

Mead

Lieut. Jonathan Mead was born in 1727, at Greenwich, Fairfield County, Conn. a son of Jonathan and Sarah Husted Mead.

Previous to the Revolution, the family had moved to Dutchess Co. N.Y., where young Jonathan spent his boyhood days and received an education. At the outbreak of the revolutionary war, he hastened to the call of his country along with many others of the Mead family. Records of the state of Conn. list seventy-three members of this family mostly from Fairfield County, Conn., relatives of Jonathan who took an active part in the fight for independence. The returns for Charlotte Precinct of Dutchess County for 1775 show that Jonathan Mead entered as 1st Lieut. of a company whose Capt. was Ebenezer Husted and James Talmadge, 2d Lieut.

Later Jonathan Mead was head of a class of Militia, Capt. James Talmadge's Company, Col. Hopkins Regt. of Dutchess County Militia in 1782. He had served during 1781 in a Regt. of Artillery, N.Y. Line which were Federal Troops commanded by Lieut. Col. Ebenezer Stevens. After the close of the Revolutionary War, Albany records reveal that Lieut. Mead was allotted Lot # 5 in the Military Tract of New York State, land which had been set aside for bounty purposes for the benefit of the Revolutionary soldiers and their families. Lieut Mead along with many others considered this land was too far west as there were no roads or other transportation at this date. So, a great many of the soldiers sold their rights and bought land farther east.

Governor Clinton in 1788 made a treaty with the Oneida Indians and purchased what was known as the "Twenty Townships" and included in a tract reaching from about the southern line of the present town of Norwich to, two rows of towns in Madison County; eastern boundary being the Unadilla River and the western, by the east line of Cortland County. This land was surveyed and laid out in lots with the same numbers now used to locate property in the deeds of today. Bids were let for the land; the books being kept open for three months due to lack of transportation and communication. No land was sold to individual settlers. Avery Power was the exception in the town of Norwich where he had squatted on land previous to the state ownership, but he had boarded and worked with the surveyors laying out the land, so Col. Jacob Morris who was in charge of the surveyors, interceded with Governor Clinton and Mr. Powers was allowed to purchase the lot on which his cabin was located.

Capt. James Talmadge of Dutchess Co., the superior officer of Lieut. Mead, was the high bidder for the township of North Norwich, where he sold land to a great number of his fellow officers and men who had fought with him in the revolutionary war. Among these persons was his personal friend Lieut. Jonathan Mead who purchased Lot # 79 located on the east side of the Chenango River at Plasterville, N.Y.

Lieut. Mead had married in 1758 Sarah Thompson, born 1736 in Dutchess County. They had the following children who grew up in Dutchess County, coming with him to North Norwich. Amos, born 1760, married Ann Harrison. He built the first tavern in the town of North Norwich located next west of the North Norwich Cemetery.

Amos Mead sold in 1816 to Edmond PerLee and moved to Marcellus where he died. Jonathan, Jr. married Rhoda Titus; Ruth, married Israel Ferris; Sarah married Jacob Grow and settled on the farm now owned by the R. D. Smith family at Woods Corners; Sarah and Jacob Grow moved to Polkville after a short time, where he was killed by a falling tree. Samuel, married Polly Haight; Rachel married Ebenezer Hartwell; Thompson married Miriam Haight and Rebecca married Col. Jarvis Pike.

Lieut Jonathan Mead, his health broken down due to his long revolutionary war service and the hardships of pioneer life passed away on May 11, 1800. His wife Sarah died Feb. 10, 1804 and both are buried in the badly neglected burial plot at Plasterville across the road from their last homestead. Other revolutionary soldiers are buried in this cemetery and it is to be regretted that the present generation due to the mad rush of going nowhere fast, cannot spare a little time to show respect to those who have made their being possible. It would be wonderful if some group would plan a project to take care of the burial lot of this hero and his family.

Thompson Mead in 1795 purchased of his father, 125 acres of land off from the Mead homestead. This he sold to his brother Samuel in 1804. On June 16, 1796 he purchased of Noah Benedict the land on which the Hamlet of Plasterville was located. This he sold in 1811 to his brother-in-law Jarvis Pike who erected the mills which operated there for a century.

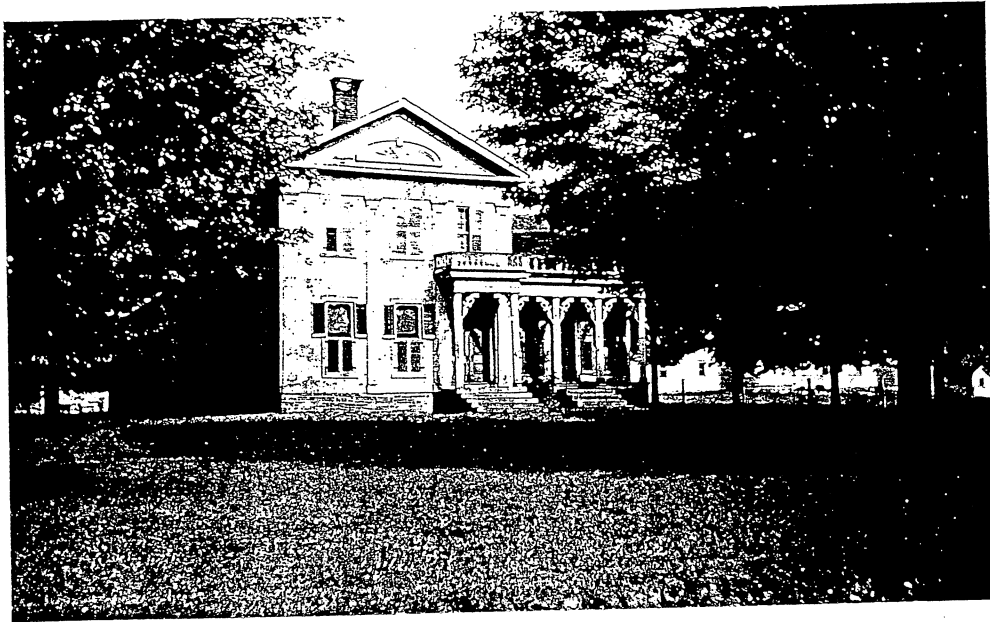
Previous to the war of 1812, the Mead brothers had been active in the State Militia in which they held offices. At the beginning of the war of 1812 they were called up for service. Thompson Mead was given a group of several thousand militia to organize into Regiments and companies, also, to appoint officers to command them. This task was completed in a very satisfactory manner and at this time the Chenango County Regiment was given marching orders under Lieut. Col. Thompson Mead. The soldiers had rendezvoused to a camp located between North Main Street and the Chenango River at Norwich. A newspaper article tells of the Hundreds of little white tents and campfires among the huge pine stumps, which must have been a picturesque scene. These troops were engaged in the battle of Queenstown where Lieut. Col. Mead was taken prisoner along with many of the regiment.

After the close of the war of 1812, Gen. Mead had been promoted to that rank. He returned home and engaged in several business ventures. In 1837, he purchased a tract of land which included, what is now called Meads Pond and erected the large dwelling on the hill west of the pond, intending to establish a tavern as the new Chenango Canal run through Meads Pond and the Chenango Turnpike passed by his Tavern. The business did not pay so Mr. Mead sold the property and engaged in several other ventures. He was one of the founders of the Bank of Chenango, also at one time, in partnership with his son Allen, owned and run a large brewery and distillery located on North Main St., in Norwich Village. He, also was owner of many parcels of real estate.

Due to ill health he and his wife closed out their affairs in this area and went to Batavia, Illinois where he died March 3, 1851. His brother Samuel and others of his family had gone to that place some years previous. During the great depression a WPA project in Batavia, Ill. was to clean out and restore old cemeteries. A group working in one of these cemeteries found a grave marker reading Gen. Thompson Mead of Norwich. One of the workers called this to the attention of a newspaper reporter who wrote a feature article in one of the large Chicago newspapers, questioning who was General Thompson Mead and where was Norwich? A DAR member in Chicago who had met Grace Meola wrote her, sending a copy of the article. Mrs. Meola contacted the DAR Chapter in Batavia, Ill. These people found the plot where Gen. Mead and his wife were buried and agreed to care for the graves in the future.

Col. Jarvis Pike a son of Jesse Pike who was also a Revolutionary Soldier, and is buried in the Plasterville Cemetery, died in 1799 being possibly the first burial there. Col. Pike had married Rebecca Mead, daughter of Jonathan Mead. He served through the war of 1812 where he earned the rank of Colonel. In 1811 he had purchased the site of the mills at Plasterville but the 1812 war broke out and Col. Pike was among the first to go into service. After the war was ended he returned to Plasterville, erected the mills on the site he had previously purchased and operated them until 1834 when he sold the property to T. D. Miller of Norwich and moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin with some of his family, where he died Jan. 16, 1863 at the age of 82 years. This family was very active in civil affairs in Chenango County as were the Meads and held many public offices. Many of both families drifted westward after the war of 1812 when new lands were opened to the public. Any person that can prove descent from Lieut. Mead can well be proud of it. Among those in our area are Senator Janet Gordon first lady senator to be elected in N.Y. State; Mrs. Ivon Brown of North Norwich, well known for her beautiful paintings. Several have been honored by DAR membership through their descent from Lieut. Mead. Let us not forget to place a flag and a wreath on his grave Memorial Day.

References: N.Y. State Records of the Revolution.  
Conn. in the Revolution  
Genealogy of the Mead Family by S. P. Mead  
DAR Records  
Records of Chenango County Men in the War of 1812  
Grave records of the Plasterville Cemetery  
Chenango County land and surrogates records.



House built and occupied by Lieut. Jonathan Mead and wife Sarah (Thompson) at Plasterville, Chenango County, N.Y. until their death. They are buried opposite the house in Springview Cemetery, once a part of the home lot. The house burned in 1915.

Jonathan Mead b.

1727 d. May 11, 1800.

