

1. 3. 3. 4. 1.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON, born August 7, 1719, in Norwich, Conn.; and graduated at Yale College, 1741. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Tracy) Backus, January 20, 1741-2. She was born February 21, 1721, and died July 1, 1745; when he married, for his second wife, Hannah Williams, of Pomfret, July 10, 1746. She was born July 23, 1726, and died March 25, 1807. He was elected, in 1750, a member of the general assembly of his native state, and for many years represented his native town to the universal acceptance of his fellow citizens, presiding, often, over the deliberations of the lower house. Early after his graduation he entered into the West India trade, and, by an honorable and efficient business career, laid the foundations of one of the amplest fortunes of that age. At the commencement of our Revolution he was the owner of a large amount of shipping, which of course was very greatly endangered by the rupture with the mother land. But his patriotism prevailed over his commercial and pecuniary ambition. He cheerfully sacrificed his property and consecrated himself and his family to the cause of independence. He was one of the most active of the committee of safety during the war; and in the September session of the assembly for the year 1776, he was appointed one of the two major generals from Connecticut, for the militia of the state, David Wooster being the other; and on the death of Wooster, from a wound received in the skirmish with the British, retreating from Danbury, in April of the next year, he was appointed major general over the entire Connecticut militia.

His great exertions, made for his country's cause, during those trying years of our national history, together with the great pecuniary losses which, in such a struggle, were inevitable, were too much even for his strong mind and vigorous frame. As the pressure of the early excitement and indispensable action passed away, it was soon seen how greatly they had impaired his physical and mental powers. "On finding himself disabled from public service, he resigned all his offices, and spent the remainder of his life in retirement, at his seat in Norwich. He was seized with a fatal complaint, in February, 1779, and after a gradual decline of more than seven years, he died October 5, 1786."

Gen. Huntington was a man of religious principle, having united with the church in 1741. It was very justly said in the funeral sermon delivered over his remains, "That a great man is fallen in this Israel, need not be mentioned for the information of this assembly." It is also stated in a note appended to the sermon, "he sustained an amiable and worthy character in the domestic relations and private walks of life." One other passage from that sermon, deserves transcribing for this notice: "As the train of melancholy distress which brought him to his end, probably originated from his painful and unremitting exertions for his country, in the time of danger; his country, surely, will not withhold the tear of grateful sorrow, but pay deserved respect to his memory, and teach succeeding generations to revere his dust; and as they pass his urn, to say, 'there lies the man who devoted his all to the public good; who

sacrificed his ease, his health, and eventually his life, to serve and save his country'."

CHILDREN, BORN IN NORWICH, CONN.

- * 1. JEDIDIAH, born August 4, 1743.
- * 2. ANDREW, born June 21-2, 1745.
- * 3. JOSHUA, born August 16, 1751.
- 4. HANNAH, born July 3, 1753, and died September 27, 1761.
- * 5. EBENEZER, born December 26, 1754.
- * 6. ELIZABETH, born February 9, 1757.
- * 7. MARY, born March 24, 1760.
- * 8. ZACHARIAH, born November 2, 1764.

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JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON, born August 4, 1743, in Norwich, Conn.; "was graduated at Harvard College in 1763, with distinguished honor. The social rank of his family is evinced by the order of his name on the college catalogue, it being the second on the list of his class, above that of Josiah Quincy. The Master's degree was also conferred on him by Yale College in 1770. After the close of his academic course, he engaged with his father in commercial pursuits, and, with the approach of the struggle for independence, became noted as a Son of Liberty, and an active captain of the militia. Promoted to the command of a regiment, he joined the army at Cambridge, April 26, 1775, just a week after the battle of Lexington. His regiment was part of the force detailed for occupying Dorchester heights; and, after the evacuation of Boston by the British, marched with the army to New York. He entertained the commander-in-chief, on the way, at Norwich. During the year 1776, he was at New York, Kingsbridge, Northcastle, Sidmun's bridge, and other posts. In April of that year, he helped repulse the British at Danbury, Conn., assailing the enemy's rear, and effecting a junction with his fellow townsman, Arnold. In March, 1777, Roger Sherman writes that Col. Huntington was recommended by Gen. Washington as a fit person for brigadier, but that Connecticut had more than her share. On May 12 of that year, he was promoted to that rank, as Mr. Sherman states, "at Gen. Washington's request." In July, he joined Gen. Putnam at Peekskill, with all the Continental troops which he could collect; whence, in September, he was ordered to join the main army near Philadelphia, where he remained at headquarters, at Worcester, Whippin, White Marsh, Gulph Hills, etc. In November, on the information of the enemy's movement upon Red Bank, he was detached with his brigade, among other troops, to its relief, but Cornwallis had anticipated them. Having shared the hardships of his companions in arms at Valley Forge, through the winter of 1777-8, he, together with Col. Wigglesworth, was, in March, appointed by the Commander in Chief, "to aid Gen. McDougall in inquiring into the loss of forts Montgomery and Clinton, in the State of New York; and into the conduct of the principal officers commanding those posts." In May,