



## **Jordan Family Foundation Acquires Hezekiah Jordan's 1773 Powder Horn**

A Revolutionary War era powder horn that dates to 1773 with the inscription "*Hezekiah Jordan 1773*" was acquired by the Foundation on May 21, 2010, from Earle (Bud) Webster who has retired in North Carolina. The acquisition process started on January 8, 2011, when Foundation President Trey Jordan received an email message from Earle Webster seeking interest in acquiring the powder horn. (Note: the inscription on the horn uses a capital initial "I" instead of a capital "J" in the name Jordan which was the style of the time when printing letters).

The powder horn had been with Earle's immediate family at least 50 years, and was thought to have originally belonged to an early Webster family member by the name of Hezekiah Jordan. Earle had originally taken great pride in the oral family tradition of being related to an early Maine pioneer and soldier who owned and used this horn. After completing an exhaustive genealogical study, Mr. Webster could not connect his line to any Hezekiah Jordan. While being disappointed he did find "our" Hezekiah and thought the Foundation might be interested in the powder horn to add to the collection of Jordan family historical artifacts.

Trey Jordan forwarded the information and digital pictures to Roland C. Jordan, John Webster and Steve Deitemeyer for their ideas and considerations. One original concern was that there might still be some undiscovered Jordan-Webster family connections. After checking with the Family Jordan records and discussing the Earle Webster family history with Earle, it was re-verified that there was no common family history. There are a lot of Jordan-Webster marriages in Maine, but none of Earle's line to Hezekiah. Earle had found Hezekiah's pension records and passed on those details as additional background.

Steve Deitemeyer also found Hezekiah's pension application and records in the National Archives at the Denver Federal Center, along with two other Hezekiah Jordan's of the same time period. One Hezekiah was from Maine, one from Virginia and one from Tennessee. After reconstructing the Webster family history it was found that Earle's great-great grandfather, Thomas Roberts, lived in Buckfield, Maine in nearby Oxford County relatively close to Hezekiah's farm in Cumberland County. Steve's biological sketch of Hezekiah's life, family history and military service appears separately in this newsletter.

The other two Hezekiah's were eliminated from consideration as potential owners of the powder horn because of a lack of a connection to Maine or to any Webster-Jordan family history. With this history it is assumed that the horn was always in Maine, a long time in Bangor with Earle's family, and only moved to North Carolina when Earle retired there and took it with him. How the horn was acquired from Hezekiah Jordan will never be known for sure. Perhaps the Robert's family acquired it from Hezekiah's widow, Eunice, after his death in order to help settle his estate some time from 1830-1837 when both lived in the area.

Authenticity of the powder horn was determined by Walter O'Connor from Pennsylvania a nationally recognized authority on early American history,

weapons, powder horns and accessories. Mr. O'Connor has a personal collection of 75 powder horns of the muzzle loading era and has helped with many assessments, especially at Fort Ticonderoga and their extensive historical collection. He helped establish an appraisal value that was used in the Foundation's acquisition negotiations with Earle Webster. The purchase price was significantly lower than the O'Connor appraisal. Mr. O'Connor established the horn as being typical of the 1773 time period and construction techniques. The etched decorations were identified as being Pennsylvania-Dutch in style because of their geometric forms and circles and similar to barn paintings. The ship etching on the reverse side would have been typical of maritime coastal Maine art near Hezekiah's boyhood home at Falmouth (Cape Elizabeth).

If Hezekiah carried this powder horn through his Revolutionary War travels and engagements cannot be known for sure. However, this horn, made when Hezekiah was 14 years old, would have been a young man's proud, customized possession as he was with his dad, James (also a Revolutionary War Vet), and the hunting and militia activities at Falmouth.

The "Hezekiah Jordan 1773" powder horn will be transported back to Maine for eventual display at the Cape Elizabeth Library along with other Jordan family artifacts, books and memorabilia.

Compiled by Steven W. Deitemeyer, Jordan Family Historian. Spring 2011