

Richmond Village Cemetery Clean-up Scheduled

The Vermont Old Cemetery Association, in cooperation with the Green Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Town of Richmond Cemetery Commission, have scheduled a clean-up of the Richmond Village Cemetery for Saturday, June 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Volunteers are invited to attend and will be provided with training beginning at 8:00. Work will involve cleaning old grave markers with a special solution (provided) that will not cause damage to the stone, and resetting stones as needed. Bring work gloves, a plastic-bristled brush, and a spray bottle; a stool or kneeling pad, snacks and water also may be helpful.

The cemetery was chosen by the DAR chapter for a work project because it is the site of the burial of at least 5—and perhaps 8—Revolutionary War soldiers. They include very early residents of Richmond, such as Daniel Robbins and Daniel Bishop. They came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—several of them lived first in New Hampshire, before settling in Vermont, and they served in the lines of these states.

Additional details about the soldiers follow.

Confirmed patriots are:

- Daniel Bishop, who was born in Massachusetts, moved to New Hampshire, and was part of two different New Hampshire regiments during the Revolution. The family moved to Richmond in about 1788, as an early Richmond settler.
- Abel Hildreth was also from Massachusetts, and he enlisted four times in Massachusetts, even serving at the Battle of Saratoga. He was in Richmond by 1790, where he was a minister. Two of his daughters married one of Daniel Bishop's sons.
- James Humphrey was born and served during the Revolution in Rhode Island. He is said to have been at Valley Forge. Like Daniel Bishop, he first moved to New Hampshire and was there by 1790. He is said to have moved to Alstead, then Brookfield, Vermont, before ending up in Richmond, where he was by 1810.
- Daniel Robbins was born in Connecticut, where he served first in the sea service during the war, then joined his father—who had moved—in New York and served that state as well. He was at Yorktown for the surrender of Cornwallis. He was one of the early settlers of Richmond.
- Jabish Spicer was another Connecticut native and another who first settled in New Hampshire and served in New Hampshire units. He was sent to Mt. Independence but was so sick he had to be left behind when his unit returned. He arrived in Richmond somewhere between 1810 and 1820.

- Bigford Spooner was born in Massachusetts and served there during the Revolution. Like several others, he moved to New Hampshire, where he was by 1790, but was in Richmond by 1810. His burial location is uncertain.

Possible patriots are:

- Oliver Cutler was born in Massachusetts and appears to have been there during the war years, but doesn't appear on any lists of Massachusetts soldiers, although another Oliver Cutler was. He is said to have been in service at Bennington. He was in Richmond by 1820.
- William Douglass was from Connecticut and an early settler of Richmond. It is not clear if he stopped elsewhere for a short while before arriving in Vermont; he had a daughter born in 1777 in Connecticut and the birth location for other children not conclusive. A William Douglas did serve for Vermont in 1781, not clearly the same person, and a different Connecticut William Douglass, a colonel, served and died during the war.