

Patriot Levi Dart

Levi was born on July 25, 1764 in Bolton, Tolland County, Connecticut. He was the 5th child of Jonathan and Lucy (Whitney) Dart. On August 15, 1781, at the age of 17, he enlisted for a term of seven and one-half months in an artillery company of the Connecticut State Troops. The company was part of a battalion commanded by Colonel William Ledyard.

Levi's company was stationed at Fort Trumbull on the New London side of the Thames River. On September 6, 1781, British ships appeared in the harbor. Captain Shapley was ordered to evacuate Fort Trumbull to repair Fort Griswold. He ordered Corporal Josiah Smith to select seven men to remain behind to spike the guns. Levi was one of the seven selected. The men were captured by the British and were put aboard the British frigate Amphion and taken to New York. Levi was imprisoned in the "old Sugar House" in New York and was exchanged in October 1781 along with Lieutenant Stow and others for British prisoners. In April 1782, he was verbally discharged and returned home. Levi married Elizabeth Utley of Coventry, Connecticut on October 5, 1790. The couple had four children. He died on May 24, 1842 in Springfield, Massachusetts and was buried in Cherry Lane Cemetery. Elizabeth died May 11, 1852 and was buried next to her husband. Levi Dart's name is among the defenders listed on the monument at Fort Griswold.