
Cousin Dan

by Phil Weaver

Despite what the general public thinks, there are very few of us hobbyists who have been blessed with ancestral ties to Colonial North America.

Being one of the fortunate ones, you can imagine the inquiries I have gotten over the years about this Weaver or that being a relation of mine. At times it can get almost comical. I sometimes think I could start a collection of photographs of headstones and monuments of Weavers in the American Revolution who are not related to me. So, I was in no way prepared for what I discovered last summer.

Dan Hess, a member and current commander of Pawling's Levies (a regiment of New York State Troops recreated in Northern New Jersey), came up to me during a break at a Brigade of the American Revolution (BAR) event. He explained that his Great Great Great Great Great Grandfather on his Mother's side, a Quaker minister named Job Irish, married a Mary Weaver in 1753. This interested me because the marriage had occurred in Rhode Island, the colony where my paternal ancestors had been all but driven to by the Quaker-hating Puritans of Massachusetts Bay. Yet, having been through this process so often, I remained skeptical of any connection.

Dan soon got me the paperwork, and I casually checked the information against my family's genealogy (written before my father was born). In minutes I found it. Job Irish, had indeed married Mary Weaver of Westerley, Rhode Island on July 3, 1753. They were both Quakers. Mary was the oldest of nine children born to Thomas and Sarah (Davis) Weaver. The youngest child, Zebulon Weaver, Mary's brother, was my paternal Great Great Great Grandfather. Dan and I are, in fact, blood cousins.

There is a perverse logic in all this. We two descendants of Rhode Island Quakers met while recreating the American Revolution in New York units. What a world! ☞

Dan Hess & Phil Weaver pictured on the Bunker Hill set for the PBS series, *Liberty*
- Photo courtesy of Dan Hess

