



This Memorial Day The Scudder Association Foundation would like to acknowledge two Scudders who dearly need to be *REMEMBERED*.

Nathaniel Scudder was a physician and patriot leader during the Revolutionary War. He served as a delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress, He wrote a series of impassioned letters to New Jersey leaders urging the adoption of the Articles, and when New Jersey's legislature approved them in November 1777, he signed them for the state at Congress. Scudder dropped his medical practice to serve in the military, and he led a regiment in the Battle of Monmouth in June 1778.

On October 17, 1781, just two days before Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown, Scudder led a part of his regiment to offer resistance to a British Army foraging party, and was killed in a skirmish near Shrewsbury, NJ. Dr. Scudder was the only member of the Continental Congress to die in battle during the Revolutionary War.

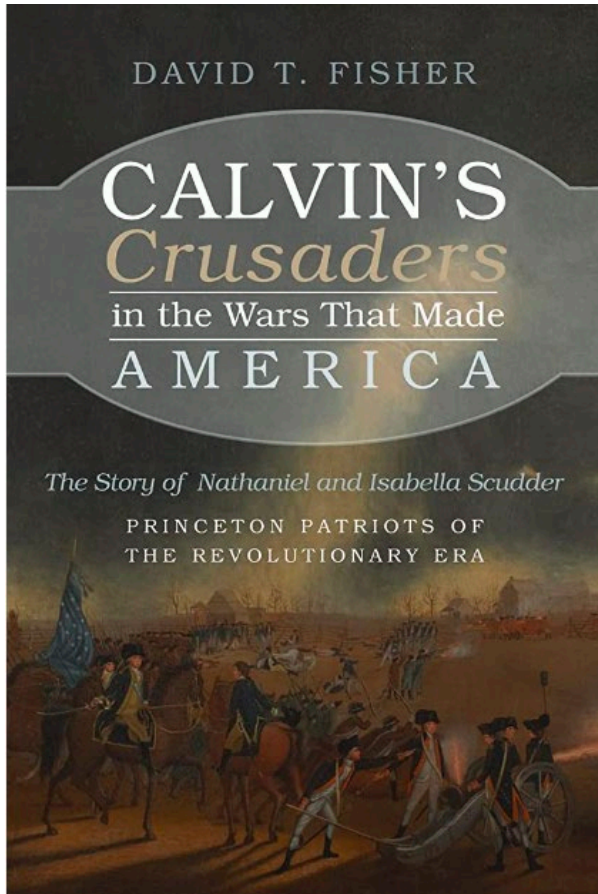
Like so many other prominent Scudders, Nathaniel was encouraged and supported by his devoted wife, Isabella Anderson Scudder. As is often the case, the focus is on those who fell in battle and little attention or condolence is paid to the fathers, mothers, siblings, wives and children who also carry a heavy burden for their country. We would like to take this occasion to reflect on the sacrifice of this Patriot, as well as, the pain and emotional damage his loss inflicted on his family and friends.

The following is an excerpt from David T. Fischer's excellent telling of Nathaniel's and Isabella's story from his book "Calvin's Crusaders in the Wars That Made America"\*

Early on the morning of the 15th of October (1781) just as Nathaniel was embarking on his rounds as a physician, an alarm reached Monmouth Courthouse that a party of Loyalists had landed at Shrewsbury River and attacked Colts Neck kidnapping five people. David Forman quickly rallied the Whigs of Freehold and admonished them to go in pursuit of the raiders.

"Nathaniel don't go! pleaded Isabella, "You said yourself that we should pray for de-escalation. I have a terrible feeling that this will not end well"

I will try to avoid bloodshed, promised Nathaniel, I will go along just to bind the wounds of the poor fellows who might be hurt on this mission."



The Monmouth minutemen galloped off at full speed in the direction of Black Point where the raiding party had landed in the hope of rescuing the kidnapped prisoners. As the Loyalists were preparing to board their vessel David Forman ordered an attack on the rear of the raiding party. At that moment Nathaniel recognized Richard Lippincott, a notorious Loyalist and close friend of the Loyalist raider, Joseph Wood, whom David Forman had dispatched a year before. Lippincott was carefully aiming a fowling piece at David Forman.

"David, beware!" Nathaniel warned, "That scoundrel is taking a bead on you!"

Forman stepped aside just as Lippincott fired his weapon. The ball meant for Forman flew past him and passed through Nathaniel's head instantly killing him.

"Oh my God!" exclaimed Forman falling to his knees beside his friend, "That ball was meant for me, but Nathaniel saved my life!"

The Monmouth men gently laid Nathaniel's body over his horse and rode silently back to Freehold. Arriving at Monmouth Courthouse. Forman, hat in hand, proceeded to the Scudder residence. When Isabella opened the door, she

knew immediately from the unfamiliar sight of a David Forman with tears in his eyes, that her greatest fears were realized.

"Isabella," he began almost choking on the words, "I must inform you that our beloved friend and worthy patriot was called upon by the Almighty to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Isabella fainted dead away and had to be carried to her bed where she remained in a semi-catatonic state for several days. When the time came for the funeral, her servants, Beth and Pegg, dressed her and with her sons, John, Joseph, and Kenneth supporting her she managed to struggle into the carriage which took them to the Tennent Meeting House in Manalapan, NJ. Her sons helped place her in the front row of the church directly facing the elder's chair where Nathaniel had sat through so many sermons over the years. She simply stared at the empty

*chair and barely noticed the many prominent guests that had hurried to Manalapan to bid farewell to Nathaniel.*

*"And at Jerusalem and Judea mourned for Josiah, began Reverend Woodhull, reading from 2Chronicles 35:24. He recited the story of the Old Testament King Josiah who had done so much to crush idolatry, enshrine the Book of the Law of the Lord, restore the True Religion in Judea and who finally was tragically killed in a battle against a pagan king. Woodhull continued by describing the parallels between that ancient drama and Nathaniel's heroic efforts to establish a pious republic.*

*After he finished Nathaniel's old college friend, Benjamin Prime, rose to deliver his own eulogy. He concluded with an elegy:*

*"In medicine skillful & in warfare brave,  
In council steady, uncorrupt and wise,  
It was thy happy lot, the means to have,  
To no small rank in each of these to rise.*

*Just as the service was nearing its end David Forman strode up to the front of the church. Choking with emotion he announced that he had just received information that proved that Nathaniel had not died in vain.*

*An express rider has just arrived from Virginia," he announced, The Continental Army has achieved a momentous victory! Cornwallis has surrendered to Washington. He and 9,000 enemy troops are now prisoners of the United States. The war is won!*

*Hearing his words Isabella finally understood the meaning of the sacrifice that she had been forced to endure.*

**On this Memorial Day let us all pause to remember the *Sacrifice*, so many Americans, both fallen and surviving have endured.**

\* "Calvin's Crusaders in the Wars That Made America  
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