

Private Thomas Canfield

Birth: 1717 Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Death: June 27, 1791 Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Thomas was born in 1717 in Newark, NJ to Israel and Sarah Johnson Canfield. He had 4 brothers and 4 sisters. Thomas married Elizabeth Baldwin and they had 9 children. Thomas was a farmer and a tanner. The family lived in Newark, New Jersey. Thomas is buried in the yard of the First Presbyterian Church of Newark, NJ.

During the Revolutionary War, Thomas was a private in the State Militia. He was also associated with Major Samuel Hayes and Justice Joseph Hedden, Jr. as commissioner for the sale for the forfeited estates of the Tories, or as many people stated – of “persons gone over to the enemy.”

Thomas was taken prisoner along with Justice Joseph Hedden, Jr., who was his brother-in-law having married Thomas' sister, Sarah. They were marched, at the point of the bayonet, to Paulus Hook, and then from there across the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York. This being the coldest winter seen, the Hudson River was frozen over with ice, so the soldiers marched across it.