

**Dennis Getchell (1724-1792) P-165465**  
**Captain, Massachusetts Militia**

Dennis Getchell was born about 1724 in Berwick, York County, Maine to Samuel Getchell and his wife Dorcas. His family had long lived in the “colonies”. His great grandfather Samuel Getchell and brother John had come from Parish Monkton, Somershire, England in 1636 to settle in Salisbury, Massachusetts. Samuel's son Samuel Jr served in Captain Jonathan Poole's Company of His Majesty's Troops at Hatfield, Massachusetts in 1676-1677 during King Phillip's War. Dennis' father Samuel III served as a private for seven months in 1758 in a company raised in Berwick “for the reduction of Canada”. Following in the family tradition, Dennis and two other brothers went on to serve in the colonial militia.

On 29 Oct. 1759 he was a “centinal” in a company in His Majesty’s service under Captain Cargill in the French and Indian war and served in Penobscot, Maine. When the war was over, Dennis settled and was married about 1768. He was married first to Nancy and they had children Dennis Jr. and David. When Dennis married Margaret, the family grew with the addition of their children Elihu, Edmund, Abigail, Remington, Margaret, Austru, Lydia, Fannie, and Mary.

With the war for independence just under way, Daniel chose to ally himself and his family with the patriot cause. On July 23, 1776 he was commissioned Captain of the 5<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincoln County Regiment, Massachusetts Militia. He and his company of 50 men served in Riverton, Rhode Island during 1777.

Before the war, Daniel had lived in Vassalboro, Maine and had been elected First Selectman; an office he held for many years. After the war, Daniel was elected as a Representative to the General Court (legislature) in 1786. Though not stated, he was probably also a potato farmer as many of his progeny living in Aroostook County, Maine had the same vocation.

Daniel died January 06, 1792 in Vassalboro, Kennebec County, Maine. He rests there today though his grave site is unknown.

Submitted by Clarence A. “Chuck” Barrett  
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Saramana Chapter SAR