

## **Patricia Pitts Thibodeau #C314**

Jerahmeel Powers

- b. 18 Feb 1718 in Littleton, Middlesex, MA
- d. 17 May 1805 in Seneca, Ontario, NY, USA.

### **My Archangel Farmer**

Jerahmeel Powers was born on 18 Feb 1718 in Littleton, Middlesex, Province of Massachusetts, probably at the home of his parents. He had no middle name, but then, when your first name is the same as an archangel, there was no need for a second! For that matter, he is the only person in history to have the name Jerahmeel Powers.

He made his living predominantly as a farmer, but the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and as the son of Lt. Daniel Powers, and the grandson of Capt. William Powers, he followed in their footsteps and became a notable military man. In the 1740's, when he was in his 20's, he was repeatedly sent as a scout into the wilderness to warn the English townspeople when there was danger of attack by the French Indians. The towns of Dunstable, Groton, Littleton, and Concord were attacked and burned on an average once every ten years. (Groton had the distinction of being the most attacked town in colonial Massachusetts.) In 1745, Jerahmeel was appointed Ensign by Gov. Wentworth, and went with the Massachusetts troops on the successful siege of Fort Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. He remained at the fortress until "it was given up to the subjects of the French King."

On 06 Feb 1748, at age 30, Jerahmeel Powers married Eunice Bennett in Groton, Middlesex, Province of Massachusetts. They made their home in Shirley, Middlesex, Province of Massachusetts, where their first seven children were born. In addition to being a respected farmer and notable soldier, Jerahmeel was also a politician, being one of the signers to make Shirley an independent township, and was Chairman of the Selectmen from 1758 to 1763. Sometime between 1764 and 1769, the family moved to Winchester, Middlesex, Province of Massachusetts.

By 1771, the family had moved on to Springfield, Windsor, Vermont, where their last three children were born. For Vermont, independence and statehood came in two stages: First, as the Republic of Vermont in 1777, and, second, as the 14th State in the United States of America in 1791. Jerahmeel Powers had a part in both events. In 1776, he was a member of the Cumberland County Safety Committee, and signatory to the New York Association Test. In 1777, he was a representative to Vermont's Constitutional Convention, and a political officer of the Vermont Confiscation Commission. In 1778, he was called on to serve his Country again, and signed on as a Captain in the Vermont Scouts and in Colonel Robinson's Independent Vermont Militia – all this at age 60!

After the Revolutionary War, Jerahmeel Powers moved his family to Leicester, Addison County, Vermont, and resumed farming. He also owned property in Clarendon, Rutland

County, Vermont; in Walpole, Cheshire County, New Hampshire; and, of course, in Springfield, Windsor County, Vermont.

Eunice (Bennet) Powers died 09 Aug 1794 in Springfield, Windsor, VT, USA. After the death of his wife, Jerahmeel moved to New York, late in his life, and lived with one of his daughters, probably Anna, wife of William Easty. He died 17 May 1805 in Seneca, Ontario, NY, USA. The cause? He was kicked by a horse – at nearly 90 years of age!

I am extremely proud of my American Ancestor, Farmer and Veteran, Jerahmeel Powers.