

## Homes of Notable Revolutionary Era People

By Judy Anderson

The people discussed here are necessarily men, who owned most (but not all) houses until recent times. But nearly every house was filled with women and children who suffered greatly as nearly 1,500 men & boys from their town of a thousand families left for grueling active service in the Continental Army, or took risks on privateer vessels, or in the new nation's under-supplied fledgling navy from Autumn 1775 onwards.

By some counts, **the 8-year war left more than 400 widows and perhaps 2,000 fatherless children.**

And, because the nearly 1,500 men & boys who served lived in nearly all of the 519 houses that stood in 1765 (perhaps 525 or so in 1775 ~ and about 300 of those still stand today), and since virtually all Marblehead families were Patriots, **nearly every 18<sup>th</sup> c. house in town today was the home of a Revolutionary war serviceman.**

Further, some of the more prominent gentlemen below also owned Black enslaved individuals, as was common and acceptable until after the war (though less common but quite acceptable during the less prosperous 1600s).

Many of those individuals lived inside the homes as well, often in attic or cellar rooms, or elsewhere.

*Most current street names were designated in 1824.*

### Lees & Hoopers Washington Street near Washington Square

#### **Colonel Jeremiah Lee Mansion**

#### **161 Washington Street**

The exceptional mansion built for Col. Lee less than a decade before American independence is one of the most superlative homes in late-colonial America, just prior to the American Revolution, and was then also. Of monumental size and depth, both inside and out, all four sides of Col. Lee's new mansion were faced with wide wooden boards that were beveled and scored to simulate cut stone blocks. Grains of sand ranging from clear to almost black were strewn onto the paint while it was still wet, to complete the illusion of stone.

The house was built in **1766**, as was the brick structure beside it (a separate coach house and /or additional kitchen). That was the year after the British Parliament imposed the despised Stamp Act (a tax on documents), which had first sparked colonial America's ten years of revolutionary protests before the war itself began.

The 7-foot deep cellar would probably have been dug in **1765**, the year the Stamp Act was imposed, with a granite stone block foundation for the immense structure laid as well. In **1767**, just as the British Parliament's Townshend Acts (a luxury tax) went into effect, the Mansion's extraordinary mahogany paneling and other interior wood-work of painted pine were installed. Hopefully the paint and seven patterns of colorful block-printed wall-papers (all but one now gone) plus the vast expanse of magnificent and uniquely surviving hand-painted *grisaille* mural wallpapers would have been ordered, as well as the nearly 700 panes of glass for the 54 pairs of wooden window sashes, had already been purchased, since the tax specifically targeted paper, paint and glass. It might have been **1768** when the wallpapers were hung, and the family moved in.

Remarkably, the house still survives nearly intact with its exquisite woodwork carving and most of those original opulent interior finishes — mainly because the house fortuitously served as Marblehead's first bank and a commercial office building for a century after **1804**. The unrivaled house has been preserved by the Historical Society (now Museum) ever since, beginning with its purchase of the Lee Mansion in **1909**.

#### **The Lee's family's first mansion & later, their eldest son, Capt. Joseph Lee 2 Union St.**

One of the best houses in Marblehead in 1731, and even in 1751 when a young Lee family moved into it, this was the first home of rising merchant Jeremiah Lee (appointed as a Colonel in 1751) and his wife and their six surviving children (three boys and three girls) for 17 years, from 1751 until their far grander Mansion around the corner was completed by 1768. (Construction on the more familiar Lee Mansion began at about the same time that the Lees' oldest son Joseph left for Harvard College, when he was around age 17.)

Later, for fourteen years starting in 1771, when that eldest son married, it became the residence of Joseph and his family of four young children until his own premature death in 1785, at age 37. As 1775 began, Joseph served in his father's rebel militia. Then, after his father's death, he was one of about ten Captains in Colonel John Glover's Marblehead regiment, until the servicemen's enlistments expired at the end of December 1776.

For decades this house has been known as "**the Lafayette House**" due to a persistent legend that the corner of the house was "cut out" to allow the carriage of the Marquis de Lafayette, the charismatic French hero of the Revolutionary War and its last surviving major general, when he visited Marblehead and hundreds of other towns during his 1824-25 tour of all 24 states in the Union at that time, in the nation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary years.

But actually, **the house was originally constructed that way.** When it was completed c.1731, and for nearly a century after, that corner featured an entrance door for a retail shop, as it would have when Col. Lee and his young family moved into the house in 1751, following the death of the original owner, Col. John Palmer (and also of Palmer's son & namesake who had inherited the house). The house may have been renovated in 1824, and it looks like the corner entrance door may have been walled up sometime around the 1850s.

The house has its original dormer windows in the gable-on-hip roof, as well as decorative scroll-shaped cornice blocks along the roofline (rather than cubes), which are generally unique to that time (late 1720s–30s), and are now extremely rare because most towns experienced extensive rebuilding after the Revolution. Only one house each in Cambridge and in Salem survive with those rare features, because they were homes of famous people ~ General William Brattle in Cambridge and Judge Nathaniel Ropes in Salem ~ and for nearly a century afterward families who respected their prominent ancestors' memories lived in those homes. 'Scrolled modillions' can be seen on about a dozen homes here, and on Marblehead's high-style Georgian Town House (built c.1727-29).

### **Colonel William Raymond Lee House**

**185 Washington St.**

Situated prominently alongside Marblehead's principal town common and near the crest of Training Field Hill, this imposing 3-story structure was (according to research by Robert Booth) built c.1769 as a high-style front addition to a rental property owned by Robert "King" Hooper. That seems to have purely been in response to the completion of the much grander house further down the hill that had just been constructed for his brother-in-law, Col. Jeremiah Lee. The original home, which Booth determined had been built sometime in the 1740s and stood perpendicular to the street, was apparently moved further back on the site to allow for the new front addition — just as Hooper had done with his own c.1728 home when its grand front rooms were added between c.1747-50.

Like King Hooper's own fine home lower down on the main street (the current King Hooper Mansion, first built for him c.1728-30, around the time of his first marriage, according to deed research by Robert Booth, with the updated and imposing 3-story front rooms added c.1747-50), the front façade of this house too was faced with wide wooden boards that were beveled and scored to simulate cut stone blocks.

Merchant William Raymond Lee was a son of Col. Jeremiah Lee's brother, Col. John Lee of Manchester & M'hd. He was also a protégé and former apprentice of his uncle Jeremiah. And in 1771, a year after his marriage to a niece of Col. Lee's wife Martha, it is said that the young businessman bought and moved into the newly expanded mansion up on the Training Field hill, next to the former home of his grandfather (Col. John & Col. Jeremiah's father Samuel, who died in 1753), and just two years after the front façade rooms were added. It was long said that W.R. Lee upgraded the interior woodwork finish. But it's more likely that was done when the stylish new front rooms were added just two years before Lee bought the house (unless maybe the interior was unfinished).

William became a Major in the militia under his uncle Col. J. Lee. He remained a Major after Col. Lee's death, when fellow Major John Glover was promoted to Colonel. After the Marblehead regiment disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. in 1776, William R. Lee continued his Continental Army service with Glover, and was promoted to Colonel in January 1777, just a month before Colonel Glover accepted a promotion to General. Later that year, after the surrender of British General Lord John Burgoyne at Saratoga, Col. Wm. R. Lee and Gen. Glover accompanied Burgoyne and his troops as they were transferred overland to Boston. The two had become friendly with the affable British general, and it is thought that Burgoyne probably facilitated the unlikely escape of Wm.R.'s brother, a privateer captain, from a British prison soon after, following a miserable and lengthy incarceration.

### **Robert Hooper House** (*not 'King'*)

**181 Washington St.**

This early 3-story house was also built in 1769, and featured a row of decorative high-style cornice blocks along the roof-line. However, it was faced with more typical clapboards, though on the front, the horizontal planks were enhanced visually by a long incised groove and rounded lower edge or 'bead' along their bottom edges.

Only distantly related to the more famous "King" Hooper, this Robert Hooper was the 18<sup>th</sup> c. patriarch of a shipping family that became some of the more prominent merchants of the post-Revolution years and decades. Some would later be among the founders the Grand Bank, which was established in 1831 as a rival bank to the town's first bank, which operated in the Colonel Jeremiah Lee Mansion for a full century after it was founded in 1804. In 1831, a sturdy building of granite and brick was constructed for the new Grand Bank, which became the National Grand Bank later in the 1800s, and is still in operation. (The bank moved to Pleasant St. in 1964.)

### **Robert "King" Hooper Mansion**

**8 Hooper Street**

Robert Hooper, who was famously a Loyalist, had been Marblehead's principal employer for half a century. He was eventually called "King" mainly because he had dominated and had led the development of the town's commercial prosperity from the 1720s to 1770s. But in 1775, when most of his fellow townspeople zealously pursued separation from Britain, "King" Hooper, age 66, chose loyalty to the government under which both his own and his town's prosperity had been built during his long life that benefitted the town so much.

During the war, Hooper and his youngest child (of eleven born to his second wife), along with his third then fourth wife (both widowed twice themselves) retreated to the King's country house beyond the borders of his radical Patriot home town. His grown older children were Patriots (mostly in Newburyport). But a middle son who was a flaming Tory fled to England, leaving his pregnant wife and young family, and never returned.

Dying in 1790, at age 81, Marblehead's 'king' would have had to watch in anguish as his formerly thriving town was devastated by the 8-year war in which such a huge proportion of Marblehead's residents served.

After the war, King Hooper returned to his Mhd. home, and his funeral was marked with deep respect. Salem diarist Rev. Wm. Bentley wrote: "*He had long been the most eminent Merchant in the place, but by the events of war, became a bankrupt ...[D]uring his natural life [he] was called King Hooper by the people. The highest affection was shewn to him at his death & his memory honored by his numerous former dependents. The Vessels were all dressed in mourning, [and] the Procession exceeded anything known in honor of a merchant in that place.*"

In 1805-6, the Hooper Mansion was almost converted into a hotel (per recent research by Robert Booth), but fortuitously it was not — though the lower right room was renovated then, and perhaps the ballroom as well.

### **The Gerry Family and their relations (Washington Street & Franklin Street)**

#### **Thomas Gerry House / Elbridge Gerry birthplace 44 Washington Street (enlarged mid-1800s)**

For nearly a half century, English-born Thomas Gerry was a leading merchant in Marblehead. He too became a revolutionary advocate and leader, including town moderator during several intense revolutionary town meetings. But, because he died in 1774 at age 72, his prominence in revolutionary affairs was largely forgotten. All four surviving sons of Thomas Gerry and his wife Elizabeth Greenleaf (Thomas Jr., John, Elbridge, and their younger brother Samuel) were actively engaged in the cause of independence. The one surviving sister, Elizabeth (of 11 children born to the family) married Captain Burrell Devereux, and they would live at 16 Franklin St.

The third story and front doorway portico (porch) were added in the mid-1800s for a local doctor. One of his daughters, Caroline Briggs, a poet, was actually the author who proudly wrote the words to "Marblehead Forever" at the time of the Civil War. The words were set to music and the song became the town anthem when Unitarian minister Rev. Marcia Selman changed the last lines to the words that were sung forever after.

#### **Joseph Homan House > Burrill Devereux 16 Franklin Street**

This house is one of Marblehead's very best 18<sup>th</sup> c. (1700s) homes, with classic "Georgian" style decorative elements. These include the unique arched top (or "pediment") over the doorway, the fluted pilasters that frame the doorway, and at the corners of the house, decorative faux corner blocks made of wood simulated stone. All of those created a high-end appearance, and still do. Only one other home in Marblehead is known to have had an arched doorway like this one (on Doake's Lane), but that house was torn down at some point early in the 1900s, and only a photograph of it survives. Few other houses are sufficiently high-style to have had one, though a mere handful do still retain their stylish 18<sup>th</sup> c. door frames that were not modernized in the 1800s.

The house might have been purchased by Elbridge Gerry for his sister, who married Burrill Devereux, a town leader after the Revolution, and an active Patriot during the war (if Gerry's purchase for her is not a legend.)

#### **Elbridge Gerry Family Mansion in Cambridge, MA**

After the Revolution, Elbridge Gerry lived in Cambridge for most of his adult life as a Massachusetts statesman and international diplomat to France. His home there was the former home of Mass. Lt. Gov. Thomas Oliver and his wife Elizabeth Vassall, which had been confiscated by the state early in the Revolution, and on whose 100 acres eleven enslaved individuals worked for the Olivers, both indoors and out. Gerry lived in the very stylish 3-story house with his wife, the fashionable and famously beautiful Ann Thompson of New York City, whom he married there in 1786, after the war had ended. The Gerrys and their ten children lived in that home from 1787 until his death in Washington DC in 1814, a year after he was appointed as U.S. Vice President by fourth President James Madison, and four years after he served as Governor of Mass. (1810-11). That is when he unjustly earned blame for a new voter redistricting strategy that political operatives in his party had forced him to reluctantly sign. Despite their fine home and its low price, Gerry and his family essentially lived in near poverty, just as so many of Gerry's Marblehead townsmen did, thanks to his early financial support of the war supply effort, and the economic challenges faced by so many Marbleheaders after the war. After her husband's death, Ann returned to New York City with their children.

That house has been owned by Harvard University (College at first) since the 1930s. It still serves as the residence of the university's president for the duration of that person's administrative tenure at Harvard.

## The Glover Square neighborhood & Homes of people related to the Glovers

### **General John Glover House**

### **11 Glover Square**

Marblehead's most famous Revolutionary figure lived in a fine home with one of Marblehead's most fashionable 18<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian-style doorway frames, both then and now. Built in the early 1760s, the house was home to Glover's family of eleven children with his beloved wife Hannah, who would die in 1778, during the war. In 1780, their eldest daughter, also Hannah, married King Hooper's stepson Capt. Richard Cowell, a privateer ship captain, and might have lived there with him (perhaps also still with her siblings as well), until their marriages after their father's re-marriage in 1781, the year before he retired and returned home from the war.

Born in Salem in 1732 (the same year as his future commander-in-chief, General George Washington), Glover came to Marblehead with his mother and three brothers when he was four years old. Apprenticed as a cordwainer (shoe maker) soon after, by his mentor and possible step-father, Benjamin Stacey, a hatter and merchant, Glover rode Marblehead's upward wave of prosperity in the 1750s and 1760s to become a ship's master and rum trader, then a merchant and ship owner. ♦ He would achieve both fame and heartbreak as the Colonel of Marblehead's celebrated Continental Army regiment after the death of his superior officer in the militia, Colonel Jeremiah Lee, on May 10, 1775, and as a general after February 1777, after leading the "Mhd." regiment for a year and a half — particularly in three pivotal operations in August & Dec. 1776. He served faithfully throughout the entire eight-year war, losing his wealth (as most of Marblehead did), as well as his health, though not his life (as many others did, including his eldest son, John, a captain in his father's regiment, just as Col. Lee's eldest son was).

After the war, Glover worked along with everyone else to rebuild their devastated businesses. He would live for more than a decade after the war ended, to become a Marblehead Selectman, a Massachusetts state representative, and a delegate to the Massachusetts convention that ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

### **General John Glover Farm House**

### **Vinnin Square** (*intersection of Mhd., Salem & Swpsct.*)

At some point after his retirement from 8 years of active service in the Revolution, the war-worn general moved with his second wife Frances (Fanny), a widow, to a 180-acre farm and farm-house he had purchased in 1781, the year he re-married, from the state of Massachusetts after its confiscation from a Salem Loyalist. Glover worked to rebuild his merchant business and continued in service to his country as a Marblehead selectman, Mass. state legislator, and representative to the Mass. committee that ratified the new U.S. Constitution in 1787. He resided there until his death on Jan. 30, 1797. He is buried in a brick tomb on Marblehead's Burial Hill.

### **Captain Thomas & Frances Fosdick House**

### **27 Pleasant Street**

(*later remodeled*)

Gen. Glover married his second wife Frances in 1781, a year before his retirement. She had come to Marblehead around 1765 with her husband Thomas, who died some years afterward. Their eldest son, also **Thomas**, became a Lieutenant under Gen. Glover, and then his adjutant, as the two continued to serve in the Continental Army after the famous regiment disbanded on Dec. 31, 1776. Soon after Glover became a General in February 1777, his eldest son was lost at sea, and his wife became ill, though he could not return home to visit her. She died in November 1778, leaving their oldest daughter, age 18, to care for her seven siblings — some of them still fairly young. In the 1780s, all but the youngest would marry ~ plus one in 1791, whose husband would purchase the farm.

### **Colonel Jonathan Glover House**

### **96 Front Street**

(*visible from between 92 & 98 Front St.*)

The oldest of the four Glover brothers (and the oldest of twins), Jonathan became a merchant after training as a hatter, or hat-maker. He was the most economically prominent of the four, who all became tradesmen and enjoyed the success that their town's trade prosperity brought in the second quarter of the 1700s (just as Boston thrived at that time as well). Jonathan became a Colonel in the 5<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment, but seldom served actively like the "Headers in his brother John's regiment did. Jonathan was the recipient of stinging letters from his two-years younger brother, General John, who served and suffered in the field throughout the entire six years of the war. Jonathan had derived his wealth from his merchant shipping activities, then also as a Revolutionary privateer agent for Marblehead, safe in town in his fine home rather than out in the field.

According to recent research by Robert Booth, the original smaller structure of Jonathan Glover's fashionable 3-story Georgian-style home started out as a tavern — the Three Cods, managed by **Benjamin Stacey**, the stepfather and/or mentor of the four Glover brothers. He was one of the fairly large number of Marblehead businessmen who built prosperity through the mid-1700s, but died not long before the Revolution began.

### **Boyhood home of the four Glover brothers**

### **81 Washington Street at State Street**

According to research by Robert Booth, after Tabitha Glover, the mother of four young boys, moved to Marblehead following her husband's death in 1737 after ten years of marriage. Researcher Robert Booth found that her four sons were raised and mentored by Benjamin Stacey, who had no children of his own, and

whose wife had apparently died. That Stacey was a hatter who developed into a merchant as Marblehead's economy grew so fast at that time. He apprenticed the four boys as a hatter, a cordwainer, a block-maker (wooden blocks-&-tackle pulleys for ships' ropes), and another unknown profession (perhaps as a goldsmith, as has been published without evidence, but more likely not ~ since that brother, a twin, spent many years at sea, as two others did, including John, the future Continental Army colonel and general, and the eldest brother Jonathan, the future Essex County colonel, before those two became prosperous merchants). The youngest brother, Daniel, the block-maker, seems to have moved his block-making workshop to Beverly in Autumn 1775, when his older brother, Colonel John, began overseeing the outfitting of vessels as privateers.

### **Colonel & former Sea Captain John Lee House      17 Glover Square    (later front doorway)**

Like his 5-years-younger brother Jeremiah, John Lee came to Marblehead from Manchester Mass., and lived in this house, adjacent to the home of the future Col. John Glover, from 1770 to 1781 (according to research by Robert Booth). Concurrently, he served on Manchester's Revolutionary committee of correspondence and other Patriot committees, while his and Jeremiah's oldest brother (in Manchester) remained loyal to the Crown. A family biographer wrote that John "*was a zealous patriot and took an active part in the perilous efforts made by Massachusetts citizens to redress wrongs they had endured as [colonial citizens] of Great Britain.*"

Before coming to Marblehead, John had often been elected to Manchester town offices as clerk, selectman and moderator. He was also a municipal magistrate and Justice of the Peace, as his and Jeremiah's father had been, before their father retired and moved to Marblehead with his third son Jeremiah around 1741.

After Captain John Lee's career at sea, as the Revolution mounted, he was appointed as chairman of the Manchester committee of Inspection (1774), chair of the cttee. to raise money to support the town's Minutemen (1775), chair of the [Manch.] cttee. of corresp. (1775), and a delegate to the Essex County Convention (1774 & 1776). He was also appointed by the Provincial Congress to swear in soldiers for service in the Essex county militia regiment. And in January 1775 he was appointed Colonel of the 6<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment. In Feb. 1775 he led the regiment's sprint to Salem when British Col. Leslie's troops were sent to re-claim munitions that had been appropriated by rebel insurgents there (Patriots). Later that year, he led them to Beverly when British war sloop *Falcon* unsuccessfully fired on that town. After the war, Lee was elected to represent Essex County in the Mass. state Legislature. He periodically continued to live in Marblehead — (possibly living on Washington St. with his middle son, merchant William Raymond Lee, until John's death in 1789). Col. W.R. Lee died in 1824.

Before moving to Mhd., 21-year-old John Lee had married a 23-year-old woman from Beverly named Joanna who became highly respected and lived to age 97 (d.1811). All 11 of their surviving children (of 12 born ~ 9 girls, 3 boys) became or married active Patriots, and several of the daughters' husbands were lost to the war:

John and Joanna Lee's oldest daughter **Joanna**'s husband would lead a Continental Army company during the year-long siege of Boston (1775-76) after two decades as a successful and comfortable merchant, town clerk, selectman, and town moderator in Manchester. He died not long afterward, probably during/ due to his service.

Daughter **Mary** (1741-1799) married the prominent merchant Patriot **Col. Azor Orne** (1731-1796) in 1786, a year after the death of Orne's first wife (also Mary), and of Mary's first husband, Azor's half-brother, **Major Joshua Orne** (of Franklin St.) in 1785 at age 37. After Azor's death in 1796, she married again (a Brown, who got part of Orne's Island, later called "Browne's" through her), before her own death soon after, age 58.

Next oldest, **Annis**, married **Major John Pulling, Jr.**, who hung the lanterns in the Christ Church belfry before Colonel Paul Revere's famous ride. Another daughter, **Betsy**, married a "fighting" chaplain in the Continental Army (Rev. Daniel Johnston), while younger sister **Nabby** (Abigail) married **Captain Stephen Sewall**, a Marblehead merchant and aide-de-camp to General Glover in 1777-78, who was related to future MA state Congressman then MA Supreme Court Judge Samuel Sewall after whom Fort Sewall was named.

**Martha** would marry two Revolutionary officers. The first, from Marblehead, was the bold but tragic Capt. Jeremiah Hibbert, a friend and brother-in-law of fellow privateer officer Capt. John Glover Jr. (who was lost in 1777, age 22). Hibbert, age 25, and his crew died as their ship foundered in an off-shore storm in 1778. (*see article by Robert Booth on the Manchester Mus. website*). Martha then wed a major-general from Salem.

In 1776, younger daughter **Fanny** (b.1755) married her neighbor **Captain John Glover Jr.**, eldest son (b.1756) of Col. Glover. Their daughter (also Fanny) was born the next year. But because John, serving on a privateer vessel, was 'lost at sea' that year (or was captured and killed, or died on a prison ship, at age 21), he perhaps never even knew about his daughter. Fanny left for Manchester, where their daughter was born and grew up.

Youngest daughter **Lucy** married **Col. Marston Watson**, who was related by marriage to the Swett family through Martha Swett Lee's youngest half-sister Sarah, who had married Benjamin Marston, a merchant and town moderator who became a Loyalist in 1775, the year his young wife Sarah died. (Later, in 1792, Fanny Lee Glover (*above*) would marry the father of that youngest sister's husband Marston Watson, who was also a Whig (Patriot) in Plymouth (the father), and father of the remarkable Elkanah Watson [Jr.]. *google him !*).

### **Privateer Captain James Mugford Birthplace**

**13 Glover Square**

This house is noted in 19<sup>th</sup> c. publications as the boyhood home of the future intrepid hero and early martyr, Captain James Mugford, who in May 1776 would capture one of the most valuable prizes of the early Revolution. He and his crew captured the 300-ton British supply ship *Hope*, which carried a cargo of weapons and ammunition, and turned that invaluable shipment over to the rebels (Patriots). Tragically, after delivering the essential prize to the Patriot authorities in Boston, his ship was pursued by angry British on several vessels. In the ensuing battle, Mugford's ship became trapped on a sand-bar, and he alone was killed — but not before uttering familiar words made famous in a later war (the War of 1812) by a future naval officer (and which were likely spoken in earlier centuries as well): “*Don't give up the ship!*”

### **Privateer Sea Captain James & Sarah Mugford House**

**39 Mugford Street**

Just prior to that, young and newly married, Mugford had been kidnapped by a British press gang, and was held captive on a British warship near the mouth of Marblehead Harbor. Soon after, his bold new wife boarded a small boat and convinced the British officers to release her husband. While on board though, the young captain had overheard discussions about the arrival of a British supply convoy. As soon as he was released, he sought permission from Col. Glover and commander-in-chief Washington to find and capture the ship — which he did. Tragically, he would be killed by British forces in retaliation, dying that day, on his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday (17 May 1776). A stone obelisk commemorating Captain Mugford and his crew was erected on the Centennial of his death.

### **Peter Jayne House / Tuesday Evening Club** (see last pages)

**37 Mugford Street**

School master Peter Jayne ran a school for the children of prosperous families. (Jeremiah Lee's daughters were among his students.) Jayne's home was also the meeting place for the Tuesday Evening Club, where gentlemen met weekly to drink, smoke, and discuss business and politics in a setting that was different from a tavern, where the same activities also occurred.

In the 1760s to '70s, those who gathered here were critical of British policies (which included most men in Marblehead) — and most would become rebels (Patriots) by 1775. By the 1770s, the few who did not become as radical in their opinions about separation from the mother country would have met in private homes, such as the homes of Thomas Robie or another of the town's dozen or so identifiable Loyalists.

This was also the first place where the early members of Marblehead's early **Masonic Lodge** first met in 1760. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it moved to the second floor of a large c.1870s Victorian-style former home of a shoe factory owner, where the Marblehead chapter of the national “Odd Fellows” fraternal group had formerly met.

### **Most famous of the many privateer captains:**

**Captain Nicholson Broughton House**

**6 Lee Street**

**Captain John Selman House**

**19 Franklin Street**

**Captain John Manley House**

**56 Norman Street**

Dramatic stories and tribulations of these and other famous privateer captains of some of the first group of five vessels outfitted as privateers in Autumn 1775 can be found in Samuel Roads' *History and Traditions of Marblehead* and in Eric Jay Dolin's recent book *Rebels At Sea*, and other books about Massachusetts privateers.

### **Upper Washington Street, Orne Street & Franklin St.**

**Colonel Azor Orne House**

**18 Orne Street** (later front doorway)

Built in the 1760s for a merchant who at age 44 was one of three Mhd. Patriots appointed to the 13-member Massachusetts Committees of Safety & Supplies in early 1775, with Elbridge Gerry (age 31) and Colonel Jeremiah Lee (age 54). A captain in Marblehead's defensive militia since 1761, he became a colonel of the Massachusetts militia in 1775, and was one of three major generals in the state militia the following year, but never served in the field. After the Revolution, he was a delegate at the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention along with General John Glover, where both voted to ratify the new U.S. Constitution. Azor Orne was born 1731, a year before John Glover, and would die 1796, also a year before Glover (both 65).

*(The house was not built in 1731, as several websites state. Rather, Azor Orne lived from 1731 to 1796.) The house was remodeled in the 1840s (window, door & house trim) for Capt. Josiah Creesy of “Flying Cloud” clipper ship fame, and his wife Eleanor, who was often his navigator. According to Robert Booth, she had inherited the house after her father died when she was young. And while she was still a girl, her uncle taught her navigation out at today's Gas House Beach in Little Harbor, at the end of her street.*

## Major Joshua Orne House

22 Franklin Street (later front doorway)

A militia officer, merchant, and fervent Patriot, Major Orne served with his younger half-brother, Colonel Azor Orne, and others on Marblehead's Committee of Correspondence (1774) and Grievances (1771), and was a delegate to the Essex County Provincial Congress (Sept. & Oct. 1774). However, Major Orne would die in 1772, before the Revolution's first battle in 1775, just like Elbridge Gerry's formerly prominent father, Thomas Gerry, who also served in community leadership roles as a Patriot, died in 1774. Therefore, neither of those men became well known in Mhd. history. Major Orne's widow Mary, a daughter of Jeremiah Lee's older brother John (*and NOT Jeremiah Lee's sister (whose name was Abigail), as claimed on Wikipedia!*) would then marry Col. Azor Orne. After his death in 1796, she married a Brown, but died soon after.

## Captain Samuel Russell Trevett House

65 Washington Street

Captain Samuel Russell Trevett led an artillery company at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Thanks to his courage and leadership, his unit became the only American artillerists who participated in the thick of the battle. Captain Trevett had been assigned to follow Major Samuel Gridley, but the latter pulled back after reaching Breed's Hill and realizing that the gunpowder cartridges were too large to fit into the company's cannon. Captain Trevett then defied orders and led his company into the fight. Despite the Americans' loss of that battle, Trevett and his Marblehead company managed to retain possession of a four-pounder cannon that turned out to be the only American field-piece that was not captured by the British during the battle. Built in 1715 and updated two generations later, the Trevett house was owned by the Marblehead Arts Association from 1927 to 1938, when the arts group (which had been founded in 1922) bought the King Hooper Mansion.

## Dr. Elisha Story House

102 Washington Street (3<sup>rd</sup> floor probably later)

Originally from Boston, Dr. Elisha Story, is famous for being one of the "Sons of Liberty" who on December 13, 1773 raided American merchant ships in Boston Harbor to dump their expensive cargoes of boycotted tea ~ 342 chests ~ overboard, as revolutionary unrest mounted. He was the father of Joseph Story from Marblehead, who in 1811 at age 32 became the youngest person ever appointed to the United States Supreme Court, serving until his death in 1845. Many of the early U.S.'s maritime laws were written by Judge Story as well.

During the Revolution, Dr. Story was a medical surgeon when Continental Army surgeons and chaplains participated in battles as soldiers. He fought along the British retreat route from Concord and Lexington, and was in the trenches as a volunteer at the battle of Bunker Hill, fighting beside his friend and medical colleague Dr. Warren early in the engagement, until his medical skills were needed to attend to the fatally wounded Dr. Warren and others. He also served in the New York campaigns in 1776. **His very rare army surgeon's kit is in the Marblehead Museum collection.** A miniature portrait said to be of him is more likely of someone else.

The house, now three stories, was originally built as two-and-a-half, with a facing of horizontal clapboards rather than shingles (which were not common in 18<sup>th</sup> c. Marblehead). It sat right across from the then-new (now "Old") Town Meeting House (built 1727-29) at Marblehead's busy market square, at the head of State Street (formerly Wharf Street then King Street), which led down to the public town landing (since 1660).

It was the home of Dr. (surgeon) Elisha Story after he came to Mhd. from Boston with his first wife by way of Salem, where their sixth and seventh children were born. They had left Boston in 1774 along with so many other residents who opposed British "tyranny," as British troops occupied Boston after the December 1773 tea incident. Dr. Story came to Marblehead with his family to render medical services during a smallpox epidemic in or by 1778, and stayed. His eighth child was born in Mhd. early that year, but died a few days later, on the same day as his wife, that infant's mother. With seven children from age one to ten to care for, he married 20-year-old Mehitable Pedrick, youngest daughter of Major John Pedrick, in late 1778, and the two of them had 11 additional children. Their last child (his 19<sup>th</sup>) was born in 1799, when Dr. Story was 62. He died six years later. Mehitable lived to age 89, and died 1847, two years after their oldest child, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story (1779-1845). The judge and his mother are both buried in Boston, at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Later in life, Mehitable was famous for telling tall tales. In one, she created a role that she claimed her father, Major John Pedrick, had played in February 1775 during the episode of British Colonel Alexander Leslie's march from Marblehead to Salem, when the Revolution **almost** began in Marblehead or Salem, but didn't — because cooler heads prevailed than in Lexington and Concord just two months later. As a result, her father's fabricated participation has been cited numerous times as fact, and was depicted in a painting by J.O.J. Frost.

Dr. Story's seventh child (born in Salem the year before the family moved to Marblehead and her mother died) would marry Samuel Roads. A later descendant was journalist **Samuel Roads** who, with assistance from his mother and an aunt, would write the comprehensive history of Marblehead. That book is still today the most definitive account of the town's first 250 years, and is more accurate than most 19<sup>th</sup> c. town histories usually are — and indeed more accurate than many contemporary articles about M'head history (online or in print).

*Additional revolutionary action by Dr. Story:* [described in Samuel Roads' *History & Trad. of M'hd:*] In 1774, while still living in Boston, on a night when two brass field-pieces (cannons) were placed on Boston Common by order of the British Commander-in-chief (General Thomas Gage, who was also acting governor of Mass.), Dr. Story, as one of the Sons of Liberty, "was selected to disarm and gag one of the sentinels" guarding the cannon (presumably a second Patriot was assigned to the other guard), so the cannon could be captured [by them]. [Dr. Story] "performed this difficult and dangerous service according to the plan previously arranged, and the whole affair was successfully conducted. The two cannons played a distinguished part in the Revolution. ...They were the same cannon described by the secretary of war, in a representation to Congress in the 1790s, as "two brass cannons, which constituted one moiety [a part] of the field artillery with which the late war [began], ...and were constantly in service during the war.

## Other Revolutionary Captains' and officials' Homes

### **Commodore Samuel Tucker House**

**70 Prospect St. near Pleasant St. (remodeled)**

Before he was distinguished as a Commodore in America's early Navy, Captain Samuel Tucker was a daring, dauntless and even audacious ship's master who had captained trading vessels for Colonel Jeremiah Lee and others before his exploits in service of the American Revolution throughout its duration. In 1778, he captained the ship that brought John Adams and his 11-year old son John Quincy Adams on a diplomatic mission to France, with storms and a fight against a British privateer along the way. Long after the war, Comm. Tucker retired to Maine, but later, in his 60s, during the War of 1812, he heroically captained privateer vessels again. In both wars, Captain Tucker captured scores of vessels and escaped capture and/or imprisonment several times.

It has been written that at some point before the war, Tucker may have owned but then freed the parents of Lucretia Thomas, a Black woman who was born in Salem in 1772 and later became the wife of mixed race (Black father plus a Gay Head (Martha's Vinyard) Native American mother) Revolutionary War veteran Joseph Brown, who had served in a Rhode Island company and relocated to Marblehead after the war.

### **Commodore Samuel Tucker Birthplace**

**7 South St. (at the point with Middle St.)**

This early vernacular house is one of several right in a row that were built in the 1720s. Several share walls.

### **Captain William Blackler House**

**57 Front St. at Ferry Lane (not 7 Pearl St. ~ see ref. below)**

According to deed records, this was the home of Captain William Blackler later in his life, from 1794 until his death in 1818. Capt. Blackler was famously and rightfully proud of his Revolutionary role in the Marblehead Regiment, as he had been assigned the honor of captaining the boat that rowed General George Washington himself across the Delaware River toward the end of the grueling all-night operation in lashing sleet (before the even more grueling and frigid 9-mile march to Trenton, which also involved the even more physically challenging task of hauling oxen and cannon across a creek whose banks were lined with large icy rocks).

*The post-Revolutionary Federal-style brick house at 7 Pearl St. (c.1799 according to an unofficial online research report on a MA state website) has long been said to have been the home of Capt. Blackler. If so, it was built later in his life (around age 60). But deed research by Robert Booth placed him at 57 Front St. later in his life. His eldest son, also Capt. William Blackler, who married a Gerry granddaughter, owned the Gerry family's patriarchal home around the corner on Washington St. from 1795 & 98 until his death in 1813, five years before his famous father (also according to research by Robert Booth). So, perhaps HIS son William Greenleaf Blackler (born 1804) lived there instead.*

### **Captain Edward Fettyplace House**

**19 Orne St. (parlor woodwork matches Lee M. best parlor)**

A member of several revolutionary committees, Captain Fettyplace also captained several privateer vessels, and was the captain of a local company of coastal guards based in Marblehead. Many mariners served in that between privateering voyages. This home has one of only about a half dozen stylish pre-Revolutionary period door frames in Mhd., and the woodwork in the best parlor (front right) matches the full-length paneling in the Lee Mansion's large formal parlor, including their interior window seats whose bases feature a high-end "ogee" curve or swell.

### **Deacon William Doliber House**

**29 Beacon Street**

Also a member of several revolutionary committees, Deacon Doliber was highly respected. And his home is a rare example of a high-end Georgian-style home that was built in the "Little Harbor" neighborhood, where his ancestors had lived for more than a century. Arriving in the 1630s, the Dolibers were among the town's first settlers (though not the first, as many claim and believe). The house has a beautiful colonial-period doorway with a wooden frame that simulated stone, and decorative wooden corner blocks that did also. The slate roof and dormer windows probably date from the 1880s, when the house was moved slightly to this location when the long straight Norman Street was laid out to join today's Beacon St. that winds around Doliber's Cove.



**Colonel John Gallison House****17 State Street** (later front doorway)

John Gallison was a member of Revolutionary committees and, along with Joshua Orne, was elected as a representative from Marblehead to the Massachusetts General Court. His first wife was Col. Jeremiah Lee's only surviving sister, Abigail, who died in 1754 at age 21 soon after the birth of their third child, who lived.

**Captain Richard Homan House** (*privateer*)**47 Washington St.**

Very little is known about Richard Homan, though he served in the Revolution and may have captained a privateer vessel or vessels. He had been a successful "shoreman," a profession that was just below that of a merchant. A shoreman oversaw the fish drying or "curing" process for a merchant or several merchants, and sometimes hired the crews and outfitted the ships for the vessel owners. In 2013, this house was painted a period-appropriate monochromatic buff color by the team that renovated it at that time and added the doorway frame with the triangular pediment above the door and reeded pilasters flanking the doorway.

**Captain Richard James > Moses Pickett House****10 Franklin Street****Principal Non-Residential Revolutionary Sites:****Old Town House** built 1727-29**Market Square, at the head of State St.**

Built 1727-29, Marblehead's Town House was a very high-style structure that separated church and state a half-century before the U.S. Constitution did. It is the earliest municipal building constructed of wood still standing in the U.S.. The first and third earliest are brick court houses in southeastern Virginia.

The second floor is where passionate town meetings were held during the pre-war and Revolutionary years (1765 to 1783, but especially in 1774, and from 1771 to 1775, the year the war began). A public market was held on the first floor starting in 1763, a town school was located inside the building, and the public town whipping post and wooden pillory were also on the site. The building was raised up onto a granite foundation in the 1830s, for a jail, after industrial-grade granite quarrying had begun on Cape Ann.

(That was around the same time that the Grand Bank was constructed with a granite facade, in 1831, down from the Lee Mansion, where Marblehead's first bank had started in 1804 inside Colonel Lee's former home.)

Marblehead's Town House structure predates Boston's Faneuil Hall, which was completed in 1742, with an open ground floor for a market and an assembly room above, by 13 years. That building burned in 1761. Rebuilt in 1762, British troops used it for a theatre during their occupation of Boston in 1775 (to March 17, 1776, "evacuation day"). Some slave auctions also took place near Faneuil Hall, before it was rebuilt and enlarged to its present appearance in 1806.

**Powder House** built 1755**Green St. at Lattimer St.** (from Lattimore)

Built of brick in 1755 for gunpowder storage, a safe distance beyond the town center, Marblehead's powder house was built with rounded sides so any ammunition fired at it might glance off the curve instead of directly shattering a flat wall. (And a potential explosion within would be better contained.) It is one of the earliest surviving in the U.S., and one of a few round ones. (Most later ones were square, hexagonal, or rectangular.)

Built during Europe's Seven Years War (called the 'French & Indian War' here in N.America, where it mainly impacted Pennsylvania, the Great Lakes, Ohio country, upstate New York and Canada), its construction was coordinated and supervised by Major Richard Reed, Colonel Jacob Fowle (d.1771) and Colonel Jeremiah Lee.

**Training Field****188 Washington St. / Washington Square**

The town common where Abbot Hall would be built in 1876, the nation's Centennial year, had been the town's principal common land (of several) for communal grazing of cows. It was also where the town's defensive militia had drilled for nearly a century and a half prior to 1775. But in January that year, militias everywhere split into Loyalist and rebel (Patriot) camps. Most of Marblehead's militia chose the rebel side, prompting the New York Gazette to jeeringly report "*The madmen of Marblehead are preparing for a campaign against His Majesty's troops!*" New recruits joined in and after March 1775, when economic sanctions widely called the "Intolerable Acts" (or "Restraining Acts") took effect. One of those prohibited fishing in the Atlantic, so the entire town became suddenly unemployed, as every trade and profession depended on fishing industry.

Soon after, nearly 600 men and older boys joined the militia. In June marched to **Cambridge** as a guard to the camp and headquarters of the new commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army, General George Washington, serving there alongside the troops the Virginian brought, in their unusual buck-skin uniforms.

From January to May 1775, the new rebel militia had drilled under (and with) **Colonel Jeremiah Lee**, a leader of the town's Patriot faction, until his sudden and premature death on May 10, 1775, when **Major John Glover** was promoted to Colonel. The "Marblehead Regiment" dissolved after December 31<sup>st</sup> 1776, when Continental Army enlistment terms ended, just days after the heroic crossing of the Delaware River. Col. Glover was promoted to General in early 1777 due to his invaluable leadership skills, particularly in August & December 1776. A **wooden gun storage building** was also located up on the training field hill for a while. And a **windmill** for grinding grain was there in the 1600s, due to the frequent steady breezes that swept over that tallest of the many rocky headlands on which the fish caught by Marbleheaders were dried or "cured" before shipment to southern Europe (mainly Spain and Portugal and the islands around them) or the West Indies (islands in the Caribbean).

After the Revolution, a set of painted **wooden archways** marked the two or four main entrances to the common (just like Salem still has). Centered at the top were **painted wooden cameo portraits of General George Washington** carved by Samuel McIntire. One of those is in the collection of the Marblehead Museum.

The "*Spirit of '76*" **painting** embodies the spirit of those revolutionary fishermen and mariners — but also the hundreds of tradesmen and merchants and their sons, and their enslaved workers as well, who fought side by side with their maritime townsmen, maneuvering the boats, marching for hundreds of miles through heat and snow, sleeping, eating and camping in grueling conditions, and firing weapons as they staved off British attacks.

### **The Marblehead Fort    established 1644 / enlarged 1775                      at the end of Front St.**

Not called "Fort Sewall" until about 1800, **the Marblehead Fort was enlarged to its current footprint in 1775**. Originally built as a defensive earthwork, with embankments and two guns circa 1644 (then enlarged with twelve cannons in 1705), the Marblehead fort was originally the property of, and was funded and managed by, Parliament and the Crown, until 1775, when the Revolution began. That year, it came under the direction by the new rebel (Patriot) Congress, and soon after by the new U.S. government's military engineers and officers.

The fort was enlarged and renovated six different times over more than two centuries, under the direction of twelve professional military engineers, including in 1775. It gained its current appearance in a major renovation in the late 1790s, when the new United States nearly went to war with France (when the USS Constitution and the five other new U.S. Navy frigates were constructed).

Around 1800, after the completion of the late 1790s renovation, the fort's name was changed to Fort Sewall, to honor Marblehead attorney **Samuel Sewall** of Marblehead (not Boston), who had served in the U.S. Congress from 1796 to 1800. In 1800 he had the honor of being appointed as a judge of the Massachusetts state Supreme Judicial Court. He became Chief Justice in 1814, the year he died up in Maine (since Maine was still part of Massachusetts until 1820, and therefore part of his legal jurisdiction), during the three-year War of 1812.

### **Peter Jayne House / Tuesday Evening Club                      37 Mugford Street** (*Sons of Liberty plaque on hs.*)

School master Peter Jayne ran a school for the children of prosperous families. (Jeremiah Lee's daughters were among his students.) Jayne's home was also the meeting place for the Tuesday Evening Club, where gentlemen met weekly to drink, smoke, and discuss business and politics in a setting that was different from a tavern, where the same activities also occurred. (As in other towns, there were several taverns and inns in colonial Marblehead, including the Three Cods, the Bunch of Grapes, the Fountain Inn, and others.)

In the 1760s to '70s, those who gathered here were critical of British policies (which included most men in Marblehead) — and most would become rebels (Patriots) by 1775. By the 1770s, the few who did not become as radical in their opinions about separation from the mother country would have met in private homes, such as the homes of Thomas Robie or another of the town's dozen or so identifiable Loyalists.

This was also the first place where the early members of Marblehead's early **Masonic Lodge** first met in 1760. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it moved to the second floor of a large c.1870s Victorian-style former home of a shoe factory owner, where the Marblehead chapter of the national "Odd Fellows" fraternal group had formerly met.

### **Three Cods Tavern** (*by legend, but not actually*)                      **82-84 Front St.** (*but actually inside 96 Front St.*)

Long thought and said to be the Three Cods Tavern, this particular house was actually NOT the tavern, nor was it fired on by the British warship *H.M.S. Lively*, as legend claims. It later became two homes, one with three stories, one with two and a half. (It was originally Christopher Lattimore's, c.1680s, according to Robert Booth.)

According to research by Robert Booth, the Three Cods Tavern from earlier in the 1700s was actually situated a bit further up the slope, farther away from the street-front. In the mid-1700s, it was developed into the fashionable 3-story mansion of Jonathan Glover. It had been established and run by hatter-turned-merchant **Benjamin Stacey**, the step-father and mentor of the four Glover brothers. That structure was later enlarged

into a high-style 3-story house for Stacey's apprentice and protégé, the future **Colonel Jonathan Glover**, oldest of the four Glover brothers, who had also trained as a hat maker. (That was a beneficial trade and profession, since hats were expensive and nearly everyone wore one, men and women alike. But Jonathan's greater wealth was from his merchant and shipping activities, and then as a privateer agent for Marblehead.

However, this house on the corner of Front St. WAS apparently hit by ordinance during the Revolution — probably in 1777, when the American brig "*Freemason*" exploded in the harbor after its ammunition storage in the hold ignited, sending shrapnel into the town (according to research by Marblehead diver Raymond Bates, who has explored and written books about shipwrecks in the region). Despite that, the more valorous story that blamed a British warship became accepted as fact. Later, a cannon ball that had lodged in the wall of this house was given to Marblehead's new Historical Society as one of its first donations.

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