

**WINTHROP BAGLEY**  
(1762 – 1850)

**Note to Researchers**

*This sample sketch, with live links, is intended to demonstrate the wide variety of records available for researching your Revolutionary ancestor. Nearly all of the online sources here are freely accessible to the public. One exception is [Fold3.com](#), a subscription site devoted to military records. However, it offers a 7-day free trial.*

*[FamilySearch.org](#) is entirely free, but it requires that you set up a free account. Their [Research Wiki](#) offers excellent articles to guide you in your research.*

*You may not find as much information as you see in this sketch. Just do your best!*

Winthrop Bagley was born in Amesbury, Massachusetts, 19 August 1762, son of Jonathan and Ann (Favor?) Bagley.<sup>1</sup> He died in Thornton 21 July 1850 and is buried there in Pine Grove Cemetery.<sup>2</sup> On 1 January 1787, Winthrop, then residing in Candia, married Maria/Mariah Dudley of Raymond. Rev. Ebenezer Haselton of Epsom performed the ceremony.<sup>3</sup> Maria was born circa 1761.<sup>4</sup> She died in Thornton 29 August 1855, aged 94 years.<sup>5</sup>

General John Sullivan of the Continental Army was assigned responsibility for driving the British out of Rhode Island. But his troops were insufficient, so he was forced to seek support from the surrounding New England states.

In March 1778, Winthrop Bagley answered the call. He enlisted in Capt. Ezekiel Worthen's Company of Col. Stephen Peabody's Regiment at Candia for nine months. The company marched to Rhode Island and was stationed first at Providence and afterwards on the Island of Rhode Island (Aquidneck), where he encountered General Lafayette.<sup>6</sup>

Captain Sylvanus Reed of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, maintained the orderly book for the New Hampshire State Regiment, logging their daily records, including official orders, troop movements, disciplinary actions, and routine duties. The original manuscript is held by the Society of the Cincinnati. The book's contents describing their service from 25 May to 25 August of that year have been summarized by the Society.

In late December 1777, the New Hampshire House of Representatives resolved to raise a state regiment to serve in Rhode Island and appointed Col. Stephen Peabody its leader. Peabody's men joined soldiers from Rhode Island and Massachusetts and French and Continental Army forces in an attempt to dislodge the British from the island of Rhode Island. If successful, the campaign would reopen Narragansett Bay to French and American naval traffic, allowing the French fleet under Admiral Charles-Hector Theodat, comte d'Estaing carrying infantry reinforcements to land. Peabody's New Hampshire regiment arrived in Providence at the end of May 1778, when this orderly book begins to document the troops' service. Kept by Capt. Sylvanus Reed of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, the orderly book compiles the orders for the regiment, which was assigned to Rhode Island colonel Christopher Greene's brigade. As head of the Continental Army's Rhode Island Department, Gen. John Sullivan directed the campaign. After two months of patrolling the coast for enemy ships and time in camp addressing the troops' provisions, interactions with local residents, courts martial, and deserters, the New Hampshire men began preparing for battle in mid August. On the eve of the regiment's march to British-held Newport, Colonel Greene spoke to his troops, offering "his most cordial thanks to the brave Officers, Volunteers & Soldiers who have with so much alacrity repaired to this place to give there assistance in Exrepatng the brutish Tirants from this Country. The zeal & Spirit which they discovuated are to him the Most Plesing Progress of Victory." The battle that finally took place on August 29—the war's first joint French-American

operation—resulted in a stalemate that left Newport and part of the island in British hands.<sup>7</sup>

The Battle of Rhode Island, also known as the Battle of Quaker Hill, began about 6:00 a.m. the morning of 29 August. Peabody's Regiment, now part of Col. Greene's brigade, was assigned to the brigade's right flank. They were soon attacked by armed British ships, but they successfully drove them back. General Sullivan described the day-long battle in a letter to Rhode Island's Governor William Greene at the conclusion of the battle.

The Enemy Repeated the attempt three times & were as often Repulsed with great Bravery our officers & Soldiers behaving with uncommon Fortitude & not giving up an Inch of Ground through the whole Day The Enemy made a Show of attacking our Left General Glover advanced to meet them upon which they halted on Quaker Hill about a mile in our Front. The Cannonnade was very Severe through the whole Day & musketry with Intermissions near Seven hours — nothing could Equal the Bravery of the officers & men as well militia as other Troops. The Enemy having at Length wearied themselves with vain Efforts retired to a Chain of Hills about a mile in our Front which were formerly fortified by themselves from which I think they are now Retreating parties are now advancing to take advantage of any movement the army having been without Rest or food Last night & without any food to Day and in Constant action through most of the Day it was not thought advisable to attack the Enemy in the way they had possessed themselves of. The victory on our Side was Compleat but our Loss Considerable The particulars of which am not able to give you The Enemy Loss from the well Directed fire of our Cannon & musketry must be very great and far Exceeding the Loss on our part.<sup>8</sup>

The battle was one of the earliest joint efforts with the French Army. Although the attempt to drive the British out of Newport fell short, partly due to hurricane damage disabling the French fleet, the units "fought with determination on the front lines, holding their

ground during the fierce clashes that allowed the Continental Army to withdraw in good order.”<sup>9</sup>

Winthrop, along with the rest of Peabody’s regiment, was discharged on 30 December 1778 with one day’s pay for every 20 miles travel home to Candia,<sup>10</sup> a distance of 130 miles today; surely, a greater distance in 1778. At the time of discharge, the company was comprised of 52 soldiers.<sup>11</sup>

In June 1781, Winthrop reenlisted at Campton in Lieut. Peter Stearns’ Company under the command of Col. Charles Johnson for six months, serving on the northern frontier of the state “in defense against the Indians.”<sup>12</sup> His company included Jonathan Robins Jr. and John Brown, all of Plymouth; John Clefford Jr. and Jason Cross for Rumney; John Fellows and Daniel Heath for New Chester; William Petty for Alexandria; and John Willey for Thornton.<sup>13</sup>

Winthrop described his service from this enlistment in an affidavit supporting Daniel Heath’s application for a pension.

...in the year 1781 said Heath & myself belonged to a body of men in the state troops of New Hampshire in the United States service in the [R]evolutionary war. We were under Lieut. Peter Sterns [sic] of Plymouth. I enlisted in the month of June for six months to go into the Northern frontier as a guard against the Indians. The place for rendezvous was Haverhill ... & the whole body of us men under the command of Colonel Charles Johnson of that Place. I went from Campton ... , where I resided at time of my enlistment immediately to the place of rendezvous & found said Heath there. He then belonged to New Chester in said county & had enlisted for the same period that I had & into the same company & for the same services. We remained some weeks at Haverhill when I was taken sick & Heath with the rest of our corps moved to Dartmouth in the Northern part of the State & left me sick at Haverhill\_\_ after remaining a while at Dartmouth they moved to Northumberland on Connecticut River\_\_ while on their way there I rejoined them having recovered of my illness\_\_

remaining at Northumberland several weeks\_\_ we march<sup>d</sup> down to Haverhill again & remained there till the expiration of our term of enlistment when we were discharged\_\_ Said Heath & myself were each in said service at said time six months\_\_ though it may be proper to add that provisions becoming scarce towards the close of our time the Col discharged us a day or so before it was entirely out\_\_ Whether we march<sup>d</sup> home before it was fully out I cannot say but I think it probable we did not\_\_ We left the service & set off for home together.<sup>14</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Winthrop Bagley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some loops and flourishes characteristic of the late 18th or early 19th century.

Winthrop Bagley

Winthrop applied for a pension on 5 September 1832, the same day as his friend Daniel Heath. He successfully proved his service with affidavits from Heath, Enoch Colby, Jonathan Jewett and Jonathan Robbins.<sup>15</sup>

Winthrop first acquired land in Thornton on 1 April 1783. He purchased from William Thornton 100 acres on the west side of the Pemigewasset River. Matthew Thornton and Hobart Spencer witnessed the deed.<sup>16</sup> Establishing his prior residence is confusing. His 1781 enlistment occurred in Campton; however, the 1783 deed identifies him as "Winthrop Bagley of Candia."

He served as tax collector in Thornton,<sup>17</sup> Overseer of the Poor,<sup>18</sup> and also ran a tavern here.<sup>19</sup> His public service began in April 1790 when he was chosen to serve on a committee with John McArthur, William Hobart, and Enoch Colby to collect for the support of the Gospel.<sup>20</sup> He was appointed tax collector in November of that year.<sup>21</sup> On 11 July 1793, he was chosen moderator for Town Meeting.<sup>22</sup>

Following Winthrop's death in 1850, Maria applied for a widow's pension on 20 November 1851, supported by her brother Samuel C. Dudley of Sanbornton and neighbor Tilletson Blaisdell.<sup>23</sup> On 3 March 1855, Maria was awarded 160 acres of bounty land in Minnesota, based on Winthrop's Revolutionary service. However, she never

settled there. Her daughter Nancy, as sole heir, inherited the land, but assigned the tract to Elijah A. Powell in September 1860.<sup>24</sup>

Children (with Maria/Mariah Dudley; all named in Winthrop's will;<sup>25</sup> births recorded in Thornton Town Records):<sup>26</sup>

- i. MARY/POLLY BAGLEY, b. 28 Dec. 1787; d. 19 Sep. 1822, aged 35 years, 8 months, 22 days;<sup>27</sup> m. ca. 1806 William Thornton,<sup>28</sup> b. possibly in Thornton 13 Jan. 1784, s. of William and Dorothy "Dolly" (Bagley) Thornton.<sup>29</sup>
- ii. NANCY BAGLEY, b. 13 Oct. 1789, d. before 21 Feb. 1861,<sup>30</sup> m. by A. Rankin in Thornton 4 Oct. 1825 (intention filed 20 September 1825) Joseph Emerson Dow of Franconia<sup>31</sup> as his second wife.<sup>32</sup> He was b. 28 Dec. 1777, s. of Moses and Phoebe (Emerson) Dow,<sup>33</sup> d. in Franconia 25 Aug. 1857,<sup>34</sup> m. (1) Abigail Arnold, daughter of Hon. Jonathan Arnold of Rhode Island.<sup>35</sup> Joseph was a lawyer, local magistrate and postmaster of Thornton. He drank himself into poverty and moved to Littleton.<sup>36</sup>
- iii. BETSY BAGLEY, b. 6 Aug. 1791.
- IV. SALLY A. BAGLEY, b. 24 Oct. 1793, d. bet. 1850 and 1855;<sup>37</sup> m. by Pelatiah Chapin 16 March 1820 Tillotson Blaisdell of Campton,<sup>38</sup> b. ca. 1798,<sup>39</sup> d. in Thornton 9 July 1877, aged 79 years, 5 months, 24 days.<sup>40</sup>
- v. HANNAH BAGLEY, b. 16 Nov. 1795, m. int. 7 Oct. 1816 Jonas Tyler,<sup>41</sup> d. bef. 16 March 1848, when her father's will was executed.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rev. War Pension Application #W20682, Winthrop Bagley, 5 September 1832, p. 4; *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/file/11038280>). *Amesbury, Mass., Vital Records*, 19; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/vitalrecordsfam00ames/mode/2up>).

<sup>2</sup> Maria Bagley Widow's Affidavit, 20 November 1851, Rev. War Pension, #W20682, p. 10; says Winthrop died 21 July 1850. Winthrop Bagleygravestone, Pine Grove Cemetery, Thornton, NH; *Find a Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48991523/winthrop-bagley>).

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Gravestone incorrectly shows year of death as 1851; however, his widow says he died in 1850, and his probate file was created in 1850.

<sup>3</sup> Affidavit of Robert Knox, Epsom Town Clerk, Rev. War Pension, #W20682, p. 17. Winthrop Bagley Estate, "NH Probate Records," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G967-9K4D>), Grafton > Probate records > Probate estate files Alden-Butterfield 1850 > image 43 of 526; New Hampshire State Archives, Concord.

<sup>4</sup> Calc., Rev. War Pension, #W20682.

<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Maria Bagley death notice, "Quarterly Obituary," *New England Historic and Genealogical Record*, vol. 9, p. 372; *Internet Archive* ([https://archive.org/details/sim\\_new-england-historical-and-genealogical-register\\_1855-10\\_9\\_4/page/372/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/sim_new-england-historical-and-genealogical-register_1855-10_9_4/page/372/mode/2up)).

<sup>6</sup> Rev. War Pension #W20682, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Emily L. Schulz, *New Hampshire in the American Revolution: An Exhibition by The Society of the Cincinnati*, (Washington, D.C.: The Society of the Cincinnati, 2010), p. 17; digital images, *American Revolution Institute* (<https://www.americanrevolutioninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/New-Hampshire-in-the-American-Revolution-2010.pdf>).

<sup>8</sup> Otis G. Hammond, ed., *Letters and Papers of Major-General John Sullivan Continental Army, Volume Two 1778-1779* (Concord: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1931), p. 274; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/letterspapersofm02sull/page/n7/mode/2up>).

<sup>9</sup> Curtish Hermann, "Battle of Rhode Island," 29 August 2025; *NH Sons of the American Revolution* (<https://nhsar.org/2025/08/29/battle-of-rhode-island/>).

<sup>10</sup> "United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QL6Y-Q5XG>), Entry for Winthrop Bagley, 30 December 1778.

<sup>11</sup> Pay Roll, Capt. Ezekiel Worthen Company, 30 December 1778; "US, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783," *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/10195467/125-page-72-us-revolutionary-war-rolls-1775-1783>).

<sup>12</sup> Rev. War Pension, #W20682, p. 4; *New Hampshire State Papers*, 16:586; images, *UNH Scholars Repository* (<https://scholars.unh.edu/propapers/>).

<sup>13</sup> Winthrop Bagley Compiled Service Record, 14 November 1781; "New Hampshire, United States records," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-93P2-P8WJ>), image 2734 of 2761.

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<sup>14</sup> Rev. War Pension Application #2547, Daniel Heath, 5 September 1832, p. 33; *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/22756009/heath-daniel-page-33-us-revolutionary-war-pensions-1800-1900>).

<sup>15</sup> Rev. War Pension, #W20682, pp. 24, 27, 41, 44; *New Hampshire State Papers*, 16:586; images, *UNH Scholars Repository* (<https://scholars.unh.edu/propapers/>).

<sup>16</sup> Grafton County, New Hampshire, Deeds, Book 9: 74-5, Warranty Deed, Winthrop Bagley from William Thornton, 1 April 1783; "Grafton County Land Records, 1773-1902," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLR-N99Z-K>), image 431 of 774.

<sup>17</sup> "State of New-Hampshire," *NH Gazette*, 27 Feb. 1799, p.4, col. 5; database and images, *GenealogyBank* (<https://bit.ly/4oDqDde>).

<sup>18</sup> "Notice," *New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette*, Concord, NH: 10 November 1834, p. 4, col. 3; *GenealogyBank* (<https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/newspapers/image/v2%3A10BBE1239B527608%40GB3NEWS-10C284E52CAEA110%402391228-10C284E6673DFD70%403>).

<sup>19</sup> *Gazetteer of Grafton Co.*, 629; *Internet Archive* ([https://archive.org/details/bub\\_gb\\_wTYTAAAYAAJ/page/628/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_wTYTAAAYAAJ/page/628/mode/2up)).

<sup>20</sup> Thornton Town Records, vol. 1: 45; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-899K-CNPQ>), image 26 of 331.

<sup>21</sup> Thornton Town Records, vol. 1: 48; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-899K-CNPS>), image 28 of 331.

<sup>22</sup> Thornton Town Records, vol. 1: 83; *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L99K-CNRG>), image 45 of 331.

<sup>23</sup> Daniel Heath Affidavit, 29 June 1832, Rev. War Pension, #W20682, pp. 24-25.

<sup>24</sup> Maria Bagley Land Patent, MW-0363-006, 1 September 1860; US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, *General Land Office Records* (<https://bit.ly/4oBIIdOT>). Maria Bagley Estate, 1855, "New Hampshire Naturalization and Probate Records," images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9VX-39D3>), Grafton > Probate records > Probate estate files Bagley-Cate 1855 > image 1 of 561. Nancy Dow Affidavit, November 1855, Maria Bagley Estate, Grafton Co. Probate, 1855, image 4 of 561.

<sup>25</sup> Winthrop Bagley Will, 16 March 1848, Grafton Co. Probate, 1850, images 106-107 of 526.



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<sup>26</sup> "Thornton, Town Records 1781-1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-899K-CN3N>), image 252 of 674; Thornton Town Records (state copy), Vol. 1, 1781-1819, p. 483.

<sup>27</sup> Mary Thornton death, 19 September 1822; "NH Death Records, 1654-1947," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FSLZ-Z5G>), birth date calc. based on date of death.

<sup>28</sup> Winthrop Bagley Will, Grafton Co. Probate, 1850; names daughter Polly Thornton. Rev. War Pension, #W20682, mentions a daughter who married "Mr. Thornton."

<sup>29</sup> William Thornton birth, 13 January 1784; "NH Birth Records, Early to 1900," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FLPX-9LC>).

<sup>30</sup> Varnum G. Durgin receipt, 21 February 1861, Nancy Dow Estate, "NH Probate Records," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99V5-1H6J>), Grafton > Probate records > Probate estate files Dame, Theodore-Eldridge, Watson 1861 > image 174 of 550.

<sup>31</sup> Bagley-Thornton marriage, 4 October 1825; "Thornton. Town Records 1781-1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L99K-CF7N>), image 438 of 674; Thornton Town Records, vol. 2, 1819-1834, p. 186.

<sup>32</sup> Robert Piercy Dow, *Book of Dow* (Claremont, NH: Robert P. Dow, et al., 1929), p. 742; *Internet Archive* ([https://archive.org/details/ofdowgenealo00dowr\\_0/page/n3/mode/2up](https://archive.org/details/ofdowgenealo00dowr_0/page/n3/mode/2up)). Hamilton Child, compiler, *Part First, Gazetteer of Grafton County, N.H., 1709-1886* (Syracuse: The Syracuse Journal Company, 1886), 100; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/gazetteerofgraft00chil/page/n7/mode/2up>), image 112 of 1198 .

<sup>33</sup> Joseph E. Dow birth, 28 December 1777; "New Hampshire, Birth Records, Early to 1900," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FLL2-56X>). *Book of Dow*, p. 742. *Part First, Gazetteer of Grafton County, N.H., 1709-1886*, p. 82.

<sup>34</sup> *Book of Dow*, p. 742.

<sup>35</sup> *Part First, Gazetteer of Grafton County, N.H., 1709-1886*, 100.

<sup>36</sup> *Book of Dow*, 743.

<sup>37</sup> Sally A. Blaisdell, 1850 US Census, Grafton County, New Hampshire, population schedule, town of Thornton, p.268, dwelling 35, family 35, Tillotson Blaisdell household; "New Hampshire, 1850 federal census...", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DYQS->

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[39J](#)), image 4 of 27. Maria Bagley Estate, Grafton Co. Probate, 1855, when sister Nancy was parents' only living heir.

<sup>38</sup> Bagley-Blaisdell marriage, 15 March 1820; "Thornton. Town Records 1781-1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L99K-CFXL>), image 333 of 675; "Thornton Town Records," state copy, vol. 1, 1781-1819, p. 650 (stamped).

<sup>39</sup> Calc., 1850 US Census, Thornton, p. 267.

<sup>40</sup> Tillotson Blaisdell death, 9 July 1877; "New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654-1947," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FSK7-KLK>).

<sup>41</sup> Bagley-Tyler marriage intention, 7 October 1816; "Thornton, Town Records 1781-1834," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-899K-CFP2>), image 273 of 674; Thornton Town Records (state copy), Vol. 1, 1781-1819, p. 525.

<sup>42</sup> Winthrop Bagley Estate, Grafton Co. Probate, 1850.