

THE FINAL 2024 PUBLICATION OF THE DISPATCH FROM THE MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION December 2024

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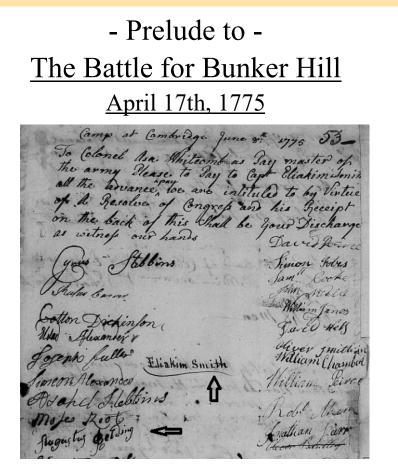
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Mother Lode Dispatch



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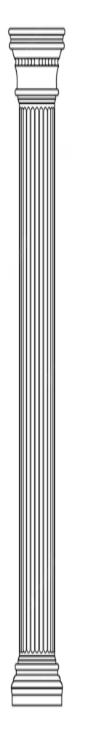
The original signatures of Captain Eliakim Smith & Pvt. Augustus Belding June 8th, 1775 Cambridge MA Bay Colony





The Breakroom Restaurant

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The story begins on June 8th 1775 - Nine days before The Battle for Bunker Hill Augustus Belding signs for his issuance of Advanced Pay under Captain Eliakim Smith

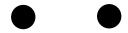
Connecting The Dots

Hey Rev War Peeps. I've done some more research into Augustus Belding Sr. (GGF5x from Northfield MA) to get a better idea of his life during the Revolutionary War. I was excited to connect the dots to the Battle for Bunker Hill - June 17th 1775. Reference links at bottom of post. Big thanks to Aaron Cohen for his help. Augustus was recorded as Minuteman in the Massachusetts militia as early as 1774. On June 8th 1775 he enlisted into Captain Eliakim Smith's Company - Colonel Jonathan Ward Regiment. Ward was commander of the the 1st Massachusetts Bay Provincial Regiment* Ward's Regiment, as it was known, was part of George Washington's right wing of the 1775 Continental Army, under the command of General Artemas Ward. The Battle for Bunker Hill consisted of 1,200 "ready" colonial soldiers, and is considered the 2nd bloodiest day of war in US history (per capita).

If you ask ChatGPT or CoPilot about Augustus Belding and Bunker Hill it will confirm he was at Bunker Hill, but that the direct evidence is limited, and not always available on-line. This documentation dilemma is true for most of the Patriots who fought in the battle - few intact records remain. However, their officers were well documented. One such officer is Captain Eliakim Smith. His company was comprised of mostly Minutemen, like Augustus, who were already well trained and armed. During the battle Captain Eliakim Smith's men fought under Colonel Fry's 10th Regiment as Colonel Ward was injured in the leg early in the battle. Colonel Fry and Colonel William Prescott ("don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes") were both defending the main redoubt on Breeds Hill (forward of Bunker Hill).

- Pvt Fobes @ Bunker Hill: <u>https://boston1775.blogspot.com/2019/06/pvt-simon-fobes-fully-resolved-to-go-as.html</u>
- Pct. Caver @ Bunker Hill: <u>https://justdohistory.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/rev-veterans-buried-in-wi.pdf</u>
- Augustus's original signature found at image 369 <u>https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008092184?cat=729681&i=0</u>

Connecting The Dots



The first document is Augustus' original signature from the June 8th "advance pay" muster under Capt. Eliakim Smith. You will note on the original "advance pay" muster of June 8th 1775 are the names of Captain Smith. This is just 9 days before the battle. The signatures Pvt. Simon Fobes, and Pvt. Rufus Carver also appear on the document. Both Captain Smith, Pvt. Fobes, and Pvt. Carver are known to have fought in the battle. Reviewing both the original documents, historical accounts, and other open sources, and given the Augustus was already a trained solider, I have come to the conclusion that he must have been at the Battle for Bunker Hill alongside Captain Smith and Colonel Fry.

The 2nd original document image below is Augustus's muster into Colonel Samuel William's Regiment of Minutemen during the Lexington Alarm (April 20th 1775). The additional images are a few articles about Pvt. Fobes and Carver (links included).

* Colonel John Stark commanded the 1st Massachusetts Regiment. Colonel Jonathan Ward commanded the 1st Massachusetts Bay Provincial Regiment. Colonel Ward is also sometimes confused with his commander - Major General Artemas Ward. Various muster index cards show Captain Smith associated with both Jonathon and Artemas Ward in 1775. In reality Colonel Jonathon Ward reported to General Artemas Ward. Colonel Artemas Ward was the commander of the Massachusetts Bay provincial forces until the arrival of George Washington on July 3, 1775. On June 17, 1775, the day of the battle, Artemas Ward was promoted to Major General. The commandment of the 1st Regiment passed to its next senior officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Ward, who was promoted to the rank of Colonel on that same date. In August 1775, Ward's Regiment was designated "The 32d Regiment of Foot" and in 1776 became part of the 21st Continental Regiment until it was disbanded January 1st 1777 in Morristown NJ. It saw action in Siege of Boston, New York Campaigns, and Battle for Trenton NJ. It crossed the Delaware River with George Washington Christmas 1776.

Note: some sources list Colonel Jonathan Ward as commander of the 2nd Massachusetts's Regiment, which was also at the Battle for Bunker Hill, but the timing of that is not clear.

Lexington Alarm April 20th 1775							
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Original Minutemen Muster Roll

Minutemen of Northfield MA 1774

HISTORY OF THE CONNECTICUT VALLEY.

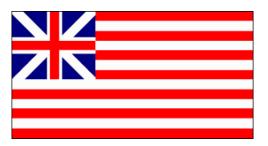
In the fall of 1774 a company of 51 Minute-Men-26 belonging to Northfield, and 25 from Warwick-were organized, and entered at once upon a course of training exercise, under Joseph Allen and Gad Corse. The company was commanded by Capt. Eldad Wright, and upon the alarm from Lexington, in April, 1775, the long roll was beaten by Elihu Lyman. Capt. Wright assembled his command, and on the evening of the day after the battle of Lexington, Capt. Wright and his company were en route from Northfield to Cambridge, in Col. Samuel Williams' regiment. The names of the Northfield men were: Captain, Eldad Wright; Sergeants, Eliphaz Wright, Hophni King; Corporals, John Holton, Oliver Smith; Fifer, Cotton Dickinson; Drummer, Elihu Lyman; and the following privates: Eldad Alexander, Cyrus Stebbins, Moses Root, Joseph Allen, <u>Augustus Belding</u>, Ebenezer Petty, <u>Rufus Carver</u>, Elisha Alexander, Luther Fairbanks, Thomas Stebbins, George Robbins, Joseph Fuller, Barzillai Wood, Elisha Stebbins, Benjamin Miller, Elisha Risley, Nathan Fisk, William Clemmens, David Goodenough.

Original Document "Advanced Payment" June 8th

Camp at Combridge June 9: 175 53. To Colonel Asa Mhiteomb as Day master of the army Please to Day to Capt Eliakimidmin all the arvance toe and intituled to by Vivitue A Resolve of Congress and his Receip the back of this that be your Dischar on witnes as our hands David Timon Foles Jam. Gee Juico Hels diver smithing William Chambert Eliakim Smith Deter 2:1 unces 6 Moughlon Dicki Williem dierer Bouls onn Chanto unco Senie



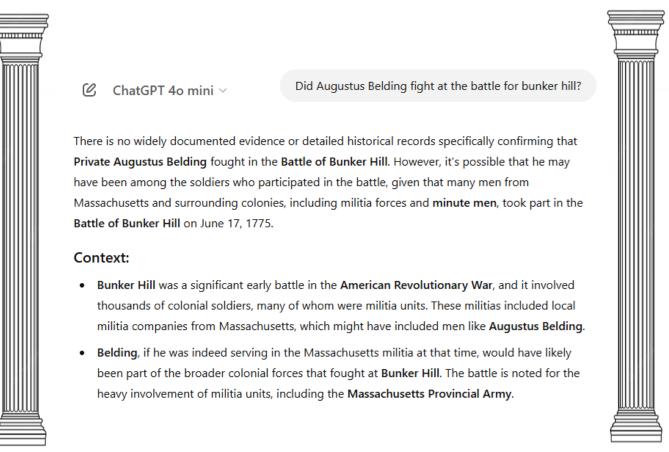




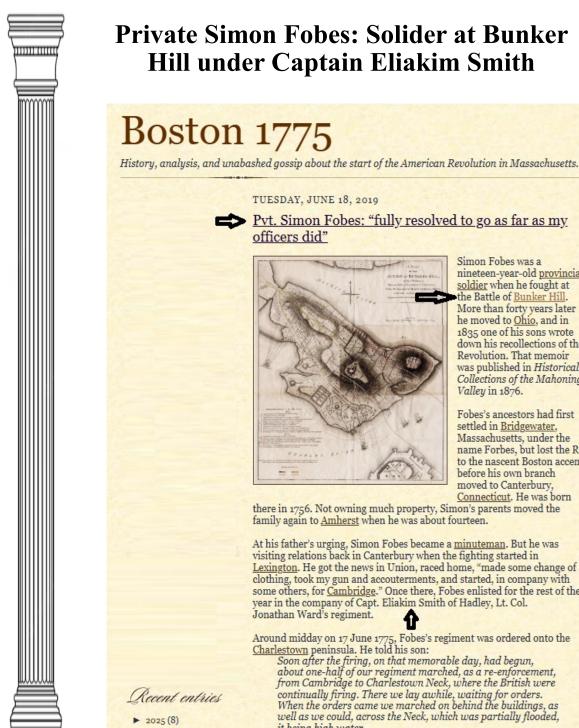
RUFUS CARVER (1755-1840) was born December 13, 1755, in Montague, Massachusetts. While a resident of Northfield, Massachusetts, Carver belonged to Captain Ebenezer Jones' company of minutemen and marched with that unit to Cambridge, Massachusetts, following the battle of Lexington in 1775.

While stationed in Cambridge he enlisted as a private in Captain Eliakim Smith's Company of Colonel (later General) Artemas Ward's Massachusetts Regiment. Rufus was at the battle of Bunker Hill and retreated with General Israel Putnam to Prospect Hill. Here Carver assisted in constructing the redoubt. He was discharged on January 1, 1776, completing his 8-month enlistment. Carver later responded to the "Bennington Alarm" and served in Captain Wright's Company which marched to Bennington[1] but arrived one or two days after the battle.

Carver enlisted again in 1777, and served three months as a private in Captain Lyman's Company, Colonel Bigelow's Massachusetts Regiment. While in service the regiment marched to Danbury Connecticut, where it was posted on guard duty. Carver was discharged at Danbury at the end of November, 1777. He received a pension.[2]



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Private Simon Fobes: Solider at Bunker Hill under Captain Eliakim Smith

Pvt. Simon Fobes: "fully resolved to go as far as my officers did" Simon Fobes was a nineteen-year-old provincial soldier when he fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. More than forty years later he moved to Ohio, and in 1835 one of his sons wrote down his recollections of the Revolution. That memoir was published in *Historical* Collections of the Mahoning Valley in 1876. Fobes's ancestors had first settled in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, under the name Forbes, but lost the R to the nascent Boston accent before his own branch moved to Canterbury, Connecticut. He was born there in 1756. Not owning much property, Simon's parents moved the family again to Amherst when he was about fourteen. At his father's urging, Simon Fobes became a minuteman. But he was visiting relations back in Canterbury when the fighting started in Lexington. He got the news in Union, raced home, "made some change of clothing, took my gun and accouterments, and started, in company with some others, for <u>Cambridge</u>." Once there, Fobes enlisted for the rest of the year in the company of Capt. Eliakim Smith of Hadley, Lt. Col. Jonathan Ward's regiment. P Around midday on 17 June 1775, Fobes's regiment was ordered onto the <u>Charlestown</u> peninsula. He told his son: Soon after the firing, on that memorable day, had begun, about one-half of our regiment marched, as a re-enforcement, from Cambridge to Charlestown Neck, where the British were continually firing. There we lay awhile, waiting for orders. When the orders came we marched on behind the buildings, as well as we could, across the Neck, which was partially flooded,

The record keeping of the events surrounding the Battle for Bunker Hill is less than perfect. There was little time for official musters considering the urgency of the matter. However, the officers were well documented.

Mother Lode awards 5 War and Service Medals



Stephen Almy receives his War Medal. President Steve Belden and Secretary Tom Douglas present

Stephen Almy served in the U.S. Army from 2 Oct, 1959 to 1 Oct, 1962, as a Guided Missile Installation Electrical Equipment Repairman, MOS 357.10. I then served in Viet Nam as a U.S. Army interrogator, from 1974 to the spring of 1975, using my ability to speak Vietnamese in interrogating captured North Vietnamese soldiers. However, I was actually serving for the CIA, not the U.S. Army.

Thank you to Steve Almy and all his wonderful stories of his patriot (also fought at Bunker Hill) Stephen Onley.

Brian C Sonner USCG receives his

War Service Medal



Brian is the past President of the SAR's UK Chapter!

Brian on patrol in Vietnam 1967

You can read his full military resume on page XXX.



Doug Drake Receives the War Service Medal!



Doug received his War Service Medal during the 2024 Community Awards Banquet! Thank you Doug for all your support over the years!



Page 13

Gene Bell receives his War Service Medal



Page 14

Military Service Medals Presented by President Steve Belden and Secretary Tom Douglas

Thank you Bob and John (and Joy!) for all your support over the years!



Bob Conover receives his Military Service Medal.



John Krahn receives his Military Service Medal.

Phil Steve

Dark Phil

Don David

Color Guard 2025



DAR Color Guard: November 2nd, 2024 Granite Bay Golf Club



BOM Meeting October 26th, 2024 Bakersfield CA

Color Guard 2025



USGC - Change of Command January 11th 2025 - Vince's Restaurant

Brian Sonner

Brian C Sonner

Captain, United States Coast Guard (Ret)

CAPTAIN BRIAN C SONNER RETIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WITH 30 YEARS ACTIVE SERVICE

06/1966	Yorktown, VA	Officer Training S	chool
02/1967	Honolulu, HI	USCG Cutter Win	nebago, Deck Watch Officer
04/1967	Honolulu, HI	USCG Cutter Ber	ring Strait, Deck Watch Officer. The
		В	Bering Strait was assigned to USCG Squadron Three
		b	ssigned to duty in Vietnam. Ens. Sonner served as boarding officer and oarded Vietnamese coastal vessels and foreign vessels transiting the Viet- amese war zone daily
07/1968	Honolulu, HI	Assigned to Four	teenth District Staff as the Admiral's
		iı	aide. The District Commander was in command of Coast Guard operations in Southeast Asia (Vietnam). Ltjg Sonner traveled frequently in the war one in support of the Admiral and as his bodyguard
10/1970	Miami Beach, FL	Lt Sonner was resp	ponsible for logistics support for USCG
		R	Commands in the Seventh Coast Guard District. He also performed Search and Rescue operations using USCG small boats during the three-year assignment. He was a certified coxswain and is entitled to wear the coxswain device
05/1973	Monterey, CA	Naval Postgrad	duate School, Received a master's degree in
		Accounting an	d Financial Management.
12/1974	New York, NY	Third Coast G	uard District. Assigned as Chief, Budget and
		R	Review Branch
07/1977	New York, NY	USCG Cutter	Tamaroa, Executive Officer. The Tamaroa's
		0	rimary duty Search and Rescue and to board and inspect foreign fishing vessels perating in proximity to the United States 200-mile economic zone. LCDR. onner was senior boarding officer
08/1979	London, England	Assigned to USCO	G Activities Europe as the Chief
		th D	Comptroller Division. The USCG had LORAN stations throughout Europe nroughout Europe, Scandinavia and North Africa.in support of Department of Defense operations. Duties included financial, personnel and construction con- racting
08/1982	Washington, DC	USCG Headquarte	ers. Assigned Chief, Accounting Systems
			Development Division, Office of the Comptroller. CDR Sonner lead the team which designed and installed the USCG's current worldwide accounting system
08/1986	Newport, RI	Naval Postgraduat	e School, Received a master's degree in
		Political Science a	nd International Relations.
06/1987	St. Petersburg, FL	CAPT Sonner was	Assigned as Commanding Officer, USCG
		S	Group St. Petersburg. The area assigned included the entire Gulf Coast of the tate of Florida. Duties of Group included Search and Rescue, Aids to Navigation and Law Enforcement
08/1990	Miami, FL Sev	enth Coast Guard	District, Assigned as Chief, Law
			Inforcement Branch. Assigned the responsibility for planning and coordinating naritime law enforcement operations within District Seven area of responsibility

Brian Sonner

08/1990	Miami, FL	Seventh Coast Guard District, Assigned as Chief, Law
		Enforcement Branch. Assigned the responsibility for planning and coordinating maritime law enforcement operations within District Seven area of responsibility which included the Caribbean basin, Gulf of Mexico, Central and South America
08/1992	Juneau, AK	Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Assigned as Chief of
		Operations Division for the district and N-3 for Alaskan Command Naval Component. Assigned the responsibility
		for managing Search and Rescue, Aids to Navigation, and Law Enforcement Operations within the District's Area of responsibility
06/1994	Juneau, AK	Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Assigned as District
		Chief of Staff and N-2 Alaska Command Naval Component
		Commander
09/1996		Retired from active duty

BUNKER HILL RESEACH LINKS

https://boston1775.blogspot.com/2019/06/pvt-simon-fobes-fully-resolved-to-go-as.html - Pct. Simon Fobes

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~wiracbio/zrevolwar/revolutionary.htm - Pvt. Rufus Carver

<u>https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0188</u> - Founders Online Jonathan Ward to George Washington - Bunker Hill

https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-01-02-0040 - Founders Online GW's General Orders after Bunker Hill

<u>https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Survivors_of_Bunker_Hill_in_1825</u> - Survivors of Bunker Hill in 1825 - Ward's Regiment is listed.

<u>https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008092184?cat=729681&i=0</u>-Augustus's original signature found at image 369