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**Excerpted from**

## *Phoebe Winans Place.*

PAPER BY MISS RUTH BILES.

MAY MEETING, 1912.



AS we meet today to honor our noble and patriotic women and mothers, we must bear in mind that not all of our best women have been given a place in our histories, and in the lists of the royal and great, but that many who have lived in more humble homes and toiled for a lifetime to make their home and fireside happy, honored and loyal among these, we would call your attention to one of small stature, silken hair, with a wiry active person, and a constitution and resolution of iron. Phœbe, the daughter of Jacob Winans, whose paternal grandfather, John, came from Holland to New Haven, Conn. among the early settlers and later to Elizabeth, N. J., where Phœbe was born December 15, 1758. Her father, Jacob, came to Middle Smithfield, then Northampton, now Monroe county, Pa., about the beginning of the Revolutionary war, where he served as an officer in the American army.

During the war Phœbe cared for the younger members of the family, while her father who was widowed, was away in his country's service. Many were the nights of excitement and terror spent, as she concealed the smaller ones of the family in the bushes or fled with them to the fort to escape the prowling Red Men. They

saw the scalped McGinnis, when the frontiersmen returned with his body, after dispersing an Indian raid which increased their terror, and thereafter the least alarm, or when Phœbe went to a nearby spring for water, would send the children to the sheltering bushes like young partridges, where they lay concealed until sister's reassuring call again brought them forth to their duties or amusements.

One dark and stormy night a colored man came and tapped on her window, telling her in a whisper that Indians were in the neighborhood and that she must get to the fort as soon as possible. She quietly rose and took the children from their beds and cautiously withdrew to the woods, where she concealed them and stood guard until dawn began to show in the East. Then she hastened with them, arriving safely at the fort in the early morning. She was also their instructor as well as their protector and foster mother.

Early in 1781 Phœbe Winans married James Place, or LaPlace, of French extraction, as some of the family claim. His ancestors were among the early New England settlers, and came to Middle Smithfield before the Revolutionary war, in which he and others of his family served. To James and Phœbe Winans Place were born six sons and five daughters. She reared and trained them with her own hand and labor. No sewing machines nor factory looms to help out. She spun and wove her own cloth, and made by hand their every garment, knitted their socks, hoods and mittens, while her husband cleared away the forest and tilled the ground, becoming what was then called a well-to-do man with several hundred acres of land.

The 11 children of Phœbe Winans Place produced her 115 grandchildren, the larger part of whom lived to marry, and of the records now available we have the names of some 700 great-grandchildren, with a number of families still unrecorded.

Besides her father, numerous of his people were in the War for Independence. Several of her brothers also entered the war with their father and saw great hardships. Her husband served during most of the Revolutionary war with some of his brothers and other relatives, showing practically a clear record of all available members of both her and her husband's families in the cause for Independence. Phœbe Winan Place's eldest son, Jacob Place, born December, 1781, whose father was in the Revolutionary service, gave his life for the American cause in the War of 1812.

Phœbe Winans Place spent her latter days with her daughter, Rosannah, wife of Alexander Patterson Biles of Porterville, Bradford county, where she died June 9, 1845, aged 86 years.

