

# Brookline Historical Publication Society

PUBLICATIONS, NO. 16.

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## More Early Notices of Local Events.

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COLLECTED BY MISS ELLEN CHASE.

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“Lancaster October 18th 1774 at a meeting of the Freeholders by adjournment.

“Voted, that Messrs Aaron Sawyer & Eph. Sawyer be empower'd to Receive the money due from the Town of Brookline to pay for the field Peices, Ball & Grape Shott.”—*Nourse's "Annals of Lancaster,"* p. 99.

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“To the Honorable, the Council & House of Representatives  
Gentlemen,

“By this I would Humbly inform your Honours, that in ye year 1775, being the first Champaign of ye Present War, I was engaged in ye same, from Lexington fight, till the 12th of August; I engaged as Surgeons Assistant to Dr. Aspinwall, & Dr Downer, both of Brooklyne; where I assisted them both in Tending the Sicke, & dressing the wounded Soldiers; After that I served at Dr. Aspinwall's Hospital at Jamaica Plains; & from that to a Hospital in Cambridge, at Col'o Phips's House: For all which Service I Never Have received a penny, wherefore, gentlemen If in Consideration of ye above Petition you shall see meet to grant any thing for what I have Done you will Lay inexpressible Obligations on your humble Petitioner  
of Represtatives.

Elijah Jones

“Resolved that Elijah Jones be paid by the Treasurer of this State Seven Pounds in full for his assisting Doc't Wm Aspinwall & Doc't

Downer as Surgeons assistant from April nineteenth 1775 to Aug. the first 75.

“Sent up for Concurrence.

R T Paine Speaker  
pro tem.”

“Warrant drawn.

“Massac'tts State Brooklyn

“ May 30 1777.

“This may certifie that Mr Elijah Jones served this State from the 19 of April 1775 to Aug't 12th 75 in sd Capacity of Surgeon's Assistant; He assisted Doct'r Downer, & myself to Dress, & attend the Wounded Soldiers after Lexington Battle. & to prepare medicine, that we Prescrib'd, to Soldiers of the Army, before the Regular Appointment of Surgeons to ye Regiments; & afterwards he serv'd in my Hospital at Jamaica Plain, & then at a Hospital in Col'n Phipps's House, at Cambridge untill the 12th of August 1775. He served with Great Fedelity & Industry & was usefull in his Place & Serviceable to ye sick & Wounded, wch sufficiently Recommend him for some Reward to be made for his Service which he has not Yet Received.

“William Aspinwall Surg'n.”

—*Revolutionary Petitions in the Massachusetts Archives, vol. 183, p. 178*

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In London, under date of September 23, 1775: “Sewall, Gray, and their wives; Mr. Waldo, and Sam Sewall, dined with us. Sewall says that when the rebels were drove out of their trenches at Charlestown, the whole army was in such consternation that they all fled, both from Cambridge and Roxbury, except about 100 men, who were at the end of Cambridge Bridge, next Brookline, ready to take up the planks of the bridge in case of a pursuit.”—*Diary and Letters of Thomas Hutchinson, vol. 1, p. 537.*

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“Four Dollars Reward.

“Taken out of my Shop in Roxbury Street, about four weeks past, a Silver Watch, supposed to be taken by Some Person in the Army. Said Watch had a Steel Chain and Steel jointed Key, and green triangular Glass Seal. Any Person that will give Intelligence of said Watch, so that

the Owner may have it again, shall have the above Reward from Benj Willard at his Shop near the Punch Bowl in Brookline.

“N. B. Those who left their Watches with said Willard to be repaired, when in Roxbury Street, may have them at his shop near the Punch Bowl in Brookline.”—*New England Chronicle and Essex Gazette*, July 21–July 27, 1775.

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“August the 12th 1775. In the morning I went down to see the guards relieved, and then went out on the left hand of the neck down on to the marsh where I had a fine prospect of the Common in Boston, where the regulars are incamped. About one o'clock Asa Chapman came here for some things I bro't him from his grandfather, Cordilla and I went with him up to Brookline Fort and on our way lit of one Lt Sprague of the Rhode Islanders with whom we crossed the ferry and went up to Prospect Hill. Cordilla and I then came back to Cambridge. . . .

“16th. After breakfast I took a walk up to Brookline cedar swamp, where I found me a very pretty cedar staff. I came back thro an orchard back of Gen Ward's quarters, where the inhabitants were gathering pears, and while I was talking with the people the regulars fired two shot on our new intrenchment, on which I hurried a little toward home, but the fire not continuing I made a little stop at an intrenchment just above a grist mill. I then went up toward the Grand Parade, where I lit of Rant Rose, and went with him to see the Indians shoot arrows at coppers.”—*Journal kept by Jabez Fitch, Jun., of Norwich, Connecticut, Eighth Co., Eighth Connecticut Regiment (Col. Jediah Huntington's), at the Siege of Boston. Quoted by A. E. Brown in his "Beneath Old Roof Trees."*

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“By Order of the Quarter Master General.

“Wanted, directly, for the Use of the Continental army, a number of Teams to be employed in the camps, where they may have good encouragement and immediate employ, by applying to John Goddard, at his lodgings at Mr Samuel Chandler's in Cambridge, or to Mr Robert Champney's, Deputy-Wagon-Master in Roxbury. It is desired that people would exert themselves, as they value the safety of their country.

“John Goddard, W. M. G.”

—*New England Chronicle and Essex Gazette*, Nov. 9–16, 1775.

"Taken up last July, a chestnut colour'd mare, about 13 and half hands high, her hind feet white, & some white spots on her back, about 8 years old, paces wholly —

"Inquire of Samuel Draper, at Sewal's point, in Capt. Timothy Cory's Company."—*New England Chronicle and Essex Gazette*, Nov. 2-9, 1775.

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"Deserted from Camp, at Sewal's Point, on the 27th or 28th of Nov. last, a soldier in Capt. Thomas Cogswell's Company, named Ichabod Peavy. He is about 5 feet 9 inches high, had on a blue coat, red waist-coat, blue breeches, had a pack strung with a pair leather mail straps; he is the same fellow who lately stole a horse in Haverhill and sold him in Providence. Whoever will secure him, so that he may be brought to the Camp, aforesaid, shall have a reward of two dollars, and all necessary charges paid by  
Amos Cogswell.

"Cambridge Dec. 21 1775."

—*New England Chronicle and Essex Gazette*, Dec. 14-21, 1775.

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"Friday Dec. 22 1775.

"Memorial of HANNAH SEWALL of *Brookline*, setting forth, that a very considerable landed estate hath accrued to her, & her brother SAMUEL SEWALL, heirs at law to their late brother HENRY SEWALL, deceased, intestate, which estate remains wholly unsettled, and undivided; and whereas, by virtue of a vote of this honourable Court, liberty hath been granted to cut wood from off the estates of such persons as have fled into Boston for refuge, and thereby rendered themselves obnoxious to their country, and a Committee appointed for the purpose of supplying the Army with wood; and whereas, in consequence of said Vote, a number of persons have entered the wood lots of your memorialist, owned as aforesaid, and situated in NEWTON, in the County of Middlesex, and cut from thence very considerable quantities of wood, to the great detriment of said wood lot; and, whereas, your memorialist hath already freely supplied the Army with a great quantity of wood, and is, and has been always ready to supply her full proportion of wood for the supporting said Army; your memorialist, therefore, prays a committee from both Houses may be appointed to make full inquiry into the truth of this memorial, and afford your memorialist relief adequate to her peculiar

situation, and further prays, that orders be immediately given to the said Court's Committee, to desist from cutting any more wood from said lots until the honourable committee, that may be appointed for said inquiry, shall make report to this honourable court.

"In the House of Representatives: Resolved, That the Committee appointed by this Court to provide Wood for the Continental Army, in this Colony, be immediately ordered to desist from cutting any more Wood on the land of the Memorialist, till the further order of this Court."—FORCE. *American Archives, 4 series, vol. 4, p. 1240-1.*

"Dec 20.

"A memorial of Hannah Sewall, of Brookline, setting forth, that considerable quantities of Wood for the use of the Army have been cut and carried away from a landed estate in Newton, which descended to her and her brother Samuel Sewall (a Refugee) and praying relief. Read, and comitted to Mr Nye of Hardwich, Colonel Woodbridge and Deacon Rawson."—*Ibid, p. 1347.*

"Dec. 21 Read & Reported to desist."—*Ibid, p. 1350.*

"Jan 4 1776.

"A Memorial & Petition of Hannah Sewall, of Brookline, setting forth, that Mr Alexander Sheppard of Newton, and other persons, have entered her woodlot, cut and carried off large quantities of wood therefrom. Read and the Petitioner had leave to withdraw her petition."—*Ibid, p. 1373.*

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"1776 Feb 26. After breakfast, Lt Harris & I set off for Cambridge, with Mr Griffin, Capt. Darrow, Ensign Pendleton, &c. Obliged to go round by the sign of the Punch Bowl, on account of the bridge over the creek being broken to pieces by the ice. Arrived at Cambridge about 11 o'clock, & went into a tavern for refreshment . . . dined on fresh cod, fried. Set off for home, called in at a tavern in Brookline, where we drank some flip with Capt Mason from Lebanon; our next remove we reached Capt. Darrow's quarters . . . .

"Sunday March 17 1776 . . . . Observed some very peculiar movements of the Shipping; they continued falling down the harbor, many of them surrounded with great numbers of boats till about noon, when I hear the Selectmen of Boston came out to Roxbury and informed the

Generals that the British troops had all embarked and left the town; whereupon a detachment from our army marched in with the American Standard displayed, and took possession of the town about 2 P. M. . . . Walked out to Brookline before dinner with Lieut. Chamberlin, and bought  $\frac{1}{2}$  quire of paper, at the moderate rate of 3s 4d. . . .

“March 28. Went thro Brookline to Watertown calling at many shops by the way.”—*Historical Magazine, October, 1864.*

“To the Whole Court.

“Brookline July 2 1776.

“We the Subscribers being a Committee of Corrospondance Safety & Inspection of Said Town, Do by Virtue of a Resolve of the General Coart make Return of their Doings to the Honourable Court, Respecting the Real & Personal Estates of those Parsons, who have fled from us Viz. Wee have Taken into our Care the farm Lately belonging to Henry Hulton Esq, & have let out for one year To the Rev'd Mr Jackson & John Coborn of Said Town, they Paying therefore Twentyfour Pounds Lawfull money Rent, also wee find in Personal Estate belonging to said Houlton —

Viz.

- one Suit of Curtains
- one Settee
  - “ Bureau Table
  - “ Matrass bed, two hats, one feather, one Sword
  - “ Iron Great
  - “ Pair of Tongs
  - “ Glass Salver
  - “ Copper Tea kettle
- Two Pictures
- one Mahogany Book Shelf
  - “ Iron harror
  - “ Plow Shares & Colter
  - “ Chest with about one Duzon of Glas Bottles
  - “ Iron Pump handle
- Two Iron bound Casks
- one house Bell
  - “ Pare of Pruning Shears
  - “ Grind Stone

Two Iron Bars, Two Pruning Chissels

one Breaking up how

one Bill hook, one Pair of Trases

“ Pick ax, one ox Cart, one Sled

“ Shase Cushen, 11 Chana Plates, two Maps

Som Sheat Led, 1 Small bag of Brass Scruse and also

we have Take into our Care Seven Acres of Land belonging to one Holmes of Boston and Let it out for one year to Robert Sharp of Brookline, he Paying Four Pound Thirteen Shillings & four pence Lawfull money Rent.

“Also we have Taken into our Care the farm belonging to Sam’ll Sewall & have Let it out for one year to John Heath of said Town, he Paying the Sum of forty Eight Pounds Lawfull money Rent.

“The Committee begs Leave to inform the honourable Court that there is other Real and Personal Estate in Brookline belonging to the Said Sam’ll Sewall which Lies undevided as the Committee are Informed, the Said Sewall having a Sister that Clames a Rite in the Estate, the Committee have not Taken the Said Estate into there Care by Reason of there not knowing what Part of the Estate belongs to the said Sewall the Committee are at a Loss how to act upon the Estate under its Present Surcomstances and beg that they may have the Honourable Courts Directions —

John Heath	} Committee.
Timothy Cory	
Caleb Craft	

“The Committee Beg Leave farther to Inform the honourable Court that Mrs Abigail Newell of Roxbury went to the house of Henry Hulton Esq. in Brookline and Took John Gore of Said Town to Assist her in Taking Sundry Goods out of said Hulton’s house and Lodged the same at her own house which the said John Gore has Delivered an Inventory to the Committee of the Goods that have Taken Out of Said Hulton’s house at that Time, and has made Oath to the Same. Mrs Newell has Delivered a Part of the Said Goods to the Committee & Part of them She Denies Taking.”

Written on the outside—Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Wyman, Mr. Lewis.

“The goods Mrs Newell Denies Taking from Mr Hulton’s—

Viz. one Chana Bowl

40 or 50 quir of Paper

8 or 9 Riteing Books, a quantaty of Duck quills

A quantaty of Sealing Wax Black & Red

8 or 9 Led Parcels, one Pare of Seats

Som Wafors, a Bag of Cloathing, Som Curting Linen, 9 or 10 Green handle forks, one Dubble Glass Bowl, Som White Glovs, Som Childrens Cloathing."—*Revolutionary Royalists in Massachusetts Archives, vol. 154, p. 69, 1775-84.*

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"Aug 1 1776. A small privateer of 9 carriage guns, called the *Yankee*, is brought into Dover. After she had taken a sugar ship, and a vessel laden with rum, and sent them in to America with what hands could be spared, the prisoners on board the *Yankee* rose upon the crew, and stood for the Channel, and arrived in 24 days.

"3rd. It seems, Henry Johnson, a person who served his time w'th Epes Sargent of Glo'cester is Captain, and a Doctor Downing [Downer], who has been a very troublesome person at Brooklyne, Surgeon of the *Yankee*, privateer. Mr Lyde was aboard to-day, and Lewis Gray yesterday. The vessel left Boston the 4th of June. The Master and Surgeon seem to be under no concern—depend upon security from the prisoners in the hands of the Congress. The Ministers are at a loss what to do with them.

"4th. . . The prisoners taken in the rebel vessel, sent aboard a Guard Ship at Sheerness."—*Diary and Letters of Thomas Hutchinson, vol. 2, pp. 86-7*

Sept. 22. . . "It has been reported some days past that Johnson the Chaplain [Captain (?)] of the privateer bro't into Dover, had made his escape from the Guard-Ship at Sheerness, and was gone to France, but Mr D'Oyly knows nothing of it, and does not believe a word of it."—*Ibid, p. 97.*

"The deposition of Eliphalet Downer of Brookline in the County of Suffolk Surgeon, Testifies and Says, that he sailed in the armed Brig Lexington, whereof Henry Johnson was Commander, about three years ago, and during the Cruise was taken by a British Cutter, and carried into Spithead, and from thence was carried to Forton Prison in England, and continued there for the Space of twelve months, that having with a





“ State of Massachusetts Bay.

“ In the House of Representatives April 20, 1780.

“ On ye Petition of Joseph Jackson, Resolved that the Judge of probate for the County of Suffolk be & hereby is impowered and directed to appoint a Committee to apprise on House & Land in Brookline, late the Estate of Henry Hulton an Absentee, and that the Agent for said Estate be impowered and directed to Lease said House and land for one year Commencing from the 25th Inst at Such a Rate as they in their Judgement, shall think it is worth, giving the Rev Mr Jackson of Brookline & Mr John Green of Boston, the preference, & if leased to them to be divided in Equal halves as near as said Com'te can Conveniently apportion the Same any Law or resolve for leasing the Same att publick auction Notwithstanding. The Leasser paying the Sum which shall be determined on by said Committee for the rent of said House & Land, into the hands of said Committee on their Receiving a Lease for the Same —

“ Sent up for Concurrence.

“ John Hancock Spk.”

— *Revolutionary Petitions in Massachusetts Archives, vol. 186, p. 183-5.*

## NOTICE.

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The attention of historical students is called to the two volumes of the publications of the Brookline Historical Publication Society offered unbound at \$4.00. These volumes are carefully edited, and well indexed. Much of the material is from unpublished sources and throws light on events of more than local interest. The economic and social conditions of colonial, revolutionary and modern times are touched upon; military and religious events are chronicled; and there is much biographical and genealogical information.

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