

Joseph Simonds 1739 - 1813



Joseph Simonds was born on 1-October-1739 in Lexington, Massachusetts. The Simonds family was very active in town affairs and very prominent in the church and on the tax rolls. He was the seventh and final child of Joshua and Hannah (Poulter) Simonds. While he was the fourth son, he was the second son to survive into adulthood, the youngest two sons, Joshua (baptized 12-Feb-1721, died 29-Aug-1724) and John (baptized 9-Aug-1724, died 1-Sep-1728), having died in childhood. He and his older brother Joshua (born 16-May-1736, died 25-Jul-1805) also had three older sisters, Sarah (born 11-Aug-1727, married 24-Jun-1756 to Francis Bowman of Bedford, died ??-Aug-1808), Hannah (born 17-Oct-1729, married 1746 to Joshua Brooks of Concord, then Lincoln, died 17-Nov-1806 in Lincoln), and Betty (born 22-Jan-1732, married 13-Apr-1757 to Hammon Reed, died 20-Dec-1811).

His father, Joshua Simonds, (born 23-Jan-1686, died 3-Nov 1768), was married to Hannah Poulter (born 12-Nov-1697, died 11-Nov-1789) daughter of John and Hannah (Hammond) Poulter. Both he and his wife left wills (Middlesex County Probate Files 20437 and 20409 respectively). In his will dated 29 June 1767 and proved 22 November 1768, Joshua Simonds mentions his wife Hannah, sons Joshua and Joseph, and daughters Sarah Bowman, Hannah Brooks, and Betty Reed. He served in Lexington as a constable in 1728, on the school committee in 1732, and selectman 1733 and 1746. He took the oath as tythingman on 12-May-1735. He and Hannah are buried in the ye Olde Burial Grounds in Lexington.

His grandfather, also Joseph Simonds (born 18-Oct-1652, died 12-Aug-1733), came to Cambridge Farms from Woburn about 1681 shortly after marrying Mary Tidd (born 13-Nov-1656 in Woburn, died 4-Dec-1732 in Lexington). He was a carpenter and also one of the first five selectman elected in 1712-1713 when Lexington was first organized under the new town charter. He was relatively wealthy, listed as the sixth highest contributor to the first meeting house in Lexington in addition to being the same relative position in payment of taxes that year. He is also listed as owning one of the 20 slaves to be found in Lexington in the year 1735. He and his wife Mary are buried in the ye Olde Burial Grounds in Lexington.

His great-grandfather, William Simonds (born 15-Apr-1602, died 17-Jun-1672) came to Massachusetts Bay Colony from England in 1630 at the age of 18 or 19. He was born in Winchester, Hampshire, England.

Our subject, Joseph married Elizabeth Stone (born 5-Jun-1743, died 10-Jun-1806) on 2-Mar-1769, in Lexington. They were admitted to the church on 15-Apr-1770. Joseph and Elizabeth had 2 children: Betty (born 30-May-1769, died 6-Aug-1795) and Joseph (born 19-Sep-1771, died 21-Nov-1834). His son Joseph while serving as Representative to the General Court in 1797 petitioned for the monies to provide the memorial monument located on the Lexington Common to the men of Lexington killed on April 19th, 1775.

Joseph was active in military affairs, an Ensign in Captain John Parker's company and was one of the men present when Parker's Company met the British on the Lexington Common on April 19, 1775. Joseph also in the detachment sent to Cambridge May 6th through the 10th. In 1775 he also paid for the service of Benjamin Hadley in the first campaign of eight months and the second campaign of twelve months. He himself served in the third campaign to Cambridge in 1775.

In 1776, with title of Lieutenant, he served on the Committee of Correspondence along with Deacon Jonas Stone, Captain John Bridge, Lieutenant Edmund Monroe, and Lieutenant Francis Brown. Joseph Simonds was a town selectman in the years 1784, 1787, 1788, 1790, and 1794; town assessor in the years 1784, 1787, and 1788.

Joseph died on 18-Mar-1813, in Lexington; he is buried in the Olde Burial Grounds.



The Simonds family graves, ye Olde Burial Grounds in Lexington

Additional Info and online digital references available via the following URLs

- <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~simonds/genealogy/index.htm>
- <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/K8FS-F3C>
- <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Simonds-408>
- <https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofl02huds/page/620/mode/2up/search/%22joseph+simonds%22>