

Samuel Carhart

(June 22, 1737 – Dec. 26, 1809)

Captain, 1st Regiment New Jersey

By Daisy D. Orr

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Samuel Carhart served both in the New Jersey militia and in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. According to the Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War, his first commission came in June 1776 when he was appointed an officer in a company commanded by Captain John Burrowes, with First Lieutenant Jonathan Forman and Second Lieutenant John Whitlock.

Carhart was later promoted to Captain. On February 13, 1777, he was present at the fight at Battle of Navesink in Monmouth County, New Jersey—an engagement sometimes referred to as the **Massacre of Navesink**. The Battle of the Navesink occurred in the area now known as Rumson, Highlands, and Sea Bright, New Jersey.

328	<i>JERSEYMEN IN THE</i>
Monmouth county—two hundred and fifty-nine men, in three companies.	
John Walton.....	Captain.
Nathan Sheppard.....	Lieutenant.
John Morris.....	Ensign.
Samuel Carhart.....	Captain.
John Davis.....	Lieutenant.
Matthias Johnson.....	Ensign.
David Anderson.....	Captain.
Moses Sheppard.....	Lieutenant.
David Imlay.....	Ensign.

This Battle that occurred was the result of the local militia—many from Matawan—seizing a ship that was frozen in the ice. The ship contained much needed supplies and a captured French captain. 150 militiamen from various companies came to help empty her but they were not unnoticed. Local Loyalists informed British General William

Howe. In response, a British-led force of regulars, Loyalists, and Royal Marines launched a surprise predawn bloody attack on the militia encampment. The poorly coordinated militia, drawn from several local communities, were quickly overwhelmed. The British recovered the provisions, burned two homes, killed about **25 militiamen**, and captured **72 prisoners**, while roughly **50 men escaped**.

Many of the captured militia were imprisoned in harsh conditions in New York, including at the notorious Old Sugar House, where numerous prisoners died from disease, neglect, and poor treatment. Pension records and historical accounts identify several men who were killed in battle or died in captivity, leaving widows and families behind. The battle became one of the most significant tragedies suffered by the Monmouth County militia during the Revolutionary War.

At this battle, James Crawford, was killed - leaving a widow Margaret and seven children (pension documents reveal this was **witnessed: Samuel Carhart**, as well as Peter Covenoven and P. Schenck). Carhart was able to elude capture on that day, however his luck did run out later.

On October 4, 1777, Captain Carhart's company participated in the Battle of Germantown, one of the major engagements of the Philadelphia campaign. The American retreat was also aided by the onset of darkness. George Washington, commanding an army of 8,000 Continentals and 3,000 militiamen, sensed an opportunity. He decided to attack and destroy the enemy detachment at Germantown using a double envelopment. Dense fog resulted in disaster for the attacking troops. Washington's Army lost roughly 700 men killed and wounded. Another 400 Americans were captured. The British suffered more than 500 casualties of their own. Despite the British victory, many Europeans, especially the French, were impressed by the continued determination of the Continental Army.



During the war, Carhart was also active in civil and political matters affecting the militia. On February 25, 1778, he signed a **petition calling for better provisions for the militia**. On March 24, 1779, he signed a **petition protesting the actions of Loyalist Auction Commissioners**.

In June 1779, Carhart was among the signers of the **Articles of Retaliation**, a document reflecting the escalating conflict between Patriot and Loyalist forces in New Jersey. The Article of Retaliation were official and unofficial policies of punishing enemy prisoners or loyalists in response to atrocities committed against American soldiers or civilians. A key example was the Continental Congress's October 1781 manifesto promising "eye-for-an-eye" retaliation against the British. He was also a member of the Association for Opposing the Return of Tories 1783 and on June 10, 1783, he signed the Petition Opposing the Return of the Tories.

Carhart, Samuel S.		birth:
000001892059		death: 26 Dec 1809
BURIAL: State: New Jersey Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Matawan, N.J. Service and additional facts		
Call No. 369.1 D26a # 54 pp. 128	Captain in First Regiment of Monmouth, Germantown, Monmouth. Capture of ship Britannia. Prisoner and paroled. 72 years, 6 months, 4 days at death.	

On October 18, 1778, while serving with the militia, Carhart was **captured by British forces**. We know he was released after his capture because on December 29, 1779, he was involved in the **capture of the British brig Britannia**.

384	JERSEYMEN IN THE
BURROWES, JOHN, JR.	Captain, First Regiment, Monmouth, June 18th, 1776.
CAMP, NATHANIEL.	Captain, Second Regiment, Essex.
CAMP, NATHANIEL.	Captain, Hunterdon.
CAMPBELL, PETER.	Captain and Aid-de-Camp, staff of Major General Dickinson, October 28th, 1775.
CAMPFIELD, WILLIAM.	Captain, Morris.
CARHART, JACOB.	Captain, Second Regiment, Hunterdon.
CARHART, SAMUEL.	Ensign, Captain Burrowes' company, First Regiment, Monmouth, June 18th, 1776; Captain, ditto; prisoner of war and paroled; Captain, State troops.

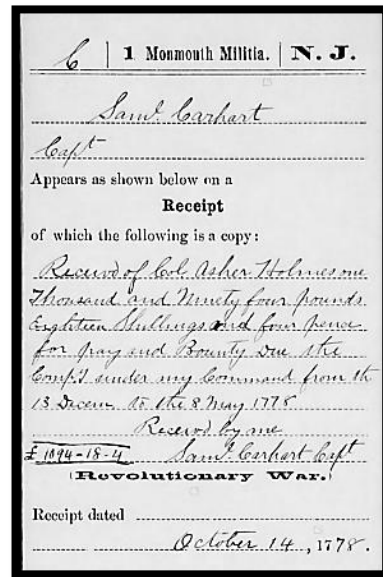
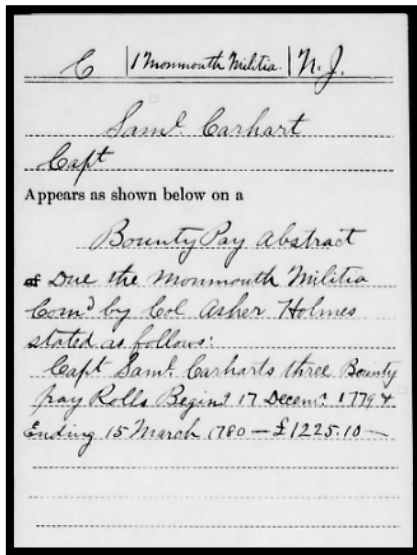
Note: The above excerpts page 328 and 384 are from William Stryker's Official Register of the officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War (1872):
[Official register of the officers and men of New Jersey in the revolutionary war : New Jersey. Adjutant-General's Office : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Also, by 1780 he was commanding 30 men. His company was watchful of the beacon fires and along with captain John Schenck and Capt. William Schenck would muster at the sight. In June 1781, a force of approximately **1,500 Hessian and Loyalist troops**, commanded by Colonel Morris, landed at Waycake (present-day Keyport). His company was alerted. This was also known as **The Battle of the 1500**. This battle covered a lot of territory from Keyport to Pleasant Valley (Holmdel) in Monmouth County, New Jersey. From there, the enemy column advanced inland toward Mount Pleasant, where they encountered local militia forces. In the fighting that followed, Carhart was captured along with several other Patriot militia members. Once again, he was paroled. The skirmish was one of a series of coastal raids carried out by British and Loyalist forces along the Monmouth County shore during the later years of the American Revolutionary War. These expeditions were intended to disrupt Patriot militia activity, seize supplies, and intimidate local supporters of the Revolutionary cause.

Below comes from the book: Narrative of a Journey Down The Ohio And Mississippi in 1789-90 by Maj Samuel S. Forman:

At one time, fifteen hundred British and Tories landed on Middletown shore, and marched from six to ten miles back into the country. A beacon, placed on a conspicuous hill, was fired for the purpose of giving an alarm; and soon the militia of the country, understanding the notice, gathered, and opposed the enemy. In Pleasant Valley they checked their advance. Uncle John Schenck and brother Denise so closely cornered a British or Tory officer of this party in a barn-yard, that he jumped from his horse, took to his heels and escaped, leaving his horse behind him.

Shown are two examples of the payroll slip for Samuel Carhart from Fold3. More can be found on the website. [Page 9 - US, Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775-1783 - Fold3](#)



Samuel Carhart's Family:



Samuel Carhart is descended from one of the original patent holders of Monmouth County, the Bownes. His parents were Robert Carhart and **Mary Catherine Bowne**. Samuel's mother, Mary, was the sister of John Bowne III, built the Burrowes Mansion in Matawan.

Robert and Mary had the following children:

- Mary b. 1726,
- Annie b. 1727,
- Cornelius b. 1729, *
- Lydia b. 1732, and

Capt. Samuel Carhart b. 1737

*His brother Cornelius also served in the Militia.