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## Two Men Named Captain Hezekiah Welles

By Barbara J. Mathews, CG

The *DAR Patriot Index* shows two Captain Hezekiah Welles as eligible ancestors.<sup>1</sup> One would think that Hezekiah was a rare name and that obtaining the rank of Captain was also a rare thing, making two men so called a rare thing, indeed. But this is not the case. In fact, it is even more curious, as only one of these Hezekiah's is descended from Gov. Thomas Welles. The entry in the *DAR Patriot Index* goes like this:

WELLS; WELLES

Hezekiah: b 6-25-1736 CT d 3-8-1817 CT m Sarah Trumbull Capt CT

Hezekiah: b 12-9-1725 CT d 1-1-1804 CT m (1)Mary Boardman (2)Hannah Welles Capt CT

The first Capt. Hezekiah Welles was from Windsor, Connecticut. He was the son of Lamson Willis and grandson of Joshua Willis. He is not descended from Gov. Thomas Welles. Donna Siemiatkoski is studying this Windsor family. Over time, more descendants in this family used the spelling Welles. His widow Sarah did not die until 26 Oct 1839 at age 92. Both Hezekiah and Sarah are buried in the Old East Windsor Burying Ground which is today in South Windsor.

As Sarah lived long enough to obtain a widow's pension based on her husband's Revolutionary War service, there is a large and ample pension file, no. W25967. Sarah needed to prove she had been legally married to Hezekiah, but the church record was missing. She obtained supporting testimony from many town members. In addition, she sent in a letter that Hezekiah had written to her from New York City during his service. He inquires earnestly of her well being and that of their children and explains that he often cannot receive letters although he can send them. He says, "And don't forget that I would that God would take care of you & I & all our children ... I remain your loving husband until death us do part."

Capt. Hezekiah Welles of Windsor responded to the alarm from Lexington in April 1775 and stayed in Boston, participating in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He later went to New York City. Although he is omitted from the list of Windsor men serving in the Revolution by Stiles,<sup>2</sup> his widow's pension provides ample documentation, including his demobilization papers.

Capt. Hezekiah Welles of Wethersfield, however, was a descendant of Gov. Thomas Welles. He served as Captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> company in Col. Wolcott's regiment of state troops. He was in Boston from January to March, 1776, and served in Peekskill, New York, in Col. Noadiah

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<sup>1</sup> *DAR Patriot Index* (Washington, DC, 1990), Part 3, p. 3147.

<sup>2</sup> Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut* (1859), p. 429 is where in alphabetical order he should have appeared.

Hooker's battalion. He responded to the alarm in 1779 when British troops invaded Connecticut, serving as Captain in the 4<sup>th</sup> company of the 19<sup>th</sup> Militia regiment.<sup>3</sup>

Serving in the Wethersfield company under Hezekiah were many of his relatives. One nephew, Elijah Welles, sent a letter to a friend that touched briefly on conditions. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1776, Elijah wrote, "I have nothing strange to write; only there has been a steady firing, with cannon and bombs, for this three days past; which has done but little damage. We expect a battle this day and for some days past. But God only knows how soon we shall be called to action. I know that God is able to save all that put their trust in him."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Sherman W. Adams and Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield* (11904), Vol. I, p. 532.

<sup>4</sup> Sherman W. Adams and Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield* (11904), Vol. I, p. 458.