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Tavernkeeper, Plymouth, New Hampshire 1764-1800

Col. David Webster was born at Chester, New Hampshire 12 December 1738 and died at Plymouth, 8 May 1824, the son of Stephen⁴ (Nathan³⁻², John¹) Webster of Ipswich and Newbury, Massachusetts. He married first at Chester 20 April 1761 Elizabeth Clough, born at Kingston, New Hampshire 23 September 1745 and died at Plymouth 22 May 1809, the daughter of Daniel and Sarah (Baker) Clough of Kingston. He married second at Plymouth 3 September 1809 Susanna (Wilson) Chase, born at Haverhill, Massachusetts 28 June 1750 and died at Plymouth, New Hampshire 6 April 1821, daughter of Ezekiel and Ruth (Jakes) Wilson, and widow of Daniel Chase of Concord, New Hampshire.

Captain David Webster was a scout in Rogers' Rangers when he returned to Chester to marry Elizabeth Clough, the daughter of his step-mother. Then he went to Hollis, New Hampshire and joined in planning for the settlement of Plymouth, New Hampshire. He rendered conspicuous service in the Revolution and was made Colonel of militia in the Plymouth area. On his return home from the war, he was asked to run for sheriff, and was elected 3 August 1779. He served as high sheriff until he resigned in 1809, a period of thirty years.

David acquired land from the river westward up the hill and built his rude log tavern on what is now Main Street. Later it was replaced by a small framed house and enlarged as business increased. In 1764, as he purchased two slaves at Methuen, Massachusetts, named Cisco and Dinah, for servants in his tavern. They became a part of the family and now lie in the same lot in Trinity Cemetery, across the river in Holderness. The tavern was

used for Sabbath services and town meetings, until the meetinghouse was ready for use.

In 1800 Col. David was sixty-two and ready to resign his position as tavernkeeper, so William, his third son, succeeded him. William erected an entirely new building with a gambrel roof and sufficient capacity to accommodate the judges and other officials when the county court convened at Plymouth. This fine colonial tavern became a famous inn among travelers who were beginning to visit this northern section of the state.

- Pamela Jean Dunn
#87-35

REFERENCES

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2. History of Plymouth, New Hampshire, Stearns, Vols. I, II.
3. Genealogy of the Descendants of John Clough of Salisbury, Massachusetts, Eva Clough Speare, Editor, (1952) 1:189.
4. Story of the Family of John Clough of Salisbury, Massachusetts, Eva Clough Speare, (Littleton, NH, 1943) 66, 101-103.
5. Seven Generations of Descendants of Aquila Chase, John A. Chase and George W. Chamberlain (Derry, NH 1928) 165.
6. Descendants of John Webster of Ipswich and Newbury, Massachusetts, Cecile W. and Noreene Pramberg (Parker River Researchers, 1984) 19.

Old Law, as cited by Bert Bacharach in Boston Herald:

In 1644, Connecticut levied a fine of forty shillings a month on any town having no tavern.

Submitted by Estella M. Johnson