

THADDEUS BURR. [127]

THADDEUS BURR was born at Fairfield Aug. 22, 1735, a son of Thaddeus, and grandson of Judge Peter Burr. His mother was Abigail, daughter of Jonathan Sturges, Esq., of Fairfield.

At the age of twenty he graduated at Yale College with the degree of A. M., and soon after, for conspicuous merit, the same honor was conferred on him by the College of New Jersey.

March 22, 1759, he married a beautiful and accomplished lady, Miss Eunice Dennie, daughter of James Dennie, Esq., of Fairfield. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Noah Hobart, then pastor of the church at Fairfield, and was entered on both the town and church records.

The first ten years of his married life were spent in scholarly and social pursuits, and in the management of his large estates; he first appeared in public life as Deputy for Fairfield at the Oct. session of the General Court, in 1769. In 1771 he again appears as Deputy, also Oct., 1775, Dec., 1775, May, 1776, Nov., 1776, May, 1778, Oct., 1778, and Jan., 1779. He was Justice of the Peace for Fairfield, May, 1777, 1778, 1782, and was High Sheriff of the County in 1779.

He early espoused the cause of the colonies against the King, and in 1775 was a member of the town committee of war; this we learn from an interesting historical incident which is worthy of record.

The battle of Lexington commenced at five on the morning of Wednesday, the 19th of April, 1775. At ten on the same morning, Trail Bissell, an unlaurelled hero, was commissioned, by the authorities of the Colony, to ride and alarm the country quite to Connecticut. Like Scott's "Malise," he was the messenger of fear and hate, although unlike him, he bore not a fiery cross, but his paper commission, stamped with the broad seal of the Colony. At every principal village he stopped, while the town committee endorsed his papers; and, before he left, a dozen swift horsemen, coursing north and south, carried the news to the most secluded hamlet, and sent hundreds of gallant yeomen hurrying up to Bunker Hill and Dorchester, eager to act well their part in the