

**Seth Drew, Major  
(1747 – 1824)**

Major Seth Drew was born in Kingston, MA, June 13 1747. He was the son of Cornelius and Sarah Drew. He was married December 3, 1772 to Hannah, daughter of Wrestling Brewster, a direct descendant of Elder William Brewster who came over in the Mayflower in 1620. He was by trade a ship-builder and was engaged in his world at the shipyard when informed of the battle of Lexington. It was customary at that time to set fire to a tar-barrel and thus pass it under the hull of the vessel for the purpose of graving.

Major Drew had just lighted his tar-barrel when the news came of the battle above named. He dropped all and immediately made preparations for his march towards Boston. He was then a Lieutenant in the Minute Company under the command of Captain Peleg Wadsworth. It was some eight or ten years after this before he returned to resume his former occupation in the shipyard. He was at Ticonderoga, and took part in the celebrated battles of Trenton, Brandywine, and Monmouth. He received a Captain's Commission January 1<sup>st</sup> 1777 and was promoted to the office of Major January 7, 1783 and but for a mistake in another commission sent to him (at the close of the war) would have held the title of Colonel but he never took the pains to return the commission and have the title granted which was his by right.

At the Court-Martial appointed to try Smith accused as an accomplice of Major Andre, Major Drew was one of the Court and spent three weeks on that interesting trial. At the close of the War he returned to Kingston, his native town where he resided until his death which occurred May 18, 1824 when seventy-seven years of age. Major Drew received many honors of his fellow townsmen by whom he was highly esteemed. He represented the town in General Court in 1795, 1797, 1803, and 1804. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1797 which office he held during life. He also held the office of Postmaster for many years (and was in fact Kingston's first Postmaster).

In the War of 1812 with England he was appointed by the government as agent to superintend the erection of fortifications in Plymouth Harbor and at Fairhaven. He was fortunate in having one of the best of wives. She was capable of almost any kind of business and did in fact have almost the exclusive care of the mails while her husband was Postmaster. It was no small honor to have such a wife. She was a helpmeet indeed and deserves this passing notice. Doubtless Major Drew often received a word of encouragement from her. She survived her husband about eight years and died April 13, 1832 when eight years of age. In the judgement of charity both lived Christians and died in the full faith of the Gospel which they professed.

Their descendants are numerous. Four children survived them (all of whom have resided in Kingston).

This history was sketched by George Russell, Esquire - - February 1856