

LIST of HOMES of the PRINCIPAL REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS in MARBLEHEAD

On the eve of American independence, Marblehead was the **6th most populous metropolis in British North America**, and in Massachusetts it was second only to Boston. The crowded urban center was a prosperous international Atlantic seaport with a population of nearly **5,000** and about **1,000 families**, living in about **550 houses**. **About 300 houses from before 1775 still survive. Therefore, nearly ALL houses were residences of a Revolutionary Patriot.** An estimated **1,400 men and boys** served during the war's **8 long years** — mostly at sea on privateer vessels after September 1775 and especially after December 1776. Only a handful of residents were Loyalists (perhaps a dozen or so heads of households).

Most Famous or Most Prominent Revolutionary Leaders or People :

- 161 Washington St.** mansion house of **Colonel Jeremiah Lee** for 7 years (and his family perhaps longer)
- 24 Lee St.** site of former shipping wharf of **Col. Lee** and others, both then & after, by a cove later filled in
- 2 Union St.** 1st home and store owned by **Col. Jeremiah Lee**, and home of Lee's family for its first 17 years
- 2 Union St.** home of **Joseph Lee**, Col. Jer's. eldest son, Capt. in his father's militia regiment, then Col. Glover's
- 18 Orne St.** home of **Col. Azor Orne**, eminent Revolutionary Patriot and member of all the rebel committees
- 22 Franklin St.** home of **Major Joshua Orne**, Azor's half-brother, who also served on the main Patriot cttees.
- 44 Washington St.** home of **Capt. Thomas Gerry**, moderator of several volatile town meetings (died 1774)
- 44 Washington St.** birthplace of future statesman **Elbridge Gerry** and bros. Thomas, John, Samuel & a sister
- 11 Glover Square** home of Captain > Major > Colonel > **General John Glover** and his family of 11 (10) ch.
- 81 Washington St.** boyhood home of future **General John Glover & his 3 brothers** Jonathan, Samuel & Daniel
- 27 Pleasant St.** home of Gen. Glover's 2nd wife, **Frances Fosdick**, mother of Glover's adjutant **Ltnt. Thomas F.**
- 96 Front St.** home of **Col. Jonathan Glover**, merchant, oldest of the 4 Glover bros., and Mhd. privateer agent
- 29 Beacon St.** home of **Deacon William Doliber**, a member of several principal revolutionary committees
- 19 Orne St.** home of **Capt. Edw. Fettyplace**, mbr. of rev. cttees. & capt. of a company of coastal marine guards
- 65 Washington St.** home of **Captain Samuel Russell Trevett** who led the Marblehead artillery unit at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775, and participated in Gen. Glover's Rhode island expedition in August 1778
- 185 Washington St.** 1771 home of Major > **Col. William Raymond Lee**, who served under General Glover (rear section of house built 1740s, front 3-story façade added c.1769 by Robert "King" Hooper, W.R. Lee 1771 >)

Homes of Early Rev. Commissioned Ship Captains: (1st ships: Hannah, Hancock, Lee, Warren, Franklin)

- 6 Lee St.** home of Capt. **Nicholson Broughton**, a captain of the privateer schooner "*Hannah*" and others
- 56 Norman St.** home of **Capt. John Manley**, a captain of privateer schooners "*Lee*," "*Hancock*" and others
- 19 Franklin St.** home of **Capt. John Selman**, a captain of the privateer schooner "*Lee*" and others
- 39 Mugford St.** home of **Capt. James Mugford** and his wife Sarah, who got him released from a British ship
- 13 Glover Square** birthplace of **Capt. James Mugford**, a captain of the privateer schooner "*Franklin*"
- 80 Front St.** home of **Capt. John Twisden**, owner of privateer schooner "*Warren*" (*Capt. E. Burke of Beverly*)
- 7 South St.** birthplace of **Commodore Samuel Tucker**, a captain of numerous privateer vessels
- 70 Prospect St.** home of **Comm. Samuel Tucker**, who also transported John Adams and his son to France
- 17 Glover Square** home of **Capt. John Lee**, Jeremiah's older brother, who also lived in Manchester, MA and served on their Committee of Correspondence (The Lees' oldest brother was a Loyalist in Manchester.)

Most Famous Rev. Captains in Continental Army: (in addition to others, & hundreds in the Army)

- 57 Front St.** home of **Capt. William Blackler**, merchant, in whose boat Gen. GW crossed the Delaware River
- 7 Pearl St.** trad. claimed as a later home of **Cpt. Blackler** (but prob. not). His son, also **Capt. Wm.**, lived nearby.
- 7 Merritt St.** home of **Capt. John Merritt**, shipwright and captain, who was **wounded by a guard of soldiers stationed on Mhd. Neck** (The guard was sentenced by his superior officers to 500 lashes as punishment)

Revolutionary Privateer Ship Masters & Crews— 1775 to 1783 ~ several hundred ~ Too many to list !

And ~ **three decades later**, **nearly 1,200 men & boys** would participate in the 3-year War of 1812, mostly at sea, including many who had also served on privateer vessels during the Revolution.

2 Pickett St. – Bunch of Grapes Tavern (from 1731) – where Patriot committee members met regularly
37 Mugford St. – Peter Jayne House – Tuesday Evening Club & 1st meeting place of Mhd. Masons

137 Wash. St. Thomas Robie House – A Loyalist meeting place, in a private home, since there were so few Tories. Robie, a retail merchant, and his family were famously forced to leave in 1775 for his Tory views.

8 Hooper St. Robert “King” Hooper Mansion – This was the home of **Mhd.’s most famous Loyalist** and his family of 4 wives over six decades ~ and 11 children born during his second marriage of 28 years, plus 4 step-children brought by his third wife (twice-widowed also). The principal merchant from the 1730s on, he was the town’s major employer from the 1720s to 1775, and brother-in-law of Col. Jeremiah Lee through his second wife. Age 66 when the war began, Hooper was only **a moderate Tory** who did not want to turn against his king & country. And earlier, he too, with others, had tried to convince Parliament to weaken its oppressive overseas trade laws. Living to 1790 (age 81), he could only watch helplessly as all that he and this townsmen had built in the thriving years of the mid-1700s came crashing down with the war. It took two generations before the town fully recovered.

Members & Appointees to Revolutionary Committees:

Mhd. Committee of Grievances (1771) : Colonel Azor Orne, Elbridge Gerry, Major Joshua Orne, Captain Thomas Gerry, Thomas Gerry Jr., Captain John Nutt, Captain John Glover, Deacon William Doliber **(8)**

Mhd. Committee of Correspondence (early – mid 1770s): Major Joshua Orne, Captain Edward Fettyplace, Deacon William Doliber, Deacon Stephen Phillips, Captain John Nutt, Ebenezer Foster, and probably others

Marblehead Delegates to the two Essex County Provincial Congresses (Sept. & Oct. 1774)
Colonel Jeremiah Lee, Colonel Azor Orne, Elbridge Gerry **(3)**

Massachusetts Committees of Safety & Supplies (Autumn 1774 and Winter & Spring 1775)
Colonel Jeremiah Lee, Colonel Azor Orne, Elbridge Gerry **(3)**

Comprised of only 13 members total, with John Hancock and Samuel Adams as co-chairmen, those two committees met together periodically in towns beyond Boston. They basically functioned as a directing branch of the rebel Patriot government in Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Provincial (MA) Congress, which John Hancock also chaired. It was in his role on the Committee of Supplies that Colonel Lee met his sudden and untimely death in May 1775.

Principal Revolutionary Non-Residential Sites:

Old Town House – Market Square, at the head of State St. – (built 1727-29) This is the earliest municipal building constructed of wood that still stands in the U.S. It is where passionate town meetings were held during the Revolutionary years (1765 to 1783 — but esp. in 1774, and 1771 to 1775, the year the war began).

Powder House – Green St. at Lattimer St. (formerly Lattimore) – Built of brick in 1755 for gunpowder storage, a safe distance beyond the town center, in a structure with rounded sides so ammunition fired at it or explosions from within would glance off the curve, and not pierce a flat wall. It is one of the earliest surviving in the U.S., and one of only a few round ones that survive. (Most later ones were square, hexagonal, or rectangular.)

Training Field – where Abbot Hall would be built a century later, starting in 1876, the nation’s Centennial year. This had been the town’s principal common land (of several), and where the town’s defensive militia had drilled for nearly a century and a half before early 1775, when most of the militia chose the rebel (Patriot) side. New recruits joined soon after March 1775, as economic sanctions then called the “Intolerable Acts” took effect and prohibited fishing in the Atlantic (among other edicts), and essentially the entire town became unemployed. From January to May 1775, the new rebel militia drilled along with **Col. Jeremiah Lee**, a leader of the town’s rebel (the term at that time) Patriot faction until his sudden and premature death on May 10, 1775. At that point, **Major John Glover** was promoted to Colonel. The Marblehead “Regiment” served until December 31st in 1776, when Continental Army enlistments term ended, just days after the heroic crossing of the Delaware River. **Colonel Glover was promoted to General in early 1777** due to of his invaluable leadership as a Colonel, particularly in August and December 1776. A gun storage building was also located up on the training field hill.

The Marblehead Fort – Originally built circa 1644 as a defensive earthwork with embankments, Marblehead’s fort was enlarged to its current footprint in 1775, the year the Revolution began. Before that, it was the property of the English Crown and was managed by British military officials. In 1775, it came under the direction by the new rebel (Patriot) Congress, and then by military officers of the new U.S. government. The fort was enlarged and renovated 6 different times over more than two centuries, under the direction of 12 professional military engineers, including in 1775. It gained its current appearance in a major renovation in the late 1790s, after which (c.1800) its name was changed to Fort Sewall. It was named after Marblehead attorney Samuel Sewall of Marblehead (not Boston), who served in the U.S. Congress from 1796 to 1800, when he was appointed as a judge of the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court. Asc. Justice Sewall became Chief Justice in 1814, the year he died, during the War of 1812.