

GENERAL HENRY CHAMPION

SON OF COLONEL HENRY CHAMPION

These portraits of General Henry Champion and his wife Abigail Tinker Champion, with one of their children, were painted by Simon Fitch of Lebanon, Connecticut in 1798. General Henry Champion, son of Colonel Henry Champion was born in the Westchester section of Colchester on March 16, 1751, and died there July 13, 1836.

General Champion served in the Revolutionary War at the Lexington Alarm, and at Bunker Hill. In July of 1779, he served in the First Battalion, Light Brigade, a corps composed of hand picked men who served under George Washington's command and successfully captured Stony Point, New York. He remained in the army until the close of the Revolutionary War. After his service in the Continental Army, Major Henry Champion served as an honored and trusted civil servant. He was periodically deputy to the General Assembly, from 1789 to 1805, and became a member of the patriotic Society of the Cincinnati in Connecticut.



The Champion House was built in 1790-1792 by the British born architect William Sprats for Colonel Henry Champion. The house was later owned by his son, General Henry Champion, who also served in the Revolutionary War.

The portrait of General Henry Champion depicts the subject sitting on a fashionable Federal style chair, decorated with a leather seat and brass tacks. On the table where he rests his arm is a map, probably of the Western Reserve. Champion was a wealthy man and heavily invested in the Connecticut Land Company which helped establish the Western Reserve, an area of Ohio that Connecticut citizens claimed. The towns of Champion, New York and Champion, Ohio were named in his honor.

The portrait of Abigail Tinker Champion with their daughter depicts the subject sitting in a chair matching her husband's. She is wearing a gold watch and chain from her waist, and a miniature portrait of President George Washington around her neck. The miniature portrait was given to her by Washington, in appreciation for their friendship and loyalty.

The original portrait of General Henry Champion is in the collection of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut. The original portrait of Abigail Tinker Champion was destroyed in a fire around 1990. These portraits are photographic copies.