

P A T R I O T
D A N I E L
H I G G I N S
(1759-1848)

C h r i s H o c t o r

DEDICATED TO DAD, AND GRANDMA BROWN
AND TO EMMA FRANCES HIGGINS CRAFT

SPECIAL THANKS

TO

DR. KENNETH R. BROWN OF PHILADELPHIA, IRISH AMERICAN UNCLE AND GENEALOGIST
THE SULLIVAN/MUNCE CULTURAL CENTER AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY, JANET C. BAKER, DIRECTOR
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PATRIOT
DANIEL
HIGGINS
(1759-1848)

BY
Chris Hoctor



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Galleon's Lap

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E. HIGGINS STORIES ~ 1936

PRINTED IN THE USA

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Foreward



ny biography of an ordinary citizen of no real fame is a challenge to write; add to this the fact that it has been 250 years since Daniel Higgins was born. Records are lost or destroyed, or just never written down. To further complicate it, he lived in places whose political boundaries have changed; The North of Ireland where Daniel was born was just that, the geographic northernmost counties. Today, 'Northern Ireland' has a very well defined border, and is the only remaining British Territory within Ireland. American towns mentioned here that were in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio are now amidst new borders and names; it gets terribly confusing.



It was our good fortune that someone already chronicled many stories about Daniel Higgins, and wrote these stories only 50-80 years after his death. Emma Higgins, a descendant of Daniel Higgins through his son Elias, was a prominent historian of the Victorian era in Zionsville, Indiana. She also chronicled the life of her great grandfather Daniel Higgins, as told to her by her father and others that knew him.

Here (on the left) you can see the 'Frontier Line' of 1774. Americans were forbidden to settle west of the line. Virginia had not yet divided into 2 colonies, and Pennsylvania was half its current size. Fort Duquesne was renamed Fort Pitt soon after this. The boundaries of Ohio have not been established yet. This is the area of our story.

By 1812 (the map on the next page) we can see the new states taking far more familiar shapes.

Emma Higgins took a careful approach to her research; she used just about every resource she could find. The genealogy collection in the Zionsville library includes the Foote family history which held details I find in her story. Also, among the National Archives records I found her letters of the 1930s requesting information on the military service of her Great Grandfather Daniel Higgins.

Her own descendants that remember her say she had a memory like a steel trap, equaled only by her warmth and charm.

Our nation has had many 'dark hours', among the worst is slavery, segregation, and the systematic destruction of the Indian Nations. To imagine that someone who fought against the Indians could ever be considered a patriot is difficult for some people to understand. This, however, was a time when most of the Eastern Tribes were coerced into taking sides with the British, and many took sides with the Americans. The British, and later the Americans, often used bribes to get them to employ their brutal form of warfare, which was later called savagery and used against them. Daniel Higgins proved to be a soldier who demonstrated how to fight with honor, and fought the Indians to end our wars with Great Britain, not to murder Indians.

On the surface, Daniel's life was not so extraordinary for a person of his day; he never finished school or learned to write (a copy of his actual 'mark' below), there are no monuments to him, his name is tucked away on a microfilm in Springfield, IL listing Revolutionary War soldiers from Virginia, and we believe his exact grave site is lost. His name might have faded away as nothing more than a spot on a family tree. I saw something more than ordinary about Daniel, and believe you will too.

-Chris Hocter, Sep 2008



Daniel Higgins
mark

From Emerald Isle to the Frontier

1759 was an important year for this story, and for the British. Although Great Britain was only 4 years into the ‘7-Year War’, they defeated the French for control of America and Canada, and conquered Germany, India, and the West Indies that year. Following this war, King George III levied a heavy tax on all his new colonies to pay for that war, including Ireland and America.

Dublin proved to be a good port for local and international business. In the summer of 1759 a young man named Arthur Guinness left his local brew business at home with his brother, and trotted off to take a chance at starting a beer brewing business in Dublin, you might be familiar with the name.

¹Daniel Higgins was born that same summer, in the North of Ireland. His father and uncle were embarking on a lucrative trade with the British colonies in America through the port in Dublin. They would import furs, and sent back fine leather goods. When he was old enough his mother allowed Daniel to travel to Dublin with his uncle, but not to sail. This time, about 1770, his uncle persuaded Daniel to defy her orders, and soon found himself on the shores of the New World, in Baltimore.

In the 1700’s, 11-year old boys were sometimes thrown into a great deal of responsibility and hardship, which an 11-year old today would never understand.

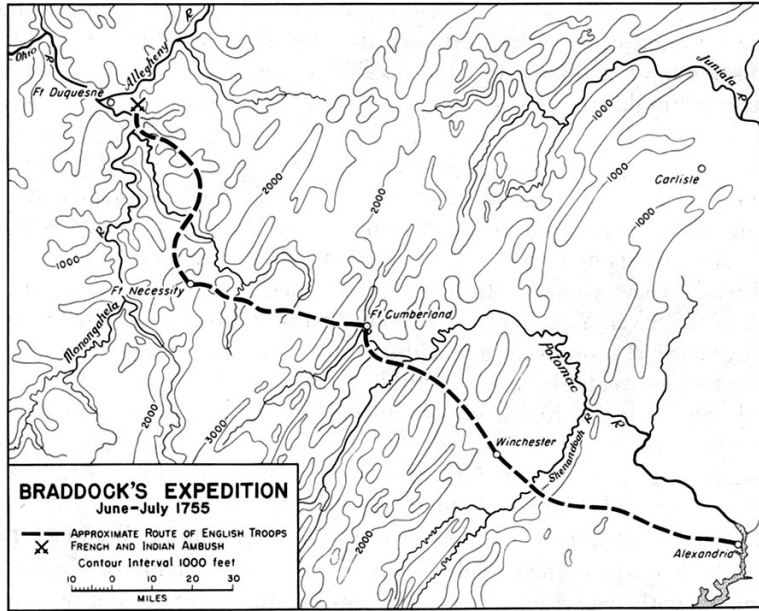
Daniel and his uncle must have been confident that they could explain things to Mother when they get back. Unfortunately, Uncle died very soon after reaching the shores, leaving Daniel alone and penniless. Colonial authorities in Maryland had Daniel *bound out to learn a trade; carpentry. His training probably focused on the art of making boats, but he developed a talent for building homes as well.

*Bound Out: In modern terms, a ‘forced internship’ at little or no pay.

Daniel never heard from his parents again and it is supposed they never heard of his fate.

At this time, the Colonists and the British were in a state of furious friction, which unfolded into incidents and conflicts, then blossomed into a Declaration of Independence, and inevitably; war.

After Daniel finished his apprenticeship he moved to Pitts-Burgh Virginia. It is said that he heard about a man named Thomas Higgins there, and he thought it may be his brother. Most of the early settlers of the area arrived by way of Braddock's Trail.



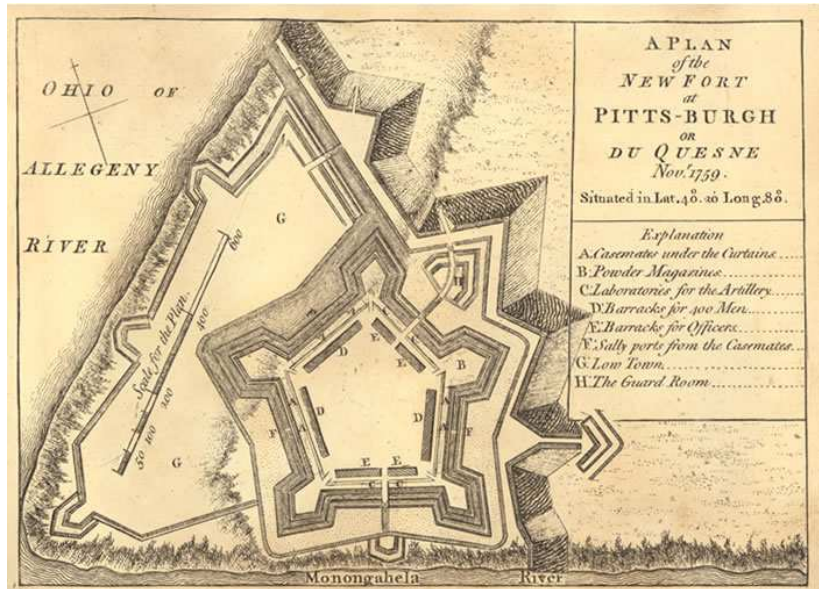
Braddocks Trail started off as little more than a series of connected trails called the Nemaocolin path; it was forged into a road to accommodate the British army and their pursuit of the French Fort Duquesne in 1755. They widened the trail to move 200 wagons, heavy artillery and over 2000 troops. The majority of this trail today would be along the lines of Interstate 70. Navigating this rough terrain, centuries before it was ever paved, could

possibly have sparked Daniel's interest in becoming a renowned scout and frontiersman.

In June of 1777 the Congress adopted our 13 stars and stripes for the official flag of the United States. Technically, Daniel was born a British subject, as Ireland fell under the parliament of England, but didn't allow Irish members. He saw the abuses of that authority in Ireland, and now he could see it in America. In the throes of the Revolutionary War, on that very same month, he chose to defend that infant flag. He joined the 13th Virginia Regiment at Fort Pitt, VA.

This fort was located in an area claimed by both Virginia and Pennsylvania, until 1780 when an agreement was made on extending the Mason and Dixie line – putting Pittsburgh in PA.

"A Plan of the New Fort at Pitts-Burgh", drawn by cartographer John Rocque and published in 1765: (public domain illustration)



The 13th Virginia Regiment was authorized on 16 September 1776 by the Continental Congress for service with the Continental Army to support the American Revolutionary War. The unit was organized on 12 February 1777 at Fort Pitt in present-day western

Pennsylvania to consist of nine companies of troops from the far-western Virginia counties (now parts of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania). The regiment saw action in the Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Germantown, and the Battle of Monmouth. On 24 May 1778 the unit was assigned to the Western Department, and on 12 May 1779 it was reorganized and redesignated as the 9th Virginia Regiment. It was again reorganized and redesignated as the 7th Virginia Regiment on 1 January 1781 to consist of two companies. The regiment was disbanded at Fort Pitt on 1 January 1783.

One of the nine companies was led by Captain Jacobus Sullivan, Daniel's Commander who assigned him the rank of Private. The Virginia Militia gave a little extra incentive to those that brought their own horse and saddle to the fight. Militia men could terminate their enlistment by buying out, or hiring a replacement. This was commonplace when a soldier had crops to plant or harvest, or other business to tend to. The regiment didn't expect to have to go east and fight for Philadelphia, but British General Howe took 15,000 men by ship from New York south, and then up through the Chesapeake Bay to take the American capital (even though he was supposed to go north and join other British forces).

Daniel doesn't mention any of the battles he could have been in during his first enlistment (only later ones), it is possible that his company stayed at Fort Pitt on 'garrison duty', but the following 2 battles were fought by 13th Virginia during the time he was assigned to them:

Battle of Brandywine, Delaware. Three months into Daniel's first enlistment. The Battle of Brandywine was a battle of the Philadelphia of the Revolutionary War fought on September 11, 1777, in the area surrounding Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. The battle, which was a decisive victory for the British, left Philadelphia, the revolutionary capital, undefended. The British captured the city on September 26, beginning an occupation that would last until June, 1778.

*Battle of *Germantown*. Four months into Daniel's first enlistment. A battle in the Philadelphia of the Revolutionary War, was fought on October 4-7, 1777 at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The British victory ensured that the capital of the revolutionary government would remain in British hands.

**Birthplace of the author's mother, Betsy Hocter, 157 years later.*

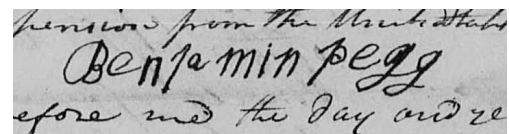
About February of 1778 Daniel hired a replacement, and returned home. On the 30th of May 1778, a campaign of terror against American frontier settlements, instigated by the British, begins as 300 Iroquois Indians burn Cobleskill, New York. This tactic eventually spread to the western front, where British Loyalists and Indians massacred American settlers in the Wyoming

Valley of northern Pennsylvania. On his 20th birthday, August 25, 1779 Daniel enlisted again under Captains Joseph Cisney and John Wall in the 'Rangers on the Frontier'. Four days later they took part in General Brodhead's Expedition up the Allegheny River against the Munsee Indians. This contingent of 600 regulars and militia annihilated about 10 Indian villages with very little resistance as most of the warriors were fighting elsewhere. This was done in order to drive them north into Canada, and they succeeded. East of their positions General Sullivan was leading a similar expedition, and Brodhead was supposed to join them at a certain point. The company never caught up with General Sullivan. After 2 months Daniel left the militia again.

During his time serving in the militia, Daniel befriended a fellow soldier named Benjamin Pegg. In 1781, at Old Fort, Pennsylvania, Daniel was married to Benjamin's sister, Mary "Polly" Pegg. Polly was born August 9, 1764 in Philadelphia, the third daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Cliff) Pegg. Pegg's Great Grandfather, Daniel Pegg the 1st (1660-1702), was a prominent member of the Society of Friends who came to Philadelphia from England in 1686.

Redstone Old Fort became known as Old Fort, or Fort Burd, and then incorporated into Brownstown, now Brownsville, and is located about 35 miles south of Pittsburgh. It was the site of a wooden fort built by English explorers around 1759. The fort was built on a mound overlooking the Monongahela River. This mound was capped by large red sandstone rocks. The explorers of the time had no idea they were desecrating a mound constructed by pre-historic Native American tribes. These mounds have been found throughout the Great Lakes and Ohio River region, the tallest of which is in Cahokia, IL.

Many years later Daniel Higgins spoke on behalf of his friend Benjamin Pegg, testifying he knew that Benjamin ³"had served in the Revolutionary War, Col McCay's Regiment of riflemen in the Pennsylvania Line on the Continental Establishment from the year 1776 through 1779, until the month of August when Pegg was honorably discharged". This testimony helped Benjamin receive a pension.



pension from the United States
Benjamin Pegg
before me the day and ye

Soon after Daniel became a new groom, about the time his first daughter was born (Hannah) he joined the regiment a third time under the command of Captain Andrew Hood and Colonel William Crawford, in a campaign against the British and the Indians, and fought in the battle known as Crawford's Defeat, on June 4-6, 1782. Three months before Crawford's Defeat American soldiers attacked and killed 96 Delaware Indians in Ohio in retaliation for Indian raids conducted by other tribes. This attack was labeled the Gnadenhutzen massacre. The fury instilled in the Ohio tribes was returned ten-fold, and the Crawford campaign was another decisive loss to the colonists.



³“The Crawford Expedition, also known as the Sandusky Expedition and Crawford's Defeat, was a campaign in 1782 on the western front of the Revolutionary War, and one of the final operations of the conflict. Led by Colonel William, the campaign's goal was to destroy enemy American Indian towns along the Sandusky River in the Ohio, with the hope of ending Indian attacks on American settlers. The expedition was one in a long series of raids

against enemy settlements which both sides had conducted throughout the war.

Crawford led about 500 volunteer militiamen, mostly from Pennsylvania, deep into American Indian territory, with the intention of surprising the Indians. The Indians and their British allies from Detroit had already learned of the expedition, however, and gathered a force to oppose the Americans. After a day of indecisive fighting near the Sandusky towns, the Americans found themselves surrounded and attempted to retreat. The retreat turned into a rout, but most of the Americans managed to find their way back to Pennsylvania. About 70 Americans were killed; Indian and British losses were minimal.

During the retreat, Colonel Crawford and an unknown number of his men were captured. The Indians executed many of these captives in retaliation for the Gnadenhütten massacre that occurred earlier in the year, in which about 100 Indian civilians were murdered by Pennsylvanian militiamen. Crawford's execution was particularly brutal: he was tortured for at least two hours before being burned at the stake. His execution was widely publicized in the United States, worsening the already-strained relationship between Native and European Americans.”

Later, Daniel relayed his periods of military service, and participation in the Crawford Campaign, and it is recorded by John Reilly, Clerk of the Court: (Daniel was) “at the rendezvous at the Mingo Bottom before Pittsburgh in May 1782, and he continued in the service until after the defeat of Crawford when he made his escape with the top of his mare saddle & bridle.” ⁴

In all, he served sixteen months in the Revolutionary War and according to his pension records “four and one-half years” in “later wars”.

In the Spring of 1783

...the Revolutionary War was finally over. Daniel and Mary lived in Washington County, PA and in Ohio County, VA (now West Virginia). The couple had seven children between 1782 and 1789. After Hannah came Elias, Daniel Jr., Rachel, Jonathan, William, and Polly.

Having babies did not slow down the 35 year-old adventurer in Daniel. In 1794 he joined General “Mad Anthony” Wayne in his army to finish routing out the British, and the Indians still loyal to the British. The war was over, but skirmishes continued, and the British continued to violate conditions of the treaty. Wayne believed the previous expeditions against the Indians had failed because of poor training and discipline. After long preparation and the construction of a fortress to abate any attackers (Fort Defiance), the brief ‘Battle of Fallen Timbers’ took place and the region was his. Part of the victory was credited to outnumbering and outmaneuvering the Indians, it may also be that the British were ordered not to fight the Americans. In fact, as the British allied Indians retreated, the British denied them shelter in their fort. This battle virtually broke any remaining alliances between the Indians and the British (for a time), and brought about the “Treaty of Greenville” that ended the Northwest Indian War.

In a story relayed by a cousin of Daniel’s grandson (Mr. James Chambers of California), Daniel Higgins was out in the woods during the Wayne Campaign being hunted by an Indian. In a turn of luck Daniel managed to change his position from being hunted to being the hunter. He reached the Indian, who thought himself hidden well enough behind a downed log, and ordered him to stand. The Indian said “No shoot me here, I’ll not get up”. Daniel refused to shoot the Indian lying on the ground, and must have been moved by the Indian who refused to die on his terms. He and the Indian made an agreement never to kill each other.

With all these campaigns drawing to a close, it was time to turn his attention to other duties. At some point (before 1805) Daniel and Mary were among the first trustees of Hopewell Methodist Church in Jefferson County, Ohio. The family grew; Daniel continued to apply his carpentry skills to building boats, he helped many neighbors build houses, he farmed, and we learn later in the story that he and his wife made cane sugar.

The Return to War

The Western Front was fairly quiet for a little over a decade, but the British failed to withdraw from American territory along the Great Lakes; continued to back the Indians on America's frontiers; refused reasonable trade contracts and agreements; and failed to follow the terms of their surrender, so the ‘War of 1812’ erupted. On Daniel’s birthday in 1812, the British attacked

Washington D.C., and burned the White House. We can only imagine how this would have infuriated those that fought for the new nation already. At about 53 years of age, Daniel joined the military one last time. With his experience he was able to start off as a sergeant, and this time he would be serving the Army at the same time as his son Daniel, Jr. While the son served in Captain David Peck's Company of the Ohio Militia, Daniel Sr. was serving under General (later President) William H. Harrison in the construction and defense of Fort Meigs in 1813. It is possible Daniel (Sr) and President Harrison knew each other having fought together in the Battle of Fallen Timbers, years before.

“To your posts, then, fellow Soldiers & remember that the eyes of your Country are upon you”! *General Orders of William Henry Harrison, Commanding General, Army of the Northwest April 29, 1813*

The enemy laid siege to Fort Meigs on 1 May, 1813, and General Harrison was ready. With a strong fort, 1,200 troops, and twenty to thirty pieces of artillery, the garrison dug in with the knowledge that reinforcements were on the way. The bombardment ended after four days, when a troop of Kentucky militia arrived to reinforce Fort Meigs. On May 9, the enemy lifted the siege and returned to Canada. The Indians who had accompanied the British during the siege were bitterly disappointed by their failure to take the fort.

“In the return of the present Detachment of Ohio troops to their families, and homes, it is due to Ohio and her sons to record their honorable Services”. *General Orders of Green Clay, Commanding General, August 4, 1813*

Most of the militia left during the construction of the fort, leaving the regulars behind to finish it and carry out the battle. Our records of Daniel's service stating he had “4½ years in later wars” would indicate he stayed behind for the battle. Another hint is that his first son, Elias, waited for Daniel's return before he wed Mary Foote on the 23rd of May 1813. Mary was born 28 Jul 1795. They had 10 children between 1814 and 1837.

Before the war was out, Daniel Jr. was promoted to Sergeant as well. Daniel Jr's name was transcribed into the Ohio roster of 1812 soldiers, Daniel Sr is listed among the Virginia/ Pennsylvania soldiers of that war. Pension records⁵ of the 1830's show both men applying, but Daniel Sr's application was rejected for having been in the “Old War” (for which he already had a pension).

Peace at Last

... and Daniel could return to his work as a boat maker. In those days, the Ohio River was the lifeblood for trade and survival in the wilderness, and it

was the flatboat that proved to be the best way to move goods. Daniel made several flatboats, and several trips on them, to carry produce down the Ohio, on to the Mississippi, and down to New Orleans. It was a one-way trip for the goods, as well as the boat, and the men would walk back to Ohio.

In another story told by his grandson, one of these trips on the river nearly cost Daniel his life. Daniel and some others had reached a spot on the Mississippi where they decided to go ashore and hunt for some food. They tied the boat off and while the 2 men on the boat waited, Daniel and one of the others went to hunt. They expected to be back by nightfall. By the time they found and shot a deer it was getting late, and getting back to the boat dragging the deer would take too long. They tied the deer up in a tree and headed back to the boat so they could get extra help bringing it back in the morning. The plan fell apart as they could not make it back to the river before it got dark, so they camped on the spot. The next morning they continued to work their way back to the river but could not find it. After 2 more days they finally found the river, but no boat, and no relief from their starving condition.

For the 2 men on the boat it was 2 days of waiting before they gave up, assuming their friends on shore had been captured or killed by the Indians. They decided to proceed down river to Natchez.

It was not Daniel Higgins finest hour in tracking; the hunters could not even find the deer they shot. In order to survive they had to make their way down river without the aid of a boat, or paths to help them get through heavy forest and swamps. The two had to scrape up any bugs or roots they could find for nourishment. By the time they reached Natchez they were on the brink of death, but were restored to wellness in the welcoming company of their friends who thought they were lost forever. Luckily, the rest of the trip was uneventful.

The trip to Indiana

In 1818 Daniel's son Elias and his family moved from West Liberty, VA (Now in Logan County, OH) to Hamilton, Butler County, OH by way of a flatboat, 405 miles down the Ohio River followed by 30 miles across the ground to a little ways north of Cincinnati. Back in Jefferson County, that same year Daniel Jr married Elizabeth Revenaugh.

1820; Warren, Jefferson, Ohio; Roll: M33_91; Page: 236;⁶

Daniel Higgins, Sr.
2 males 16-26
1 male 45+ (Daniel himself)
1 female 10-16
1 female 26-45
1 female 45+ (wife Mary Pegg Higgins)

In a nearby household:

Daniel Higgins, Jr.

1 male 26-45 (Daniel Jr., age 31)

1 female 26-45 wife (Elizabeth Revenaugh)

Daniel Jr's wife Elizabeth died young, possibly due to complications from childbirth. Their only child was born about the same time or shortly before Elizabeth died; 24 Dec 1822.

Warrenton Cemetery, Warren Township. Weathered beyond readable, Nancy Revenaugh Chamberlain copied down what she could in 1983:

Flat Tablet: In memory of Elizabeth Higgins Who departed this life December 24, 1822 age 29 yrs 26 days

Left of Tablet: Monument black & worn Christe--- Higgins

Right of Tablet: Catherine Higgins d--1823 large square stone J.R. small stone near J.R. W. Catherin



On 26 September, 1824 Daniel Jr. married Delilah Revenaugh, Elizabeth's younger sister. They added 7 children to the family between 1825 and 1848.

In 1830 Daniel (Sr) and Mary are living in the empty nest in Hanover, Ohio. Daniel Jr remained in Warren.

1830; Census Place: Hanover, Richland, Ohio; Roll: 139; Page: 149.⁷

Daniel Higgins

1 male 70-79

1 female 60-69

1830; Census Place: Warren, Jefferson, Ohio; Roll: 134; Page: 158.⁸

Dan'l Higgins

1 male 30-40 (Daniel, Jr)

1 female 20-30 (Delilah Revenaugh)

3 female under 5, 1 female 5-10

Other households in Warren on the same page include; John Revenaugh, and Jonathan Higgins (Daniel Jr's brother), who had married another Revenaugh sister: Christian.

The United States Congress passed an Act to provide a pension for the soldiers of the Revolutionary War, it was known as 'The Act of Jun 7, 1832'. This provided every officer or enlisted man who had served at least 2 years in the Continental Line or State troops, volunteers or militia, was eligible for a pension of full pay for life. Service of less than 2 years, but not less than 6 months, were eligible for pensions of less than full pay. For Daniel Higgins, this amounted to \$53.33 per year, paid quarterly by the nearest Pension Office. Payments made to Daniel Higgins were authorized to start effective 4 Mar 1831, at \$53.33 per year. His first payment after submitting his request came 29 Dec 1832 which would carry him through to 4 Mar 1833, so the first disbursement covered two years; \$106.66. This would be a handsome stipend coming to a 73 year-old on Christmas week in 1832.⁴

Curiously enough, in England, Parliament passed an act on that same June day: "the Reform Act of 1832". This act vastly increased the number of eligible voters, restructured the Lower House to eliminate certain corruptions, and reduced the power of the Tories. In a sense, it addressed some of the concerns that sparked the American colonists into rebellion. Sadly, in a bad trade-off, the act disenfranchised women, starting a 96 year suffrage movement.

Sometime after 1830, before 1835 Daniel Higgins and his wife moved into the home of their oldest son Elias, to the farm in Butler County, OH. Here in this year 1835 Mary Higgins died and was buried in a nearby grave yard.¹

In the fall of 1836 Elias Higgins and his family moved to Boone County, Indiana, in covered wagons. Daniel, now a widower, moved with them, and walked most of the 120 miles in order to drive the cows. They settled on a farm near the village of Northfield.

A Rugged Frontiersman

...is what Daniel was known as; an expert scout; and a strong arm. He was also a good farmer and was said to have been the best reaper in all the country around. On his seventy-seventh birthday (1836) he reaped in the field all day and no one was able to keep up with him.¹



Even as an old man Daniel had an appearance of great strength, and when described by Mr. Chambers he was the "finest looking man I ever saw - very tall and straight and had long snow white hair". It was in these later years that Mr. Chambers met Daniel, at a show put on by a local Indian tribe. As they neared the roped off area one of the Indians

stepped over the rope and approached the two of them. The Indian stretched out his hand and said “How, Dan Higgins”! Daniel shook his hand but said “I know you are an Injun, but I don’t know you”. The Indian refreshed his memory about the time he was hunting Daniel but Daniel got the upper hand – and then they made a pact with each other, “I am that Indian” said the red man. He still recognized him over 40 years later.

Picture of an antique scythe, used for reaping. This is a very heavy tool and required a lot of strength to weild.

It was about this time that Daniel started relying on friends and family to assist him with details he needed to provide on his pension forms. Elias provided assistance with getting his pension records moved to Indiana, but Daniel only stayed with his son a few years and then returned to Jefferson County, Ohio where his other children lived. Daniel Jr had taken up the trade of his father, boat maker and carpenter.

In the 1840 Census of Boone County, Indiana, as we expect, Daniel (Sr) is no longer in Elias’ household, but on the list of military pensioners in Hendricks County, Indiana. It was his good fortune to move back to Ohio when he did, he was able to meet several grandchildren.

The Foote family, among others, provided Daniel with getting his pension records moved back to the nearby Wheeling pension office. A few payments were made and then they stopped without explanation in 1847.

An attorney wrote to the pension office on his behalf, but before there could be any resolution to his pension file, Daniel Higgins died at the home of his son Daniel Jr. in the year 1848. He was buried in the "Old Leuthersburg" cemetery, where several of his children were also buried.¹ Clues lead us to believe he was buried in Warrenton, in an area once referred to as ‘Leuthersburg’ for the tanning plants in the area, and we continue to search for the family graves.

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country”.

- Nathan Hale

The children

...of Daniel and Mary (Generation 2)

Hannah married a Mister Babbs, the couple never had children.

Elias' life is noted above. It is his Great Grand Daughter Emma Higgins that captured many of these stories. Elias died in July 1856 at the home of his daughter, Lydia Thompson. He was buried in a country graveyard near Northfield. After his death his wife Mary Foote Higgins went to Warren County, Ohio to visit her brother, Amos Foote. There she was taken ill and died November 8, 1856. She was buried at West Woodville, Ohio by the side of her father, John Wesley Foote.

Membership in the 'Daughters of the American Revolution' and 'Sons of the American Revolution' requires proof of bloodline to a patriot soldier of the Revolution. To date, all of the members of that have gained membership by relation to Daniel Higgins (Sr) have done so through this son Elias. My application is pending, by relation to Daniel (Sr) through his son Daniel Junior.

Rachel never married.

Jonathan married Christian Revenaugh. One of the applications for membership in the DAR says he drowned on his wedding day. Other reports say that he and his wife died together of Asiatic cholera. They had 2 children raised by Daniel Jr; George and Mary Catherine.

William Higgins is more likely the unfortunate one who met this tragic fate. On the day of his wedding he drove his horse and carriage into a river to clean it off. It appeared he tried to untangle the harnesses and got himself tangled in them, and drowned.¹

Daniel Jr. married Elizabeth Revenaugh, and after her death he married Delilah Revenaugh. They had 7 children, and also raised his late brother (Jonathan's) 2 children. They were: Christina, George Wymart, Elizabeth, Catherine, Mary Jane, Marie, Latrissa, *John Dallas, and Ella. In 1850 the US census changed to include the names of all the members of the family. We find Daniel Higgins, Jr is listed as a carpenter still living in Warren with his wife, mother-in-law Catherine Revenaugh (age 92), 4 daughters, and his son John Dallas. We know Daniel Jr. was also a Methodist preacher in his later years. He died in Warrenton in March of 1876, almost a century since his father served in the fight for liberty. Delilah lived to about 80 years old, and died in Jefferson County, in 1887.

Polly never married.

**see next page*

My Higgins Line

Generation 3

John Dallas Higgins was the second son of Daniel Higgins Jr. He was born in May 1845, he was also a carpenter. He married Elizabeth Vermillion, and they had 7 children; Charley, Stella, Annie, John Dallas (Jr), Bencin, Ada, and Birdie.

Generation 4



*John Dallas Higgins (1872-1950)
and Annie (Treharne) Higgins (1877-1974)*

John Dallas Higgins, Jr (born in 1872) was a coal miner in the West Virginia and Ohio border region. He married an immigrant from Wales named Annie Treharne. In the first decade of the 1900's he took the family to Illinois, just south of Springfield. Here, their 3rd daughter was born, and named Mabel Higgins.

Generation 5

Mabel Higgins was born in 1903, in Divernon, Illinois. Her family moved back to Eastern Ohio while she was still very young. She married Kenneth Leroy Brown, of Erie, PA. They had 3 children; *Donn Russell, Kenneth Robert, and Virginia Ruth Brown.



Mabel (Higgins) Brown (1903-1998)

**Donn Russell Brown married Elizabeth Hoctor – these are my parents.*

Witch Story

by Emma Frances (Higgins) Craft

In talking one day of witches, my father (John Wesley Higgins) told us this story. "My grandfather (Daniel Higgins, Sr)," said he, "firmly believed in witches, and that he himself was once bewitched. Grandfather was then living in the Panhandle of Virginia, about 1796 or 1797. It was in the spring of the year, in sugar making time, and Grandmother (Mary Pegg) and the children were in the sugar camp taking care of the sugar water of which there was an unusually good run that year."

"Grandfather, who was a good carpenter, was building a house in the neighborhood. After his day's work was done, he would go to the sugar camp and help Grandmother far into the night, boiling down the sap and 'stirring off' the yearly supply of sugar.



"One evening, having finished work for the day, Grandfather started for the sugar camp. Presently, he came to a house where lived a woman who had the reputation of being a witch. She chanced to be out in her yard, and as Grandfather came by she said to him, "Good evening, Dan, are you going to the dance tonight?", referring to a dance or merrymaking which was to be given that night in the neighborhood. Grandfather replied that he could not go as he was obliged to go to the sugar camp to help Grandmother with

the sugar making. The old woman insisted that he attend the dance, but Grandfather repeated that he could not go as Grandmother expected him at the sugar camp and he must go there. Making a motion upward with her hand over her face, and giving him a deep look, she said, "Humph! You had better go!" and turned away.

"It was getting dark, and Grandfather proceeded on his way to the sugar camp—a place with which he was perfectly familiar, as indeed he was with all the surrounding country. Soon he came in sight of the fire and could see Grandmother as she watched the boiling sap, and the children as they played about. He started to go straight to the fire but soon noticed that he was walking

a long way and after awhile he thought he remembered a certain large tree as the place from which he had started.

"He thought it very strange but started again for the fire at the sugar camp, which he could plainly see in the distance. Again, after walking a long way, he came back to the great tree from which he had started. To be sure of the place, he got a stick and stuck it in the ground and started again for the distant fire. Again he came back to the starting point, where he found the stick which he had set up for a mark.

"All night Grandfather wandered around and around the sugar camp, generally in sight of the fire, but unable to reach it. After awhile, the gray dawn began to show in the east, and Grandfather started and had no difficulty in going straight to the camp. He ever afterward firmly believed that the old woman had bewitched him and caused him to wander in the woods all night because he would not go to the dance."

Emma Craft was the great-granddaughter of Daniel Higgins (Sr.), through his son Elias Higgins.

Epilogue

“We are all extensions of our collective history”

At 11 years old, Daniel Higgins was essentially orphaned, far from home, deprived of much of his childhood, and bound out to learn a trade. He was born a British subject, but could plainly see that the freedom which the Colonists sought was a cause worth fighting for, and so he volunteered. Even after his regiment was brutally beaten by the British in 2 battles, he joined the regiment again in the campaigns to seize the frontier from British control and their Indian allies. They endured a bitter defeat again at Mingo Bottom, and he narrowly escaped. These battles, especially the last one, are credited with emboldening the Continentals and paving the way to a final victory over England.

He had given a great measure of himself to the cause of freedom, but was not finished; while starting a family he answered the call again in the more successful campaigns that broke the Indian alliance with the British, and yet again in the War of 1812. In the decades that followed, Daniel continued to build upon the strength of his new nation by being a good father, building homes and boats, teaching his skills, serving as a church trustee, working hard as a farmer, and bringing goods to faraway places. It was a time when it was difficult enough to stay put and farm a piece of land without ever going anywhere, but Daniel was the embodiment of the restless American spirit. In his lifetime, and with his help, he witnessed the idea of a nation that he fought for blossom into 29 free and United States.

Daniel’s final resting place may be lost, but where freedom thrives in America, his spirit is there. His story may be but a single strand of fiber in the fabric our flag, but Daniel, who risked his life for this flag, is worthy of being called a true American... *Patriot*.

Bibliography

¹*MY ANCESTORS*, compiled by Emma Francis Higgins (1936). Copy available at the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County.

²©Footnote: <http://www.footnote.com/>, image #25834561, National Archives (NARA)

³*Retrieved from Wikipedia.com,*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crawford_expedition, 14 Sep 2008:

⁴Revolutionary War Pension Files, National Archives (NARA)

⁵Index to War of 1812 Pensioner Files vol I: A-I by V. White, National Historic Publishing Co., Waynesboro TN 1992

⁶Ancestry.com. 1820 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fourth Census of the United States, 1820. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1820. M33, 142 rolls.

⁷Ancestry.com. 1830 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1830. M19, 201 rolls.

⁸Ancestry.com. 1830 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifth Census of the United States, 1830. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1830. M19, 201 rolls.

⁹From the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a Record Copy of the application for admission to the society, dated 23 Jan 1991. National member number 736349 is granted to applicant Mrs Ada Kathleen (Meyer) Peterson. She is a descendant of Daniel Higgins (b 25 Aug 1759) through his son Elias Higgins. She notes Elias' siblings including; sister Hannah (Babbs), brother DANIEL 2d, brother Jonathan who drowned on his wedding day, brother William who married Polly, and sister Rachael.

Quote in the Epilogue by Loreena McKennitt; Music Artist. Intro to *The Book of Secrets* (1997).

Other sources

From “Early Revenaugh/Revennaugh History” by Lance Revennaugh, August 2006, at (<http://www.jeffcochapter.com/Revennaugh.html>) you can find a story regarding the Revenaugh’s: Elizabeth (Revenaugh) married Daniel Higgins, Jr. on 26 August, 1818, and died in 1822. After she died, Delilah (her sister) married Daniel Higgins, Jr. on 26 September, 1824. Their other sister, Christian Revenaugh, married Daniel Jr’s brother Jonathan Higgins! They lived next door to John Revenaugh, Sr. and Catherine in Warrenton.

More history from <http://www.jeffcochapter.com/JeremiahTingley.html> shows us a story about another revolutionary patriot, who was buried at Hopewell Methodist Church in Jefferson County, Ohio. Among the earliest trustees of the church, before 1804, was Daniel Higgins.

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