

# David Amy

(1748 - March 20, 1791)

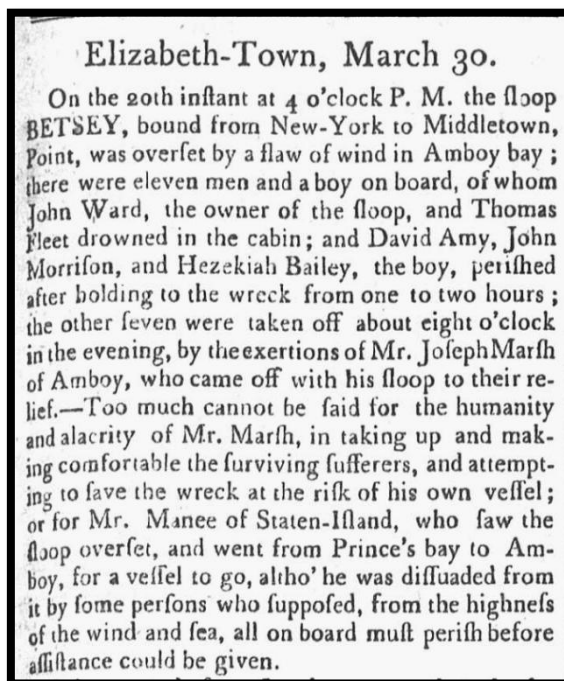
Sergeant, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment NJ Continental Line

By Daisy D. Orr

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(Per Michael Adelberg's *Roster of the People Revolutionary Monmouth County*, this name has also been recorded as David Arney.)



David Amy was the son of John and Hanna Amy. During the Revolutionary War, he attained the rank of sergeant and served two tours as a soldier in the New Jersey Line. The New Jersey Line was a formation of infantry regiments within the Continental Army, often referred to as the “Jersey Blues.” Authorized by the Continental Congress, it represented New Jersey’s quota of troops for the regular army. Notable units included the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th New Jersey Regiments, and at times a regiment commanded by Colonel Oliver Spencer was also considered part of the New Jersey Line.

David Amy’s first enlistment began in December 1775. He served with the 1st

Regiment of the New Jersey Continental Line under Captain Elias Longstreet at the Perth Amboy Barracks.

His second tour began in January 1777 with the same regiment, this time under Captain Jonathan Forman. He served as a corporal from February 1, 1777, to December 31, 1779, and was promoted to sergeant on January 1, 1780, a rank he held until the end of the war.

It is worth noting that the company's first sergeant served as the commanding officer's chief enlisted advisor and was responsible for overseeing the company's daily operations. In this role, Amy's duties would have included:

- **Enforcing discipline:** Maintaining order and ensuring the good conduct of the troops.
- **Administrative responsibilities:** Keeping company records, including morning reports and the "descriptive book," which listed soldiers' personal details.
- **Supervising duty rosters:** Assigning tasks and tracking soldiers' movements and assignments.

*About Captain Jonathan Forman:* The First New Jersey Continental Regiment was organized in late 1775 and served in many major campaigns of the war, including the Defense of Canada, Defense of Philadelphia, and the Yorktown campaign.

George Washington gave Forman wide authority to choose his own officers. Forman's Additional Regiment was recruited in the spring of 1777 from men of southern New Jersey and Maryland. **The majority of recruits and officers hailed from Monmouth County, New Jersey,** due to their affiliation with Forman in civilian life.

After January 1780, the First New Jersey Regiment was involved in two major engagements and spent time in strategic garrisons. As Sergeant, David Amy would have participated in the following battles:

### **Battle of Springfield (June 23, 1780)**

The regiment saw significant action at the Battle of Springfield, which effectively ended British ambitions in New Jersey. The regiment, part of a two-pronged defense, helped repel the British advance through the Watchung Mountains toward General Washington's main encampment at Morristown.

## Siege of Yorktown (October 19, 1781)

The First New Jersey Regiment participated in the decisive Siege of Yorktown, which led to the surrender of British General Cornwallis. In the fall of 1781, the American and French armies, including the First New Jersey Regiment, marched to Virginia to lay siege to the British forces at Yorktown. The regiment would have been among the troops who conducted the siege, ultimately securing the surrender that marked the end of major hostilities in the war.



Note: The book *Roster of the People of the Revolutionary Monmouth County [New Jersey]* by Michael Adelberg lists David Amy and states “see Arney.” On Page 13 is the following:

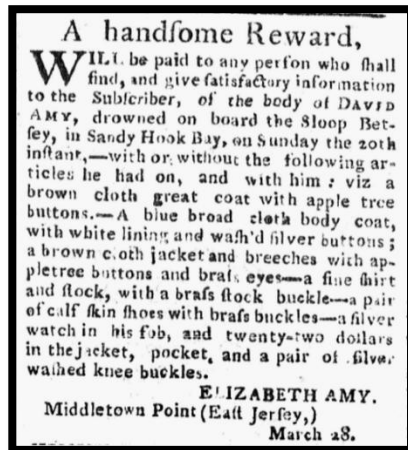
**Arney, David; Middletown,** Private, Militia  
Private, Continental Army, Jonathn Forman’s  
Company 10/77

**Arney, Elizabeth; Middletown,** Household  
Head

“Arney, David” was an apparent typo when it was later recorded in 1872 by William Stryker in his book *The Official Register of the Officers and Men of the Revolutionary War*.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.		143
ANDREWS, WILLIAM.	Second Regiment.	
ANGLEY, PETER.	First Regiment.	
ANGLEY, PETER.	Second Regiment.	
ANNIN, JOSEPH		
ANSLEY, JOHN P.	First Battalion, Second Establishment.	
ANSLEY, PETER.	Second Regiment.	
APPERMAN, GARLIN.	First Battalion, Second Establishment ; also militia.	
APLEGATE, BENJAMIN.	“Spencer’s Regiment,” Continental Army ; Captain Jonathan Holmes’ company, Second Regi- ment.	
APLEGATE, DANIEL.	Also militia.	
APLEGATE, JAMES.	“Lee’s Legion,” Continental Army.	
APLEGATE, JOSEPH.	Also militia.	
APLEGATE, ROBERT.	First Battalion, Second Establishment ; also militia.	
APLEGATE, WILLIAM.	Captain Anderson’s company, Fourth Battalion, Second Establishment ; also militia.	
ARMSTRONG, DANIEL.	Captain Polhemus’ company, First Bat- talion, Second Establishment.	
ARMSTRONG, JOHN.	Captain Conway’s company, First Battalion, First Establishment.	
ARNEY, DAVID.	First Regiment.	

## David Amy's family:



Amy's wife, Elizabeth R. Vanderhoof Amy Roberts was the daughter of Cornelius and Elsje (Van Kirk) Vanderhoof. She was born on Dec. 9, 1753 and died on Jan. 4, 1819, at the age of 66.

A year following the death of David Amy, his widowed wife, Elizabeth, married another soldier, **Sergeant Thomas Roberts** 1792. (See Thomas Roberts page for further information.)

Elizabeth was laid to rest in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery as was their son, John. Their son, John Amy, was born in 1789. He died December 4, 1810, at the age 21 years, 21 days.



He was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery with the following inscription on his gravestone:

*Afflictions fore long time I bore,  
Physicians aid prov'd vain,  
Till GOD alone, did hear my moan  
and freed me from my pain*



They also had a daughter, Hannah

Amy. Her death was recorded as Aug 20, 1790 at the age of 2 years, 9 months. Below shows yet another typo from John Stilwell's book *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany*. Amy's daughter was Hannah and was named after his mother.

Unfortunately, the broken gravestone shown right may have been the cause of mistaking HANNAH for "ANNA H." Also, other records show that Hannah was baptized on Feb. 21, 1788.

David Amy, son of John and Hannah, died, Mch. 20, 1791, in 43rd yr.  
Anna Amy, daughter of David and Elizabeth, died, Aug. 20, 1790, aged 2, 9.

The document on the right comes from: [Documents relating to the revolutionary history of the state of New Jersey : extracts from American newspapers : Stryker, William S. \(William Scudder\), 1838-1900 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

