

**DEDICATION OF A REVOLUTIONARY WAR
GRAVE MARKER**

TO THE MEMORY OF

LIEUTENANT ELIAS PARKER



**By the Colonel John Banister Chapter
National Society Daughters of the American
Revolution**

Saturday, April 16, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Blandford Cemetery

Petersburg, Virginia

In his letter to Knox, dated August 25, 1789, Parker shared that he had been a merchant for nearly six years but he felt that while being a merchant was lucrative, it was not as respectable or as desirable as being a soldier. Parker stated he felt he was bred to be a soldier under Knox's command.

Parker asked for Knox's patronage to support an appointment if Congress decided to raise troops. It appears that Parker did not become a part of the military and continued his service with the Virginia Militia.

Parker continued to serve others in the Petersburg community. On November 7, 1791, Parker was one of the individuals who agreed to form and pay a sum towards the Bolling Brook Fire Company. Additionally, Parker served on the Petersburg Common Council, became alderman, and then served as Mayor from 1796-1797.

Elias Parker married Mary Brown Parker at Trinity Church in Boston, Massachusetts on September 29, 1790 by Reverend Doctor Samuel Parker. Parker's sister Margaret married merchant Abraham Eustis in Petersburg, who bore a son who would eventually be known as Brevet Brigadier General Abraham Eustis—the namesake of Ft. Eustis. Interestingly, Parker's brother Isaac would go on to serve as Chief Justice in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. And, based on Parker family records, it is believed his brother Jacob Parker is buried next to his brother in Blandford Cemetery.

His will dated May 25, 1798 bequeathed, to his beloved wife, Mary, all and every part of his estate at his death. Parker died December 8, 1799 in Petersburg, Virginia. His inventory of effects, reported July 28, 1800, was worth 1,031 pounds, 13 shillings, and 10 pence. Mary Parker moved to England following his death. She applied for his pension at 80 years old. It was eventually approved and "Inscribed on the Roll at the rate of 400 Dollars per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March, 1843."

A marker is commemorated to his memory today in honor of the many facets of this man of patriotism.

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "E. P. PARKER" and is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured surface. The letters are fluid and connected, with a large, sweeping flourish under the name.

Dedication of a Grave Marker
To the Memory of Lieutenant Elias Parker
A Revolutionary War Soldier

Welcome	Dr. Anne Atkinson, Regent
Presentation of the Colors	American Legion Post 284
Invocation	Mrs. Martina Tuck, Chapter Chaplain
The Pledge of Allegiance	Mrs. Betty Jean Brockwell
National Anthem	ALL
Introduction of Guests	Dr. Anne Atkinson, Regent
Memorialization of Lt. Parker	Mrs. Cassandra Barnes, Chairman

Prayers of Dedication - All please join in response

Prayers of Dedication

REGENT: Daughters and Guests we meet to praise our Heavenly Father for our Great Nation; to cherish the memories of our ancestors; to pledge loyalty to our Country, and to our Flag of the United States of America, each which individually and collectively emphasizes the perpetuity of gratefulness to God, Our Father, for his protection, the same protection granted our forebears as they formed a great Nation, the same protection endowed to us through the sacrifices of those who have continued to keep this Nation great.

CHAPLAIN: Oh, give us thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people.

RESPONSE: In thy Name shall they rejoice all the days, and in Thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

CHAPLAIN: Seek the Lord, seek His strength: seek His face evermore.



Rarely used in the southern states, the death's head emblem was commonly used to mark the headstones of individuals from the New England area.

The headstone reads:

Sacred to the Memory,

Of ELIAS PARKER;

who departed this Life

Decr 8th, 1799,

Aged 39 Years.

RESPONSE: Remember his marvelous works that
He hath done.

CHAPLAIN: Oh, God, our Father, we offer our praise
to Thee, seeking the grace of Thy Holy Spirit to
abide with us now and evermore: that our words and
deeds may express our faith, our hope and love of
Thee, our Divine Master of Heaven and Earth.

RESPONSE: Amen.

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**Unveiling of Marker &
Placing of Wreaths**

**Dr. Anne Atkinson,
Regent**

The Playing of Taps

**American Legion
Post 284**

Closing Remarks

**Dr. Anne Atkinson,
Regent**

**Retirement of the
Colors**

**American Legion
Post 284**

Lieutenant Elias Parker

Revolutionary War hero Elias Parker was born the son of Daniel, a goldsmith, and Margaret Parker on June 3, 1760 in Boston, Massachusetts. He resided in Boston during the Revolutionary War, where he began his service in America's revolution. Parker was reportedly present at the Battle of Bunker Hill with his brother Daniel. Following the battle, Parker continued his patriotic service in the Continental Army in the American Regiment of Artillery under Colonel and Chief Henry Knox, Colonel John Crane's Battalion of Artillery. He was listed as a Cadet on May 11, 1777 and then as a Matross, soldier of artillery, in August 1777. Parker was then promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on September 13, 1777.

Parker received a commission November 2, 1780 and transferred to Captain Francis Green's Company, First Massachusetts Regiment; Colonel Joseph Vose's Regiment. He served as a Lieutenant from 1781-1783. Parker also held membership in the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, a hereditary organization of officers of the Continental Army who served in the Revolutionary War.

After the war, in approximately 1783, Parker became a merchant in Petersburg, Virginia. On January 1, 1784, Parker acquired a 99 year lease on a building and land, Lot 30, on the Southside of Bollingbrook Street in town.

Records show Parker became a Captain of the Militia for the County of Dinwiddie, Virginia on March 4, 1788. He then became a Captain of the Light Infantry Company to the 1st Battalion, 39th Regiment in May 1793. His last militia records show him becoming a Captain of the Company of Artillery in the town of Petersburg in 1797.

In 1789, it appeared that Parker was interested in becoming a soldier in the US military once again! He sent two letters to Henry Knox, now Secretary of War for the United States, requesting his assistance in rejoining the ranks of the newly forming United States military.

On March 3, 1789, Henry Knox certified that Captain Elias Parker served under him in the artillery and was a good officer on all occasions and that Parker had asked, on expectation of receiving a higher rank, transfer by the Commander in Chief to the Infantry of the line of Massachusetts during the war.

Our Gratitude to:

Blandford Cemetery Staff Ms. Angela Bonanno-Sweeney and Ms. Martha Mann Atkinson for assistance in coordinating the event.

American Legion Post 284 for presenting the Colors.

Mrs. Joyce Rash, Mr. & Mrs. J. Dell'Omo, and Dr. Joan Rhodes for their tireless efforts and support in researching and discovering Lt. Elias Parker's service to the United States.

****Please take time to visit the Blandford Cemetery & Church and the 25th Annual Reenactment of the 235th Anniversary of the 1781 Battle of Petersburg at Battersea.****

The Colonel John Banister Chapter, NSDAR

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