



Joseph Wood Sr and his Patriot Family

1724–1798

*Revolutionary Patriot
and Early Settler of
Lebanon, New Hampshire*

By Sandra MacLean Clunies

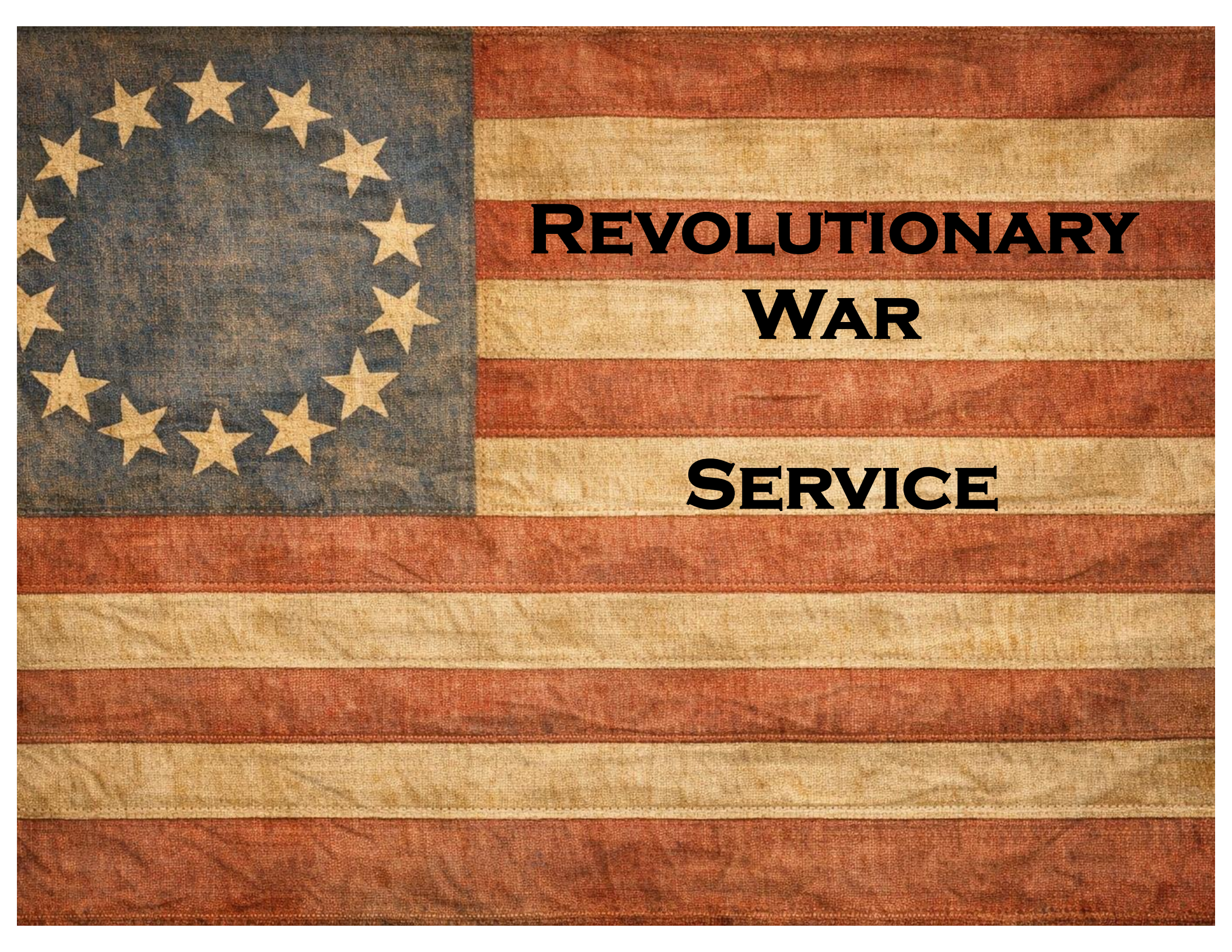


Early Life

- Joseph Wood was born December 25, 1724 in Mansfield, Connecticut.
- Youngest of six children of Samuel and Jane (Dudley) Wood.
- Married Anna Palmer on September 26, 1751 and had twelve children, though two died young.

Settlement of Lebanon, NH

- Joseph Wood was among the original proprietors & founding families who settled Lebanon, NH in 1765–1766.
- Joseph established a large farm of more than 500 acres.
- Built a tavern and inn at an important crossroads.
- Served as Constable and Selectman in 1768.
- Helped establish schools and the Congregational Church in Lebanon



**REVOLUTIONARY
WAR**

SERVICE

Revolutionary War Service

- **Signed the Association Test on July 4, 1776.**
- **Served on committees supporting the patriot cause.**
- **Provided supplies for Revolutionary troops.**

Family Contributions

- **Two sons and two sons-in-law served during the Revolution.**
- **Son Joseph Wood Jr. was Sandy's ancestor**

Legacy

- **Joseph Wood died November 2, 1798.**
- **Remembered as a patriot, pioneer, and civic leader.**
- **Honored with a DAR marker dedication in 1999.**
- **Joseph Wood's life reflected the values of service, perseverance, faith, and patriotism that helped shape early America.**

Life History of Joseph Wood 1724 - 1798

On the Occasion of

The Dedication of a Marker

as a Revolutionary Patriot

by his descendants and the

National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution

1 August 1999

**Pine Tree Cemetery
Lebanon, NH**

Joseph Wood was born on Christmas Day, December 25th 1724 in Mansfield, Connecticut, the youngest of six children of Samuel and Jane (Dudley) Wood. His parents had moved with their older children from Concord, Massachusetts to Mansfield in about 1720. Joseph was a fifth generation descendant of first immigrants Edward and Ruth (Lee) Wood, who came from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, England to Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1639.

On September 26th 1751, Joseph Wood married Anna Palmer in Scotland Parish, Windham Co., Connecticut. She was born there in 1730, the youngest of ten children of Samuel & Hephsebeth (Abbe) Palmer. Joseph and Anna had eight children born to them in Mansfield, but two died young.

The town of Lebanon in the Province of New Hampshire was first envisioned in the early 1760s when a group of men around Mansfield sent a delegate to request a Grant of Land from the Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. As the representative of the English King George, Governor Wentworth personally profited from these sales of land throughout the provinces of New Hampshire and Vermont. A cluster of grants was made in that time period for thirteen towns in the province of New Hampshire which became what we know today as the Upper Valley.

For Lebanon, there were sixty-two original proprietors, or purchasers, largely from the vicinity of Mansfield, Connecticut. But most were land speculators, interested only in reselling for a profit. Only 12 of the 62 grantees actually came up the Connecticut River in 1765 and 1766 and cleared land, and then returned for their families. Joseph Wood was one of those twelve.

He and Anna and the six surviving children under fourteen years of age joined him after September 1766, when the birth of their 8th child was recorded in Mansfield, named Roger in memory of their son Roger who had died in earlier that summer in July 1766 at the age of two. There were no roads north of Fort #4 at

Charlestown, so they hauled their belongings up the Connecticut River on rafts drawn by horses along the riverside. For those here who traveled some distance to join us today, can you imagine what that trip from Connecticut was like?

Joseph first built a log house for the family, and then acquired more land and built a large farm. Four more children were born in Lebanon. Joseph added land to his original grants to acquire over 500 acres of fertile farmland, now occupied on both sides of Rte 12-A by commercial shopping centers. But we have those still with us who were raised on the Wood Farms in the early 1900s, and can tell us about life on this beautiful and lush farmland.

Joseph Wood's second home was also a tavern and travelers' inn, located at the crossing of the King's Highway and the "Horse Road" which led north from Fort #4 at Charlestown. He was active in community and church activities, was elected both Constable and a Selectman in 1768, and served on the first committees to establish a school and to procure a minister for the Congregational Church. He and wife Anna were listed as the first members of the first church.

During the American Revolution, he served as an active supporter of the patriot cause - signing the Association Test with all men of Lebanon 4 July 1776. What a memorable day for America! He also served on a committee to investigate those who did not respond to the call to arms, and he was a major contributor to providing stores for the military troops. The war was not over until 1783. Two of his sons - Ephraim and Joseph, Jr. - and two sons-in-law - Asa Colburn and Stephen Colburn - served in the Revolution. Two younger sons - Roger and John - served later in the NH Militia. Three sons were Congregational clergy. While Lebanon had been built from the wilderness, other communities formed in the vicinity, which provided outstanding educational opportunities. Dartmouth College was established in 1769 in nearby Hanover, and

two Wood sons - Benjamin and Samuel - were early college graduates. Rev. Samuel prepared many young men for later entry into Dartmouth, including the notable Daniel Webster.

Joseph and Anna raised a large and strong and productive family. There were at least 83 grandchildren and over 200 great-grandchildren. No wonder that early Lebanon historian, Rev. Downs, wrote in the first history of Lebanon that there was "a forest of Woods" in old Lebanon!

Joseph Wood died on November 2nd 1798, and has rested here, in the town's oldest cemetery, for over 200 years. Wife Anna survived him by 15 years. We gather here today, descendants from all across America, to honor his memory, and express our gratitude for his long life of service and his patriotic contributions to the formation, the foundation, and the future of the United States of America.

Thank you, Joseph and Anna Wood. May you continue to rest in peace.

Prepared and read by a grateful great-great-great-great granddaughter,
Sandra MacLean Clunies

with research assistance from Lebanon Historian Robert Hayes Leavitt

"Captain" Joseph Wood, Jr. 1759-1859

Died, at the residence of his son Samuel, in West Lebanon, N. H., Dec. 17, Capt. Joseph Wood, aged one hundred years and thirty-nine days. He came from Connecticut with his father ninety-two years ago, and resided in Lebanon until his death. He was for a short time a soldier in the Revolution. He was present at the first Commencement of Dartmouth College, 1771, and attended nearly every Commencement after till the last year of his life. He has been for eighty-five years a member of the Congregational church, and during all that period had been but very few Sabbaths absent from his place in the sanctuary.

Name Capt. Joseph Wood
 Place of Death Lebanon
 Date of Death Dec. 17 1859
 Age: Years, 100 Months, 1 Days, 9
 Place of Birth Conn.
 Sex M Color W Married, Single, Widowed, or Divorced, M
 Occupation Farmer
 Cause of Death Cancer

Place of Burial
 Name of Father
 Name of Mother
 Birthplace of Father Conn.
 Birthplace of Mother Conn.
 Occupation of Father
 Name and Address of Physician (or other person) reporting said Death
Edward J. Duraut, Town Clerk
 Reported from Lebanon N. H.

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS.

I hereby certify that the above death record is an exact copy of the return made to the State according to law.

Irving A. Watson
 Registrar of Vital Statistics.

More on “Captain” Joseph Wood, Jr

- Joseph Wood Junior was called “Captain” even though he served no more than militia private in the revolution.
- Historical society told me it was common to be “promoted” after discharge, like we would do today with the National Guard. Because Joseph became a very wealthy & significant member of the community, he was given this label of “captain” early in his life - to recognize community service.



Joseph at 100 years of age

“Captain” Joseph Wood, Jr Supported Education of Women

- Not only did he found the church, but he donated initial money to his friend Tilden to establish and build the Tilden Ladies Seminary, because Joseph believed strongly in educating women.
- My grandmother, Josie Ellen Wood, his youngest granddaughter, studied Latin and Greek at Tilden's – not what you'd expect in a simple country town, even though it was next-door to Dartmouth at Hanover - where Joseph's brother had attended to become clergy!