

MYHAMILTONFAMILY.COM · ALLIED
FAMILIES SERIES

A REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOT

Lieutenant Reuben Judd of South Hadley

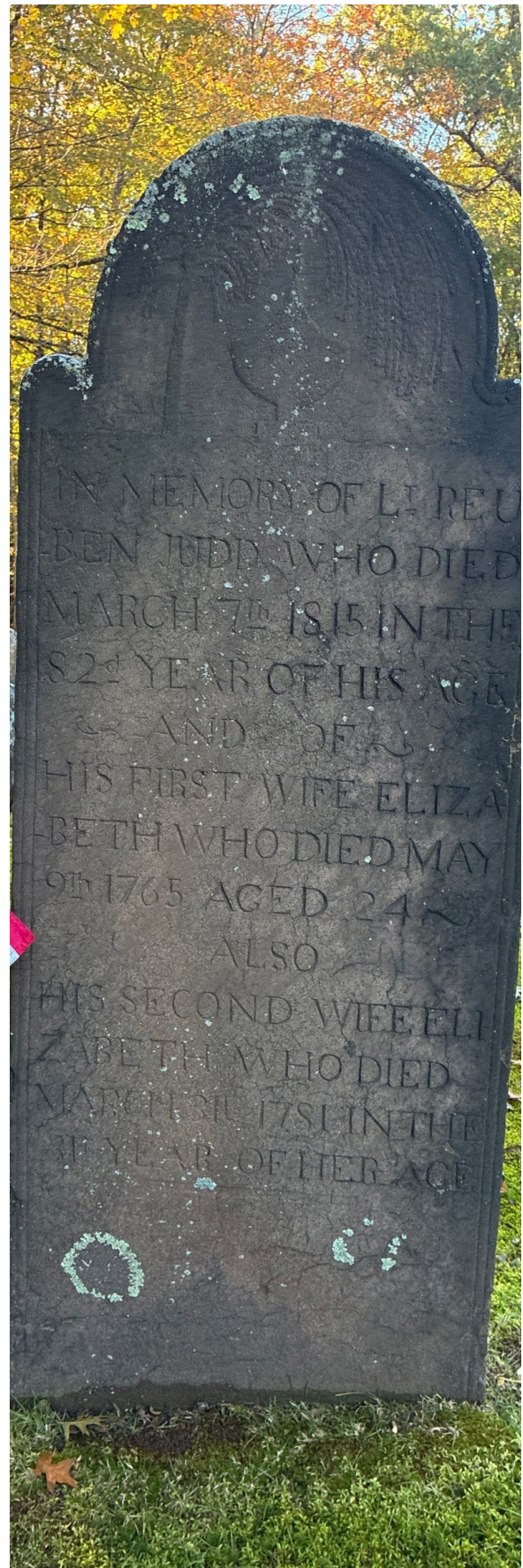
1733 – 1815

*Farmer, town committeeman and militia
officer of the Connecticut River Valley,
and grandfather of Altha (Judd) Hamilton*

A documented family history drawing on Sylvester Judd's *Thomas Judd and His Descendants* (1856), Judd and Boltwood's *History of Hadley* (1905), *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (1901), the FamilySearch Family Tree, lineage-society records and gravestone photographs.

Last updated 17 October 2026

Glen Hamilton · glen.hamilton@gmail.com ·
myhamiltonfamily.com



AT A GLANCE

Who he was

The gravestone of Lt. Reuben Judd and his first two wives, Evergreen Cemetery, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Many men named Reuben Judd lived in eighteenth-century New England. This history concerns one of them: **Lieutenant Reuben Judd (1733–1815) of South Hadley, Massachusetts**. He was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Bascom) Judd, and his son Supplina ("Pliny") Judd was the father of Altha Judd, wife of John D. Hamilton.

BORN	12 February 1733, Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts Bay
PARENTS	Thomas Judd (1690–1749) of the South Farms, Northampton, and Hannah Bascom (b. 1694) of Windsor, Conn.; married at Northampton, 27 March 1718
SETTLED	South Hadley (then the south precinct of Hadley), Mass.
MARRIED	(1) Elizabeth White (1741–1765); (2) Elizabeth Smith (1741–1781), about 1767; (3) Submit Graves (1739–1830), 22 Dec. 1784 at Hatfield
CHILDREN	Thirteen: four by Elizabeth White, six by Elizabeth Smith, three by Submit Graves
PUBLIC SERVICE	Member of two of South Hadley's revolutionary Committees of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety (1774–1778)
MILITARY SERVICE	2nd Lieutenant, Capt. Josiah Smith's 2nd (South Hadley) Company, 4th Hampshire County Regiment, commissioned 1 April 1776; Lieutenant commanding a company, Col. Elisha Porter's regiment, with the Northern Army, 9 July – 12 Aug. 1777
DIED	7 March 1815, South Hadley, "in the 82d year of his age"
BURIED	Evergreen Cemetery, South Hadley (Find a Grave memorial 62810631)
IDENTIFIERS	FamilySearch LCZX-QV3; DAR Ancestor #A063412; SAR Patriot #P-227053
LINE TO HAMILTON	Reuben → Supplina "Pliny" Judd (1774–1831) → Altha Judd (c.1800–c.1840) m. John D. Hamilton

CONTENTS

- 1 Finding the right Reuben Judd
 - 2 Origins: the Judds of Northampton and the South Farms
 - 3 A young settler in South Hadley
 - 4 Three marriages and thirteen children
 - 5 The Revolution: committeeman and lieutenant
 - 6 Later life, death and the gravestone
 - 7 From Reuben to Altha: the line to the Hamiltons
 - Notes and sources
-

CHAPTER 1

Finding the right Reuben Judd

IDENTITY AND THE MEN HE CAN BE CONFUSED WITH

The Judd family descends from Deacon Thomas Judd, who settled at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the 1630s, moved with the first settlers to Hartford in 1636, helped found Farmington, Connecticut, and finished his life at Northampton, where he died in 1688. His descendants filled the Connecticut River Valley, and the same few Christian names (Thomas, Samuel, John, Asahel and Reuben) recur generation after generation. Sylvester Judd, the Northampton historian who compiled the family genealogy in 1856, recorded several Reubens.¹

Three of them appear in the same records and can be confused with one another:

REUBEN JUDD	WHO HE WAS	HOW TO TELL HIM APART
Lt. Reuben Judd (1733–1815), South Hadley	Son of Thomas Judd of the South Farms, Northampton; three wives; died 7 Mar. 1815	The subject of this history
Reuben Judd III (1761–1834), South Hadley	Lt. Reuben's eldest son. Served in the Continental Army as a nine-month man in 1779 and a six-month man in 1780; married Rachel Smead in 1791; died at Streetsborough, Portage Co., Ohio	His Continental service is filed under the same name, "Judd, Reuben," in <i>Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors</i> ; his recorded ages (18 in 1779, 19 in 1780) identify him
Reuben Judd of Weston, Conn.	A Revolutionary soldier who, his son said, stood sentry near the execution of Major André ¹	A Connecticut man of another branch

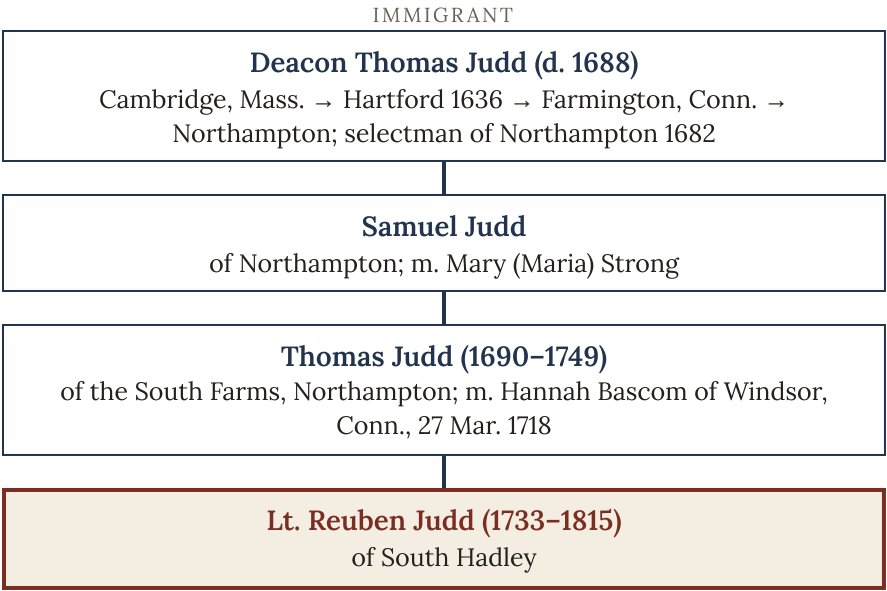
Lt. Reuben is identified by facts that no other Reuben shares. These are his parentage (Thomas Judd and Hannah Bascom), his residence in South Hadley, his three wives (Elizabeth White, Elizabeth Smith and Submit Graves), his death on 7 March 1815, and the gravestone he shares with his first two wives. His son Supplina's marriage to Jemima Pooler and removal to Allegany County, New York, is recorded in both of the family's standard genealogies. Those records connect Altha Judd's line to him.²

CHAPTER 2

Origins: the Judds of Northampton and the South Farms

FOUR GENERATIONS IN THE VALLEY

Reuben's line runs straight back to the immigrant. The *History of Hadley* describes him as "b. in Nh. [Northampton], 1733, (s. of Thomas of Nh., who was s. of Samuel of Nh., who was s. of Dea. Thomas of Cambridge, 1632, Hartford, 1636, and Farmington, 1644,)" and says that he "settled in S. H. [South Hadley]".²



Reuben was born at Northampton on 12 February 1733 and christened there.³ His father, Thomas, farmed in the "South Farms," the southern outlands of Northampton. His mother, Hannah Bascom, came from an old Windsor, Connecticut, family, so Reuben's descendants have Connecticut roots as well as Massachusetts ones. Thomas died in 1749, when Reuben was sixteen.

Brothers and sisters

Thomas and Hannah had nine children:³

CHILD	YEARS	CHILD	YEARS
Simeon	1718–1718	Katharine	1728–1798
Hannah	1720–1798	Simeon	1730–1749
Samuel	1721–1795	Lt. Reuben	1733–1815
Thomas	1722–1802	Mary	1735–1787
Asahel	1724–1756		

Asahel's story is the family's first link to colonial warfare. The *History of Hadley* records that he "was an Ensign in a colonial company in Nova Scotia, in the French war, and d. near Minas, N. S., in 1756."² Reuben was twenty-three when his brother died in that campaign.

His sister Katharine married Josiah Smith of South Hadley on 27 January 1756.⁴ The Capt. Josiah Smith under whom Reuben served as lieutenant in 1776 was therefore probably his brother-in-law. Both men appear among the South Hadley heads of families added between 1750 and 1763.⁵

CHAPTER 3

A young settler in South Hadley

ACROSS THE RIVER, ABOUT 1750–1763

South Hadley lay across the Connecticut River from Northampton, on the east bank below the great falls. It began in 1727 as a group of families petitioning to be set apart from Hadley, and it became a separate district in 1753. For Thomas Judd's younger sons, it offered land that the crowded South Farms could not.

The *History of Hadley* prints a roll of "Settlers and Heads of Families in South Hadley and Granby previous to 1763." Thomas Judd, Reuben's older brother, appears among the additions of 1740–1750. Among the additions of 1750–1763 are **Asahel Judd**, **Reuben Judd** and **Josiah Smith**.⁵ By his mid-twenties Reuben was a householder in the town where he would live for the rest of his life.

He was a farmer, like nearly all his neighbours. South Hadley's economy rested on mixed farming on the river meadows and uplands and on shad and salmon fishing at the falls. Later in his life it also drew on traffic through the canal around the falls, begun in 1792.⁶ Family tradition, preserved by Sylvester Judd, remembered him as "a very lively, active man, even in old age."¹

CHAPTER 4

Three marriages and thirteen children

THE HOUSEHOLD ON THE RIVER

Reuben married three times and outlived his first two wives by decades. Both were daughters of South Hadley and Hadley families, and both appear in their fathers' entries in the *History of Hadley*.

Elizabeth White (1741–1765)

His first wife, Elizabeth, born in 1741, was the daughter of Moses White, a South Hadley trader, and Lydia Bellows.⁷ She bore four children between 1759 and 1764 and died on 9 May 1765, aged 24. Their youngest, also named Elizabeth, died in 1767.

Elizabeth Smith (1741–1781)

About 1767 Reuben married a second Elizabeth, the daughter of John Smith of Hadley (1717–1795) and Elizabeth Edwards of Northampton (1723–1795).⁸ She bore six children between 1768 and 1781. One of them was **Supplina**, Altha's father, born on 4 November 1774. She died on 31 March 1781, a month after the birth of her daughter Tirzah.

Submit Graves (1739–1830)

On 22 December 1784, at Hatfield, Reuben married Submit Graves, three years after Elizabeth's death and with young children still at home.³ She bore three more children and outlived Reuben by fifteen years, dying in Hadley in 1830.

The children

CHILD	YEARS	MARRIAGE AND RESIDENCE
BY ELIZABETH WHITE		
Achsah	1759–1844	m. Thomas Wells; lived in Leyden, Mass.; twelve children
Reuben III	1761–1834	Continental soldier 1779–80; m. 1791 Rachel Smead; d. Streetsborough, Portage Co., Ohio
Lydia	1762–1812	m. Eli Day of Northampton (South Farms)
Elizabeth	1764–1767	died in childhood
BY ELIZABETH SMITH		
Salathiel	1768–1820	m. Irene Day; removed to Chester, Mass.
Elizabeth ("Betsy")	1771–1857	m. (1) 1792 Dr. Asahel Merrill of Shelburne; (2) 1809 Levi Clapp of Easthampton; (3) Asahel Judd of Charlemont
Supplina ("Pliny")	1774–1831	m. 26 Jan. 1797 Jemima Pooler; removed to New York; d. Allegany Co., N.Y. Father of Altha Judd
Mahalah	1777–1842	m. Luther Stebbins; lived in Caldwell, Warren Co., N.Y.
Samuel	1779–1825	m. 1800 Fidelia Wright; lived and died in South Hadley

Tirzah	1781–1858	m. Martin Beckwith
BY SUBMIT GRAVES		
Lucinda	1785–1838	died unmarried in Hadley
Mary	1787–1802	died at Chester
Horace	1789–1831	died in Hadley

Family structure and years follow the FamilySearch Family Tree (Lt. Reuben Judd, LCZX-QV3). Marriages and residences are from Sylvester Judd (1856) and the *History of Hadley* (1905).

CHAPTER 5

The Revolution: committeeman and lieutenant

SOUTH HADLEY, 1773–1781

When the Revolution began, Reuben was past forty, the father of a young family, and a man his neighbours trusted. The *History of Hadley* says that South Hadley "bore its full share of the burdens of the revolutionary war. The people were united, active and unwavering in the cause of their country."⁹

On the town's revolutionary committees

In January 1773 South Hadley's town meeting heard the Boston Committee of Correspondence's pamphlet on the "rights and grievances" of the colonists and unanimously adopted a patriotic reply. The town then chose a series of committees to enforce the boycott of British goods and to manage the crisis:

- a Committee of Correspondence (June 1774);
- Committees of Inspection on the drinking of East India tea (November 1774) and on the consumption of British goods (January 1775), with more members added in November 1775;
- three Committees of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection (March 1776, March 1777 and March 1778).

The *History of Hadley* lists every man who served, followed by a figure "denoting the number of committees to which each man belonged." The entry "**Reuben Judd, 2**" means that Reuben Judd sat on two of these committees.⁹

This was Lt. Reuben himself, not his son. Reuben III was born in 1761, so he was only 13 to 17 years old while these committees sat between 1774 and 1778. Town committees were chosen from established householders. The elder Reuben was then a man in his forties, a head of family on the town's rolls since the 1750s, and in 1776 an elected militia officer. He was the only adult Reuben Judd in South Hadley at the time.

These committees were the working government of the patriot cause in the town. They enforced the boycott of British goods, watched suspected Loyalists, and kept the town in contact with the Provincial Congress.

Second Lieutenant, 1776

In early 1776 Massachusetts reorganised its militia, and each company elected its own officers. The official record in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* reads:

Judd, Reuben. 2d Lieutenant, Capt. Josiah Smith, 2d's (South Hadley) co., 4th Hampshire Co. regt. of Mass. militia; list of officers chosen in said regiment, as returned by Lieut. Col. R. Woodbridge and Maj. Josiah White to Col. Samuel Howe, dated South Hadley, March 16, 1776; ordered in Council April 1, 1776, that said officers be commissioned; reported commissioned April 1, 1776 ...

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, vol. 8 (1901), p. 1024

That spring Col. Elisha Porter of Hadley was away with a regiment raised for one year to reinforce the American army in Canada. It served in the campaign that ended at Trois-Rivières and in the retreat to Ticonderoga, and it was disbanded at the start of 1777.¹⁰

With the Northern Army, summer 1777

The same entry continues with Reuben's active service:

... also, Lieutenant, in command of a company, Col. Elisha Porter's (Hampshire Co.) regt.; engaged July 9, 1777; discharged Aug. 12, 1777; service, 39 days, with Northern army, including travel (100 miles) home.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors, vol. 8, p. 1024

The dates explain the call-out. On 6 July 1777 the American garrison abandoned Fort Ticonderoga to General John Burgoyne's advancing British army. General Philip Schuyler's Northern Army fell back down the Hudson toward Fort Edward and Saratoga, felling trees across the roads to slow the enemy, and Massachusetts rushed its western militia to fill his thinned ranks. Within three days of Ticonderoga's fall, Reuben Judd was engaged as a lieutenant *in command of a company* under Col. Elisha Porter of Hadley. Porter (1742–1796), a Harvard graduate, was appointed sheriff of Hampshire County in 1777. He served through the Saratoga campaign and escorted the surrendered "Convention Army" toward Boston.¹¹

Reuben's tour lasted thirty-nine days and ended on 12 August 1777, four days before the Battle of Bennington and more than a month before the battles of Saratoga (19 September and 7 October). His company served during the critical weeks when the Northern Army was retreating and rebuilding, before the decisive battles of the campaign.

A son in the Continental Army

The war reached the household a second time. In 1779 South Hadley had to furnish men for nine months' Continental service, and Reuben's eldest son, Reuben III, then eighteen, was among them. His descriptive list gives his age as 18, his height as 5 ft. 4 in. and his hair as brown, and records that he was "engaged for town of South Hadley." He was delivered at Springfield on 19 July 1779. A

year later, aged 19, he went again as a six-month man. He passed muster at Camp Totowa, New Jersey, in October 1780 and was discharged on 25 December 1780 after five and a half months' service.¹²

The cost at home

Towns like South Hadley paid for the war. Continental paper money collapsed. The town valued it at three to one against hard money in December 1777, six to one in 1778, twenty-four to one in January 1780, and seventy-two to one ("a dollar for a penny") by January 1781. In 1780 South Hadley paid two state taxes of \$27,000 each in bills, after its bounties to soldiers.⁹ Reuben's family kept growing through these years: Supplina was born in 1774, Mahalah in 1777, Samuel in 1779 and Tirzah in February 1781. Five weeks after Tirzah's birth, Elizabeth Smith Judd died.

- **Jan. 1773** South Hadley adopts its reply to the Boston Committee of Correspondence
- **1774–1778** Reuben serves on two of the town's revolutionary committees
- **4 Nov. 1774** Son Supplina ("Pliny") born
- **16 Mar. 1776** Chosen 2nd Lieutenant, Capt. Josiah Smith's company
- **1 Apr. 1776** Commissioned by the Massachusetts Council
- **6 July 1777** Ticonderoga abandoned to Burgoyne
- **9 July – 12 Aug. 1777** Commands a company in Col. Elisha Porter's regiment with the Northern Army
- **July 1779** Son Reuben III, 18, enters Continental service for nine months
- **July – Dec. 1780** Reuben III serves six more months; passes muster at Camp Totowa, N.J.
- **31 Mar. 1781** Wife Elizabeth (Smith) dies

CHAPTER 6

Later life, death and the gravestone

SOUTH HADLEY, 1781-1815

After the war Reuben stayed in South Hadley for the rest of his life. He remarried in 1784 and raised a third family. He is recorded in South Hadley in the federal censuses of 1790, 1800 and 1810.¹³ In his last decades his children scattered. Achsah went to Leyden in Franklin County, Reuben III eventually to Ohio, Salathiel to Chester, Mahalah to Caldwell on Lake George, and Supplina into New York State. They were part of the great westward migration out of New England after the Revolution.

He died on 7 March 1815 "in the 82d year of his age." He was buried in what is now Evergreen Cemetery in South Hadley, beneath a slate stone that also commemorates his first two wives. Submit, his widow, died in 1830.

IN MEMORY OF L^T REU-
BEN JUDD WHO DIED
MARCH 7TH 1815 IN THE
82^D YEAR OF HIS AGE
AND OF
HIS FIRST WIFE ELIZA-
BETH WHO DIED MAY
9TH 1765 AGED 24
ALSO
HIS SECOND WIFE ELI-
ZABETH WHO DIED
MARCH 31ST 1781 IN THE
31ST YEAR OF HER AGE

Transcription of the stone. Line breaks follow the stone.



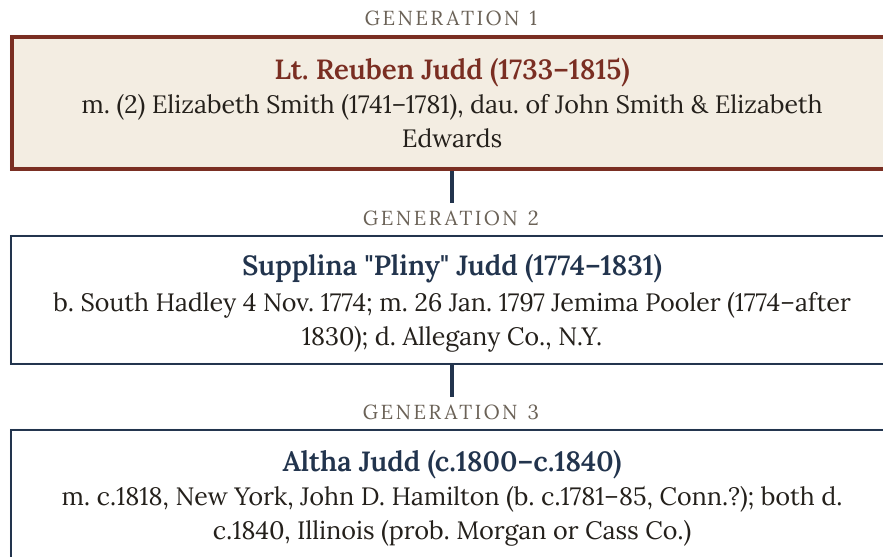
Evergreen Cemetery, South Hadley. A flag marks the grave of a Revolutionary patriot.

The stone is a fine example of Connecticut Valley carving of its period. A weeping willow drapes over an urn in the arched top, and the inscription is cut in clear roman letters with raised ordinals ("7th", "82^d"). The stone names the two wives only as "his first wife Elizabeth" and "his second wife Elizabeth." Their maiden names come from the genealogies of their fathers' families.

CHAPTER 7

From Reuben to Altha: the line to the Hamiltons

SOUTH HADLEY → DELAWARE COUNTY, N.Y. → ILLINOIS



Supplina "Pliny" Judd

Supplina, a son of Reuben and Elizabeth Smith, was born in South Hadley on 4 November 1774 and grew up during the war. On 26 January 1797, aged twenty-two, he married Jemima Pooler, who was also born in South Hadley in 1774. They were married by the Rev. Joel Hayes, South Hadley's minister. Sylvester Judd, writing in 1856, covers his whole later history in three lines: "Removed to Allegany Co., N. Y., where he died. One of his sons died at Geneva. I have not the names of his children. He was sometimes called Pliny."¹⁴

The family tree fills in what the old genealogist lacked. Pliny and Jemima's children were born in New York: Altha about 1800 and Supplina Jr. in 1808, both recorded in Delaware County, and Heman about 1803. Jemima's sisters Tirzah (Pooler) Ramsdell and Sophia (Pooler) Kentfield/Seeley are buried at Masonville in Delaware County, and other Pooler kin settled in Delaware and Cortland counties. The Judds probably moved west with Jemima's family. Pliny may have died in Allegany County, NY before the Hamilton/Judd family moved west to Morgan County, Illinois in 1830/31. Jemima, then a widow, and at least two of the children went on to Illinois, where Supplina Jr. married Susan Jane Pratt in Morgan County in 1837.¹³

Altha (Judd) Hamilton

Altha Judd, Lt. Reuben's granddaughter, was born about 1800, probably in Delaware County, New York. About 1818 in New York she married John D. Hamilton. They took the same westward path to Illinois, where both died about 1840, probably in Morgan or Cass County. Every descendant of John and Altha (Judd) Hamilton descends from Lt. Reuben Judd, and through him from the Judd, Bascom, Strong, Smith and Edwards families of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

NOTES

Notes and sources

1. Sylvester Judd, *Thomas Judd and His Descendants* (Northampton: J. & L. Metcalf, 1856). Reuben of South Hadley and "very lively, active man" at p. 99; Reuben of Weston and the André anecdote at p. 87.
2. Sylvester Judd and Lucius M. Boltwood, *History of Hadley, including the Early History of Hatfield, South Hadley, Amherst and Granby* (Springfield: H. R. Huntting, 1905), Genealogies, "Judd," p. 78 (Asahel; Reuben, no. 1); sons Salathiel, Samuel and Horace, nos. 2–4, pp. 78–79.
3. FamilySearch Family Tree, "Lt. Reuben Judd, 12 February 1733 – 7 March 1815," ID LCZX-QV3 (vitals, spouses, children and the family of Thomas Judd and Hannah Bascom), accessed 17 Oct. 2026. Its sources include "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626–2001" and "Massachusetts Births and Christenings, 1639–1915."
4. Family tree report, "Ancestors of Altha Judd" (Family Tree Maker), Katharine (Catherine) Judd and Josiah Smith.
5. *History of Hadley* (1905), "Settlers and Heads of Families in South Hadley and Granby previous to 1763," pp. 402–403.
6. *History of Hadley* (1905), "The Canal," p. 398.
7. *History of Hadley* (1905), Genealogies, "White," entry 17 (Moses, s. of Dea. Joseph): "Elizabeth, b. 1741, m. Reuben Judd of So. Had., and d. May 9, 1765, ae. 24."
8. *History of Hadley* (1905), Genealogies, "Smith," entry 41 (John, s. of John), p. 130: "Elizabeth, m. Reuben Judd of So. Had., and d. March 31, 1781."
9. *History of Hadley* (1905), "The Revolution" (South Hadley), pp. 397–398.
0. "Porter's Regiment of Militia," *Wikipedia*, accessed 17 Oct. 2026 (raised 19 Jan. 1776; Canada; disbanded 1 Jan. 1777); George Washington, "Instructions to Colonel Elisha Porter," 10 Feb. 1776, *Founders Online*, National Archives.
1. Historic Deerfield Library, "Porter Family Papers" finding aid (Elisha Porter, 1742–1796; Harvard 1761; colonel of the 4th Hampshire Regiment; Canada 1776; Saratoga campaign and escort of Burgoyne; sheriff from 1777).
2. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1901), vol. 8, pp. 1023–1024, first "Judd, Reuben, Hadley" entry (nine-months and six-months service, 1779–1780).
3. Family tree reports, "Individual Report for Lieut Reuben Judd" and "Ancestors of Altha Judd" (Family Tree Maker, 16 Oct. 2026).
4. Judd, *Thomas Judd and His Descendants* (1856), p. 102.

Sources consulted

Primary and official. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, vol. 8 (Boston: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1901), pp. 1023–1024, Internet Archive item [massachusettsol08mass](#). Gravestone of Lt. Reuben Judd, Evergreen Cemetery, South Hadley; Find a Grave memorial [62810631](#).

Published genealogies and histories. Sylvester Judd, *Thomas Judd and His Descendants* (Northampton, 1856), Internet Archive item [thomasjuddhisdes00judd](#). Sylvester Judd and Lucius M. Boltwood, *History of Hadley* (Springfield, 1905), Internet Archive item [historyofhadleyi00judd](#).

Family trees. FamilySearch Family Tree, Lt. Reuben Judd (LCZX-QV3). Family Tree Maker reports, "Individual Report for Lieut Reuben Judd" and "Ancestors of Altha Judd."

Lineage societies. Sons of the American Revolution, Patriot Research System, "Reuben JUDD," P-227053 (qualifying service 2LT, Capt. Josiah Smith, 2nd Co., 4th Regt., Hampshire, Col. Elisha Porter; DAR cites Mass. Sols. & Sails., vol. 8, p. 1024). DAR Genealogical Research System, Ancestor #A063412.

Context. Historic Deerfield Library, Porter Family Papers finding aid. *Founders Online*, Instructions to Colonel Elisha Porter, 10 Feb. 1776. "Porter's Regiment of Militia," *Wikipedia*.

Corrections, documents and family stories are welcome.

Glen Hamilton · glen.hamilton@gmail.com · myhamiltonfamily.com