

GRAVES of REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS

JEREMIAH SELKRIG

JEREMIAH SELKRIG was a member of Capt. SOCHER's Company in Feb.1775. In Apr.1775 he was ordered to Farmington, in June 1775 at Bunker Hill, July 1776 ordered to New York. Apr.1777 in Capt.ASA BRAY's Southington Co.was ordered to Fort Independence. Again Sept.1777 in Capt.Castle's Co., Col.BALDWIN's regiment marched to Fishkill. In 1778 he served as Fife Major in Col.HOOKER's regiment at Horse Neck, Mass., his company reaching the place where Gen.PUTNAM rode down the ~~knaps~~ stone steps by the Meeting House, only a few minutes after, and the horses hoof prints are still visible.

All this service is verified by his original pension application dated 1832, which is on file in the Pension Bureau in Washington.

While in the army his companions had given Mr.SELKRIG the nic-name of SILK RAGS and he had been entered in the records of the war by that name. Mrs.WINONA MOORE SHERWOOD spent nearly 6 months getting the facts to prove that JEREMIAH SILK RAGS and JEREMIAH SELKRIG were one and the same person. The name has now been changed to SELKIRK.

JAMES SELKRIG, son of JEREMIAH, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was a missionary to the Indians at Niles, Mich. and was sent into Allegan County as missionary to the Indians in the eastern section. They were Pottawatomies and Ottawas whose descendants yet live on the shores of the lake named SELKIRK Lake in honor of Rev.JAMES SELKRIG. Here he lived teaching and preaching to the Indians. A great grandson CHARLES SELKIRK lives on the farm today, which is on the north side of the lake.

On Sept.1, 1911 the graves of these two patriots were marked with stones furnished by the U.S.government. They read:

JEREMIAH
SELKRIG
FIFE MAJOR
HOOKER'S
CT.MIL.
REV. WAR

JAS. SELKRIG
WILSON'S N.Y.
MIL.WAR 1812

They lie under the trees in a beautiful bed of myrtle.

It was altogether fitting and proper that Hannah McIntosh Cady Chapter, D.A.R. should thus give honor to these patriots. Mrs.WINONA MOORE SHERWOOD, as regent, said that the object of these services was that all passers by should recognize the fact that the honored remains of a Revolutionary soldier were there reposing. Mrs. ESTHER CHICHESTER gave a beautiful prayer, Mrs. BURRELL TRIPP read the veteran's war history, Dr. WALTER H. BILLS gave an eloquent tribute to the Revolutionary hero which deeply impressed all present.

Sketches of Early Homes, Churches, Schools, and Residents of Allegan, Michigan. Collected by Winona Moore Sherwood Organizing Regent, HANNAH MCINTOSH CADY CHAPTER N.S.D.A.R. Allegan, Michigan, 1954

SELKRIG CEMETERY, WAYLAND TWP., ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

This is a private cemetery in the front yard of the Selkrig farm at the north end of Selkirk Lake in Section 29. James Jeremiah Selkrig was an early missionary to the Indians in this vicinity coming in the summer of 1839 with his wife and three sons. "History of Allegan & Barry Counties, Mich." p.354-6 gives an account of his life there. It states that he died on Oct. 5, 1878. The markers on his grave and that of his father, Jeremiah, are typical of those furnished by the Government.

JEREMIAH SELKRIG
Fife Major
Hooker's
Ct. Mil.
Rev. War

two graves without stones

JAS. SELKRIG
Wilson's N.Y.
Mil. War 1812

*Cemeteries Allegan Co., MI. Townships of Gen. Plans,
Martin, Wayland, Leighton vol. I, 1951. p. 100*

*Inscriptions copied June 1940
Ruth Robbins Monteith*