

The Life and Family of Josiah Whittlesey (1714 – 1796)

Josiah Whittlesey served in the Revolutionary War with his four sons-in-law. While his Revolutionary War service is documented, there is limited evidence of his life after the war. Examination of available records will allow a clearer picture of his life and family to emerge.

Josiah Whittlesey, son of Jabez and Lydia Way Whittlesey, was born February 17, 1714 in Newington CT.¹ He married Elizabeth Jackson on January 5, 1748 in Bethlehem CT.² The children of Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey are shown in the table below:

Children of Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey			
Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
Appleton	Baptized March 31, 1751 Bethlehem CT		October 20, 1751
Silena	Baptized January 11, 1756 Bethlehem CT	Daniel Hunt April 21 1774 Bath NH	1814
Mehitable	1757	First: William Abbott December 9, 1777 Haverhill NH	November 2, 1836
Elizabeth	1759	Joshua Hunt	1823 Ryegate VT
Luthroran 'Lucy'	1760	Zebulon Hunt	November 13, 1837 Bath NH
Sources: Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630 – 1920, Bethlehem CT, Bethlehem Congregational Church Records Index. Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut, 1936, page 77.			

¹ Connecticut, Town and Birth Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection), birth of Josiah Whittlesey, born 17 February 1714, son of Jabez and Lydia Whittlesey, Genealogical Publishing Co.; Baltimore, Maryland, USA; The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55; Author: White, Lorraine Cook, ed.; Publication Date: 1994-2002; Volume: 52, page 316.

² Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630 – 1920, marriage of Josiah Whittlesey and Elizabeth Jackson, 5 January 1748, Bethlehem CT, Bethlehem Congregational Church Records Index. Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Connecticut, 1936, page 77.

New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1700 – 1971, marriage of Daniel Hunt and Silena Whittlesey, 21 April 1774, Bath NH, New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services; Concord, NH, USA; New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1700-1969.

New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659 – 1947, marriage of William Abbott and Mabel Whittlesey, 9 December 1777, Haverhill NH, New England Historical Genealogical Society; New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records, Concord, New Hampshire.

US, Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889 – 1970, SAR Membership 89328, application of Roger Whitcomb Hunt, descendent of Joshua Hunt, Elizabeth Whittlesey, wife of Joshua Hunt, born 1759 in CT, died 1823 in Ryegate VT, Louisville, Kentucky: National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Microfilm, 508 rolls.

FindaGrave Memorial, Luthroran Hunt, died 13 November 1837, burial West Bath Cemetery, Bath NH, gravestone next to that of Zebulon Hunt, FindaGrave.com.

New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659 – 1947, marriage of Mabel Whittlesey and William Abbott, 9 December 1777, Haverhill NH, New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659–1947.” Online index and digital images. New England Historical Genealogical Society. Citing New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records, Concord, New Hampshire.

FindaGrave Memorial, Mabel Abbott, died 2 November 1836, burial Horse Meadow Cemetery, North Haverhill NH, FindaGrave.com.

Josiah Whittlesey served in two different New Hampshire regiments during the Revolutionary War. In 1776, he served in Simpson’s Regiment of Rangers.³ From April 1 to December 3 1778, Josiah Whittlesey served in Bedel’s Regiment.⁴ A remarkable fact about

³ US, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775 – 1783, Josiah Whittlesey, Muster Roll of Thomas Simpson of New Hampshire, 1776, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783; Microfilm Publication M246, 138 rolls; War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93; The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

US, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775 – 1783, Josiah Whittlesey, Pay Roll of Simpson’s Company of Rangers, 1776, NARA publication M246, Roll 052, folder 145, NARA catalog ID 602384, The National Archives, Washington, D.C., digital image, Fold3.com.

⁴ US, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775 – 1783, Muster Roll, Bedel’s Regiment, April 1, 1778, Haverhill NH, The National Archives, Washington D.C., Record Group 93, NARA publication M246, roll 49, folder 50, digital images, Fold3.com.

US, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775 – 1783, Josiah Whittlesey, Private, Capt. Barron’s Company, Bedel’s Regiment, New Hampshire, Haverhill NH, Muster Roll, July 1778, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783; Microfilm Publication M246, 138 rolls; War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93; The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

US. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775 – 1783, Josiah Whittlesey, Private, Bedel’s Regiment, 3 December 3, 1778, Newbury, VT, Muster Roll, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783; Microfilm Publication M246, 138 rolls; War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93; The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Josiah's service in Bedel's Regiment is that he served with two current and two future sons in law: the 3 brothers Daniel, Zebulon, and Joshua Hunt, and William Abbot.

Josiah Whittlesey did not own land in Grafton County nor was he enumerated in any census of the county.⁵ Analysis of the locations of his daughters and sons in law may provide hints as to where Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey were located after the war.

Silena Whittlesey married Daniel Hunt on April 21, 1774 in Haverhill NH, and he was enumerated in the 1790 census of that town.⁶ The composition of that household is shown in the table below:

1790 Household of Daniel Hunt in Haverhill NH				
Category	Males under 16	Males 16 and over	Females	Total
Number	1	3	3	7
Source: US Census, 1790, New Hampshire, Grafton, Haverhill, Household of Daniel Hunt, The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC; First Census of the United States, Record Group 29, NARA microfilm publication Series: M637; Roll: 5; Page: 37; Family History Library Film: 0568145.				

No evidence has been found that Daniel and Silena Hunt had any children. Since their household had 3 males over the age of 16 and 3 females, it is possible that Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey lived in their household.

This composition of the 1800 household of Daniel and Silena Whittlesey is shown in the table below:

1800 Household of Daniel Hunt in Haverhill NH			
Males 10 - 15	Males 45 and over	Females 16 - 25	Females 45 and over

⁵ Searches of the Grantee Index for Grafton County and the 1790 Census of Grafton County yielded no relevant results.

⁶ New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1700 – 1971, marriage of Daniel Hunt and Silena Whittlesey, 21 April 1774, Haverhill NH, New Hampshire Department of Health, Concord, New Hampshire.

1	1	1	1
Source: US Census, 1800, New Hampshire, Grafton, Haverhill, household of Daniel Hunt, Second Census of the United States, 1800. Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. NARA microfilm publication Series: M32; Roll: 20; Page: 682; Image: 228; Family History Library Film: 218679.			

This record does not provide support for the hypothesis that Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey lived with Daniel and Silena Hunt in 1800. They may have been deceased by that time.

Mehitable “Mabel” Whittlesey married William Abbott December 9, 1777 in Haverhill NH.⁷ The 1790 household of William Abbott had this composition:

1790 Household of William Abbott in Haverhill New Hampshire				
Males 16 and Over	Males under 16	Females	Total Members	
1	3	7	11	
William	Moses Jacob William	Mehitable (mother) Lois Elizabeth Mehitable (daughter) Sarah 2 unknown		Hypothesized Members
Source: US Census, 1790, New Hampshire, Grafton, Bath, household of William Abbott, The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC; First Census of the United States, 1790.; Year: 1790; Census Place: Haverhill, Grafton, New Hampshire; Series: M637; Roll: 5; Page: 37; Family History Library Film: 0568145.				

This household did not contain Josiah Whittlesey.

Another potentially significant fact is that William Abbott and Daniel Hunt owned adjoining land in this era. In a deed dated 21 May 1792, Benjamin Smith sold land to Daniel

⁷ New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659 – 1947, marriage of William Abbott and Mabel Whittlesey, 9 December 1777, Haverhill NH, New England Historical Genealogical Society; New Hampshire Bureau of Vital Records, Concord, New Hampshire.

Hunt in Bath along the Ammonoosuc River, which forms the boundary between Bath and Haverhill.⁸ The description of the property indicates that this land adjoined land owned by William Abbott. It would perhaps be reasonable for Josiah and Elizabeth to live with one daughter who also lived near another of their daughters. The 1790 census records allow the possibility that Josiah and Elizabeth lived with Daniel and Silena Hunt in Haverhill.

The composition of the 1790 household of Zebulon Hunt is shown in the table below:

1790 Household of Zebulon Hunt in Bath New Hampshire			
Males Under 16	Males 16 and over	Females	Total Members
2	1	4	7
Source: US Census, 1790, New Hampshire, Grafton, Bath, household of Zebulon Hunt, First Census of the United States, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. NARA microfilm publication M637; Roll: 5; Page: 5; Image: 17; Family History Library Film: 0568145.			

With only one male age 16 or older, this household did not include Josiah Whittlesey.

In 1790, the household of William Abbott had this composition:

1790 Household of William Abbott in Haverhill New Hampshire			
Males under 16	Males 16 and over	Females	Total Members
3	1	7	11
Source: US Census, 1790, New Hampshire, Grafton, Haverhill, household of William Abbott, The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC; First Census of the United States, NARA microfilm publication Series: M637; Roll: 5; Page: 37; Family History Library Film: 0568145.			

With only 1 male over 16, this household did not include Josiah Whittlesey.

⁸ New Hampshire, Grafton County Registry of Deeds, volume 24, page 305, 21 May 1792, consideration 12, deed of Benjamin Smith of Bath to William Daniel Hunt of Haverhill, land in Bath on the Ammonoosuc River, digital images, image 415 of 540, FamilySearch.org.

It is most likely that Josiah and Elizabeth Whittlesey lived in Haverhill NH after the war.

There are no death records for either Josiah or Elizabeth.

The 4th daughter of Josiah and Elizabeth, their daughter Elizabeth, was married to Joshua Hunt, who lived in Ryegate Vermont on the farm with Joshua's father Daniel Hunt.⁹ There are actually two 1790 Census records for Joshua Hunt in Ryegate Vermont. One of these records shows one male over 16 and one female. This record likely refers to Daniel Hunt, Joshua's father, who lived on the same property as Joshua and his family. The other Joshua Hunt family in Ryegate had this composition:

1790 Household of Joshua Hunt in Ryegate Vermont			
Males under 16	Males 16 and over	Females	
	1	3	
	Joshua	Elizabeth Mehitable unknown	Hypothesized Members
Source: US Census, Vermont, Caledonia, Ryegate, household of Joshua Hunt, The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC; Bureau of the Census Record Group 29, First Census of the United States, NARA microfilm publication, Series: M637; Roll: 12; Page: 213; Family History Library Film: 0568152.			

The final resting place of Josiah Whittlesey is unknown. No monument in Haverhill NH commemorates his service in the Revolutionary War.

⁹ Daniel Hunt [Sr.] appears next to his son Joshua in 2 Town Inventories in Ryegate in this period: Vermont, Town of Ryegate, Journals and Records Volume 1, 1781 – 1799, page 91, List of Valuation for 1789, 'Old Mr. Hunt' 50 acres total, Joshua Hunt on the next line, 70 acres total, digital images, image 256 of 673, FamilySearch.org. Vermont, Town of Ryegate, Journals and Records Volume 1, 1781 – 1799, page 103, List of Valuation for 1791, Joshua Hunt, 25 acres clear, Daniel Hunt, 8 acres clear, digital images, image 263 of 673, FamilySearch.org.