

## TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

### *Stafford's Support during the Revolutionary War 1775-1783* *From Maureen Festi*

Grade – 5

Length of class period: One to two 45-60 minute class periods or each document can be presented and the time line built while studying the events of the Revolutionary War

Inquiry: How did the people in small rural towns contribute to and support the Americans during the Revolutionary War?

Objectives:

1. Students will analyze primary source documents of Stafford town meetings and the town's decisions to support the people directly and indirectly involved in the Revolutionary War.
2. Students will create and analyze a timeline with the dates of the town meetings and the decisions made to: enlist soldiers and meet quotas; offer bounty to the soldiers; pay the soldiers; procure supplies for the soldiers; support the families of soldiers; raise taxes; and divide the town into classes.

Materials:

1. Primary Document: *Meeting for Legal Voters of the Town of Stafford, CT March 25, 1777*. Courtesy of Connecticut Historical Society, Manuscript Collections
2. Documents from the Stafford town meetings found in the Stafford Town Records.
3. Graphic Organizer for information found in the documents of the town meetings
4. Timeline of dates of meetings with corresponding decisions written on notecards.
5. Timeline of major events during the Revolutionary War  
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/revolutionarywartimeline.htm>

Activities:

1. Share the *Notice of Meeting for March 25, 1777*. Discuss: Why did the town need to raise a quota of men? What could the town do to encourage men to enlist in the Continental Army? Why would the town need to take care of the soldiers' families?
2. Make a list of possible things that the town could do to help during the American Revolution. This list can be added to as groups share their findings from the town meeting documents.

3. Distribute packets of the documents of the town meetings to the students. Divide the documents among small groups or pairs of students according to the dates. Have the students complete the graphic organizer. Their information can then be rewritten on color-coded cards or white cards with color-coded markers i.e. blue for supporting families, green for raising taxes, etc.
4. Create a timeline for the dates of the various meetings and have students place their cards in the appropriate places below the dates on the timeline. Information from corresponding events during the Revolutionary War can be placed above the time line.
5. Analyze the time line and infer patterns and connections between the decisions of the town meetings and the events of the Revolutionary War.

Assessment:

1. Participation in the activities and discussions
2. Written response: Choose one category that appears throughout the timeline and use details from that category to provide evidence of Stafford's support during the Revolutionary War.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

1. Locate and gather information from primary and secondary sources.
2. Create time-lines of significant events from a historical period.
3. Explain the connections between local, state and national events.



## **Stafford Town Records of Town Meetings about the Revolutionary War**

1775: April 25

1776: April 8

1777: Mar 31; May 2; Sept 16; Sept 28; Dec 2

1778: Jan 6; Mar 18; Sept 15; Dec 2

1779: Feb 9; Dec 14

1780: June 14; July 14; Dec 5

1781: Jan. 8, 12, 29; Mar 29; Apr 9; May 4; Aug 28, 31; Sept 18; Nov 12; Dec 10

1782: Mar 1; June 10; Dec 20

1783: Jan 13; May 20; Oct 31

*Please note: Spellings in these documents appear in their original form. Noah Webster's A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language, the first truly American dictionary, was published in 1806.*

### Vocabulary:

1. procure: to obtain or acquire
2. bounty: something extra given to encourage the soldiers to enlist

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **April 25<sup>th</sup> AD 1775** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Voted to Procure Four Hundred Wait of Powder Eight Hundred Wait of Lead and Two Thousand Flints to be added to the Town Stock of Ammunition Voted to Raise a Rate of one Penny Lawful Money on the Last August List to be paid into the Treasury by the first Day of June next to Procure the above mentioned Articles Mr Joseph Storrs is appointed an agent for this town to Procure the above Articles for this town (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 190-191)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **April 8<sup>th</sup> 1776** Collo Stephen Moulton was Chosen Moderator Voted to Dismiss Mr Joseph Storrs from Providing a Town Stock of Ammunition (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 224)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **May 20 1777** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Capt John Phelps Dec<sup>n</sup> Samuel Fullor and Mr Eliab Alden Ware Chosen a Committee to Provid the Soldiers families that Shall Enlist into the Continental Batalions to be raised in this State they Leving money to provide Such things as thair families Want Pursuant to his Honors the Governors and Committee of Safetys Request =*

*Voted to Give Each Soldier that is Raised and to be Raised in this Town that Shall Enlist into Continental Servise for three years in the Eight Batalions to be Raised in this State the sum of Twenty Shilings per month in addition to the Continental Pay During the Time thay continue in the Said Service of three years Twelve Pounds of which to be paid to Each Soldier So Engaging and Enlisted and has Past muster at or before his or their marching and the other to be paid annuly unless Paid by this State or Continental =*

*Voted that Capt John Phelps Missers John Carpenter Jesse Converse Ebeneser Gay and Joseph Pasko be a committee to make an assessment on the Inhabitants of said Town to be made acording to the Estates and Service that thay have Don in the Present War with Great Britain and a Return thareof to the Selectmen of said Town who are ordered to make a Rate thareon to be paid according to Said Assessment (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 256-257)*

*At a Town Meeting held in Stafford **Sept 16<sup>th</sup> AD 1777** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Voted that the Treasuor of the Town be ordered to pay Isaac Pinney the money in his hands Raised to Procuer Ammunition for this Town for him to Pay the Tresuor of this State a Debt Due from this Town to Said State (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 262-263)*

*At a Town Meeting Held at Stafford **Sept 26<sup>th</sup> AD 1777** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Mr John Davise and Mr Jesse Converse Ware Chosen a Committee to Procuer Clothing for the Soldier belonging to this Town in the Continental Armeey Pursuant to a Resolve of his Excclancey Governor and Commitie of Safety (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 264)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **December 20 1777** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Lt Joseph Alden Lt Nathaniel Johnson Mr Joshua Blodgett Mr Jesse Converse Mr Ebeneser Gay Mr John Davise Lt Benjamin Ellis and Mr Joshua Warner a Committe to Procuer Clothing for the Soldiers in the Continental Armey the major Part of them to set the Prise of the Articles thay Shall Procuer (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 267)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **Jan 6<sup>th</sup> AD 1778** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator the Articles of Conferation being Publickly Read in Said Meting the question being put wheather this Town Except and approve of the Same Voted to Except of the Aticles of Conferation with this addition that the freeman of this state Chuse thair own Delagats to attend Congress = Voted to raise a Rate of one Peny Lawfull money on the pound on the last August List to be paid into the Tresury by the first Day of April Next = Mr Isaac Foot and Jonathan Whitaker Junl be a Committe to Provid for the Continental Soldiers families for the year Insuing (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 271)*

*At a Town Meeting held in Stafford **March 18<sup>th</sup> AD 1778** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Mr Benjamin Blodgett and Mr Jesse Cady Ware Chosen a Committee to Procuer Clothing for the officers and Soldiers in the Continental Armey agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly past in Jan Last*

*Voted that the Treasuor of the Town Pay to the Committee that Procured the Clothing for the Continental Soldiers Last Fall the Sum of £15 = 15 s Lawfull Money and to Mr Joseph Davise £ 0=9=0 Lawful Money and to Doctor Oliver Black £ 3=8=7 Lawful Money Mr Amasa Davise is appointed to Procuer Nesesary Provisions for the Soldiers families in the Continetial Servise in the Room of Capt Samual Davise Assigned*

*Voted that this Town will save the colectors from any cost or charge that thay may be put to on account of thair Colecting the rates raised by this*

*Town to Encourage the Soldiers to Inlist into the Continental Army they acting according to Law (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 275)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1778** Decn Samuel Fullor was Chosen Moderator Mr Jonathan Clough is appointed a Committe to Provid for the Soldiers families that are in the Continental Army (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 293)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1778** Capt John Phelps was Chosen Moderator Missers Benjamim Davise Christopher Thrasher Ephraium Day Ephraium Hide and Jonathan Clough a Committee to Procuer nesesarys for the Soldiers families that are in the Contential Army Voted to Capt Orcutt £11=11=0 for his caring Blankets to the Soldiers at the Pixkills in June 1777 Voted Jesse Cady for Carring Clothing for the Solders to Madilton £3=19=0 (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 298)*

*At a Town Meeting held at **Stafford Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1779** Collo Stephen Moulton Was Chosen Moderator Voted to Raise a Rate of Eight Pence on the Pound on the Last August List to be Paid into the Tresury by the First Day of May Next to Pat for the Clothing Sent and to be Procured and Sent to the Continental Army*

*Voted to Decn Samuel Fullor £20=8=6*

*Voted to the Selectmen of the Town for the Time being shall adjust the accounts with the Commities that have Procuered or Shall Procuer Clothing and Nesesaries for the Soldiers families that are in the Continental Army and Give orders to the Town Treasuror for what they shall find Due on Balance (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 304)*

*At a Town Meeting held a Stafford **December 14<sup>th</sup> 1779** Ware Chosen Decn Samuel Fuller Moderator Isaac Pinney Town Clerk Ebebeser Colburn Junl Zepharuiah Alden Benjamin Davise and Joshua Blodgett a Committee to Procuer Provisions for the families of the Soldiers that are in the Continental Army = Capt David Yeamons and Jesse Cady a Commite to*



*Procuer Clothing for the Continental Armeý (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 324)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **June 14 1780** Colo Stephen Moulton was Chosen Moderator*

*Voted to give Each Soldier to be Raised in this Town to fill up the Connecticut Armeý in the Continental Line to Serve until the Last dAy of Decemeber Next in addition to What Bounty and other Privilidges Granted by the General Assembly in May Last Six Pounds Worth of Grin vis Wheat at 5/pr B: Rye at 3/9 Indian Corn at 2/6 or Money Equivilent tharunto to be Paid by the Last Day of December Next*

*Voted that Missers Hugh White John Warner Moses Newton Capt Abnar Wood Joseph Pasko Rufus Fisk and Abijah Bixby be a Committee of Assessors to Assess the Poles and Ratable Estate of Such of the Inhabitants of this Town as thay may think Proper for the payment of the above to be made on the Last August List (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 344)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **July 14<sup>th</sup> 1780** Colo Stephen Moulton Was Chosen Moderator*

*Voted to Give the Eight men Now to be Raised to fill up the Continental Armeý the Same Premium that the Town Gave the Sixteen men the Last Meting Voted that the same Committe be appointed to assess the Inhabitants of the Town with the Same Powers that thay Ware Invested with the Last Town Meting Said money to be raised on the Same List (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 344)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1780** Lt Samuel Fullor Was Chosen Moderator = Capt Josiah Converse Lt David McCluer and Zebadiah Massey Ware Chosen a Committee to hire the Proportion of men Required of this Town to fill up the Continental Armeý at the Cost of this Town = Voted to Raise a Rate of Eight Pence on the Pound Stats Money on the List of August 1779 to be Paid on the fifteenth Day of Jan Next to Procuer Provisions for the Continental Armeý and that Missers Daniel Phelps Junl and Ebenesor Gay be a Committee to Receive the Salt and Procuer Casks to Put up Said Provisions according to Late Act od Assembly*



*Each person Paying his Portion according to Said Act of Assembly in Provision his Rate by Said Committee to be Discharged that Persons who Do not pay thair Several Rates in Provision agreable to Act of Assembly by the fifteenth Day of Jan Next then the said Daniel Phelps and Ebenesor Gay be a Purching Committee to Procuer Said Deficient Persons Quota of Provisions to the Amount of Delinquent Rates = Missers Ebenesor Colburn Zephariah Alden Benjamin Davise and Joshua Bloggett a Comitte to Procuer Provisions for the Soldiers families in the Continental Servise Missers Ebanesor Colburn Jess Cady and Capt Daniel Yeamons a Committee to Procuer Clothing for the Continental Arme y (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 354)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1781** Lt Samuel Fullor Was Chosen Moderator Voted that it is the opinion of this Town that the Tropers are Intitled to the Premium Granted by this Town and Subject to be Taxt for the same this Meting is adjourned to Friday Next at the Meting House at Ten of the Clock in the fore noon (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 356)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford by adjournment on the **12<sup>th</sup> Day of Jan 1781** Voted to Raise a Rate of one Penny half Penny on the Pound State Money on the Last August List to be Paid into the Tresury by the First Day of March Next to Procuer Wheat and Rye Flower and Indian Corn for the Use of the Army according to a Late Act of Assembly Mr Ebanesor Gay and Mr Daniel Phelps Jur are appointed to receive and Pack up Said Flower and Grain (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 356)*

*At a Town Meting held in Stafford **Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1781** Lt Samuel Fullor was Chosen Moderator Voted to Class the Inhabitants of this Town into Classes in Order to fillup the Continental Arme y = Voted to Except the Report of the Committee for Assessing the Inhabitants of this Town to Pay the Six months men and to Raise a Rate on the Last August List to be added to the*

*assessment to Be Paid into the Tresury by the first Day of April next to pay the six months men (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 357)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **March 29 1781** Dec<sup>n</sup> Samuel Fullor Was Chosen Moderator Voted that the Select men Isaac Pinney and Isaac Foot Esqr be a Committe to Class the Inhabitants of the Town in order to fill up the Continential Arme<sup>y</sup> Mr Joshua Blodgett is appointe dot appear befor the Committee appointed by the Assembly for Adjusting the Claims of Each Town Respecting the Continential Solders in the Arme<sup>y</sup>*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford by adjournment on the 9<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1781 Voted that Capt John Phelps Lt David McCluer Daniel Alden Lt Samuel Fuller and Ebaneser Gay be a Committee to see what is Due to the Six months men and to whom= (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 362-363)*

*At a Town Meting held in Stafford **May 4<sup>th</sup> 1781** Lt Samuel Fuller Was Chosen Moderator Voted that John Holmes Ebaneser Snell Eliab Edson Samuel Daves Jedebiah Cady Abner Cady Joseph Converse John West Joseph Kent Thomas Warner John Carpenter Jnr Asa Allin Moses Johnson Josiah Holmes for Adrian Watson deceast Bodwell Wadkins Timothy Hudston Jebadiah Massey Charles Wood and Timothy Dismick are Intitled to the Town Bounty for thair Servise Six months in the Continential Arme<sup>y</sup> = Voted that the former Committee Namly Mr John Warner and others be a committee to Revise the matter Relative to Assessing the Inhabitants and make a Report to the Select men who are orthorized to Cansel on the Rate Bill accordly Said Report to be made by the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of May Instant*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford August 28<sup>th</sup> 1781 Dec<sup>n</sup> Samuel Fuller was Chosen Moderator this meting is adjourned to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August Instant at one of the clock in the after noon at this Place (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 380)*

*At a Town Meeting held in Stafford on the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of August 1781 by adjournment Voted to Reconsider and Set a Side Two Votes Pased by this Town one on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1780 for Raising a Rate of Eight Pence State Money on the Pound to Procuer Provisions for the Continential Army and the other Pased Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1781 for one Peny half peny on the Pound for Like Purposes =*

*Voted to Raise a Rate of Eight Pence Lawfull Silver Money on the Pound on the Same List that the above Rate was made to Procuer the Provisions above Referred to and those Persons that have Paid thair Rates in Provisions at the State Prises thair Rates to be Discharged and those Persons that Shal Pay thair Rates in Flower at the above State Prises Shall be Discharged*

*Voted to raise a rate of Two Pence Lawful Silver Money on the Pound on the List the above Peny half peny Rate was made on to be Paid into the Tresury on the first Day of October Next those Persons that have thair Rates to be Discharged and those Persons that Shall Pay thair Rates in Flower Shall be Discharged= Missers Ebaneser Gay and Daniel Phelps Junr are appointed Receivers and Purchasers of the Provisions Referred to = Voted to Raise a Rate of Four Pence Lawfull Silver Money on the Pound on the Last August List to Procuer Beaf for the Continential Army to be paid into the Tresury on the First Day of October Next= Missers Ebaneser Gay and Jonathan Whitaker Jur are appointed to Procuer Casks Receive Salt and Pack up the Provisions that may be brought to pay the 2'=6" Tax = Voted to Set a Side Vote of the Town Pased Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1781 for Excepting the Report of Committee and laying a Tax of Two Pence on the Pound to pay the six month men. (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 388)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 1781** Capt Paul Blodgett was Chosen Moderator Voted to raise a Rate of Two Pence Silver Money on the Pound on August List 1780 to Pay the Six month men so Caled and to Defray Twon Charges to be Paid into the Town Tresury by the First Day of November Next = Voted that the Select men of this Town are appointed to Class the 21 Classes that Ware Clast to fill up the Continential into Seven*

*Classes to Procuer a Soldier for the State Regiments at horse Neck under command of General Waterbury=*

*Voted that the Select men of this Town Capt John Phelps and Capt Josiah Converse be a Committee to see what Solders are Intitled to the Bounty Granted by this Town to the Six months men so called for thair Service the last Year and make Report at a futar Town Meting = (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 391)*

*At A Town Meting held at Stafford **Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1781** Capt John Phelps Was Chosen Moderator Mr Ebeneser Colburn was appointed to Procuer Casks Receive Salt and Pack up the Provisions Brough in to Pay the 2s=6” Rate and to Receive the Clothing – Voted to Reconsider a Vote of this Town Past on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August Last for Raising a Rate of Eight Pence on the Pound and in the Room tharof to Raise a Rate of Six pence Silver Money on the Pound to be Paid into the Tresury by the Twentyeth Day of November Instant and also a Rate Voted at the Same Meting for Two Pence on the Pound and in the Room tharof Raise a Rate of one Peny half peny on the Pound Payable the Same Time on the Same Lists that the above Rats Ware made (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 392)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1781** Ware Chosen Lt Samuel Fuller Moderator Isaac Pinney Esqr Town Clerk Ensign Nathaniel Patten and Mr Ebeneser Colburn a Committee to Provid Provisions for the Soldiers families that are in the Continental Arme y Capt David Yeamons Missers Ebenesor Colburn and Jesse Cady to Procuer Clothing for the Continental Arme y = (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 393)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford **March 1<sup>st</sup> 1782** Capt Samuel Rockwell was Chosen Moderator*

*Voted to class this Town into five Class on the List 1781 to Raise men for horse Neck and the Western Department =*

*Voted that the Select men Isaac Pinney and Isaac Foot Esqrs a Committee to Class this Town into five Clases as aforesaid Mr Jess Cady is appointed an agent for this Town to appear befor the Committee at Hartford on Monday Next=*

*Voted to Raise a Rate of one Peney happeney on the Pound on the Last August List to be Paid into the Tresury by the first Day of June Next to Defray Town Charges*

*Voted the Present Select men adjust the accounts with the Last years Select men Respecting Thair Advansing money to Pay the three months men Last Sumor (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 400-401)*

*At a Town Meting held in Stafford on **June 10<sup>th</sup> 1782** Capt Samuel Rockwell Was Chosen Moderator Capt Samuel Rockwell Capt Paul Blogget and Capt Josiah Converse are appointed a Committee to Procuer three men for this Town to fill up the Continential Armeey = Voted to Raise a Rate of one Peny Lawfull Money on the Pound on Last August List to be Paid into the Tresury by the first Day of July Next to Enable the Committee to Procuer three men for the Continential Army and Difraying Town Charges- (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 413)*

*At a Town Meting held at Stafford on the **30<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1782** by adjournment from the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of December Instant Lt Samuel Fuller Lt David McCluer and Capt Josiah Converse Ware Chosen a Committee to Treat with the Solders that Served three years in the Continential Armeey and Said Committee are Impowered to Settlet with Said Soldiers and the Town Engage to Pay the Sums Said Committee Shall agree to Give Said Soldiers (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- pages 432-433)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1783** by an adjournment from the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of December Last voted to Raise a Rate of Eight Pence Lawfull Money on the Pound on the Last August List to be Paid into the Tresury by the first Day of February Next to Pay the Solders that Served in the Continential Armeey three years and to Defray Town Charges = Voted to reconsider a Vote Past on the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of December Last Raising a rate of one Peny on the Pound Voted that the Select men be appointed to give orders to the Solders on the Tresurar for the balance found Due to Each Solder (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 439)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **May 20<sup>th</sup> 1783** Capt Samuel Rockwell was Chosen Moderator = This Town Taking into Consideration the Importance of Preserving to them and thair Prosterity the Invaluable Rights and Privilidges for which thay have ben So Long Contending unanimously Resolved that it is the opinion of this Town that no Pay or half Pay from this State after Dismist from Service and that the Present Representitives from this town be desired to say this befor the General Assembly at thair Present Session if Needed = the question was Put wheather the Select men Shall Give an order to Zaccaria Green for his Bounty for his three years Servise in the Continential Armeey Resolved in the Negative (Stafford Town Records: Volume 5- page 455)*

*At a Town Meeting held at Stafford **October 31<sup>st</sup> 1783** by an adjournment from the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of October Instant Capt Samuel Rockwell and Jesse Converse Ware Chosen agents for this Town to appear befor the County Court to be held at Hartford the first Tuesday of Nov Next to answer in Two actions Comminst agenst this Town one by Zachariah Green and the other by William Commins if thay upon the best advise Can Git that the Town Cannot Git Clear of Said action and what Said agents Shall agree to Give Said Green and Commins this Town Agrees to Pay (Stafford Town Records: Volume 6- page 44)*