

**MEMOIRS OF ANDREW  
SHERBURNE: A  
PENSIONER OF THE NAVY  
OF THE REVOLUTION**

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Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne: A Pensioner of the Navy of the Revolution by Andrew Sherburne

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**ANDREW SHERBURNE**

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MEMOIRS  
OF  
**ANDREW SHERBURNE:**



**NAVY OF THE REVOLUTION.**

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WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

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"They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; they see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep."—*Psalmist*.

SECOND EDITION,  
ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

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Providence:

H. H. BROWN...MARKET-SQUARE

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1831.

## PREFACE.

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THERE are yet surviving a few, and but a few, who lived, acted and suffered in the Revolution which gave freedom, independence and prosperity to the United States of America. And a very large majority of that few have gone by *three score years and ten*. They are bending beneath the weight of years and early sufferings.

Their thin locks are whitened by the frosts of seventy, and some by more than eighty winters, and are "dragging the poor remains of life along the tiresome road." A few of them are in affluent circumstances—others are sustained by their children and friends—some are partially provided for by government, and some are in indigent circumstances.

But the number is very fast diminishing; a little while and the American people will look round in vain to find an individual who personally acted in the Revolution. The author of this narrative is in the junior class of the survivors of the Revolution, as he was only ten years of age when the conflict began, and entered the naval service, at the age of thirteen. The complicated character of his trials, and sufferings in the United States navy—his capture—and forcible detention in the British navy—shipwreck and

sufferings in a wilderness in Newfoundland, in prison ships and hospital ships, were almost unparalleled.

Many years since he was solicited by gentlemen of literature and taste, to give his narrative to the public; but his limited education, diffidence of his own abilities to write, and in a word his poverty and shattered constitution, rendered the thought so appalling, that he shrank from the task. It was nevertheless his intention (if he could find time before death should call for him) to leave in manuscript some detail of his extraordinary conflicts, and especially of the marvellous interpositions of the Lord of Sabbath in preserving his life amidst distresses, dangers, and death, and giving him a hope of eternal life and immortal glory through the merits of Jesus Christ.

It is aptly expressed that "Procrastination is the thief of time." More than three score years passed away before he commenced the task; nor then, until the thought occurred that he might realize some emoluments by its publication, the prominent object, doubtless, of most authors.

He was at the same time aware of the apparent indelicacy of a person's publishing his auto-biography. Such a thought probably would be revolting to some persons of virtue and refined taste, while possessing competence, who, if reduced to poverty,

with a dependant and helpless family, would dispense with their (possibly) false delicacy, for necessity has no law.

Anterior to publishing his first edition, he was confident that there were thousands of citizens who would most cheerfully patronize his work. It had been his hard fortune, in the war of the Revolution, to become a captive three times, and each time to travel home an absolute beggar.

In his anticipations he has not been disappointed. Numerous gentlemen and ladies have bought and read his book, and have paid him so much of a compliment as to say, that they considered it an interesting narrative, and well deserving patronage. It has introduced him to many families of distinction, and procured for him many affectionate and warm-hearted friends among strangers.

Those gratuitous tokens and expressions of friendship, together with the sympathies exhibited, have gone far to revive his drooping spirits, while buffeting, in advanced life, the inclemencies of three tedious winters, far distant from his family.

He is at a loss for language to express his grateful sense of obligations to those ladies and gentlemen who have patronized his first edition. He can only say, that it has been, is now, and shall be his prayer to God, that they and theirs may never want any good thing. And most fervently does he pray



that the Americans as a nation may properly appreciate the freedom which they enjoy, while they learn the price of its purchase, and that they may be a virtuous, united and happy people, sustained and protected by the arm of Omnipotence.

In disposing of his first edition, the author has travelled South into the State of Virginia, East to Maine, and West to Ohio. To his second edition he has added the most interesting events of the last three years of his life, in these long journeys; and now presents the public with this edition, being confident that as yet he has offered his little book to but few of those patriotic citizens who would most freely patronize the work.

As in the providence of God, the Author has been denied the advantages of an education, he makes no pretensions to elegance of style or diction; but with all due deference submits his humble performance to the public.

ANDREW SHERBURNE.

*Augusta, Oneida County, N. Y. March, 1831.*

## CERTIFICATES.



Whereas the Rev. Andrew Sherburne, our worthy brother and fellow-laborer in the gospel, contemplates making a journey, with his family, to remove into the south western regions of this country, to reside; in order that he may meet with that reception among Christians, to which his character and office entitle him; the undersigned beg leave to represent, that he has for fifteen years past maintained a respectable standing in the New-Hampshire Baptist Association, as pastor of the Baptist church in Arundel; and as far as our information extends, is deemed faithful and well established in doctrine, whom we esteem highly in love, as a Christian brother and a minister of Christ; and as such, we would recommend him to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

SIMON LOCK,

*Pastor of the church in Lyman.*

ABNER FLANDERS,

*Pastor of the Baptist church in Buxton.*

JOSHUA ROBERTS,

*Pastor of the Baptist church in East parish of Wells.*

TIMOTHY HUDSON,

*Pastor of the church in Hollis.*

Hollis, August 21st, 1818.

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This and the three following Certificates were given to the Author, while on his journey from the State of Ohio to Maine.

*Washington city, House of Representatives, Feb. 28, 1823.*

The Rev. Andrew Sherburne, the bearer of this, is worthy the confidence of the friends of Zion, and esteem of his fellow-citizens generally. Twenty years acquaintance, has proved him an undeviating friend. I most cordially sympathize with him in his troubles, having performed those services in the revolutionary war, which entitle him to respect.

MARK HARRIS.

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The subscriber has seen the credentials of the Rev. Andrew Sherburne, and has, otherwise, had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character. He believes Mr. Sherburne to be a brother deserving the affectionate and respectful regards of the churches. Mr. S. will, himself communicate the story of his sufferings during the revolutionary war, and his subsequent toils in the service of his country. His necessities are real and imperious, and it is hoped the patriot and the Christian will alike contribute to his assistance.

WM. STAUGHTON.

*Philadelphia, April 11, 1823.*

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Having seen the Rev. Mr. Sherburne's testimonials, and being personally and fully satisfied with his piety and good character, I do most cordially coincide with the Rev. Dr. Staughton in the foregoing certificate and just recommendation.

WM. ROGERS.

*Philadelphia, April 15, 1823.*

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I cheerfully add my testimony in favor of the Rev. Mr. Sherburne's character to the foregoing, and recommend him to the charitable consideration of the opulent and benevolent.

JEDEDIAH MORSE.

*New Haven, June 12, 1823.*

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## MEMOIRS OF ANDREW SHERBURNE.

"I have attentively perused the 'Memoirs of Andrew Sherburne, a pensioner of the navy of the Revolution.' Publications of this description, though they may not challenge admiration by elegance of style or diction, still deserve the notice of Americans.

The actors in our Revolutionary struggle, have, with a few exceptions, gone 'the way of all the earth.' Many interesting details relative to the period that 'tried men's souls,' must necessarily perish with those who witnessed them. An attempt to preserve from oblivion, facts which show the interposition of the Lord of Sabaoth, in favor