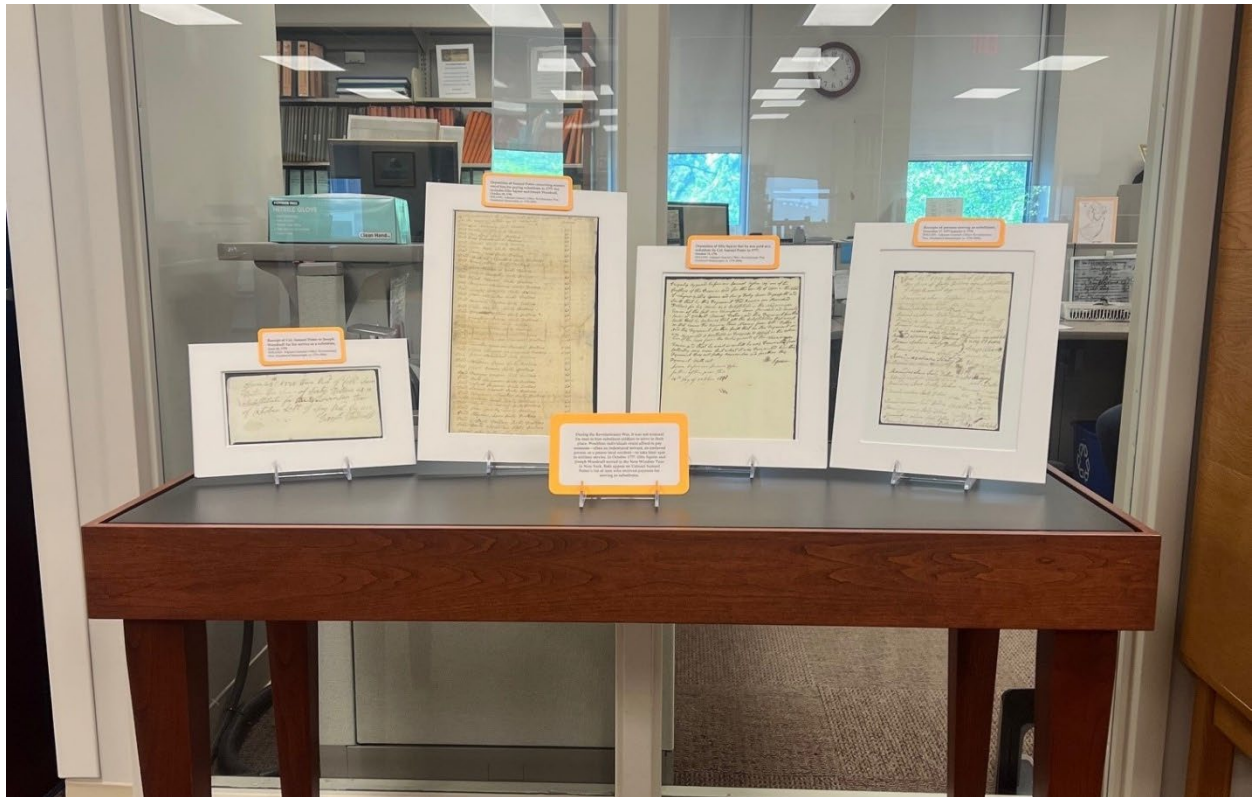


New Jersey State Archives Mini Exhibits

Substitute Soldiers during the Revolutionary War

June 2026

Substitute soldiers in the Revolutionary War were relatively common, especially as well-off people could afford to pay for substitutes to serve in their stead. Substitutes could be indentured servants or enslaved people, or other local vagrants or poorer members of society. Ellis Squier and Joseph Woodruff both served as substitutes during the Revolutionary War. The documents here show them on Colonel Samuel Potter's list of parties he paid as substitutes.



June 24th: 1778 then Rec^d of Col^l Sam^l
Potter the Sum of sixty Dollars as a
Substitute for the Newwinson Tour
of October Last I say Rec^d by me
Joseph Woodruff

**Receipt of Col. Samuel Potter to Joseph Woodruff for his service as a
substitute, June 24, 1778**

SDEA1001. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Numbered Manuscripts, ca. 1776-1890s.

Personally appeared before me Samuel Tyler Esq. one of the
Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Essex in the State
of New Jersey, Ellis Squier and being duly sworn Depoeth and
saith that he this Depoent Did Receive one Hundred
Dollars for his service as a Substitute in the Newmigan
Town of the fall one thousand seven hundred and seventy
seven of Colonel Samuel Potter, and this Depoent further
saith that he Believes that all the substitutes that went
in that Town Did Receive their Money from Col. Potter -
and this Depoent further saith that he this Depoent
was appointed a Constable on purpose to assist in the Collec-
tion of the fines from the Delinquents of the Newmigan
Town and that he went on untill he was prevented from
collecting any more but what it was prevented him this
Depoent Does not fully remember and further this
Depoent saith not

Ellis Squier

Sworn before me Samuel Tyler
Justice of the peace this
15th Day of October 1791

**Deposition of Ellis Squier that he was paid as a substitute by Col.
Samuel Potter in 1777,
October 15, 1791**

SDEA1001. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Numbered Manuscripts, ca. 1776-1890s.

Dec: 17th 1777 Received of Coll Potter
the sum of sixty Dollars as a substitute
of says Received by me Lewis Winans
Received as above Six Dollars Timothy Griffin
~~Received as above sixty Do~~ John Lacy
Received as above Sixty Enos Crowell
Received as above Sixty Dollars Daniel Hart
Received as above Sixty Dollars of Isaac Ross
Received as above Sixty Dollars James Jones
Received as above Sixty Dollars William Marston
Received as above Sixty Dollars Henry O'Conn
Received as above Sixty Dollars John Williams
Received as above Sixty Do Joseph Badgley
Received as above Sixty Do Elijah Gifford
~~Received as above Sixty Do~~ Benjamin
Received as above Sixty Dollars of Mrs. Badgley
Received as above Sixty Dollars John Galke
Received as above Sixty Dollars • Lachrah Closson
Received as above Sixty Dollars John his T. Closson
Received as above Sixty Dollars Jonathan Jarvis
Received as above Sixty Dollars Cornelius Osborn
Received as above Sixty Dollars Garry Peirson
Received as above Sixty Dollars John Mitchell

January 6th 1778 then Received of
 Col^l: Potter one hundred Dollars as
 a Substitute for Colonel East of Say
 Received By me Mrs. Squire
 Received as above one hundred
 Dollars per me John Potter
 Received as above one hundred Do^r: Timothy Come
 Received as above one hundred Do^r: Isaac Simpson
 February the 10th 1778 then Received
 of Col^l: Potter sixty Dollars as a
 Substitute of Say Received By me
 Received as above sixty Dollars William
 Squire
 Received as above sixty Dollars Jacob Emery
 Received as above sixty Dollars Daffinry Souger
 Received as above sixty Dollars David Chapman
 Received as above sixty Dollars Joseph Thierman
 Received as above sixty Dollars Samuel Crowell
 Received as above sixty Dollars By Mee Benjamin Miller
 Received as above sixty Dollars Loukin Reed

Receipts of persons serving as substitutes,

December 17, 1777-January 6, 1778

SDEA1001. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Numbered Manuscripts, ca. 1776-1890s.

A Memorandum of the Money Paid out for Substitutes in the year 1777
for the Town of Andover up to September

Dollars

Paid Lewis Assinians	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Timothy Griffen	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Lacy	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Elias Crowell	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Daniel Saint	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Isaac Ross	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid James Jones	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid William Masters	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Henry Asborn	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Williams	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Joseph Badgley	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Elijah Newell	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Benjamin Williams	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Moses Badgley	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Walker	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Zachariah Closson	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Apleton	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Cornelius Asborn	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Jonathan Davis	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid David Simpson	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Mitchell	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Elias Squint	one hundred Dollars	100
Paid John Potter	one hundred Dollars	100
Paid Timothy Crane	one hundred Dollars	100
Paid Isaac Simpson	one hundred Dollars	100
Paid Aaron Whitehead	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid William Sayre	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Jacob Emery	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Papigny Conger	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid David Shipman	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Joseph Shipman	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Samuel Crowell	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Benjamin Meeker	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Esekiah Bond	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Joseph Woodruff	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid John Nicky	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Stephen Linn	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid Joseph Cellier	Sixty Dollars	60
Paid David Walker	Sixty Dollars	60
Carried over to the other Side		25 00

Brought over from the other side - -	25	00
Paid Bond Clark sixty Dollars - -	60	-
Paid Ebiel Hase sixty Dollars - -	60	
Paid Elias Asborn sixty Dollars - -	60	
Paid Elijah Baker sixty Dollars - -	60	
Paid Eliakim Ogden sixty Dollars - -	60	
Paid Jonathan Woodruff sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Michael Mucker sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Jonas Stanbery sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid David Houghton sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Thomas Larnance sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Daniel Baker sixty Dollars -	60	-
Paid Daniel Stibbens sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Samuel Jones sixty Dollars -	60	
Paid Ezechiah Baile sixty Dollars - -	60	
Paid Col. Jacques by the hands of Ellis Squier	60	
Paid Col. Jacques two hundred Dollars - -	200	
	36	00
the State of New Jersey to Samuel Potter	Dr.	
for the higher of substitutes for the		
New Jersey Tower of the fall 1777		
the sum of three thousand and six		
hundred Dollars - -	3600	
	1868	
Balance due is one thousand		
seven hundred and thirty		
two Dollars - -	1732	
	3600	
Personally appeared before me Samuel Tyler one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Essex in the State of New Jersey Col. Samuel Potter and being duly sworn depose that and testify that the above account is just and true; and further depose and testify that sworn before me this 29th day of October 1791 1791 Sam ^l Tyler } Justice of the Peace		

Deposition of Samuel Potter concerning monies owed him for paying substitutes in 1777; list includes Ellis Squier and Joseph Woodruff, October 29, 1791

SDEA1001. Adjutant General's Office: Revolutionary War. Numbered Manuscripts, ca. 1776-1890s.

Notes about finding Substitute Soldiers in our Collections:

Materials about substitute soldiers were found via searching within the Revolutionary War Numbered Manuscript Collection, SDEA1001. While we know there were many other substitute soldiers than the ones listed above (such as Oliver Cromwell, a free black man) most materials housed at the State Archives do not indicate service as a substitute.