

Solomon Brown
A Brief Biography
By Bill Poole

Solomon Brown was the grandson of **Joseph Brown** the youngest of the eleven children of John and Esther Makepeace Brown. It is interesting and frustrating that the births of Joseph's 10 siblings are recorded, but I have not found the same for Joseph.

"John Brown and Ester Makepeace daughter of Thomas Makepeace of Boston were married 24th—2nd month [April 24] by Capt. Humphrey Atherton."¹

Joseph is thought to have been born in Marlborough, MA in 1677, but his name does not appear within the vital records, nor does Charles Hudson mention him in his *History of Marlborough*, although he missed the names of two other children born to John and Esther in Marlborough.²

Children of John and Esther Makepeace Brown.

The births of their first four children are listed in the vital records of both Cambridge and Lexington with slight differences in notation.

1. Cambridge—Joseph Feb 8, 1655/56 Jno and Hester; Lexington—Joseph Feb 8, 1655/56 John and Esther
 2. Cambridge—Elizabeth March 26, 1657 Jno and Hester; Lexington— Elizabeth March 25, 1657 John and Esther
 3. Cambridge—Sarah July 18, 1661 John and Ester; Lexington—Sarah July 18, 1661 John and Esther
 4. Cambridge—Mary Dec 19, 1662 John and Ester; Lexington—Mary Dec 19, 1662 John and Esther
- The remainder of their children were born in Marlborough, MA and appear in the Vital Records there.
5. Deborah April 20, 1663 John and Hester
 6. John Nov, 27, 1664 John and Esteher
 7. Hester Dec 11, 1667 John and Esteher—Hester, d. John and Hester, buried Dec. 15, 1667
 8. Ruth Dec 8, 1668 John and Esteher
 9. Thomas March 16, 1670/71 John and Hester
 10. Abiga(i)l March 9, 1674/75 John and Esther (Hester)
 11. Joseph 1677 (Marlborough)? Does not appear in the Marlborough records.

In the Marlborough records the following appeared: "Joseph, s. John, Sept. 24, 1671. Was slayne with a cart." With the death of their first son, Joseph, John and Esther honored him by naming their last child Joseph, which it was customary to do in those times.³ Although the record of Joseph's birth was not found, he was mentioned in his father John's will, dated November 20, 1696 and probated December 14, 1696⁴

Joseph Brown, the grandfather of James, the subject of this essay, settled in Watertown Farms, now Weston, MA. There he was chosen one of the three town constables for 1701-02 and was cited on March 16, 1701/02 for not delivering his accounts. Apparently he settled the matter for he was chosen as a Selectman 1707 to 1709 and Sealer of Leathers in 1709. "The leather sealer was the town officer who had authority to see that all sales of leather were made honestly as to quality and quantity. The sealer of leather was authorized to put his 'seal' or stamp of approval on items he inspected, tested and certified."⁵

Joseph married **Ruhamah Wellington** in Watertown on November 15, 1699, born about 1680, probably in Watertown, died July 1, 1772 in Lexington, age 92, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Sweetman Wellington. Their first four children were born in Watertown: 1. Ruhamah, born July 15, 1701; 2. Daniel, born December 21, 1703; 3. John, born May 5, 1706; and 4. Joseph, born September 2, 1708.⁶

Joseph and Ruhamah moved to Lexington sometime between 1709 when he sold a piece of property in Watertown and March 10, 1711, the date of the baptism of their son Jonas in Lexington.

Ruhamah and Joseph were admitted to the Lexington church on May 31, 1713. Joseph served in Lexington, as assessor in 1714, 1715, 1721, 1722 and 1726. He was a selectman in 1722, 1724, 1725 and 1727. He was chosen Deacon of the Lexington church in 1727 and held that office until his death. He was frequently referred to as "Deacon Joseph."⁷

Joseph and Ruhamah had their 5th through ninth children in Lexington: 5. Jonas, baptized in Lexington May 20, 1712; 6. James, baptized July 26, 1713; 7. Josiah, baptized August 21, 1715; 8. **Benjamin, born June 30, 1720, the father of Solomon, the subject of this essay**; and 9. William, baptized April 28, 1723. Ruhamah had her first child when she was about 21 and her last when she was about 43. Despite bearing nine children, she lived to age 92, dying July 15, 1772. Joseph had preceded her dying January 11, 1764 in his 86th year. They were both buried in Lexington's Old Burying Ground.⁸ It was unusual to have nine children and have them all survive to adulthood.



From Death's arrest no Age is free
 Memento mori
 Here lyes Buried the
 Body of Mr JOSEPH BROWN
 who having for many years
 used the office of a Deacon
 well in the Church of Christ
 in Lexington, purchased to
 himself a good Degree and
 great Boldness in the faith which
 Is in Christ Jesus, who departed
 this Life January ye 11th A D 1764
 in the 86th year of his Age



Memento Mori
 Here lies the Body
 of Mrs. Ruhamah
 Brown wife of
 Deacon Joseph
 Brown, who depar-
 ted this Life July
 15th 1772. Aged 92 years.
 Tis but a few whose days amount
 to three score years and ten;
 And all beyond that short account
 To sorrow toil and pain
 From death's arrest no age is free

Joseph's will was Dated November 22, 1757 and probated February 6, 1764. He made bequeaths to all seven sons and to his two grandchildren John and Joseph Comee, children of daughter Ruhamah and David Comee, but he left the homestead and lands to Benjamin.

Item. My will is that the whole of my sd homestead or Messuage or Tenement whereon I now dwell both Lands and Buildings, with ye Orchards, Pastures, Plow Land, Wood Land and Enclosures, with all ye Properties, Privileges, Amenities(?) and Conveniences belonging or in any way appertaining to my sd Homestead lying on both sides of Concord Road containing about one hundred seventy acres be it some more or less, Be and Remain to my Beloved Son Benjamin Brown to have the Hole to him ye Sd Benjamin Brown his Heirs and Assigns forever; Saving to my Beloved Wife her rights, Powers and Improvements in ye Same as aforesaid.⁹

Benjamin Browne, father of Solomon, the subject of this essay.

Benjamin was certainly a well-respected citizen of Lexington, Like his father, Joseph, he was a Deacon of the church, held a number of offices in town and served the community in a number of ways. Charles Hudson in his *History of Lexington*, wrote the following:

He was chosen Deacon of the church 14 Oct. 1768, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, 1773, 1778; Justice of the Peace, 1775; representative to the General Court, 1783-86. On 10 Dec. 1787, Benjamin Brown was chosen delegate to the State Convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States. At a town meeting held 4 Apr. 1791, he was elected on a committee to present a memorial to Congress, asking them to erect a monument over the remains of the persons who were slain at Lexington on the 19th of April 1775. He was also in office as a selectman, assessor and town treasurer, and served in the militia during the Revolution.¹⁰

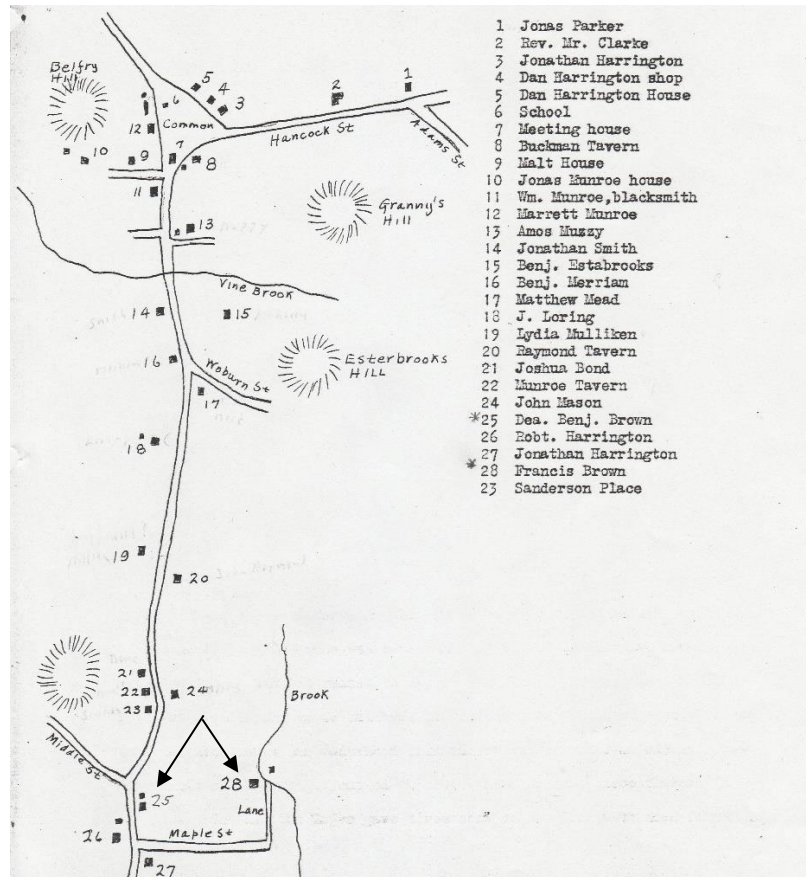
Hudson may be mistaken in his statement that Benjamin "served in the militia during the Revolution." He did accept wages for the service of his sons, James and Solomon, but I have not found a record of actual service for him. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors* does not have a record of his service at a later date.¹¹

Benjamin married on December 23, 1742 in Lexington, Sarah Reed, born January 3, 1724/25 in Lexington, died in Lexington December 24, 1774, daughter of William and Sarah Poulter Reed. Sarah and Benjamin had eleven children: 1. Benjamin, born January 1, 1744; 2. Thaddeus, born March 12, 1745/46; 3. Sarah, born March 24, 1747/48; 4. Eunice, born January 24, 1751; 5. Oliver, born July 1, 1753; 6. **Solomon, the subject of this essay**, born January 15, 1756; 7. James, born October 3, 1758; 8. Ruhamah, born April 23, 1761; 9. Susannah, born June 17, 1764; 10. Nathan, born September 5, 1766; and 11. Lucy, born January 17, 1770.¹²

Benjamin died March 4, 1802 and Sarah on December 24, 1774. Their deaths are not listed in Lexington's Vital Records, nor do they seem to have gravestones in any of Lexington's cemeteries.¹³

There are discrepancies with respect to Solomon's birth date. Hudson has Solomon born on January 15, 1757, while the Lexington Vital Records has his birth date recorded as January 15, 1756. His grave marker listed his age at death in 1837 as 83 years 5 months meaning he would have been born in 1755. A military record of 1781 listed him as age 22. Thus, his birth according to this would have been in 1759.

In 1775, there were three Brown family houses located on the north side of Mass. Avenue between Maple Street and where Marrett Avenue (then called Middle Street), intersected with Mass Ave. The two nearest the road, were owned by Benjamin, who along with his family, lived in one while an elder son or married daughter lived in the other. The third was owned by Francis Brown, sergeant in the militia and nephew of Benjamin.



Massachusetts Avenue in 1775

I am extremely indebted to Mike DaRu for determining the precise location of the Brown family homestead and the details of its sale at auction following James's death, and for his collegial cooperation and friendship. The land was valued at \$6,000, a lot in Burlington at \$750 and a half acre of salt marsh in Cambridge assessed at \$100. There was also a half pew in the Meeting House appraised at \$60.²² The Benjamin Brown and Francis Brown homes are starred in the list above and indicated by arrows.

Solomon Brown

Solomon Brown's adventures of April 18 and 19, 1775 began sometime in the early evening of April 18 when on his way home from Boston,

"he had seen nine British officers on the road, travelling leisurely, sometimes before and sometimes behind him; that he had discovered, by the occasional blowing aside of their top coats, that they were armed."¹⁴

He stopped by the tavern of William Munroe, sergeant of the militia, to relate his story. This led sergeant Munroe to assemble a small squad of men to guard Reverend Jonas Clarke's parsonage where the Patriot leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams were staying.¹⁵

Solomon continued on to Buckman's Tavern and repeated his story. There, it was suggested that someone ought to follow the officers. Elijah Sanderson in a deposition given in 1824 recalled:

"After some conversation among the citizens assembled there, an old gentleman advised, that some one should follow those officers, and endeavour to ascertain their object. I then observed, that, if any one would let me have a horse, I would go in pursuit. Thaddeus Harrington told me, I might take his, which was there. I took his, and Solomon Brown proposed to accompany me on his own horse. Jonathan Loring also went with us. We started, probably, about nine o'clock"¹⁶

The three set off in pursuit of the officers, but after about an hours' ride they were surprised and seized by the members of the British patrol. They were forced to dismount and were questioned for hours. Later, when Paul Revere William Dawes and Samuel Prescott appeared, Revere was captured threatened at pistol point. He told the commander of the patrol, Major Edward Mitchell, that the militia were alarmed and aware of the military force on the way to Concord. Mitchell decided to ride back to meet the British column and pass on the information that the local militias were alarmed.

The captives were ordered back on their horses, and they rode back toward Lexington "at considerable speed." They heard the sound of gunfire as they approached Lexington, probably the militiamen discharging their pieces before entering Buckman Tavern. This alarmed Mitchell who decided to let the prisoners go so as not be encumbered by them. The prisoners were forced to once again dismount, the bridles and saddle girths were cut and the horses turned loose. The patrol then rode back through Lexington on the way to find the British column.

Paul Revere hurried back to the parsonage to warn Hancock and Adams once again, while the three militiamen headed back to Buckmans to tell their story.¹⁷

With the exception of a brief deposition signed by Solomon, Elijah Sanderson and Jonathan Loring concerning their seizure and captivity, Solomon never offered any commentary on the events of April 19th. He was just eighteen or nineteen at the time, and the details of his story had to be constructed from the tales of others. Elijah Sanderson again was the source of much of the story in his 1824 deposition.

"After our militia had dispersed, I saw them firing at one man, (Solomon Brown,) who was stationed behind a wall. I saw the wall smoke with the bullets hitting it. I then knew they were firing balls. After the affair was over, he told me he fired into a solid column of them, and then retreated. He was in the cow yard. The wall saved him. He legged it just about the time I went away. In a minute or two after, the British musick struck up, and their troops paraded, and marched right off for Concord.

I went home after my gun,—found it was gone. My brother had it. I returned to the meeting-house, and saw to the dead. I saw blood where the column of the British had stood when Solomon Brown fired at them. This was several rods from where any of our militia stood; and I then supposed, as well as the rest of us, that that was the blood of the British."¹⁸

Abijah Harrington of Lexington supported the story:

"A day or two after the 19th, I was telling Solomon Brown of the circumstance of my having seen blood in the road, and where it was. He then stated to me, that he fired in that direction, and the road was then full of regulars, and he thought he must have hit some of them."¹⁹

April 19th was a long and tragic day for the Brown family. John Brown, Solomon's first cousin, was killed on the Common, and his body hastily buried with the other victims in a common grave covered with brush for fear of its desecration by the returning British. It is not known if Solomon joined the pursuit of the Regulars that resulted in the men from Lexington inflicting partial retaliation at the site called Parker's Revenge, but that was not the last encounter with the British troops that day.

Following the violence on the Common, a terrible fear seized those along the route of march of the Regulars, and also far beyond. Knowing that the troops would be returning, the women, children and elderly fled their homes carrying what few possessions they could. Perhaps Benjamin and his family went to the home of his nephew, Sergeant Francis Brown, whose wife had already directed that her family valuables be buried in a hole dug in the woods.²⁰

Indicative of the widespread terror that griped the minds of the civilian population, is the experience of the inhabitants of Weare, New Hampshire, some 63 miles north of Lexington. A rider appeared in town on the morning of April 20th to give the news of the violence in Massachusetts. However, he neglected to tell them the result of the battle if he knew it.

“the report came to Weare that the regulars were coming through the country, burning, killing cattle and murdering the people. There was a panic, and families at once began to hide their property and look for a safe place for themselves in the woods. Mrs. Samuel Philbrick, whose husband was then at Seabrook or Newburyport on business, told Samuel Ciley, their hired hand, to mount his horse and ride till he found out the truth of the report. He went as far as Dunstable, now Nashua, where he stopped overnight, learned the result of the fight and hurried back with the news, much to the delight of the people. Jonathan Marble, who lived in the northwest part of the town, tried to quiet the fears of his neighbors. He said the red-coats would never get to Weare, for Uncle Merrill, who had charge of the ferry over Merrimack river at Derryfield, would not ferry them across. Mrs. John Muzzy called her children round her, six in number, and said “We will make sure of the maple sugar before the regulars get here.” So they ate it all, in a very short time, the children gorging themselves to their great delight.”²¹

A relief column, led by Earl Percy saved the expeditionary force from complete disaster and allowed the exhausted troops to rest and treat their wounded in the vicinity of Munroe Tavern. When the retreat continued the furious troop unleashed their anger by looting homes. The two Brown family homes near the road were ransacked like all the others the troops could get to.

When Benjamin and his family returned following the British retreat, they found their homes ransacked. Along with other Lexingtonians, Benjamin submitted a claim to the authorities for the damaged done by the British troops. I have not yet found the detailed list of damage, and the following is just a summary submitted.

BENJAMIN BROWN

A true and just account of the loss and damages sustained by the wanton cruelty and barbarity of the British troops on the 19th of April, 1775, in real property, and in household furniture and wearing apparel, & &.

Real Property £7 0 0

Personal Estate £35 0 0

N.B. Having delivered to a committee, sent by the great and general court or convention, a list if the articles valued separately and distinctly, the subscriber has nothing more to deliver in now, that the total of the whole as above.

Benjamin Brown²²

Solomon continued military service following the engagement of April 19th. The following records of his service appeared in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*:

BROWN, SOLOMAN. Lexington. Private, Capt. John Parker’s co.: service from June 17 to June 18, 1775, 2 days, at Cambridge by order of Committee of Safety.

This was during the Battle of Bunker Hill. Solomon then served during the fortification of Dorchester Heights that eventually forced the British to evacuate Boston.

BROWN, SOLOMON. Corporal, Capt. John Bridge’s co., Col. Eleazer Brooks’s regt.: service from March 4 to March 8, 1776, 5 days, at Roxbury.

Solomon then served in northern New York around Fort Ticonderoga. It was sometimes the case that even though from Lexington, enlistees were credited to Concord or other towns.:

BROWN, SOLOMON. Concord. Private, Capt. Charles Miles's cp., Col. Jonathan Reed's regt.; pay abstract for mileage from Ticonderoga sworn to Feb. 16, 1777; *also*, receipt for mileage, etc. from Ticonderoga home dated Lexington, Feb. 18, 1777.²³

Colonel Reed's regiment was the 6th Middlesex County Regiment of Massachusetts Militia and it appears to have been called out more than once to support the Northern Army. It was also called up for duty during the September, 1777 Saratoga campaign.

Solomon then joined the Continental Army, enlisting for three years from April, 1777 to April 1780.

BROWN, SOLOMON, Watertown. List of men mustered in Suffolk Co. by Nathaniel Barber, *Muster Master*, dated Boston, Sept. 28, 1777; Col. Crane's regt.; *also*, Sergeant, Capt. Benjamin Eustis's co., Col. John Crane's (Artillery) regt.; Continental Army pay accounts for Service from April 1, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1779; residence Watertown; credited to town of Lexington; *also*, muster rolls for Aug.-Dec., 1777; reported sick at Boston; *also*, Capt. Vose's co., Col. Crane's regt.; Continental army pay accounts for service from Jan. 1, 1780 to April 1, 1780; *also*, descriptive list of enlisted men dated Jan. 16, 1781; Capt. Thomas Vose's co., 3d Artillery regt.; age 22 yrs.; *stature*, 5 ft. 10 in.; *complexion*, light; *residence* Lexington; *enlisted* April 1, 1777 by Capt. Lieut. Brown; enlistment, 3 years; return made by order of Gen. Heath; reported discharged April 1, 1780 by Gen. Knox.²⁴

Crane's Continental Artillery Regiment, consisting of 12 companies was constituted on January 1, 1777 for service with the Main Army. It was redesignated on August 10, 1779 as the 3d Continental Artillery Regiment with the Main Army, consisting of 12 companies. The regiment saw service in the Philadelphia Campaign in 1777; the Battle of Saratoga in 1777; the battles of Monmouth and Rhode Island in 1778; and the Battle of Springfield, New Jersey in 1780.

In 1778, he was appointed to an important office as Conductor of Military Stores at Fort Schuyler (Stanwix) near what is now Utica, New York. For a young man of age 21 or 22, this was a very responsible position.

By Cornelius Van Duyck, Esq. Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of Fort Schuyler, and Lieutenant Colonel of the First New York Regiment

TO SOLOMON BROWN, CONDUCTOR

In reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor and conduct, fidelity and capacity, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be the Conductor of Military Stores in garrison at Fort Schuyler, and in the Army of the United States, raised for defense of American Liberty and repelling every hostile invasion. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Conductor by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all those under your command to be obedient to your orders as conductor. And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from any superior officer according to the rules and discipline of war, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you. For your so doing this shall be your warrant. Given under my hand at Fort Schuyler this 30th day of November, 1778. COR'S VAN DUYK

Approved by General Knox

John Finley A.D.C.²⁵

Following the war, Solomon resided in Nine Partners, Dutchess County, NY, where he started a small store. He met and married there, Mariana Barnet. He moved to New Haven, VT about 1787 where he and Mariana lived

in a log house that also served as a store. Later, in 1800, he constructed a brick home from bricks he had made himself. He was honored in town for his military service and was a respected member of the church. *The History of Addison County, Vermont* has the following entry:

Solomon BROWN, an old Revolutionary hero, came to New Haven in 1787, locating upon the farm now owned by his son Ira, and built the first house of logs on that farm. Mr. BROWN was not only one of the heroes of the memorable 19th of April, 1775, but he was also the first to shed British blood in that engagement. He was also the first to bring the intelligence into Lexington that a number of British officers were on their way thither from Boston; and when the officers reached Lexington he was one of those who volunteered to follow them and watch their movements, and was taken prisoner by them, together with his companions, Thaddeus HARRINGTON and Elijah SANDERSON, though they were detained but a few hours. Solomon was in the army five years, and held the office of sergeant. He was also appointed "conductor of supplies" at Fort Schuyler, now Utica, N. Y. After leaving the army he remained in Nine Partners, N. Y., two years, then came to this town in 1787, as previously mentioned. Mr. BROWN was twice married and had a family of seventeen children. Honored and respected, he died at a ripe old age, one of the true, tried spirits that made our country what it is.²⁶

The new Haven town records show that on the 17th of June, 1800, it was voted

"To choose a committee to stick a stake to set a meetinghouse," and to build a meeting-house by subscription. A committee of three, consisting of Ezra HOYT, Solomon BROWN, and Captain Matthew PHELPS, was appointed to make a plan of the church. At the next meeting it was voted to build a church 65 by 55 feet, "with a steeple or balcony." It was subsequently voted that every house in New Haven should be visited, to see if the inhabitants will agree "to set a meeting-house at Lanesborough street, or Beach Hill." The Congregational Church building at the village was erected as the result of this effort. It was handsomely repaired in 1876, and is the finest church in the county, and will seat 600 persons.²⁷

Mariana and Solomon had ten children: 1. Susan, born 1782; 2. Morris, born 1784; 3. William, born 1786; 4. Samuel, born 1787; 5. John, born 1789; 6. Polly, born 1790; 7. James, born 1792; 8. Sarah, born 1794; 9. Solomon, born 1796; and 10. Rebecca, born 1798. Mariana died in 1802.

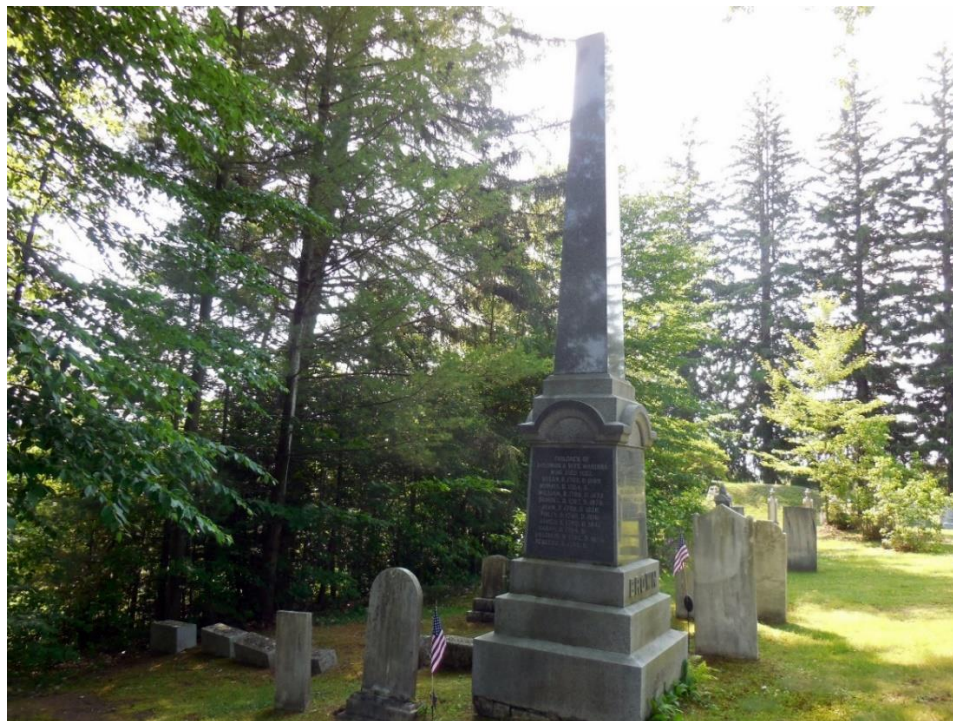
Solomon then married Eunice Barlow, and they had five children: 1. Betsy, born 1805; 2. Ira, born 1807; 3. Edwin, born 1811; 4. George W., born 1813; and 5. Nelson, born, 1818. It is said that an unknown daughter was born to each of Solomon's wives, one perhaps named Laura; his children would then have numbered 17.²⁸

Solomon applied for a government pension according to the act of 1818, that authorized pensions for Revolutionary War veterans. In his claim, he did not mention the events of April 19th, stating only his three years of service in the Continental Army. On November 10, 1819, he was granted a pension of \$8 per month. Then, on May 1, 1820, because the pensions appeared to be too costly, the Secretary of War was given the authority to remove from the rolls those who were not in need of financial assistance. So, Solomon was taken off the roll. Then, on June 7, 1832, a supplementary pension act was passed without regard to financial need or disability with payment retroactive to March 4, 1831. Solomon, therefore, on July 4, 1832, applied for this pension, stating, "that he was struck from said pension roll on account as he surmises of his property." On August 15, 1832 he was awarded \$120 due March 4, 1832, plus an additional \$60 retroactive to March 4, 1831.²⁹

Solomon died on June 6, 1837, and was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in New Haven, Vermont



Died at Newhaven.
on the 6, of June 1837.
SOLOMON BROWN
Born at Lexington, Mas.
Aged 82 years
& 5 months



There is an impressive Brown family monument to the rear of Solomon's grave marker on which there are several panels listing the vital records of family members.³⁰



Solomon's son, Ira, dedicated this stone to his mother Eunice Barlow Brown. His initials I.B. are on the lower right corner

Solomon's family remained justifiably proud of him. It was said his son, Ira, who lived on the homestead, had a pamphlet detailing Solomon's adventures of April 19th that he was fond of reading to visitors. On August 20, 1887, New Haven held "Historical Day" at which the principal speaker was the Honorable J. B. Grinnell, United States Congressman from Iowa who had been born in New Haven.

He mentioned the grandson, "who is custodian of the musket from which was sent the first shot and occupies the old home" This was probably one of Ira Browns' sons. Also on the program was George Washington Brown of Boston, Solomon's last surviving son.

"Geo. W. Brown, Esq., of Boston, was called on. He is the only child of Dea. Solomon Brown living. An interesting account of the capture of his father by the Red Coats in the revolution was given and a corroboration of the historical declaration made that his father fired the first effective shot for liberty at Lexington. The old gun is now a relic at the New Haven home, and the holes made by the shots aimed at my father are yet to be seen on the house near the old Lexington monument."³¹

He was referring of course to Buckman Tavern where evidence of British musket fire can still be seen. One wonders if Solomon's musket still survives and if it was indeed the one he fired at Lexington.

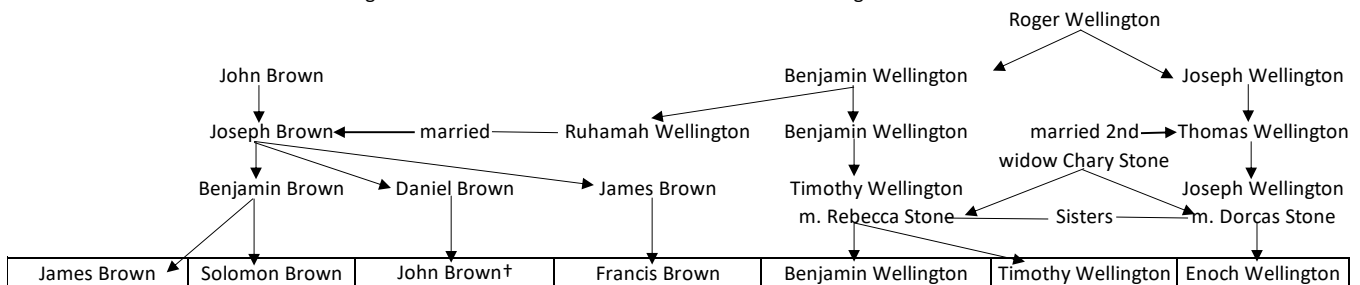
Solomon's son, George W. Brown, wrote a sketch of Solomon that was read at the May 12, 1881 meeting of the Lexington Historical Society and was published in Volume 2 of the Society's Proceedings. He spoke of the events of April 19th and then detailed his fathers activities after the Revolutionary War.

At the close of the war, after receiving his discharge, he entered into the grocery business, starting a small store in a town then known by the name of Nine Partners, in Dutchess County, New York, where he married, continuing there until the spring of 1787, having in the fall previous gone to Vermont, where he purchased a farm of three hundred acres, with only four acres cleared and a log house. In the spring of 1787 he moved his family (wife and child) household goods and store of groceries to his farm in Vermont, teaming them to Sutherland Falls on Otter Creek in the town of Rutland, Vt. From there to Middlebury, Vt., there being only a road cut through the woods. Not feasible for a loaded team to pass over, he built a raft of logs and poles, loaded on his goods and floated them down Otter Creek thirty-two miles to Middlebury Falls. Sending his wife and child with a few light things over the road cut through the woods, by team. From there to his farm in New Haven, seven miles, a more feasible road existed over which he teamed his goods to his log house which served as a dwelling and store. He continued his grocery business for many years, clearing a few acres of land yearly, sowing it to wheat, transporting his wheat one hundred miles to Troy, New York, by team during the winter season, and taking back such groceries as he needed to keep up his supply.³²

Solomon was certainly a man with a strong body and equal determination, and his family continued to relate his history and proclaim his fame. Apparently, at one time one had to apply for membership in the New England Historical and Genealogical Society. On an application submitted in 1895, the regard for Solomon was evident, and the literary allusions would have been familiar to those at the time.

Without detracting from the credit due Paul Revere, it should be shared with Solomon Brown. At any rate, Solomon Brown saved Hancock and Adams and aroused Lexington, and we are inclined to think that it might have been a serious question when Longfellow's subjects were telling their stories at the Wayside Inn, whether this character should be Paul Revere or Solomon Brown. It might as well have been one as the other. It is the poet rather than his subject which makes the fame. For example, many regiments in the battle of Gettysburg and on other battles of our civil war lost more in proportion to their numbers than the "Light Brigade" did at Balaklava; they may lack a Tennyson or a Homer to record their exploits, --- which reminds one of the words of the young Alexander uttered at the tomb of Achilles: "Fortunate youth, that Homer should be the herald of thine exploits! Else these stones which cover thy body would cover also thy fame."³³

Most of the families in Lexington were related either directly or through marriage. This spreadsheet shows for example how the three Wellingtons and the three Browns all of whom stood on Lexington Common were related.



James, Solomon John and Francis Brown are 2nd cousins to Benjamin and Timothy Wellington & 3rd cousins to Enoch Wellington, while Benjamin and Timothy are 1st cousins to Enoch.

You can find interweaving relationships with almost every family in Lexington in 1775, and you can see why David Hackett Fischer used the term "cousinage" to describe the complex family interrelationships.

An unusual relationship occurred when Thomas Wellington took as his second wife his son's mother-in-law, and then had a child.

Footnotes

- ¹Boston, MA: Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630-1699, Report of the Record Commissioners, Volume, Boston, 1883, page 52.
- ²Hudson, Charles, *History of the Town of Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from Its First Settlement in 1657 to 1864, with a Brief Sketch of the Town of Northborough & Genealogy of the Families in Marlborough to 1860, and an Account of the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town*, Boston, Press of L.E. Marvin & Son, 1862
- ³Vital Records of Marlborough, MA to the End of the Year 1849 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Marlborough/>
- ⁴Middlesex County File Probate File Papers, 1648-1871, Volume Middlesex Cases 2000-2999, pages 3064:1 to 3054:6
- ⁵Vital Records of Watertown MA to the End of the Year 1849 at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Watertown/>
- ⁶*Ibid.*; Charles Hudson, *History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts from Its First Settlement to 1868, Revised and Continued to 1912*, Two Volumes, Lexington Historical Society, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1913, Volume II, *Genealogies*, p. 63; Vital Records of Watertown, MA.
- ⁷Hudson, *Genealogies*, p. 63-64.
- ⁸*Ibid.*; *Lexington Vital Records*; Brown, Francis M. M.D., *Lexington Epitaphs, A Copy of Epitaphs in the Old Burying Ground of Lexington, Massachusetts*, The Lexington Historical Society, 1905, pp. 15-16.
- ⁹Middlesex County Probate File Papers , 1648-1871, Volume Middlesex Cases 2000-3999, pages 3101:1 to 3101:10.
- ¹⁰Hudson, *Genealogies*, p. 65.
- ¹¹*Ibid.*; Soldiers and Sailors
- ¹²Hudson, *Genealogies*, p. 65.
- ¹³*Ibid.*
- ¹⁴Kehoe Vincent J.R., "We Were There April 19, 1775 The American Rebels," Self-Published, January 1, 1975, Deposition of William Munroe, March 7, 1825, p. 237.
- ¹⁵*Ibid.*
- ¹⁶Phinney, Elias, *History of the Battle at Lexington on the Morning of 19th April, 1775*, Boston, Printed by Phelps and Farnham, 1825, pp.31-33 and Kehoe, pp. 233-36.
- ¹⁷*Ibid.*
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- ²⁰Bryant, Albert W., "Lexington Sixty Years Ago," Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society and Papers Relating to the History of the Town, Read by Some of the Members, Published by the Lexington Historical society, Lexington, Mass. 1900, Volume 2, p. 31.
- ²¹Little, William, *The History of Weare, New Hampshire, 1735-1888*, Published by the Town, Printed by S. W. Huse & Co., Lowell, Mass., 1888, p. 194.
- ²²Kehoe, *op. cit.*, p. 218.
- ²³ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, A compilation from the Archives Prepared and Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Accordance with Chapter 100, Resolves of 1891*, Boston, Wright & Potter, 1896-1908, Volume 2, p. 289.
- ²⁴*Ibid.* p. 290;
- ²⁵"Sketch of the Life of Solomon Brown," by His Son, G. W. Brown, read May 12, 1892, *Proceedings of Lexington Historical Society and Papers Relating to the History of the Town*, Lexington, Mass., Published by the Historical Society, 1900, Volume 2, pp. 123-130.
- ²⁶Smith, H. P., Editor *History of Addison County, Vermont, With Illustrations And Biographical Sketches of Some Of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, Syracuse, N.Y., D. Mason Publishers, 1886, Chapter XVIII, "Town of New Haven," p.528.

²⁷Ibid., p. 551.

²⁸ Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900.

²⁹<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77083857/solomon-brown>

³¹ *New Haven, A Rural and Historical Town of Vermont An Oration by Hon. J. B. Grinnell and Addresses*, Printed by Request, Burlington, Free Press association, pp. 18-20 and 32.

³²"Sketch of the Life of Solomon Brown," *op. cit.*

³³ NEHGS Membership Application 1895 pages 38.12 to 38.13.