

# Patriots of Color at the Battle of Bunker Hill

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Boston National Historical Park



The Bunker Hill Monument marks the site of one of the first major battles of the American Revolution. A Battle in which inexperienced colonial forces fought against a highly trained army of British soldiers. Less well-known is the story of the significant role played by the more than 100 African American and Native American soldiers who took part in the battle. To examine the roles of these “patriots of color” in the Revolution is to discover the complexities of the revolutionary period as well as the diversity of its participants, their motivations, and their perspectives.

This curriculum-based lesson plan is one of a thematic set on the American Revolution using lessons from other Massachusetts National Parks. Also are:

[Minute Man National Historical Park](#)

[Adams National Historical Park](#)

[Salem Maritime National Park](#)

Included in this lesson are several pages of supporting material. To help identify these pages the following icons may be used:



To indicate a Primary Source page



To indicate a Secondary Source page



To Indicate a Student handout



To indicate a Teacher resource

**Lesson Document**

Link on the page to the document



The Bunker Hill Monument, part of [Boston National Historical Park](#), marks the site of one of the first major battles of the American Revolution. The Battle of Bunker Hill, actually fought on Charlestown's Breed's Hill, is a well-known event in which inexperienced colonial forces fought against a highly trained army of British soldiers. Less well-known is the story of the significant role played by the more than 100 African American and Native American soldiers who took part in the battle. To examine the roles of these "patriots of color" in the Revolution is to discover the complexities of the revolutionary period as well as the diversity of its participants, their motivations, and their perspectives. Their stories allow for a more complete understanding of American society in the past and today.

In this lesson, students learn about the patriots of color who fought at Bunker Hill. They explore the importance of an inclusive view of history and the reasons why people take great personal risk for a cause greater than themselves. Students analyze a painting of the battle and examine biographical sketches of the patriots of color who fought there.

**Enduring Understanding**

History includes many little-known but important stories that enrich our understanding of our culture, ourselves, and our past.

**Essential Question**

What do the little-known stories of the Battle of Bunker Hill reveal about who was engaged in the fight for freedom?

**Content  
Objective/Outcomes**

The students will:

- Identify two colonial patriots of color involved in the Battle of Bunker Hill.
- List the roles that the patriots of color played in both the Battle of Bunker Hill and the American Revolution in general.
- Describe how these little-known stories enrich understanding of who fought in this battle.

**Language  
Objective/Outcomes**

The students will:

- Apply understanding of agreed-upon rules and individual roles in order to make decisions during whole-class and small-group discussions of the roles of the patriots of color.
- Apply steps for using gathered research about the patriots of color, organizing the information, and presenting an individual and/or group project.
- Summarize information from a variety of sources on the Battle of Bunker Hill by writing a focused and well-supported response to an open-ended question.

Number of Days: 2

Intended Grade/Range: 5

**Resources/Materials****Literature:**

Brennan, Linda Crotta. *The Black Regiment of the American Revolution*. North Kingstown, R.I.: Moon Mountain Publishing, 2004.

Berleth, Richard J. and James Watling. *Samuel's Choice*. 1990.

National Park Service. *Bunker Hill Monument Site Bulletin*. Boston National Historical Park, MA.

Quintal, George Jr., *Patriots of Color "A Peculiar Beauty and Merit": African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road & Bunker Hill*. Boston, Massachusetts: Division of Cultural Resources, Boston National Historical Park, 2004.

**Websites:** National Park Service American Revolution at [www.nps.gov/revwar](http://www.nps.gov/revwar)  
Boston National Historical Park at [www.nps.gov/bost](http://www.nps.gov/bost)

**Images:** Alonzo Chappel's 19<sup>th</sup>-century painting of the Battle at Bunker Hill

**Map:** Historic Map of Boston and Charlestown

**Knowledge Required**

To complete this lesson successfully, students will need to know:

- Significant events and tensions leading up to the American Revolution
- The story of the Battle of Bunker Hill, including the fact that inexperienced colonists faced experienced, disciplined British troops in one of the first major battles of the Revolution

Background information is available in the Bunker Hill Monument site bulletin included with this lesson plan, and on the Boston National Historical Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/bost>.

**Teaching/Learning Sequence****LAUNCH:**

Introduce the lesson with a guided student analysis of Alonzo Chappel's painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Numerous depictions of the battle show white colonists fighting the British soldiers. However, Chappel, a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century painter, chose to portray a black soldier, possibly Peter Salem, actively engaged in the battle, priming his rifle. New research shows that out of about 3,000 colonists engaged in the battle, as many as 100 were patriots of color.

Tell students they will examine a painting of the battle and write a journal entry about the painting. Display or project the image of Chappel's painting and ask students to:

- share their first impressions
- look more closely and describe who is in the image and what is happening
- identify the types of objects they see
- think further about what the image suggests, and
- write a journal entry about what is happening in the scene, including favorite details of the painting.

Ask students to group related ideas and place them in logical order, organizing their journal entry into a coherent paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.

**EXPLORATION:**

The report *Patriots of Color* is the final product of a major research project for Boston National Historical Park. The report includes more than 100 biographical stories. Ten of these stories have been adapted for use in this lesson. These biographies are adapted from George Quintal, Jr.'s book *Patriots of Color "A Peculiar Beauty and Merit": African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road & Bunker Hill*. Boston, Massachusetts: Division of Cultural Resources, Boston National Historical Park, 2004. The biographies are included at the end of this lesson.

Divide the class into five groups and distribute two biographical stories to each group. Have students read the stories, discuss the information, and complete the KWL chart (included at the end of the lesson) by answering the following questions:

- (1) What do you know about this person from reading the story?
- (2) What else would you want to know about this person?
- (3) What have you learned from this person's story that changes your understanding of who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill?

Ask students to refer to the historic map of Charlestown and Bunker Hill as needed to better understand the roles of the patriots of color in this major battle.

### **SUMMARY:**

Ask groups to share their KWL charts. As groups report out, create a class chart that represents all the stories. Include names of individuals, whether they were freemen or slaves, their role in the battle, and something new that students learned.

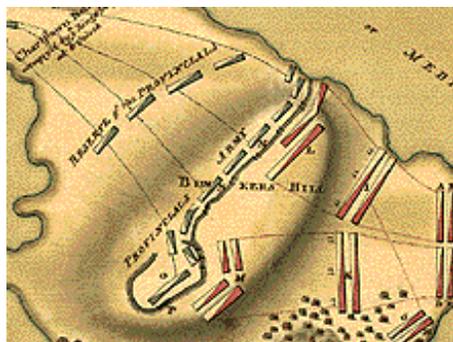
Next, ask the class to consider these stories in discussing the following questions:

- Who were the patriots of color who fought at Bunker Hill?
- What roles did they play in the Battle of Bunker Hill?

To summarize what students have learned, ask students to write a clearly focused, well-supported answer to the following open-ended question: In what ways have the stories of the patriots of color changed the way you think about who fought in this battle?

### **ASSESSMENT:**

Once again, display or project the image of Alonzo Chappel's painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Ask students to re-read what they originally wrote about the painting the first time they saw it. Ask students if learning the little-known stories of the patriots of color has changed their understanding of the past and what happened at the Battle of Bunker Hill. As a final assessment, ask students to write a brief description to accompany the painting's museum exhibit label.



## *The Power of Place*

### Site Visit:

Have you ever stood on the spot where some historical event occurred and felt a sense of awe and inspiration? This is the power of place you can experience when you visit a National Park. These historic places provide us with opportunities to connect with the lives of the generations before us. The power of place is that it gives history immediacy and relevance. As historian David McCullough\*states, "When you stand there, in that very real, authentic place, you feel the presence of that other time, that *history* in a way that would be impossible did it not exist."

Visit [Boston National Historical Park](#) to see the Bunker Hill Monument and view Breed's Hill, the location of the Battle of Bunker Hill. Students can imagine colonists gathering on these hills to fight the formidable British troops. Experiencing these places firsthand can help the ideas in this lesson plan come alive. On your visit, encourage students to think about why people take risks for greater causes, and to imagine the battle roles of the patriots of color that they read about in this lesson. What were their motivations for fighting? Why is it important to learn about all of the groups involved in our history? How do these little-known stories affect our understanding of American history and culture?

Students can learn more about the lives and motivations of colonial soldiers who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill by participating in the Park's curriculum-based education program, Merchants and Farmers. In this two-hour program, a park ranger dressed as a colonist presents a soldier's perspective. Through discussion and hands-on examination of items from a soldier's pack, students learn about the life of a "citizen soldier," discovering similarities to their own lives, feelings, and motivations. A mapping exercise shows how the landscape influenced the battle, and a musket firing demonstration brings the smells and sounds of battle to life. These hands-on activities in the real, authentic place can help students appreciate the significance of the Battle of Bunker Hill and those who fought there. The program is free, but reservations are required. Contact Sandy Norris for reservations and information at 617/242-5689, [sandy\\_norris@nps.gov](mailto:sandy_norris@nps.gov)

\*From "History Lost and Found," *Journal of the National Trust for Historic Preservation*, Winter 2002.

**Connections to the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Standards:**

*History*

HISTORY and SOCIAL SCIENCE

5.12 Describe the life of free African Americans in the colonies.

5.17 Describe the major battles of the Revolution and explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat.

B. Bunker Hill

*English Language Arts*

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS:

19.16 Write brief research reports with clear focus and supporting detail.

24.3 Apply steps for obtaining information from a variety of sources, organizing information, documenting sources, and presenting research in individual projects.

*ELPBO*

ELPBO (English Language Arts Proficiency Benchmarks and Outcomes)

S.3 Students will comprehend and communicate orally, using spoken English to participate in academic settings.

R.3 Students will read English fluently and identify facts and evidence in order to interpret and analyze text.

W.2 Students will write in English for a variety of purposes with clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.

## Salem Poor, Hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill

Age: 33  
Status: Free  
Unit: Frye/Ames

Residence: Andover, MA  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Redoubt

### Before the Revolution...

Salem Poor was born a slave in or near Salem, Massachusetts, around 1747. He belonged to John Poor, Jr., so he took on Poor's last name. As for his first name, perhaps he was named after the town that might have been his birthplace and in which he was sold. It was common at that time for slaves to be given names in this way. It is believed he was purchased as an infant as part of a dowry (a collection of gifts given by a bride's family). Legend has it that one of the grandmothers of the bride or groom brought the baby from Salem to Andover, MA, on horseback.

Very little is known about Salem Poor's early life. Poor somehow managed to earn money to buy his own freedom in 1769, for the price of 27 pounds, about a year's salary for an average working man at the time. Two years later, in 1771, Salem Poor married Nancy Parker, a maid servant to Capt. James Parker. Nancy was a mulatto, of Native American and African American blood. The couple had at least one child.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

In 1775, at the age of about 28, Poor enlisted in Colonel James Frye's regiment. On June 16, 1775, Frye's regiment, along with two others, was ordered to march from Cambridge to Charlestown. There were about 350 men in Frye's regiment, and, with several hundred men from the other two regiments, the group totaled about 850. Col. James Frye was not feeling well, so Frye's regiment was led by Doctor James Brickett. After these men had marched to Charlestown, and the officers had chosen Breed's Hill to fortify, they then were instructed to build a redoubt, or earthen fortification, on the top of that hill. They used pickaxes and shovels, and worked quickly and quietly. They wanted to keep the British army from finding out about their plan. Salem Poor probably helped to build the fort. He fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Poor re-enlisted in 1776 and served under Gen. Benedict Arnold at Fort George in upstate New York. He returned home in 1777 and rejoined the local militia in Capt. Samuel Johnson's 1<sup>st</sup> Andover Company. That same year, he joined the Continental Army for a three-year term. First, he served at Saratoga, New York. Then he spent the winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and next served near White Plains, NY. In 1779 his regiment was stationed at Providence, Rhode Island. He was discharged in 1780.

The most interesting and unusual thing about Salem Poor is what some officers wrote about him just six months after the Battle of Bunker Hill. In December of 1775, fourteen officers who fought in that battle wrote up a petition (or letter, recognizing Poor's military service) to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony. In that petition, they said that "in the late Battle at Charlestown," Salem Poor "behaved like an experienced officer" and showed himself to be "a brave and gallant soldier." The petition does not tell us exactly what he did to deserve this praise from the officers. It does tell

us, though, that Salem Poor was an outstanding soldier and a hero of this battle. No other soldier of the American Revolution received such recognition.

**After the Revolution...**

Although he served with distinction in the Revolutionary War, Salem Poor apparently did not die a wealthy man. The records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor contain an entry that refers to the hero of Bunker Hill:

1802. February 5th: To burial of Salem Poor a negro man  
belonging to the Town of Andover

The location of his grave remains unknown.

## Ashbow Brothers- John and Samuel Ashbow

Age: 22 (John), 29 (Samuel)  
Status: Free  
Unit: Putnam/Durkee

Residence: Montville, CT  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Rail Fence

### Before the Revolution...

John and Samuel Ashbow were two of four Mohegan Native American brothers who fought in the American Revolution. Samuel, the oldest brother, was born around 1746, and John was born around 1753. Both brothers were born in Norwich, Connecticut. Their father was Reverend Samuel Ashbow.

Samuel, Jr. married prior to the War, but his wife's name is not listed in any records. The couple's son Joshua was born in 1773.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

Both John and Samuel enlisted in May 1775. They were in Capt. John Durkee's company, in Colonial Israel Putnam's regiment. They marched from Norwich, Connecticut, to Cambridge, Massachusetts, a 76-mile journey.

On June 16, 1775, they joined the other colonial regiments on Breed's Hill. The Connecticut troops guarded and strengthened the rail fence on the northeast side of the hill. They held the British soldiers back on the first two attacks. On the third attack, the British Army was able to overtake the troops guarding the fence and storm into the redoubt (earthen fortification). It is possibly during this last attack that Samuel was killed.

Samuel was the first Native American to die in the American Revolution. He was probably buried on Breed's Hill in a mass grave with the many other men who died that day. John survived to continue fighting until his discharge on December 16, 1775.

### After the Revolution...

John later married a woman named Ann, whose maiden name was not recorded. The couple had at least three children. Their oldest son, Moses, was born in 1780.

## Caesar Bailey {Dickinson}

Age: 26  
Status: Slave  
Unit: Prescott/O. Parker

Residence: Deerfield, MA  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Redoubt

### Before the Revolution...

Caesar was born into slavery around 1749, in Deerfield, Massachusetts. He worked as a farmer for Nathaniel Dickinson. Like other slaves, he was given his master's name as his last name. Many slave owners enlisted their slaves into the colonial militia to serve in their place. Nathaniel Dickinson was a Loyalist. Still, he signed up Caesar to take his place in the Deerfield militia.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

Caesar fought in the Battles of Lexington and Concord. After April 19, 1775, Caesar joined thousands of other men who went to Cambridge. He left the Deerfield militia and joined Colonel William Prescott's regiment.

On June 17, 1775, during the Battle of Bunker Hill, Caesar and the other men in Colonel Prescott's regiment were stationed in the redoubt, or earthen fortification. But from 1776 to 1780, no records show that Caesar continued to serve in the military. On January 16, 1778, he married a woman named Hagar. They were both listed as slaves OR "servants to Samuel Dickinson," Nathaniel's brother.

In April 1781 Caesar Dickinson re-enlisted as Caesar Bailey. He was freed sometime between 1778 and 1781, and changed his last name. The list of soldiers describes him as a 32-year-old black farmer who was 5 feet, 7 inches tall.

### After the Revolution...

Caesar died sometime after re-enlisting in 1781, but the cause of his death was not recorded. His wife Hagar Bailey petitioned to receive money from the government as a widow of an American Revolution veteran. There was no record that the couple had any children.

## Pompey Blackman (Fortune/Freeman)

Age: 20

Status: N/A

Unit: Gerrish/Baker

Residence: Concord, MA

Rank: Private

Stationed: N/A

### Before the Revolution...

Pompey was born around 1755. Until 1785, he was identified as either Pompey Fortune or Pompey Blackman. After that time, he was known as Pomp Freeman. The records do not clearly indicate whether or not he was born into slavery and later gained his freedom.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

In the military records he listed his job as a tanner's apprentice. He joined Colonel Gerrish's regiment from Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775. He then switched to Colonel Loammi Baldwin's regiment. He served throughout the American Revolution until November of 1780. He fought at Lexington and Concord and the Battle of Bunker Hill. He also joined the colonial troops in Roxbury blocking the British Army from leaving Boston at Boston Neck, the only land route out of Boston.

After the British Army evacuated Boston on March 17, 1776, Pompey joined a unit and fought under General Benedict Arnold on Lake Champlain. He returned home in 1777, but later rejoined the military to fight against the British Army in northern New York, serving a three-year term in the 15<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts regiment. He was discharged on March 10, 1780, but re-enlisted again. His final discharge was on November 1, 1780.

### After the Revolution...

In 1782, Pompey settled in Lexington. He worked as a tanner and was a member of the First Congregational Church. He later moved to Jaffrey, New Hampshire, to work for an old friend, Amos Fortune, who owned a tanning business. He died on May 20, 1790. It is believed that he was buried in the Jaffrey Center Burying Yard near the Amos Fortune lot, but no gravestone there bears the name of Pompey Fortune.

## Cuff Chambers

Age: 37  
Status: Servant  
Unit: Bridge/Furbush

Residence: Andover, MA  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Redoubt

### Before the Revolution...

Cuff Chambers was born around 1738 in Massachusetts. He was the slave of Samuel Blanchard of Andover. There is not much information about Cuff's early life. However, records indicate he married a woman named Bette on September 16, 1762. Both Cuff and Bette are listed as "servants."

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

Samuel Blanchard promised to give Cuff his freedom if he served in the war. In 1775, after the Battle of Lexington and Concord, he joined the Andover militia as Cuff Blanchard. His company was known as "eight month's men" because of the length of their service. They marched to Cambridge in May, 1775. Cuff was one of at least five African American men in this company.

Cuff's regiment went on to Breed's Hill to build the redoubt (earthen fortification), and many of these men fought on the hill during the battle. His daughter Elizabeth later wrote that her father "was in the Battle of Bunkers Hill," so it is likely he was present during the fighting there.

### After the Revolution...

After the war, Blanchard kept his promise and gave Cuff his freedom. After he was freed, he changed his last name to Chambers, his parents' name. Years later, his daughter Elizabeth explained that her father, like other slaves, he had been forced to adopt his master's last name.

Cuff and Bette moved to Amherst, New Hampshire, and then to Leeds, Maine. Between 1775 and 1787, the couple had at least five children. Elizabeth, their youngest, was born in 1787.

There is no information about what Cuff did for a living, but he was listed as a poor man requesting financial help in 1814. Over three years, Cuff and his family received over \$100 in assistance.

Cuff died at the age of 80, on June 8, 1818. He was buried in the Dead River Cemetery in Leeds on a bluff overlooking the river. The Sons of the American Revolution honored him with a gravestone that reads as follows:

PVT. FORBUSH'S MASS. CO.  
REV. WAR  
JUNE 8, 1818

Cuff's wife Bette died on January 26, 1839.

## Sampson Coburn

Age: N/A

Status: N/A

Unit: Prescott/O. Parker

Residence: Cape Ann, MA

Rank: Corporal

Stationed: Redoubt

### Before the Revolution...

Nothing is known of the early life of Sampson Coburn. A book called *Genealogy of the Descendents of Edward Coburn* contains a birth record of a “Samson Coburn,” born on July 19, 1745 to Ezra and Thankful Richardson. It is unclear why Sampson did not share his parents’ last name. Possibly his parents were slaves whose son became owned by a master named “Coburn,” but no records prove this. A town history describes Sampson Coburn as “colored.”

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

Sampson Coburn joined the “eight month’s service” in Cape Ann, Massachusetts, on May 20, 1775. He must have had some military experience, because he was given the rank of corporal, the highest rank of all the African Americans and Native Americans who fought at Bunker Hill.

Coburn was part of Colonel William Prescott’s regiment. His company fought in the redoubt, or earthen fortification, during the battle. Military records state that Coburn was given four cartridge boxes, so it is likely that he fought in the battle. Five days after the battle, he served on the main guard of troops surrounding Boston under Colonel Loammi Baldwin.

His name shows up only three more times in the military records. On October 31, 1775, his name appears on an order for a coat or money equal to the cost of a coat as payment. On January 2, 1776, he was listed as one of a number of men who delivered “firelocks” (guns). He agreed to serve until April 1, 1776. After that date Sampson Coburn is not mentioned in any military records.

### After the Revolution...

Almost no information about Sampson Coburn’s life is available except in the military records from 1775 to 1776. What little is known raises many questions about this man, the only African American with the rank of corporal at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

## Jude Hall

Age: 28  
Status: Slave  
Unit: Reed/Hinds

Residence: Exeter, NH  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: N/A

### Before the Revolution...

Jude Hall was born into slavery around 1747 in Exeter, New Hampshire. He was described as “a powerful man who could lift a barrel of cider and drink from it.” After he was sold by Philemon Blake to Nathaniel Healey, he ran away.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

He enlisted as a private on May 10, 1775. During the Battle of Bunker Hill, he was thrown “headlong by a cannon ball striking near him.” He survived the battle and continued fighting throughout the American Revolution.

Jude Hall probably fought at Ticonderoga and Trenton in 1777. Many in his regiment were injured or killed at the Battle of Hubbardton in Vermont on July 7, 1777. His regiment also fought at Saratoga and Valley Forge. Jude joined Sullivan’s expedition against the Iroquois in the summer of 1779. He fought in many battles until the end of the war and was discharged in 1783.

### After the Revolution...

After the war, Jude was freed, and in September 1785 he married Rhoda Paul. Jude and Rhoda had at least twelve children. On July 21, 1789, he received land for his eight years of service. He was also awarded a U.S. Pension for his service. He “lived in a small house near Jude’s Pond [named after him] on the old road to Exeter.” In the first U.S. census in 1790, he was listed as “a head of household of five free people of color.” Jude Hall died on August 22, 1827 at the age of 80.

## Barzillai Lew

Age: 31  
Status: Free  
Unit: Bridge/Ford

Residence: Chelmsford, MA  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Redoubt

### Before the Revolution...

Barzillai Lew was born in 1743, in Groton, Massachusetts, to Primus and Margaret Lew. At the time of his first marriage, Primus was described as “a servant to Capt. Boyden,” and Margaret as “former servant to Samuel Scripture.” Ten years later, at Primus’s second marriage to Rose, they were both listed as “free.” After the death of his stepmother in 1763, Barzillai chose a guardian, which means his father was probably no longer alive.

Around 1767, Barzillai married Dinah Bowman, a slave whom he purchased for \$400. According to town records, Barzillai and his family lived in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, from 1772 to 1776.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

When Barzillai joined the Chelmsford militia on May 6, 1775, he already had military experience. He had fought in the French and Indian War at age 17. The military record describes him as a cooper (cask or barrel maker), 30 years old and six feet tall. The record also notes that he was a fifer, and he probably played the fife (a small wind instrument) as part of his service.

During the Battle of Bunker Hill, his company was stationed in the redoubt, or earthen fortification. Barzillai survived the battle and remained in the militia through April 1776. He joined again to fight in New York in July 1776. He served at Fort Ticonderoga until the defeat of the American fleet on Lake Champlain under General Benedict Arnold. Many of the American soldiers were discharged after that defeat, including Lew, who went back home to Massachusetts.

### After the Revolution...

After the war, Barzillai settled in Dracut. He and his wife had 13 children who were born between 1768 and 1793. All of their children had a talent for music. Most of them could play any kind of wind or stringed instrument. They formed their own band and performed at many events in the Dracut area. They were so popular that they even performed in Boston and Portland, Maine.

Barzillai Lew died January 18, 1822 at the age of 78, and is buried in the Clay Pit Cemetery in Lowell.

## Jonathan Occum

Age: 50  
Status: Free  
Unit: Putnam/Durkee

Residence: New London, CT  
Rank: Private  
Stationed: Rail Fence

### Before the Revolution...

Jonathan Occum, a Native American, was born in 1725. Like Barzillai Lew, Jonathan was a veteran of the French and Indian War.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

Jonathan Occum was fifty years old when he joined Colonel Israel Putnam's regiment on May 10, 1775. He is identified in the military records as a Mohegan from New London, Connecticut.

Shortly after Jonathan enlisted, his company marched from Connecticut to Cambridge, Massachusetts. During the Battle of Bunker Hill, his company's duty was to defend the rail fence. Although there is little information about his service after December, 1775, records state that Jonathan "fought throughout the war."

### After the Revolution...

After the war, Jonathan returned to Connecticut. He received twenty acres of land given to veterans in 1790. The last record mentioning anything about Occum is an 1804 list that describes him as a single man and "brother of Samson." Jonathan's brother Samson Occum was well known throughout New England as a Christian Indian teacher and leader. There is no record of Jonathan's death.

## Joseph Paugenit

Age: 20

Status: Free

Unit: Nixon/Drury

Residence: Framingham, MA

Rank: Private

Stationed: Diagonal

### Before the Revolution...

Joseph Paugenit, a Native American, was born to Joseph and Zipporah Paugenit. He was baptized in Natick, Massachusetts, on November 10, 1754. Natick was home to many Native Americans who had become Christians.

### At the time of the Revolution and the Battle of Bunker Hill...

On April 24, 1775, twenty-year-old Joseph joined the Framingham regiment. Like many other men, he enlisted as a private after the Battles of Lexington and Concord. He later fought at Battle of Bunker Hill with his regiment.

After Bunker Hill, he continued to fight in the war. In 1776, he fought at the Battles of Harlem Heights and White Plains in New York, and a year later he fought at the Battle of Saratoga. Joseph died on November 15, 1777. The cause of his death is not known, but it is likely that he died at the Military Hospital in Albany, New York.

**KWL Chart**

What do you know about this person from reading the story?	What else would you want to know about this person?	What have you learned from this person's story that changes your understanding of who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill?



Photo credit: Chicago Historical Society

# Charlestown Peninsula

June 17, 1775

