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*Flagon & Trencher: Taverner and Innkeeper
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DAVID PULSIPHER

Innkeeper, Rockingham, Vermont 1771

David Pulsipher was born probably at Pomfret, Connecticut 7 May 1708 and died after the Battle of Bunker Hill, 1775. He married before 1766 Elizabeth Howell, born at Newton (?Newtown) Connecticut 21 August 1719 and died probably at Rockingham, Vermont 2 July 1786. She married second 16 September 1779 Josiah White.⁶⁵

David Pulsipher resided in Pomfret, Connecticut, then Ware River Parish, Massachusetts, and in 1766 he and his wife and five children moved to Rockingham, Vermont. They settled first on the meadows opposite Charlestown, New Hampshire, but later moved to Rockingham Village where David built the first log cabin "inn" of the town, located on the site of the dwelling then standing next west of the church. Town Meeting was held 28 March 1771 "at the now dwelling house of Mr. David Pulsiphers, Innholder" as were many other Town Meetings prior to the building of the first Town House.

When the first church was formed, David and Elizabeth Pulsipher were among the nineteen original members. David and three others had given the land for the church and cemetery adjoining it.

When news of the Battle of Lexington reached Rockingham and surrounding towns, David and his son John joined a band of patriots gathered from both sides of the Connecticut River, and on the morning of the twenty-first of April, 1775 they started their hurried journey to the scene of conflict. David was assigned to Captain John Marcy's Company in Colonel James Reed's Regiment which took an active part in defending the rail fence at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He never returned home and his fate is unknown. It is believed that he was either killed in battle or died from disease early in the war. Elizabeth continued to operate the inn, keeping the old log cabin as a public tavern for several years. She later married Josiah White, and died in 1786.⁶⁶

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⁶⁵ Lyman Simpson Hayes, *History of the Town of Rockingham, Vermont*.

⁶⁶ Ibid.