

Joseph Mendenhall (1746-1840) P-247826
Captain of the Pennsylvania Militia and Teamster

Joseph Mendenhall was born November 29, 1746 (or 1741) in Kennett Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in Sept, 1777 as a private under Captain Isaac Taylor in Pennsylvania and again in September of 1778 as teamster. He, his wagon, and team and was engaged in hauling from (likely Kennett) to Lancaster from May 10, 1780 through 1781

Joseph was commissioned a Captain in the 3rd Battalion of Chester County, Pennsylvania Militia by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. He served three tours of duty in this capacity; each of two months. In May 1780, he was ordered to Philadelphia for the march into New York. However, after two months he was return home. In the spring of 1781 he accompanied Captain Joseph Mendenhall's company at it patrolled above the Head of Elk. In the fall of 1781 he was marching to Yorktown but failed to arrive before Cornwallis capitulated on October 19. Joseph was commissioned two more times in the Chester County Militia. He began on May 1, 1783 as Captain of Company of Foot in 7th Battalion and on May 1, 1786 as Captain of Foot 6th Company, 5th Battalion. He was also engaged at the battle of Brandywine.

Not long after the close of the war, Joseph moved to Menallen Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania to buy a farm and build a saw mill. Today the site is known as "Mendenhall's Mill Dam".

Although a Quaker, Joseph had a reputation as a good soldier and patriot. He is said to have had a fiery disposition and enjoyed telling his friends about the War of Independence. On January 14, 1834 he applied for a military pension. At 88 years of age the pension was granted for \$126.66 per year with payment in arrears for the period of March 4, 1831 to September 4, 1833 of \$380.09.

Captain Joseph Mendenhall went on to his final reward October 12, 1840 and was survived by his wife Jane Collins Mendenhall. Though buried in Sand hill Cemetery in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, no marker stands over his grave. According to his Quaker beliefs there would have only been a simple stone to mark his head and foot.

Submitted by Warren Arthur Mendenhall, Jr
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