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**Foundation**  
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one Soldier at a time*

# Voices of the Past

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

### Highlights:

- Six months after the Battle of Lexington & Concord, Samuel Shute joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regiment to fight for the American cause.
- Shute participated in many campaigns, such as the Siege of Quebec, the Sullivan Expedition, and the Siege of Yorktown.
- Shute joined the Army as a Private and reached the rank of brevet Captain by the war's end.

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## Fighting For Freedom: Samuel M. Shute & the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regiment

**(United States, 1775-1783)** Samuel Moore Shute was born on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1763 in Cumberland County, New Jersey to William and Hope Moore Shute. A Patriot, Shute joined the ranks of the Continental Army to fight for the American cause during the American Revolution, and enlisted again to defend his young country during the War of 1812.

Samuel Shute joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Regiment as a private on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1775, under the command of Colonel William Maxwell. By March of the following year, the regiment found themselves assigned to the Canadian Department where they took part in the Siege of Quebec. When the siege ended on May 5, 1776, they retreated with the rest of the Continental forces and on June 8 took part in the action at Three Rivers where they sustained heavy casualties. The Three Rivers blunder forced the Continental forces to continue their withdraw from Canada, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey eventually made their way to Fort Ticonderoga in New York. During the retreat, Shute was promoted to Ensign, his first of many promotions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> remained at Ticonderoga until mid-November when they were sent back to New Jersey.

The Soldiers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey had enlisted for a year, so upon arriving home in early December 1776, the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey disbanded. Many of the troops reenlisted for three years, and the regiment was reformed. During the winter of 1776-77 the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey, along with the other regiments of the New Jersey brigade,



Infantry: Continental Army, 1779-1783, IV. Image Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

**Brevet rank** –  
*temporary promotion for a  
Soldier serving in a position  
that requires a higher rank.*

was assigned to the main Army under George Washington. With dawn of spring came campaign season. The 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey, now commanded by Colonel Israel Shreve, saw action at Short Hill in June and the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. At Brandywine, Shute received his second promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. The regiment's last major engagement of 1777 was at Germantown in October, after which Shute and the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey moved on to White Marsh, Pennsylvania.

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*"If the enemy should be tempted to meet the Army on its march the General particularly enjoins the troops to place their principal reliance on the bayonet, that they may prove the vanity of the boast which the British make of their peculiar prowess in deciding battles with that weapon."*

*- Samuel M. Shute in his journal dated September 27, 1781*



Major General John Sullivan. Image Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The regiment remained at White Marsh for a month and a half before moving to winter quarters at Valley Forge. In the 1700's, armies typically moved into semi-permanent camps for the winter months. The lack of modern waterproof and insulated clothing, transportation problems, and the difficulty of keeping loose gunpowder dry during months of rain and snow combined to make large-scale winter operations difficult. Unfortunately, although winter quarters provided a break from combat, the cold and wet made for long, miserable days.

At winter's end the warmer weather invariably brought more fighting. In June 1778, the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey helped to cover the Continental's retreat following the Battle of Monmouth. In 1779, regiment marched to Easton, Pennsylvania to join General Sullivan's expedition against the Iroquois, who were allied with the British. The regiment spent most of the campaign season raiding in Pennsylvania and western New York before returning to New Jersey for the winter.

In 1780, Shute became a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. In June, the regiment was engaged in both the Battle of Connecticut Farms as well as the Battle of Springfield. The remainder of the year they were posted in various locations in New Jersey until October when they moved up to West Point before retiring again to winter quarters. Colonel Israel Shreve resigned in 1781, and Elias Dayton took command of the regiment just in time to deal with a mutiny inspired by the Pennsylvania Line mutiny a few days earlier, when Soldiers, upset over their living conditions and disputes over the terms of their enlistment, attempted to desert. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey, the mutiny ended with the execution of two of the brigade's leaders.

During much of the summer of 1781, the companies of the regiment were

placed on detached duty, and by August's end the Continental army left New Jersey and headed for Virginia where Cornwallis' British forces were stationed. The Siege of Yorktown began on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and by October 19<sup>th</sup> the British forces at Yorktown surrendered.

With the war all but won, the New Jersey men spent the rest of 1782 on guard and picket duty before setting up winter quarters at New Windsor, New York. After the war ended on April 19, 1783, Shute continued to serve until November 1783 and earned a promotion to brevet Captain.

With the war over, Shute embarked upon a new career: medicine. The soon to be doctor began his studying under his father-in-law, Johnathan Elmer. Dr. Shute prospered, residing in a fine house on Broad Street in Bridgeton, New Jersey. In 1813, the Governor of New Jersey appointed Shute as Surrogate of Cumberland County, New Jersey, a position he held for two years. When war broke out with England in 1812, Shute once again answered the call of duty, serving from 1814-1815 as Brigade Major. Dr. Samuel Moore Shute passed away on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1816.

### Sources

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