

Pvt. Jacob Howland

2nd PA Regiment

- arrived from Ireland on the brigantine "Recovery" sailing from Rotterdam, Cowes (Isle of Wight) and then on to Philadelphia. He arrived in Philadelphia on October 31, 1770
- 17 year old Jacob was bound out to work as an unskilled laborer on a Chester County farm owned by Silas Mumford to repay the 30 pounds for his passage
- although well treated during his three years of bondage, his indentured servitude reinforced his desire for freedom and to be able to have a life were no one could tell him what to do
- he left Chester County for the city of Philadelphia seeking work on the docks. he wanted to save his money to buy a small plot of land on which he could farm and eventually raise a family
- the talk on the docks and taverns always centered on taxes and England's insistence on ruling the colonies from afar, without representation from Americans
- no friend of English law, he supported the Boston Tea Party and agreed with other dock workers not to unload British tea in the port of Philadelphia. he soon joins the Sons of Liberty
- like many Continental soldiers, Jacob was young, landless and had no family yet to tie him down, so he enlisted in the 2nd PA Regiment in October, 1775