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Innholder, Ashburnham, Massachusetts, 1752 -

Elisha Coolidge, son of Deacon John and Margaret (Bond) Coolidge of Watertown, Massachusetts, was born there on 9 July 1720. He died on 29 August 1807 at Ashburnham, Massachusetts, age 87. He married at Harvard on 4 June 1754, Sarah Boutelle born at Sudbury on 12 January 1735. She died c. 1775. Elisha and Sarah were the parents of eleven children.

Elisha Coolidge moved to Ashburnham from Cambridge in 1752 when he assisted in building the mills. He was made surveyor of boards and shingles, and also of wheat.

From 1775 to 1777 Elisha was the sealer of weights and measures for the town of Ashburnham. His valuable services in forwarding the settlement are outlined in the history of the town. He was frequently chosen to hold office and the high esteem in which he was held is reflected in many pages of the early records of Ashburnham. He was one of the original members of the church, but he united with the Baptists in 1778.

Elisha Coolidge was recorded as a licensed Innhold at Ashburnham in 1752, 1759, 1760 and 1761 and probably during other years. In July 1774 he was appointed to a committee to see that the covenant dealing with the town's grievances "that were laid upon the citizens by acts of Parliament and the disposing of their monies without their consent", was kept by the citizens.

Chosen by the town as Moderator when the inhabitants voted to break off all connections with the Kingdom of Great Britain on 27 June 1776, he rendered Civil Service and was a Patriot of the American Revolution.

-by Elisabeth Lovell Bowman
#79-02

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