

*Jacob Bayley, Newbury, VT, Founder & Revolutionary War General*

Jacob Bayley is literally [a footnote in the prominent histories of our Town](#), but he amassed an impressive collection of monuments as a war hero and founder and civic leader of [Newbury, VT](#), which has an unincorporated [West Newbury](#), too.

In 1726, Jacob Bayley was born here in West Newbury at the farmstead of his parents, Sarah Coffin and [Joshua Emery Bayley](#), who deeded the [Training Field](#) to the Town in 1731 in exchange for Baileys Lane accessing their home. According to [A History of Newbury, Vermont](#), Jacob Bayley “married, at the age of nineteen, Oct. 16, 1745, Prudence, daughter of Ephraim and Prudence (Stickney) Noyes, b. April 10, 1725. The name Prudence is said to have been indicative of her character. . . .”

Jacob Bayley was here only for his first 21 years. Around 1747 he, Prudence, and their [first child Ephraim](#) moved “to a part, formerly, of the town of Haverhill, Mass., known as Timberland, or Haverhill district. This part of Haverhill, with a portion of Amesbury, was cut off from those towns by the state line of 1741, and became a part of New Hampshire. Jan. 12, 1749, [these tracts were chartered into a town by the name of Hampstead](#). Jacob Bayley soon became prominent in town affairs, and in the militia.”

After victory in the French and Indian War in 1760, then-Colonel Bayley [returned home with his fellow soldiers “by way of the old Indian trail](#) which led them through that part of the Connecticut Valley . . . , then known as ‘Lower Coos.’ Their camping place was on the Great Ox-Bow . . . , and we can well imagine that its expansive meadows, rich in their

virgin fertility, divided by the sweeping bends of the meandering river, bordered by the well-located intervalles, and surrounded on all sides by hills and mountains, covered with primeval forests, appealed to them more strongly than any lands they had ever before seen, and then and there General Bayley and his associate officer, Captain [later General] John Hazen, determined to secure Grants of these inviting lands.”

In September, 1762, Jacob Bayley wrote to his brother-in-law [Moses Little](#) back in Newbury, MA, requesting the purchase of cattle to be driven to Coos, inasmuch as a winter’s supply of hay awaited. [He added](#), “I have forty families now ready to move on the town; I presume to go myself in the spring . . . .”

Jacob Bayley obtained title to the land from New Hampshire in [1763](#), named it Newbury (a new Haverhill being nearby), and moved there in 1764. New York, however, had designs on this region. To cover all contingencies, [he obtained title to his new Newbury from New York in 1772](#). In this era, the [Green Mountain Boys](#) got their start fighting not Indians, French, nor British, but rather pushy New Yorkers. [In 1777 Vermont declared itself a state and in 1791 it joined the union](#), finally settling Jacob Bayley’s address as Newbury, VT.

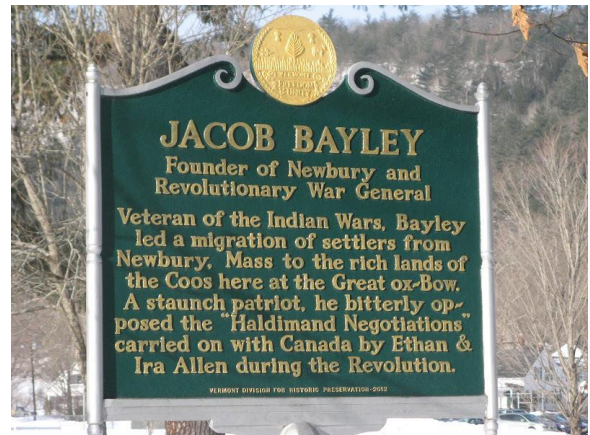
Brigadier General Bayley attained that rank during the Revolutionary War. [His admiring descendants](#) described him as “the chief bulwark of the Colonial cause along the Northern Frontier.” He also established the Bayley-Hazen Military Road running to northern Vermont, for which he [remained an unpaid federal contractor](#).



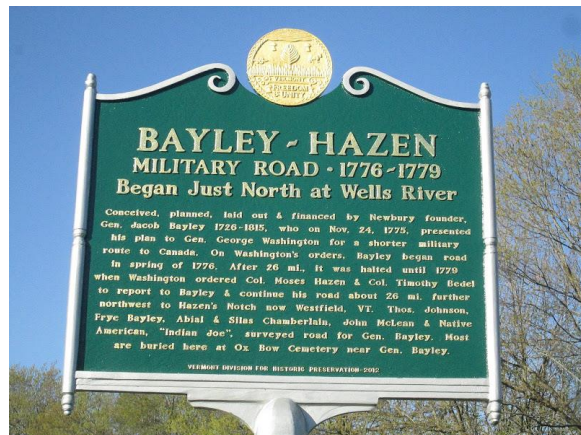
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*Vermont  
roadside marker  
photos*



<https://roadsidemarkers.vermont.gov/>



*Monument photo*

<https://www.tapataalk.com/groups/warmemorials/general-jacob-bayley-t4393.html>



Marker Location: 11 Baileys La., West Newbury, MA Latitude: 42.806762 Longitude: -70.982621