay of 2 pounds per month. Part of the enlisted ranks included one fifer and one drummer for marching purposes. They were paid 2 pounds, 4 shillings per month. Within the company, two privates deserted in the middle of the campaign. There were no fatalities listed..

On Feb 1st, 1781. Then personally appeared Capt. Jesse Sawyer and made solem oath that the within payroll is a just and true roll, without fraud to the State of Vermont, or any individual, according to my best knowledge. Before me, signed Thomas Chittenden, Governor.

Pay Table Office. The within pay roll being examind and approved, the Treasurer is hereby directed to pay the same to Thomas Tolman (Paymaster to the troops of this state) being the sum of eight hundred and forty-five pounds and 8 pence in hard money or other currencey money equivalent, taking his receipt.

Given at Arlington, this 1st day of February, 1781.

Thomas Chittenden

John Fassett

(Goodrich 1904, pp. 336 -337)

Note: Maj. Ebenezer Allen is listed as part of Col Herrick's units either of battalion or regimental size in these times. (Jennings 1869, p. 64) It is almost certain Jesse's Company of Rangers, in Allen's detachment was also part of Col Herrick's regiment.

May 1780 – Nov 1781. Jesse's Company in Action.

The spring of 1780 was a difficult one for Vermont. General Washington had removed all continental army troops from the territory for use elsewhere. Vermont was left to its own resources to protect from the enemy in Canada. The militia was used to strengthen and garrison the forts at Rutland, Castleton and Pittsford. Plans were made to call out the entire militia in case of need. Two companies of rangers (including Jesse's) were kept in constant service to patrol the frontiers and keep watch for enemy approach. (Hall 1868, p. 319)

In the month of May 1780, Sir John Johnson with a body of Tories and Indians made an unexpected advance into the Mohawk Valley from Canada and ravaged the country. Gov Clinton (NY) sent a dispatch to Castleton requesting as many forces as could be mustered to meet with him at Ticonderoga to repulse the enemy advance. The next day, Major Ebenezer Allen (Detachment Commander of Jesse's and other Rangers) responded that he had two hundred men with 100 more on the way. These forces including Capt. Jesse's company apparently so intimidated Sir John Johnson that he passed north to Lake Champlain and escaped into Canada. Gov. Clinton wrote to congress to say that the punctuality and readiness of the militia of the grants in complying with his request with about 240 men did them great honor. (Hall 1868, p. 319)

Mid October 1780. British forces came across Lake Champlain with 8 vessels containing upwards of 1000 men, regular troops, Indians and loyalists. This effort killed or captured Vermont militiamen at two forts. Captain Chapman lost Fort George while the British forces continued to advance. With such alarm the entire Vermont militia was called out. In another surprise move, Brigadier General Ethan Allen, who had taken charge of the Vermont forces, arranged an armistice with the British, they retired to Canada, and the militia action was terminated. In November 1780, this action by Ethan Allen received a great deal of scrutiny and was

investigated by the Vermont Assembly; rather than submit to their questioning, he walked out of the hearing but was later exonerated of wrong doing. (Hall 1868, pp 320 – 336)

The investigation was caused by those who accused Ethan Allen of selling out to Canada by attempting to cede Vermont back to Britain with the British governor of Canada offering Ethan and his followers honors and cash if they did so. (Badano 1992, Damn the Congress)

August 1780. Payroll matter with Capt. Jesse Sawyer mentioned. (Goodrich 1904, p.781)

Nov 20 1780. Defense of the state. The governor (Chittendon of VT) resolved to raise eighty able-bodied men for the defense of the state (VT) commanded by Jesse Sawyer. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 71)

Nov 29, 1780. Arlington. Capt Jesse Sawyer to have command of eighty men, forty from Col. Ira Allen's Regiment to march to Fort Warren without loss of time, and forty from Col Ebenezer Allen's Regiment to march to Fort Vengenanace [at Pitsford] and join Capt. Sawyer and continue in service fourteen days unless sooner discharged. (Goodrich 1904, p. 782)

Another Land Development for Jesse. 1781 Early PA Census -Luzerene County- Jesse Sawyer Petitioner PA. Seems to match the 1800 Luzerene County Federal Census and the November 1801 petition to congress. (CEN – Jesse 1781)

Note: Luzerene county PA was formed from Northumberland county and the part in question is now Bradford county, PA. (See 1800 – 1801 Jesse in PA/NY Border Development)

January 1781. Military supply matter. Lt. Col. Fletcher, Maj. Ebenezer Allen, Capt. Jesse Sawyer mentioned in connection with commissary purchases (military supplies). (Goodrich 1904, p. 782)

Jan 5 1781. Capt. Jesse Sawyer – certificate regarding the account of Joel Marsh, use of oxen, etc., when building Fort Fortitude. (SE-118; ID-38658. V. 8, p. 62)

Jan 9 1781. VT Board of War resolved for the defense of the frontiers for the ensuing campaign one regiment of infantry raised with Capt. Jesse Sawyer appointed. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 71)

April 14, 1781. Letter from Ethan Allen with Jesse Sawyer Mentioned.

This letter expressing apparent discontent with the state of the war was sent to the Gov. of New York (Clinton) :

“Ap:’ 14th 1781.

Sir, This with the intelligence of Capt. Putnam will give your Excellency to understand that Col. Ebenezer Allen, Capt. Jesse Sawyer, Lt. Nathaniel Holmes and myself are put out of Military Command in the state of Vermont – we are so Conceited as to Imagin that Vermont has not the timber to supply our places – however this is a task Which Belongs to those Gentlemen in power to determin.. in the mean time propose to your Excellency not only for myself but those Gentlemen before Mentioned to engage in the service of New – York..we think the proposals honorable wheather Complied with or no. Not withstanding the here – to fore disputations which have subsisted between us and the Government of New – York we shall Esteem it the greatest happiness of our lives (lastly) to Defend the state of New-York against all her Cruel Envadors.

*I am sir with due Respect,
Your Excellencys most
Humb’ & Obed’
Serv’
Ethan Allen*

*To his Excellency
Henry F. Clinton
Governor of the state
of New – York.”*

The governor of New York took no action on this letter. (NEHGR 1876, p.58) Belliseles considered this letter to be a political document intended to confound, and an offer for the Green Mountain Boys to fight along side New York but only as equals. (Bellesiles 1993, p. 202)

June 1781. Attempted Land Acquisition.

June 5 -20 1781. Capt. Jesse Sawyer along with his Regimental commander Col. Herrick and Ebenezer Allen as well as many of the militia officers signed petitions for a number of new townships to be formed in what was called the Western Union. These proposed new areas, now part of New York west of Lake Champlain, included names such as Amboy, Wildom, Greenfield, Skensboro, South Bay, Luzerne and Point-la-Fare (Point-au-Fer). Attempts to obtain land by charter failed and many of these places became “paper towns” that never happened. A Colonel Abbot who represented Hoosick, one of the Western Union towns in 1781 at the Vermont legislature, was censured, he apologized and was re-instated following charges of bribery and corruption in these land maneuvers. (SPV- 1782, p. 268; SE-118; ID -38669, 38672, 38674, 38677-38679, v. 21 pp. 271, 276 292, 296)

1781 – 1782. Ending of Jesse’s War Time Service.

Sept 1 1781. Capt Jesse Sawyer - Large wagon load of prisoners (on their way home from Canada) taken from the north part of Pawlet to Saratoga by, per order of Colonel Herrick. (SE-118; ID-38710, V. 9, p. 112). Col Samuel Herrick gives certificate to Capt Jesse Sawyer for this action. (SE-118; ID-31124, V.9, p.112)

Feb 26 1782. Capt. Jesse Sawyer one of a group of 15 officers commissioned by the governor to their several offices. (Goodrich 1904, p. 774)

Oct 1782. Jesse refuses assignment to company commander ending his active participation in the war that was about over. (Goodrich 1904, p. 775)

1783. Official end of Revolutionary War. He (Jesse Sawyer) remained in service of his country until the close of the war. When peace returned he returned to his farm for 10 years or more; then he sold the farm with great financial loss. (Vanderpool 1899, p. 73)

July 2 1784. Capt. Jesse Sawyer received payment in behalf of James Fuller, for pasturage for horses and oxyen to carry prisoners to their homes on their return from Canada. (SE-118; ID-38717, V. 10, p. 64)

Note: Final pay entry for Capt. Jesse Sawyer who provided provisions after the war during repatriation.

Dec 10, 1787. Jesse's Wife Inherits.

Catharine's father Isaac dies and his will is probated in Salisbury CT. She receives a 6th share of the estate, which totaled several hundred pounds cash and personal property. Two parcels of land, 65 acres in one and 75 acres in the other are left to male children only. She probably returned to Salisbury at this time for the transfer. (NYGBR July 1992, pp. 165-166)

April – June 1789

In the spring of 1789, the Rev. Perkins made a preaching trip through the state of Vermont where Jesse and family lived. His notes from a journal kept during the trip were published in 1920. He was a gentleman from Hartford CT of high education gained at Yale and Princeton, and of culture. He came first to Pownal which he described as poor land, very unpleasant, uneven and with a miserable set of inhabitants with no religion. There were some baptists, quakers and presbyterians. Going on to Bennington the capital, he found it a good town of land, people proud, scornful, conceited and somewhat polished. He found a small meeting house there but the place thick settled with as many as can possibly get a living. It was a town with a tolerable court-house and jail and a good grammar school. Rev Perkins went on to Shaftsbury and called on the Elder Blood, a baptist minister of public education who lives low and is poor with an old wife, ordinary looking, serious and very dirty. He went on to Sunderland which did have an episcopal church but the town was very rough, uneven, hilly and poor. The Rev. preached in Sunderland in a barn and got a good reception. He found Manchester a town hemmed in by lofty mountains, half baptists and a loose town. He passed by Ethan Allyn's grave remarking he was an awful infidel, one of ye wickedest men ever walked this guilty globe. (Perkins 1920, pp. 1-24)

On May 10th Reverend Perkins rode from Brandon to Leicester and put up at Col. Sawyer's, and Wednesday preached a lecture at his house and

baptized a child for him. He was rough, violent and savage man. Extrordinary spot in nature for a mill, and a pond by his door, where he raises fish. Next day he rode on to Middlebury. (Perkins 1920, p. 15)

(Note). This was Colonel James Sawyer 1761, a son of Ephraim Sawyer 1729. Ephraim was a Lt. Colonel in the Rev. War and five of his sons also served while residents of MA. Ephraim received bounty land at the South Hero charter and his family moved from Lancaster, MA to Vermont in 1785/1786. Ephraim founded a Congregational Society church group there in 1795. James 1761 was an aide to Alexander Hamilton at Yorktown during the war and later a Selectman and Town Clerk in VT. James and family lived at Brandon during the time of the good Reverand's visit. At least one of James' sons were born in Brandon. James moved on to Burlington VT where he died in 1827. Both Jesse Sawyer 1750 and James Sawyer 1761 were of the fourth generation from Thomas 1616; James through Nathaniel 1670, and Jesse through John 1661. They were thus fairly distant cousins. (Helf 1996, pp. 114 -115; EGS 2005, p. 307)

In his summary of the visit Perkins remarked how people leave their doors unbarred and "sleep quietly amid flees, bedbugs, dirt and rags." He said he preferred stream water to the horrible maple cyder – no malt in ye country-their beer is poor bran beer. The Hartford gentleman was not overly impressed with Vermont and it's lack of "culture" in 1789. (Perkins 1920, pp. 20 -24)

1790 Census. Litchfield County, CT

VT became state in 1791 therefore many residents were listed in other states as the VT census was backdated. In some cases, names appeared in two states, one state or even none. Jesse Sawyer is listed in Litchfied County, CT his previous home area. According to the enumeration there were two males over 16: Jesse age 40, and son Harmon age 20. One male under 16: Elisha age 12. Females 4: Catharine age 41, Elizabeth (Betsey) age 17, Mary age 15 and Catharine or Sarah age 9 or 10. One female apparently missed; otherwise a good match for the family. (CEN-Jesse 1790)

Before 1795. Jesse's Son Elisha comes to Delaware County NY.

An early biography of “Leading Citizens of Delaware County NY” says that Elisha Sawyer who came as a young man from the Green Mountain State was engaged in farming and lumbering. Further that Jesse Sawyer, the father of Elisha Sawyer, was a Green Mountain Boy, and served in the revolution. He married Catherine White and they spent their earlier wedded life in Vermont. They came here after their son Elisha had become well established. (BIO 1895)

It was said after the war Capt. Jesse sold his farm taking in payment, “Continental money,” which soon became so devaluated in value as to be nearly worthless.
(Vanderpool 1889, p. 73)

1795. Jesse From Vermont to New York.

Jesse and Harmon Sawyer came in 1795, and made their clearing on the farm of David McDonald. (Munsell, The Settlement of Walton, 1880)

David G. Mc Donald came from North Carolina to Walton. His farm was located on the East Brooke Road five and a half miles from the village of Walton. At one time he had more than 160 acres and engaged in farming and dairy cattle. (BIO 1895, p. 716)

Jesse came from VT with son Harmon settling on the East Brooke six miles from its junction with the West Branch of the Delaware River, near the Village of Walton. (Vanderpool 1899, p.73)

Note. Why the Sawyers left Vermont is explained at least in part by the following: “After the war, well heeled new arrivals came to VT from other states overwhelming the founders and revolutionaries.” Debt foreclosures became a racket while the continental currency collapsed. The Green Mountain Boys became an insignificant minority when many of these old revolutionaries died in poverty and debt. The rush to get out of Vermont began with moves to the new frontier.
(Badamo 1992, Ghost of the Republic)

1798 –1799. Tax Records in Delaware County, NY

1798. First assessment of the town of Walton. Jesse Sawyer assessed for improvements being a log house 14 X 12 feet. Harmon's improvements being a log house 18 X 16 feet. Elisha Sawyer was assessed for improvements on the Delaware River, near the village of Walton. (Vanderpool 1899, p.73)

“ In the humble home that he had built (Walton NY), Capt Jesse Sawyer passed the remainder of his life, happy in the knowledge that he had served his country faithfully, and well, without hope or expectation of pecuniary reward.” (Vanderpool 1899, p. 73)

Special Note: This blanket statement questionable in light of subsequent findings.

1799 Jesse and Harmon Sawyer pay state taxes. The amount paid by each was only a few pennies compared to others who paid in dollar amounts. (DCCO 1799)

1800. Clues to Jesse's Farm Location.

Before 1800. Early school district on the Eastbrook was named Dist. #10. It included the Goodrich's, Beebe's, Steele's, Meads and Sawyers who settled this district at an early age. (Munsell 1880, Walton School Districts)

Before 1800 in Walton, between the road and river, there was a mill and shop near Capt. Sawyer's place. Water was brought from the Eastbrook and turned a breast wheel. (Walton 1870)

Jesse's son in law, Elnathan Goodrich and his son Elisha also lived in the area. Still further down the river lived Elnathan Goodrich, or Elathan as he was called. Goodrich was for some years a lumberman. Further down still, and a little further back from the river, lived Elisha Sawyer. Elisha and Elnathan were partners in the lumber business. (Walton 1880)

1800 – 1801 Jesse in PA/NY Border Development

1800 Census showing northern PA settlement grants from the Susquehanna Land Company. Fair match for Jesse's family is shown here with 1 female child under 10 and two females age 16 to under age 26. Male and females of age 45 and up match Jesse and Catherine's age. Jesse 1750 might have lived here in 1800 with a grandchild, wife and two other children? (CEN-Jesse 1800)

1800. Federal Census of Delaware County NY shows Harmanus (Taken as Harmon) Sawyer with a good match for the ages of the children and wife Catherine. No mention of Jesse in the 1800 census for Delaware County. (CEN-Harmon 1800)

November 1801. Petition to congress by PA settlers regarding lands claimed by CT. Jesse Sawyer, and Ebenezer Allen are signatories. Names on petition include people listed on the 1800 census near Jesse. (Taylor 1971, p. 240)

Note: This refers to lands that were granted to settlers by both CT and the Susquehanna Land Company. Land sold to CT by the Indians was repudiated and then resold to PA in 1768, causing hopelessly overlapping and entangled claims. Settlers petitioned congress for redress but many never received title to the land they thought was theirs. There were about one thousand petitioners out of many more who never signed the request to congress. (Egle 1893) Ebenezer Allen is one of the original Green Mountain Boys who became Jesse's supervisor in the Vermont Militia and was also involved in this land development and petition. Jesse may have returned quickly to Walton NY due to the problems with PA land titles. Ethan Allen was also one of the first proprietors of this Athens Development as he was the third person to draw lots for a tract. He was said to be a temporary resident there in 1786. (Craft 1878; Bradsby 1891) It is not surprising to find Jesse there along with Ethan and Ebenezer Allen just as he was in the Vermont land charters.

1802. Jesse in Walton.

In an early Walton history, Jesse Sawyer and his son Harmon are shown as Eastbrook residents in 1802. This publication compares land ownership in

1802 with the names of new owners in 1857. In this 1857 publication, the new occupant of Harmon's land is listed as Elderkin. The name of the person who had Jesse's land in 1857 is not specified. Elnathan Goodrich is also shown as an 1802 resident with the new 1857 occupant as William Andrews. (Walton 1857)

Note: This does show that Jesse, son Harmon and son-in-law Elnathan Goodrich were there in Delaware County, Walton area in 1802. By 1857 all three farms were owned by others.

1810. Location of Jesse's Children.

1. Harmon Sawyer 1st. child b. 1770 m. Catharine White b. 1749 m. his cousin. 1810 Census, wife and family enumerated. No adults shown of 45 and up age. Family in Delaware County. (CEN-Harmon 1810)

2. Elizabeth (Betsey) Sawyer 2nd child. b. 1773, m. Benjamin White b. 1774 her cousin in Salisbury CT. Betsey and Benjamin White moved to Eaton NY, Madison County, NY in 1804, living on a farm 2 miles north. Census shows B. White with all living children (7) and wife. No adults of 45 up shown. Family in Madison Co., Eaton. (CEN-Benjamin 1810)

3. Mary (Sometimes said to be Polly) Sawyer 3rd child. b. 1775, m. Elnathan Goodrich 1796 in Walton, NY. 1810 Census for Delaware County, showing Elnathan with wife and family. No adults of age 45 and up shown. Elnathan and Elisha Sawyer census entries follow one another on the enumeration. Family in Delaware County. (CEN-Elnathan 1810)

4. Elisha White Sawyer 4th child. b. 1778, m. Elizabeth Smith 1806 in Walton, NY. 1810 Census for Elisha shows his wife and family PLUS ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE OF AGE 45 AND UP. This could well be where Jesse and Catharine White were living in 1810 after returning from the short lived excursion to the Athens development in PA about 1801. Family in Delaware County. (CEN-Elisha 1810)

5. Katherine Sawyer b. ca. 1780, unknown marriage information. No census data available.

6. Sarah Sawyer b. ca. 1781. m. Unknown Franklin 1798. No census data available. This unknown Franklin is not John Franklin of the Athens PA, Susquehanna Company development. Col John Franklin married Abigail (Fuller) Bidlack widow of Capt. James Bidlack taking his children to raise after 1778 (Wyoming Massacre). Col. Franklin and family made their home on original Lot 40 (Next to Jesse Sawyer on the 1800 Census of that area) in 1789. (Craft 1878)

Note: Perhaps Jesse/Catharine were living with son Elisha in 1810. This does not contradict the Walton Newspaper Obit for Jesse saying he died there in 1825 or that Catharine died in Walton 1829.

1810. Other Jesse Sawyers.

Several other Jesse Sawyer's have been noted in this time frame. One is Lt. Jesse Sawyer 1748 –1817 born in MA and died in NH. He married Judith Dustin in MA. This Jesse was also in the Rev. War and was with George Washington at Valley Forge but never in VT. His line was Thomas 1616, Joshua 1656, Joshua 1684, Joshua 1713 and then his family. (EGS 1955, p. 202; CEN-Rockingham 1810)

Another well documented Jesse Sawyer sometimes confused with Capt. Jesse Sawyer is Jesse A. Sawyer 1786 – 1856. He was born in NH married Mary Reed in MA and then moved into Mt Holly VT as an early settler. He was a settler in the Mount Holly land charter that occurred in 1792 well after the Capt. Jesse Sawyer involvement in earlier VT charters. His line was William 1675, Henry 1697, Josiah 1721, Benjamin 1757 and then his family. (EGS 1995, p. 520; CEN- Mt Holly 1810)

Finally, a younger Jesse is found in Otsego NY, in 1810. This family is shown as two males under age 10, 1 male between 16 and 26 and one female of age 16 –26. This young family should not be confused with Capt. Jesse who was about age 60 in 1810. (CEN-Otsego 1810)

Note: The rolls of the soldiers in the Revolutionary War from the Vermont militia list only three Sawyer officers. They were Jesse, Joseph and Thomas. (Goodrich 1904, p. 839)

1811 The Old Burying Ground.

The most important private cemetery in Walton was 1/2 acre on the Doig Farm. In 1811, Charles W. Stockton deeded this half-acre to Jetur Gardner, Thomas B. Whitmarsh, Elnathan Goodrich, Thomas St. John, Elisha Sawyer, and Dorman Johnson. Nearly all these old settlers are buried here and their many descendants. (Munsell 1880, Cemeteries Section) Note: (Elnathan was the son-in-law of Jesse, married to his third child Mary. Elisha was Jesse's 4th child.) There is no information that shows Jesse was buried here. There is published information about this place and record of two visits to the "old burying ground" in later years:

(1) A report from an 1891 Walton Reporter says Elisha Sawyer 1778 – 1829 and his wife Elizabeth 1787 –1824, are buried here. (Walton 1975)

(2). Ruby Mossel was a Sawyer/White researcher for many years. According to her (3/15/99), a relative visited the cemetery in 1940. This was Joyce Percel who reported: "The last Sawyer has left Walton. Found the old cemetery. Stones turned over and area very unkempt. Perhaps a total of 10 graves can still be seen. The Sawyer's are in a fenced area, plaques upside down, illegible."

(3). A report from "The Story of Walton Community Services 1785 to 1975." The Old Burying Ground located on Harby Drive next to the O'Neill Junior-Senior High School has been completely vandalized with only a few fragments of stones remaining. (Walton 1975)

(4). The next visit report comes from Sonya Bamberg (3/18/99). Sonya made a special trip to Walton, NY in the summer of 1997 and visited the "old burying ground." "It is now right beside a public school. It is still a very peaceful and beautiful. Very few stones are readable, most are completely gone. No Sawyer stones were found. Rumors that Harmon (1770) had a stone here with military placard could not be substantiated. The larger Walton Cemetery has many Sawyer markers. None found for Harmon or Jesse. I checked the records with the help of a caretaker and nothing for Jesse/Harmon was found."

1820. Federal Census of Tioga County NY shows Harmon and family removed from Delaware County and now in Spencer, NY.

Note: No indication that Jesse and wife were here with Harmon. Again no Jesse Sawyer enumeration found in NY for 1820.

May 17, 1825. Jesse Sawyer Obituary.

Jesse Sawyer died in Walton NY in the 85th year of his age. Complete text:

“ ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT GONE. – Departed this life on Tuesday morning the 17th inst. Capt. Jesse Sawyer, in the 85th year of his age. Capt. Sawyer was among the first of the citizens of Vermont who took a decided part in the contest for their independence of his country.”

The obituary is on page 3 of the Delaware Gazette and the date of publication is May 25, 1825. (Delgaz 1825, p.3)

Note: It is reported that Clifford Sawyer’s notes provided by Mossel , without attribution, say Jesse Sawyer was probably buried on his farm perhaps belonging to son Elisha at that time. Conflict here with Jesse’s birth date. The 85th year of his age implies a birth year of about 1740. Whoever put the article in the paper was obviously sure of the exact date of his death but in looking back over his life probably overstated his age.

Wife Catharine died in Walton at age 80 in 1829. (Vanderpool 1899, p.73; NYGBR 1992, p. 166)

Thus ends the history of the author’s 4th great grandfather, Capt. Jesse Sawyer 1750.

Thomas 1616 8th g grandfather
John 1660 7th g grandfather
Jacob 1689 6th g grandfather
Jesse 1720 5th g grandfather
Jesse 1750 4th g grandfather
Harmon 1770 3rd g grandfather

Volney 1803 2nd g grandfather
Hiram 1828 g grandfather
Bertha 1881 grandmother
Mary Kilmer 1910 mother
Frederick J Tietbohl

Frederick J Tietbohl
Lt. Colonel, USAF Ret.
Aurora, Colorado
May 1, 2003, reviewed and updated Mar 15, 2006; Green Lake, WI.

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(United States Federal Census from Ancestry.com on-line census data).

(CEN- Jesse 1790).

1. Name. Jesse Sawyer
2. State. Connecticut
3. County. Litchfield
4. Township. Litchfield
5. Image. 0326
6. Year. 1790
7. Roll. M637-1
8. Page. 60
9. Enumeration. 21400

(CEN-Harmon 1800).

1. Name. Harmanus (Harmon) Sawyer
2. State. New York
3. County. ---

4. Township. Delhi
5. Image. ---
6. Year. 1800
7. Roll.---
8. Page 1299
9. Enumeration. 30010-00010

(CEN-Jesse 1800).

1. Name. Jesse Sawyer
2. State. Pennsylvania
3. County. Luzerne
4. Township. Ulster (Actual census image shows Tioga Township)
5. Image. 219
6. Year. 1800
7. Roll. M32-39
8. Page. 425
9. Enumeration. 00001-10201

(CEN- Benjamin 1810)

1. Name. B. (Benjamin) White
2. State. New York
3. County. Madison
4. Township. Eaton
5. Image. 1919
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-28
8. Page. 185
9. Enumeration. 11010-31110

(CEN-Elisha 1810)

1. Name. Elisha Sawyer
2. State. New York
3. County. Delaware
4. Township.
5. Image. 246
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-26

8. Page. 474
9. Enumeration. 10011-10101

(CEN-Elnathan 1810)

1. Name. Elnathan Goodrich
2. State. New York
3. County. Delaware
4. Township
5. Image. 246
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-26
8. Page. 474
9. Enumeration. 12010-11010

(CEN-Harmon 1810)

1. Name. Harmon Sawyer
2. State. New York
3. County. Delaware
4. Township.
5. Image. 220
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-26
8. Page. 422
9. Enumeration. 33010-10010

(CEN-Mt.Holly 1810)

1. Name. Jesse A. Sawyer 1786
2. State. Vermont
3. County. Mt Holly
4. Township
5. Image. 126
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-65
8. Page. 206
9. Enumeration. 00100-10100

(CEN-Otsego 1810)

1. Name. J (Jesse?) Sawyer
2. State. New York
3. County. Otsego
4. Township. Maryland
5. Image. 129
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252_34
8. Page. 243
9. Enumeration. 20100-00100

(CEN-Rockingham)

1. Name. Jesse Sawyer 1748
2. State. New Hampshire
3. County. Rockingham
4. Township. Atkinson
5. Image. 365
6. Year. 1810
7. Roll. M252-25
8. Page. 364
9. Enumeration. 00101-00011

(CEN-Able 1840)

1. Name. Jonathan P Sawyer
2. State. New Hampshire
3. County. Grafton
4. Township. Oxford
5. Image: 3
6. Year. 1840
7. Roll.
8. Pages. 488 – 489.
9. Enumeration. 0002200100-0011100100100

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Three Appendices are provided for material that is considered to be “one of a kind” and probably not available to other researchers.

Some final research thoughts. Vermont vital records for the time Jesse and Harmon were in that state are difficult if not impossible to find. The author spent countless hours “turning the cranks” on the few LDS microfilms available for the towns mentioned in the Bennington and Pownal areas. With little direct evidence i.e., marriage records, wills, deed records, estate settlements etc., this study depends upon circumstantial evidence which should be accepted in genealogy as it is in a court of law. A volunteer in the “random Acts of Genealogical Kindness” program physically located in the Bennington area named Jim Cannon also came to a similiar dead end...no records. My thanks also to Alleen – Marie Coke of the Thomas Sawyer 1616 Family Research Center

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~fjt32/TS1616.htm>

for her help in securing information from the National Archives. Many of the Delaware County, NY Rootsweb on-line resource URL’s have been changed in the past few years. They are being updated with new links as time allows.

Appendix One: Notes of Col. Charles Gildart. (Extract)

Jesse Sawyer Sr. 1721.

“For the information we have on the parentage of Jesse Sawyer, we are very grateful to Dr. Richard G. Fowler who found the reference to Jesse in Jacob’s (his father’s) will of 1758 in which Jesse was named son and executor, and knowing the family tradition that our earliest then known Sawyer ancestor was a Jesse, corrected a long standing error which took our line to Jacob’s brother Edward.

According to family records, he Jesse, was born 10 Dec 1721, and because of the will, we are sure that he was the son of Jacob and Martha (Loomer) Sawyer of Lyme, CT.

And so he was born and grew up in Lyme and probably about 1742, he married Sarah Barden. Two correspondents have said that her last name was “Barden” and I am inclined to put some credence into this. The name “Sarah Barden” has come down to us connected with Jesse’s son Joel. That is, it was thought that Joel married Sarah Barden. However, CT marriage

Records show that Joel married Abigail Barden. It is possible that descendants confused the two. This is only conjecture.

Eight children were born to Jesse and Sarah in Lyme, the last being Huldah, born 22 Feb. 1759 “to Jesse and Sarah Sawyer.”

Jesse enlisted to fight in the French and Indian War and in 1759 the troops mustered in at “the fort #4 on the Connecticut River.”

While Jesse was away, his father died ca. 1760. He was still gone in 1762, as he did not sign in that year the receipt in regard to his inheritance from his father, as did his brothers and sisters. A Sarah Sawyer, who, I presume, was Jesse’s wife, did sign.

Sometime after the war, land was opening up around Canaan, CT. Jesse decided to settle there. Abraham and Jacob Barden, of Middleborough, MA, also moved to northern CT. If Jesse Sr’s wife’s maiden name really was Barden, Abraham and Jacob may have influenced Jesse in his decision to transfer his family to a faraway place. But of course, that is pure conjecture. There is a record that Jesse purchased land in Canaan in 1775, but he must have been living there long before this.

Jesse Sawyer Sr. was born at Lyme, Connecticut in 1721. He fathered six sons, among them the most famous was Captain Jesse Jr., the intimate associate of Ethan Allen in all the important exploits of the Green Mountain Boys during the War of Independence:

1. Aaron. b. 21 Feb 1745, Lyme CT. m. Rhoda Spencer. d.? Aaron was a soldier in the Revolution. He resided in Maryland, Oswego Co., NY. Children: John, Abbie and Nabbie. All settled in Wisconsin.
2. Joel. b. 20 Aug 1747, Lyme CT. d. 4 April 1825, Barton, m. 1 May 1770 Abigail Barden b. Abt. 1748/55. d. 1810 – 1820, dau. Of Jacob and Elinor Hackett Barden. Joel was a patriot in the Revolution. He probably lived in Lyme until after 1762 and then moved to Old Canaan CT. with his father, Jesse Sawyer, and his family. Children of Joel and Abigail: John, Silas, Sally, Margaret, Mary, Joel Jr., Elizabeth, Amos, Phoebe
3. Jesse Jr. b. 10 Nov 1749 or 1750. Lyme, CT. d. 1826 (Correct date 1825), Walton, Delaware Co., NY. Jesse m. Abt. 1770 in VT. Catherine White, b. 25 April 1749, Salisbury, CT., d. 8 Feb 1829, age 80, Walton Delaware Co., NY. Catherine was daughter of Isaac and Eleanor Rinders (Reynders) White. Children of Jesse and Catherine

(White) Sawyer: Harmon, Elizabeth (Betsy), Elisha, Mary/Poly, Catherine, Sarah/Sally.

A canteen that Jesse carried in the Revolution was once exhibited at the Delaware County Fair. His sword was inherited by his grandson Horace Sawyer son of Harmon.

4. Abel. b. 11 Nov 1753, Lyme CT. d. ?. m. 1784/1785. Abel was a soldier in the Revolution and a Pensioner in 1841, Oxford NY, aged 88. Correction: Abel was a pensioner at age 88 but was recorded at New Hampshire, Grafton County, Oxford town living with head of household, of age 50 and under age 60, Jonathan P. Sawyer in 1840. (Blair 1841, p. 24). In this 1840 Federal Census Able is enumerated as of age 80 and under 90. Also shown is one female, probably his unnamed wife, also of age 80 and under 90. (CEN – Abel 1840)
5. John. (Millspaugh 1968). Soldier in the Revolution.
6. Jacob. ca. 1757 (EGS 2005, p. 260) Listed by EGS but not found by this researcher.
7. Huldah. b. 22 Feb 1759, Lyme, CT. (Lyme Vital)

Gildart quotes from his grandfather Charles Walton Sawyer 1825, a story involving two of Jesse's brothers, Aaron 1745 and Able 1753 . "It was said of Aaron Sawyer that he, and his younger brother was in the Army (Revolutionary War) and they had a furlough to go home. They was 70 miles from home, Able said to Aaron, I am going home without eating or drinking anything, but chewing tobacco, and drinking water, and tradition claim they did it. And on the way home they came past where they were casting cannon and there were 4 or 5 men trying to get the cannon out of the foundry. Aaron said you must be a smart lot of men to take as many as that to handle that little gun, he said I will bet you I can shoulder it. They took the bet. He stood the gun up on end and tipped it on his shoulder, walked about a rod, and threw it down."

(Provided by Mrs G Lewis, San Diego, CA. Aug 23, 2000 from her father's papers. Col. Charles R Gildart assembled his records and papers at Fort Dix, New Jersey June 7, 1947. He used several of the references shown in this history plus others not available to this researcher including the obituary of his mother, Henrietta (Sawyer) Gildart 1856. Her line from Jesse's brother

Joel was - (Joel 1747, John 1773, Abraham 1796, Charles 1825, Henrietta 1856), letters from Elizabeth Larkin of Southbury CT and the Deed of Jonathan Bedding to Jesse Sawyer Sr., Canaan CT, Dec. 1777).

Appendix Two: Notes of Ella Millspaugh. (Extract)

“Copied from Mrs. Hazel Shears copy: Sept. 28, 1973.

Copied May 14, 1968, at the home of Lee Graves Millspaugh and Adelle Briggs, his wife, at Whiteside, N.Y.

Mr. Millspaugh, born Oct. 16, 1883, was the only child of Pathuel Knapp Millspaugh (Always called P. K., a deputy sheriff for many years) and Ella Graves.

The copy was made from the original notes of Ella (Graves) Millspaugh, born March 25, 1858; died May 27, 1947, daughter of Henry Harrison Graves and Lucy E. Sawyer. Lucy E. Sawyer was the youngest child of John Sawyer and Elizabeth who was a daughter of Luther Whipple and Eunice Graves. Thus, Ella (Graves) Millspaugh was an own granddaughter of Elizabeth (Whipple) Sawyer.

Note: To put these Sawyers in perspective, they are in this line:

Joel 1747 (brother of Capt. Jesse) – John 1774 – Lucy 1821 – Ella Graves Millspaugh 1858 – Lee Graves Millspaugh 1883.

SAWYER FAMILY RECORD

My great-grandfather Sawyer – Joel Sawyer – and four of his brothers: Jesse, John, Abel, and Aaron – Joel was the fifth – were all soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

My grandfather, John Sawyer, lived in Canaan, Litchfield county, Conn., when a child and was probably born there. He was born Oct. 13, 1774, the fall before the war broke out and grandmother was born Aug. 25, 1775, the year the war began. She lived in New London County, Conn.

They all moved from Connecticut to Delaware County, New York, and from there to Broome County, where uncle Isaac and Ira were born. Then to Tompkins county N. Y.

Grandmother's people also lived at Groton and Preston. Her father, Luther Whipple, was a blacksmith."

My great-grandfather Whipple lived 10 miles from New London, Conn., and he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War and ran ten miles when the alarm was given that the fort of New London was attacked and just reached the town as the British vessels sailed away. Only 80 soldiers were in the fort, having gone home to take care of their families.

My grandmother Whipple was born 1775 and remembered many scenes of the Revolutionary War. Uncle Jesse Sawyer, a prominent scout of the Revolutionary War and mentioned in Revolutionary stories, was my grandfather's uncle, the brother of his father, and served all through the Revolution; was a soldier and scout, with four of his brothers, one being my great grandfather Sawyer."

From the records of Mary Kilmer Sawyer Tietbohl. This same letter with a slightly different heading is in the records of Charles R Gildart.

Appendix Three: Notes of Viola S. Tatum. (Extract)

" Page 3 of letter dated March 13, 1941.

Jesse Sawyer 1st. married Mary Hodge (Mary Hodge - unsubstantiated but worth further study). No record of their children except Jesse Sawyer 2nd.

Jesse Sawyer 2nd married Catherine White 1st. Their Children: Harmon Sawyer, Elisha Sawyer and six daughters. Catherine White was the daughter of Isaac White and Magdalena Rinderson sic (Reynders).

Page 4 of the same letter: The Family of Harmon Sawyer

Harmon Sawyer Son of Jesse Sawyer 2nd born Dec 25th 1770 Pownell, Vt, died Dec 25 1826.

Married:

Catherine White 2nd Daughter of Harmon White and Sarah Dean. Catherine was born Salisbury Conn., Oct 11 1775 and died unknown place Dec 11, 1836.

Their Children:

	Born:	Died:
Hiram W. Sawyer	Feb. 1, 1797	May 28, 1828
Milton H. Sawyer	Mar. 22, 1798	Jan 9, 1861
Horace S. Sawyer	Mar. 27, 1799	
Morgan Sawyer	Dec. 11. 1801	
Eliza W. Sawyer	Sept. 22, 1806	
Volney Sawyer	Jan 27, 1803	Feb 27, 1863
John W. Sawyer	Feb 4, 1810	
Sarah Catherine Sawyer	Aug 18, 1813	
Andrew J. Sawyer	Feb 13, 1815	Jan 3, 1827

Volney Sawyer Son of Harmon Sawyer and Catherine White.
 Married Susan Mallory, b. June 20, 1806. d. April 5, 1883. Daughter of
 Ezra Mallory and Currance Ann Coe.

Jesse Sawyer 2nd was Capt. In the Revolutionary War.
 Harmon Sawyer was in the War of 1812.”

From a letter written by Viola S. Tatum, Yonkers NY, March 13, 1941.
 Viola was the 2nd great grand daughter of Jesse Sawyer 1750. She wrote this
 letter to her cousin Frank Sawyer of Liberty PA.. Viola’s father was Ezra
 Sawyer brother of Frank Sawyer’s father Hiram. In her letter Viola says the
 information she is presenting was copied from the bible of her grand father
 Volney Sawyer 1803. She asks Frank Sawyer if he knows where the bible is
 and suggests his father Hiram may have had it. From the author’s knowledge
 although a search was made for the missing bible it has never been found.

Appendix Four: Capt. Jesse Sawyer Fireside Story:

For those who may have read this far we will put aside formal family history
 and genealogy for a final moment and relate the type of story that was
 passed down from generation to generation in the author’s own Sawyer
 family. This is the type of tale that was told of an evening around the
 fireplace or stove when the thoughts ran to the past and a father wanted to
 relate to his sons what had gone on before. It is known that my own gg
 grandmother, Susan Mallory Sawyer, wife of Volney Sawyer, would sit by
 the stove and smoke a corn cob pipe after dinner in the evening.



(Author's Oldest Sawyer Family Photo ca 1860's)

One can only imagine what stories were told long before radio or television or computers for that matter, for family entertainment. This particular story was recorded by Charles Walton Sawyer and written down after the time of the Civil War ca. 1890. Charles was the grandson of 'Blind John Sawyer' the preacher who in turn was the son of Joel Sawyer brother of Jesse. This writing was in a bound unlined ledger written in faded ink in the copy of a copy that is in the possession of this writer. Part of what he wrote is presented as written with no corrections or additions:

CHARLES WALTON SAWYER

(1825-1902)

HISTORY OF THE SAWYER FAMILY

This was written in about 1890 after Charles had been in the Civil War as a musician in the Union Army. It was written by his own hand in a 20 page ledger.

“The old stock of Sawyers were men of grate strength and indurance. For example I will relate a few traditional stories. Jesse Jr. when a boy was bound out by his father, to a man that misused him. Jesse made up his mind that he would not take any more of his abuse. So one day when he was about 16 years old, the man had set him at work and this man came and began to find falt, and finely hit Jes a slap, at that Jesse knocked him down, gave him a sound drubbing and ran to the English army that were in camp not far away, and enlisted as a teamster. He had not held this position long when he with others were ordered to take supplies to a certain fort. Their way of transportation was with Oxen and cart, and had to cut there own roads

through the wilderness, the most of the way. I am unable to say how long they had been on there march, when they were surrounded by Indians, on a piece of ground that had been partially cleared some day, and there was still relicke of an old brush fence around the old clearing. The Indians put the

Page 2

prisoners under gard, but did not disarm them. Then they built a large fire, took the ropes from the Carts, and hitch it to an ox and enough get a hold to draw the ox into the fire, the ox would bellow and die. While the above helish worke was going on, the prisoners were seated on the ground, and there came a little Indian with a silver trumpet, and a hook on the end of it, and he walked up to one of the prisoners, and struck him with that trumpet, putting the hook into the man's branes, killing him instantly, and pulling him down and began fumbling his pockets, the prisoner next to the one that was killed, sprang to his feet, and with the breech of of his gun struck that Indian one blow which emted the Indian's skull of what little it contained. At this the Indians all sprang for the man that struck the Indian, that broake the surroundings, and the prisoners skipped. Jesse said as he went over the brush fence, the balls flew like hail around him, his comrades kept dropping till there was nun left but him. He look back and ther was 5 Indians after him. He was 17 miles from the fort. It was in the month of June. He took his course by the sun. He said when it was clean open runing they would gain on him, and where it was logs, brush, and windfalls he would gain of them. The Indians began to fall out of the race, one after the other, till there was but but one old big burly fellow left, and he was bound to have Jesse ded or alive, the Indian began to gain on the boy, finely got close enough to throw his tomehalk, it passed Jesse, and when he came to it he picked it up and threw back at the Indian, they passed the tomey three times in that way, and the third time it pased Jesse it came so close that when he came to wher the tomey was he picked it up and threw it away off to one side. They finally got so they were not going faster than a man could walk. They at last came to a revene with steep banks on either side, as he went up the bank he went up on hands and knees, and as he went to rase to his feet, his hand rested on an old pine or hemlock knot, where the tree had roted away, and as he rose he took that knot in his hand, and as he looked back the Indian was coming up the same side about a rod behind him. The Indian sort of stratend up to see where he was, and Jesse threw the knot that he picked up, hitting the Indian in the stomach knocking the breath out of him and he rolled back to the bottom of the revene. Jesse soon came out of the woods, in sight of the fort, he got to

the fort and told them what what had happened, and he didn't go out of the fort again in six months, he was completely melted. They went back to find the Indian, but he had gone. Jesse was the only one of the party that was left to tell the story.

Jesse never made piece with the Indians, and many of them have met there fate by the hand of Jesse. He was through the French and Indian War, the revalution war. He said he never saw a ston wall or rail fence, from the time he was 16 years old till he was 45 but what he could run and jump over.”

End Note:

This is an original work.

The author would appreciate your giving credit if quotes were made from it.
2008

rufret@charter.net