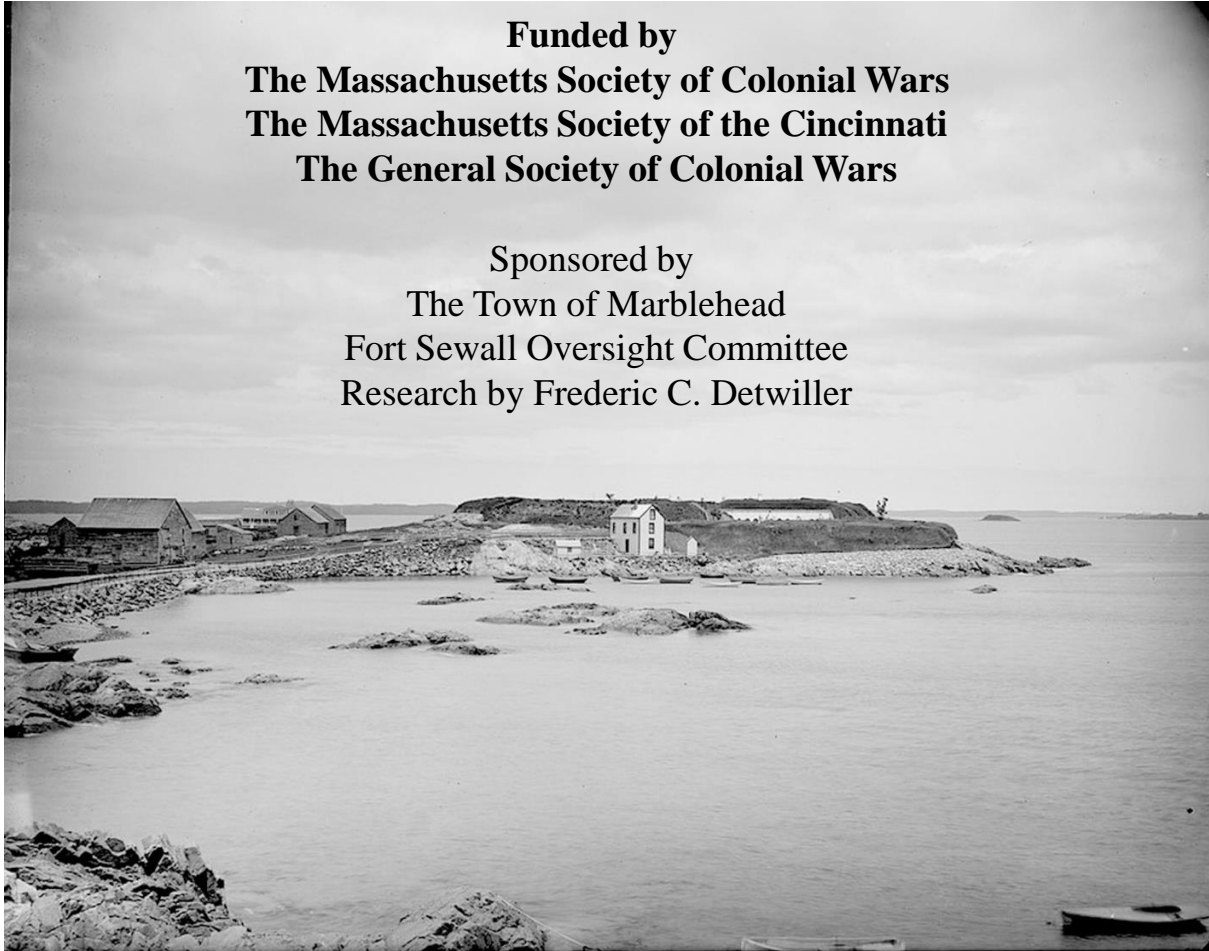


# “GREAT GUNNS!” Marblehead Fort / Fort Sewall 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research

Funded by  
The Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars  
The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati  
The General Society of Colonial Wars

Sponsored by  
The Town of Marblehead  
Fort Sewall Oversight Committee  
Research by Frederic C. Detwiller



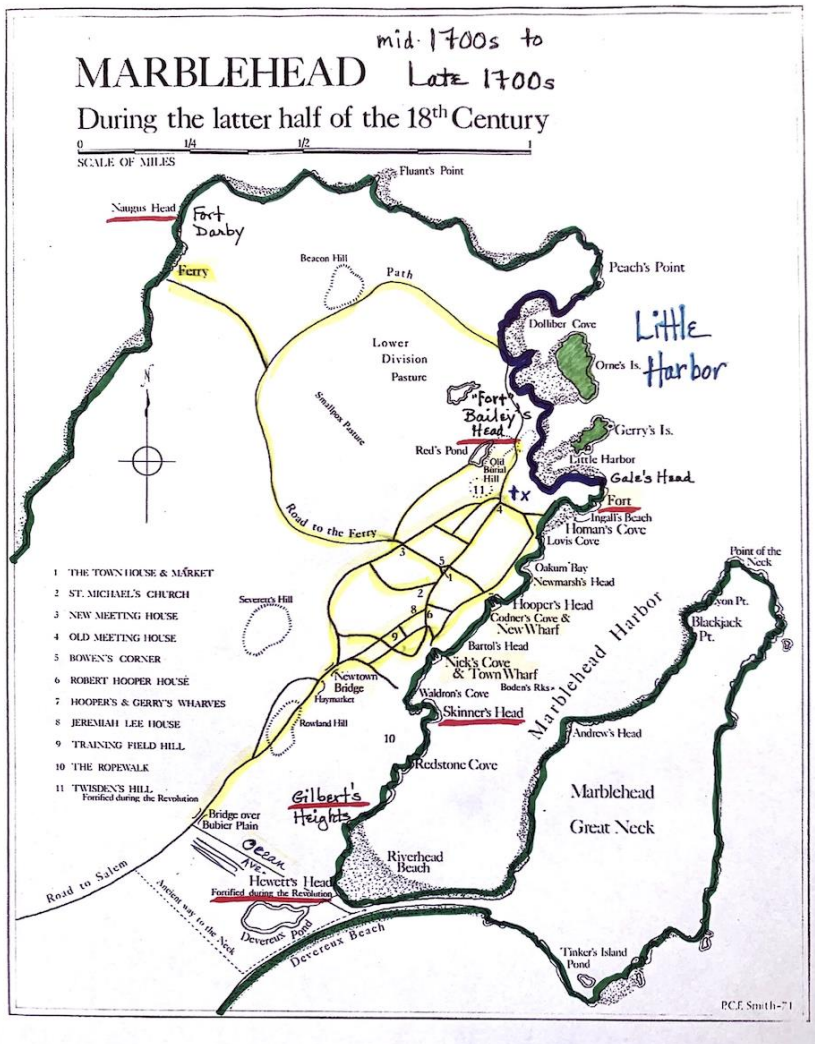
## 1) Fort Sewall Early Photo

Distant view by Cousins c.1870s **Source:**  
HNE/PEM Phillips Lib.

- The treeless landscape had changed little since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The large barn-like structure at the left may be J.P. Turner’s warehouse shown on the 1872 Atlas map of Marblehead.
- Distant buildings to the left of the 1860s Upper Parade are Pitman and Brown storage sheds and fish houses. Building with small privy at water’s edge is near fort entry at the site of barracks shown on fort plan of 1860s.
- The c.1800 white bomb proof quarters are visible just to the upper right.



- **Captured Cannon Spanish-American War c.1898**, now on display at Abbot Hall.



## 2) Marblehead Fortifications

Salem, Beverly Harbors c.1644-1898

Marblehead Fort was built on Gale's Head  
 (land owned by Moses Maverick in 1644).



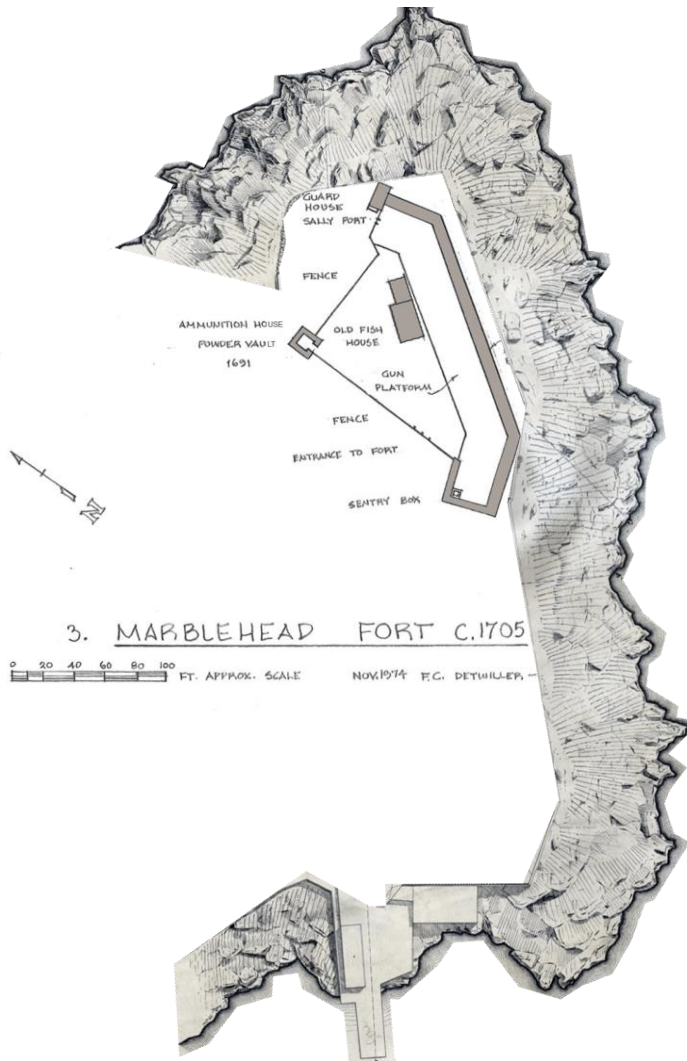
**Marblehead and Salem Harbors 18<sup>th</sup> Century Fortifications**  
 Base Map by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith. J. Anderson notes.

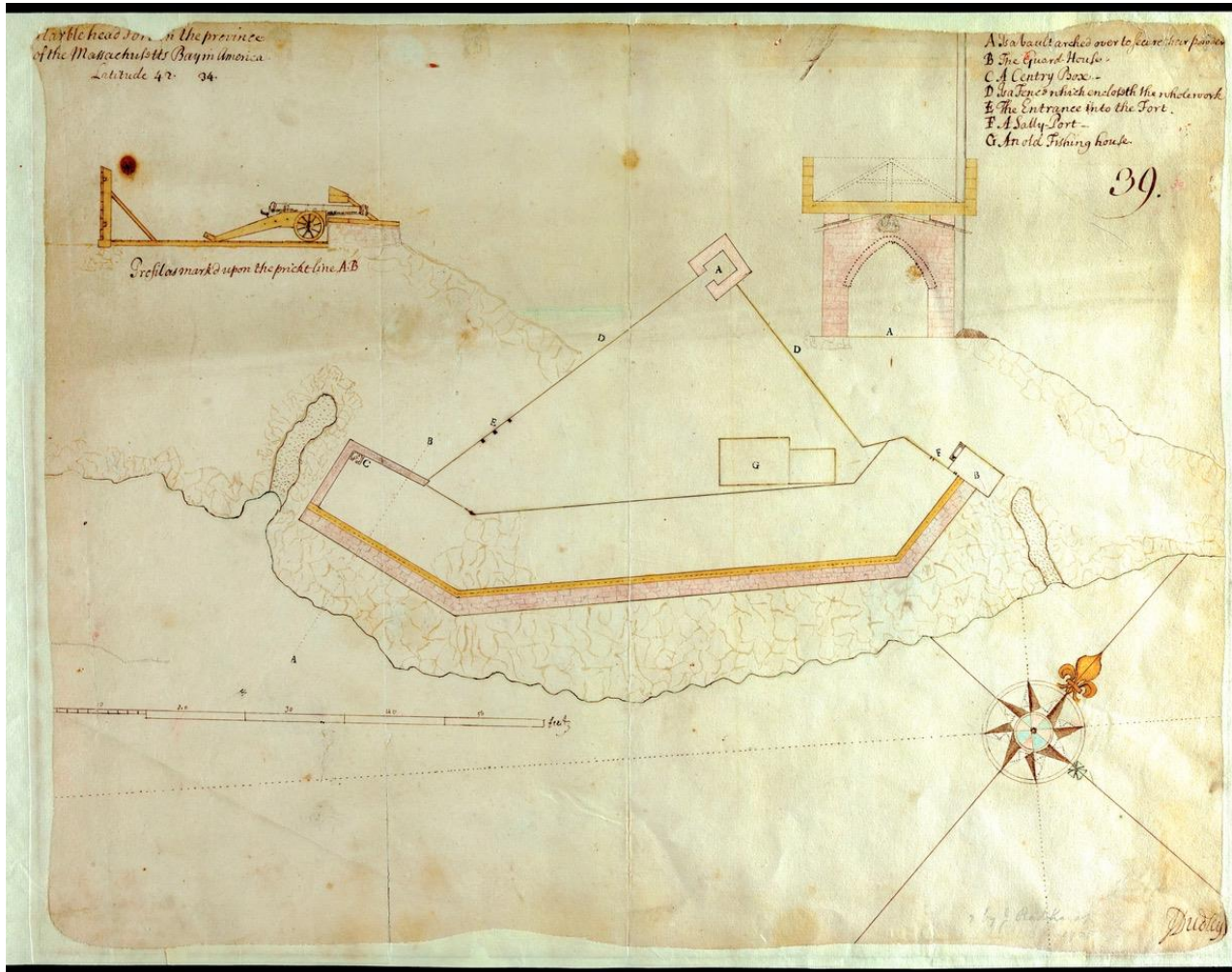
**Marblehead Fort, Salem & Beverly Harbors 1781 Detail**  
 Coast of Massachusetts & New Hampshire by Des Barres BPL

## Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

### 3) Marblehead Fort c. 1705 - 1743

- **Plan:** Based on original by John Redknap 1705  
Update 2020 by F. C. Detwiller
- **Period:** Queen Anne's War (1702-1711)
- **Engineers:** Wilhelm Romer & John Redknap
- **Source:** 1705 Plan -U.K. Archives Colonial Office CO700-Massachusetts; Coastline from 1820 Plan by Guillaume Tell Poussin.
- **Description:** The initial drawing of the fort of 1705 shows what may be existing conditions, including the possibly earlier Powder Vault – an above-ground masonry magazine with Gothic-arched brick vault. Above it is a wooden timber platform with parapet of heavy timber. The fort parapets are of earth with timber reinforced gun embrasures. Directly adjacent to the gun platforms are an “Old Fish House” that may also have served as a barracks. A small Guard House was at the northeast end of the fort, and a Sentry box was at the south end of the gun platform, overlooking the gate in the wooden pale fence.



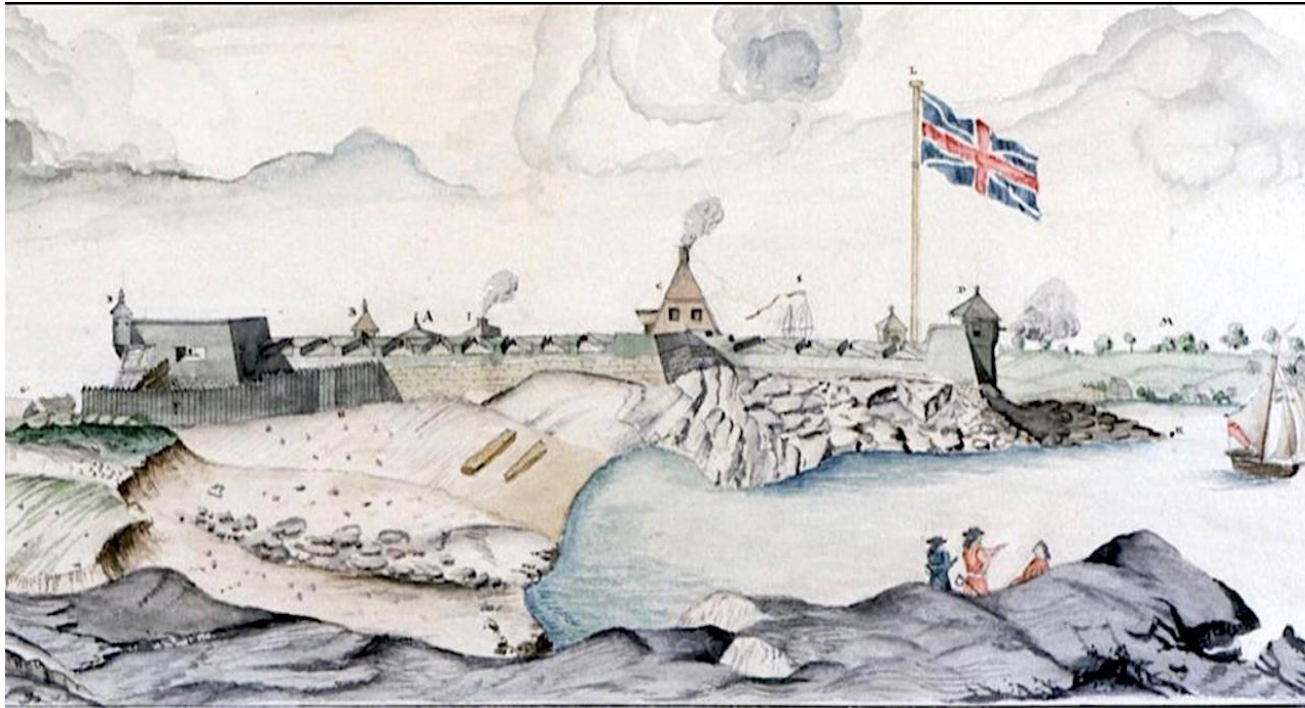


## Marblehead Fort c.1705 - 1743

### 4) Marblehead Fort 1705 Plan by John Redknap

- **Source:** UK Archives  
Colonial Office CO700-  
Massachusetts
- **The Drawing** includes the fort **Plan** with a small **Section** through the gun platform, embrasure and the parapet, as well as a **Section** through the brick Powder Vault.
- **The gun platform** was constructed of timber, with heavy timber at the gun embrasures.
- **A plank fence** extended on the plan from the parapets to the powder vault.
- **Other structures** included a small Guard House, an Old Fish House and a Sentry Box.

## Marblehead Fort c. 1705 - 1743



- 5) **Fort William & Mary**  
**New Castle, NH** Detail  
View by Wilhelm Romer c.1704.
- **Source:** NH Private Collection
  - This view by the engineer who built Marblehead Fort shows gun embrasures, parapets, and a large Union Jack Garrison flag - all similar to Marblehead Fort.
  - The stone-supported earthen parapet appears covered by turf, with timber gun embrasures.
  - A vertical plank palisade fence with pointed tops is at the left.
  - Other structures included a Barracks, Magazine and Sentry Box.

## Marblehead Fort c.1705 - 1743

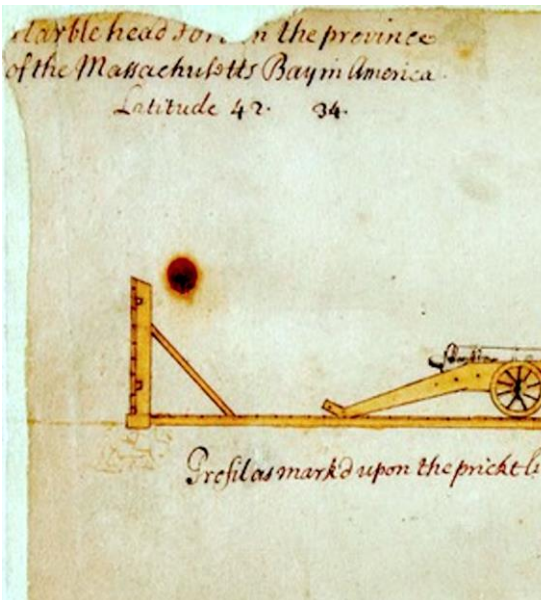
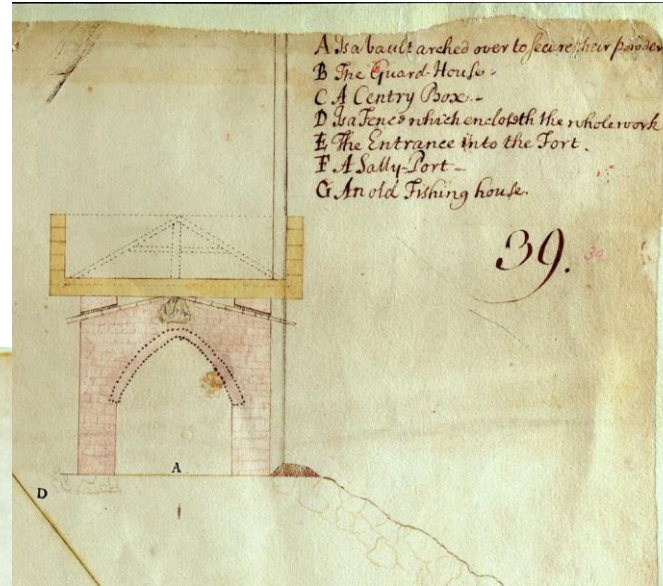
### 6) Marblehead Fort 1705 Details

#### Powder Vault & Plan Key

- **Source:** Redknapp Colonial Office  
CO 0700 UK Archives Massachusetts  
Drawings 1-10
- **Key includes**
  - A. Powder Vault
  - B. Guard House
  - C. Sentry Box
  - D. Fence enclosure
  - E. Fort Entrance
  - F. Sally Port
  - G. Old Fishing House
- **Note** the heavy timber platform on the brick vault with a flagpole adjacent. An apparent carved keystone tops the vault.

#### Parapet & Gun Embrasure Detail

- **Note** details of gun platforms, field cannon embrasure and fence of timber that rotted away within the next 20 years.



106 189  
 An Account of Ordnance Ammunition  
 & other stores of War belonging to his Maj.<sup>ty</sup>  
 Fort at Marblehead in New England, Septemb<sup>r</sup>  
 4. 29<sup>th</sup> 1705

- One Demiculverin of 3000<sup>lb</sup>. w<sup>t</sup>.
- One Culverin of 2200<sup>lb</sup>. w<sup>t</sup>.
- One Cannon of 2000<sup>lb</sup>. w<sup>t</sup>.
- One Saker of 980<sup>lb</sup>. w<sup>t</sup>.
- Two kapes bord Guns, 12<sup>th</sup> Each
- One Minion weighing about 9 @
- One Torn old flag
- Three bar<sup>ls</sup>. powder
- powder in Carriages forty three pound
- Ten Lins stocks
- Six formers
- Four Large powder boxes
- Six small Ditto
- Seven pairing Boards
- Three pound of Match
- Twenty four empty Carriages
- One Iron Search
- One wooden Chest
- Seven Crab hands pikes
- Eight Spunges
- Three working and Ladley
- Six plain hand pikes
- One hundred & thirty pound shot

107 190  
 An Account of powder Expended  
 at his Maj.<sup>ty</sup> Fort at Marblehead from the  
 1705 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1705 to 4. 29<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1705 viz.

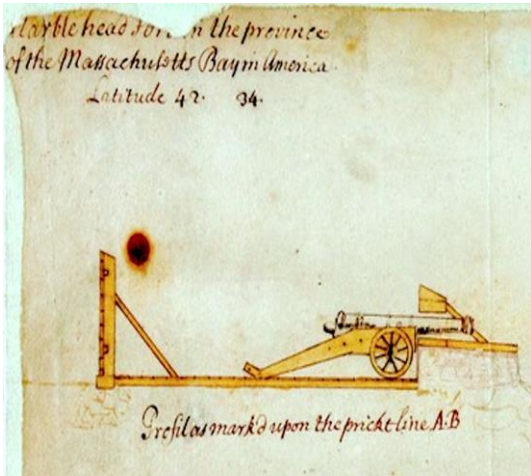
	Guns	powder
ap <sup>r</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> On y <sup>e</sup> Queens Coronation day	5	22 3/4
June 16 <sup>th</sup> For Capt. Gill, a salute	1	3 1/2
	6	26 1/2

Marblehead 29 Septemb<sup>r</sup> 1705  
 Edward Brattle Capt<sup>y</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Fort

Marblehead Fort c.1705 - 1743

7) 1705 Account of "Ordonance" Ammunition & Other Stores

- **Source:** CO 5 864 X/K 1777 0700 UK Archives
- **Account** included seven guns, one torn old flag, 3 barrels of powder. Ammunition and equipment also consisted of 4 large and 6 small powder boxes, primer, matches, empty cartridges, rammers, 136 round shot and 12 bar shot for taking out ships' rigging.
- Marblehead, 29 Sept. 1705 by Capt. Edward Brattle
- *An Account of Powder Expended....*  
 From March 25 to Sept. 29, 1705 guns were fired on Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Queens Coronation Day, and a salute to Capt. Gill on June 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Demi-culverin

Wikipedia



Demi-culverin cast circa 1587

The **demi-culverin** was a medium cannon similar to but slightly larger than a saker and smaller than a regular culverin developed in the late 16th century.<sup>[1]</sup> Barrels of demi-culverins were typically about 11 feet (3.4 m) long, had a calibre of 4 inches (10 cm) and could weigh up to 3,400 pounds (1,500 kg). It required 6 pounds (2.7 kg) of black powder to fire an 8-pound (3.6 kg) round shot (though there were heavier variants firing 9-pound (4.1 kg) or 10-pound (4.5 kg) round shot). The demi-culverin had an effective range of 1,800 feet (550 m).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Demi-culverins were valued by generals for their range, accuracy and effectiveness. They were often

used in sieges for wall and building demolition.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

1. *Artillery through the ages* (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20483/20483-h/20483-h.htm>)
2. *English ordnance 1626 to 1643* (<http://www.littlewoodham.org.uk/research/ord.htm>)

## Saker

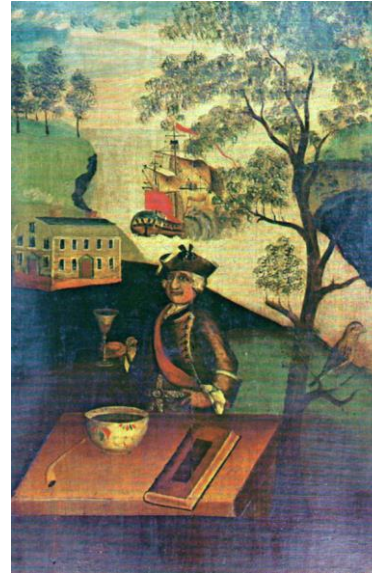
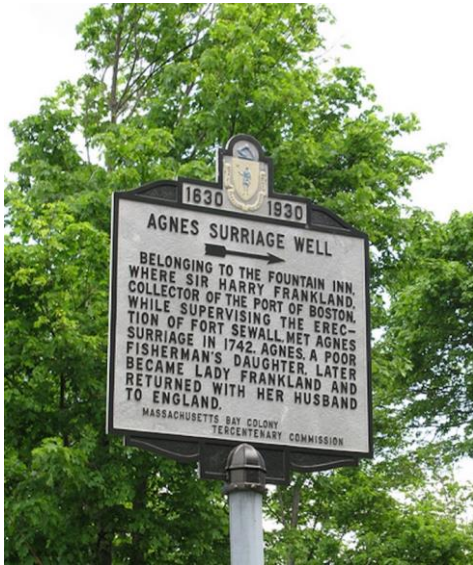


Union Jack by Romer c.1704

## 8) Marblehead Fort Armament 17<sup>th</sup> century to c.1741

- **17<sup>th</sup> Century: “Grate Guns”** In 1675/6, during King Philip’s War, the Fort was “put in order.” Three “**grate guns**” were granted by the General Court and placed in proper position for defense.
- The Town’s “Sundry Disbursements” lists planks and boards, an ammunition house, carriages for the “grate guns,” powder and shot at a cost of half of Town’s annual budget. Captain Forbes borrowed one **demi-culverin** (a 2,000-3,000 pound cannon) from the Marblehead fort on a military expedition to Nova Scotia.
- **1705 Armament: “Great Gunns” Account of “Ordonance” Ammunition & Other Stores** consisted of seven large pieces of ordnance (described in 1741 as “**Great Gunns**”): “One **Demiculverin** of 3000 lb. wt., 1 Ditto of 2200 lb, 1 Ditto of 2000 lb., 1 **Saker** of 1800 lb., 2 Taper borde guns of 1200 lb., and 1 **Minion** weighing about 900 lb. in addition to “**One torn old flagg**” and numerous other supplies including 3 barrels of powder, 73 lbs. of powder in cartridges and four large powder boxes and six small ditto as well as 130 lbs. of “Shott” and 12 “Cross barr Shott.”



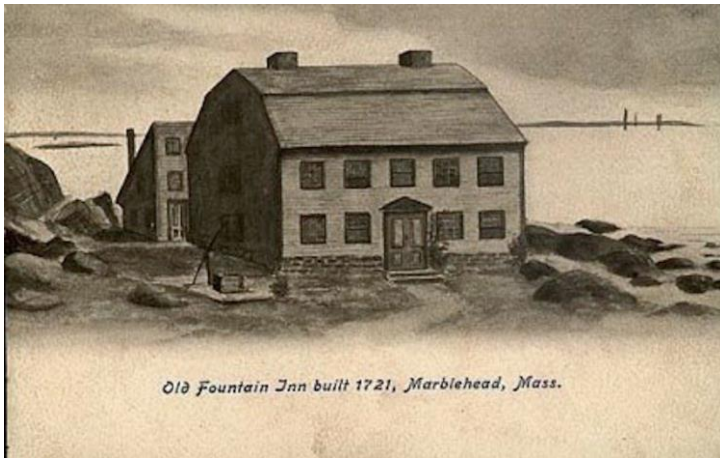


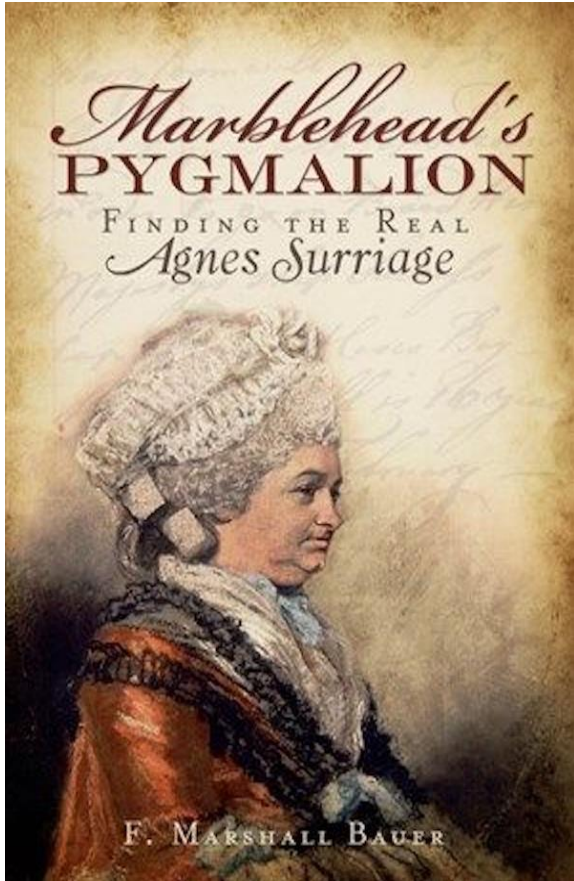
## Marblehead Fort c.1705 - 1743

### 9) Marblehead Fort Legend

#### Agnes Surriage & Sir Harry Frankland

- **Sir Charles “Harry” Frankland** was Gov. Shirley’s Collector in charge of monetary matters.
- **The sign for Agnes Surriage Well** where she met Frankland when she worked at the Fountain Inn.
- **Fountain Inn, Marblehead,** where servant Agnes Surriage was courted by Harry Frankland, who stayed there while superintending the finances for planned work on the fort in 1742-3. Original drawing Source: Marblehead Museum.
- **Gentleman at Seaside Tavern** Overmantel-painting from Moses Marcy House c.1755-60, Southbridge, MA. Old Sturbridge Village Coll.
- **R.I. Sea Captains Carousing** Detail of tavern in Surinam 1755 by John Greenwood. St. Louis Art Museum.





Portrait of Agnes Surriage. Author Bauer lived on Fountain Lane, the site of the Inn.



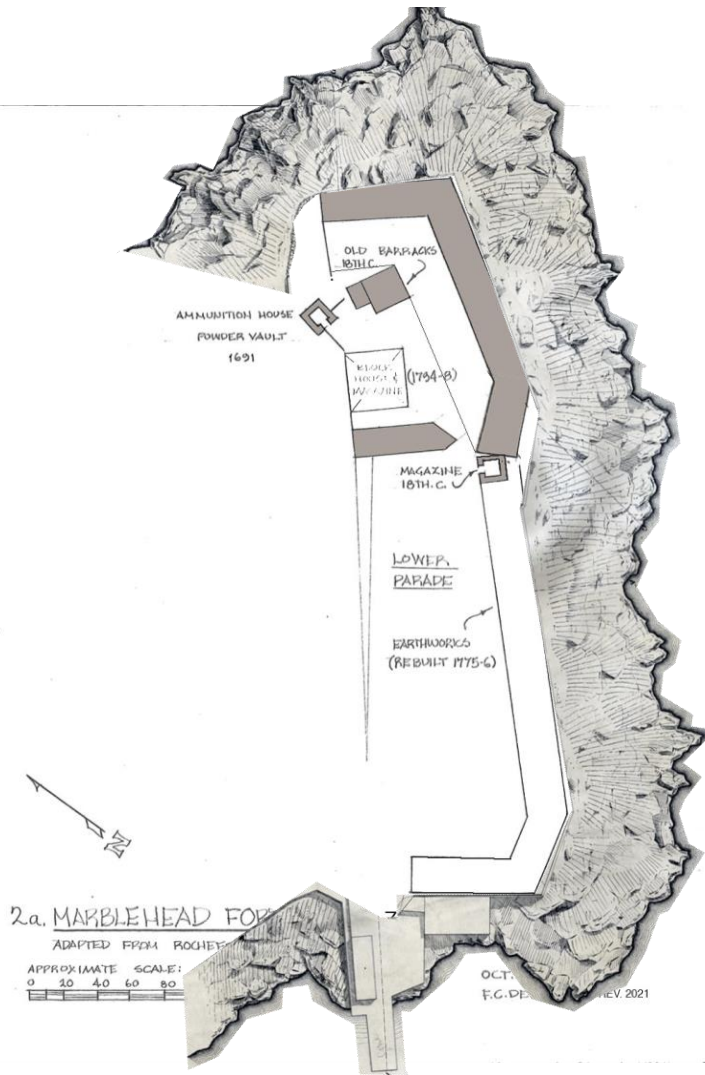
## Marblehead Fort c.1705 - 1743

- 10) **The fort has seen two earthquakes: 1727 and 1755 Cape Ann Earthquakes.** An 18th century woodcut shows an early earthquake. Rev. John Barnard, minister at Marblehead, concluded the earth's surface had shifted in response to subterranean shocks.
- **Source:** *The Great 1727 Earthquake and the Wrath of God*, New England Hist. Soc. from *Ground Motions During the 1755 Cape Ann Earthquake*, by Robert V. Whitman, MIT 2002-07 (F.C. Detwiller, research.) Original 1748 view at American Antiquarian Society, Worcester., MA.
  - **1755 November 1 Lisbon Earthquake** Frankland was buried, rescued by searchers lead by Agnes Surriage.
  - **Source:** Oil Painting of 1755 Lisbon Earthquake, Wikipedia
  - Agnes and rescuers dug him from the rubble, so he vowed to marry her - and finally did. After her husband's death in 1768, she lived at their country estate in Hopkinton, MA. Tory Frankland's widow Agnes Surriage escaped Boston in 1775 and died in England.

# Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

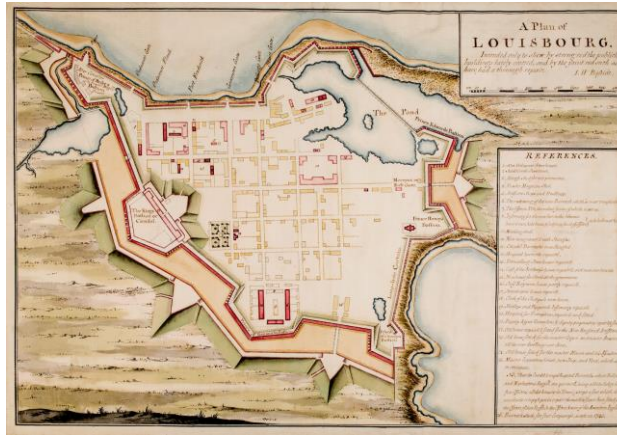
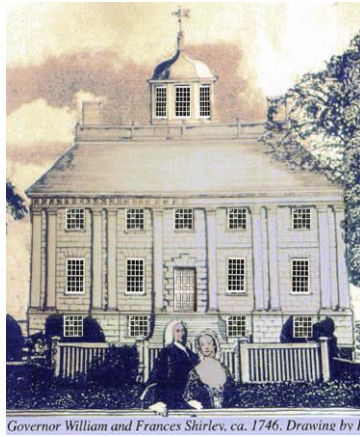
## 11) Marblehead Fort c.1742 - 1775

- **June 1741** The Town voted to raise “a sufficient sum for repairing the Fort and also for Carriages for the Great Gunns and for other necessary things as may be thought proper for the Town.” Despite a £500 grant from the Province under Gov. Shirley in 1743, with plans drawn by Chief Engineer John Henry Bastide, work seems to have been restricted to reinforcement and repair of parapets and gun platforms on the footprint of the old fort.
- **Period:** King George’s War c.1744-1748 and French & Indian Wars c.1754-1763
- **Engineers:** Bastide & Gridley 1743 Plan not found.
- **Plan:** Reconstruction 2020 by F.C. Detwiller
- **Description:** The fort then likely consisted of reinforced parapets on the footprint of the original 1705 fort on the Upper Parade. The Old Barracks are in the location where they were shown in 1794. The 1705 Powder Vault probably continued in use until the subterranean vault, still extant, was built, probably c.1775.



## 12) Louisbourg Expedition c.1745

- **Period: Colonial Wars** King George's War c.1744-1748; French & Indian Wars c.1754-1763
- **Engineers:** J H Bastide was paid by the Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1743 for his drawings of Marblehead Fort.
- **Plan: Louisbourg Fortress c.1745** (top right) by **John Henry Bastide**, British Chief Engineer.
- **Plan: Louisbourg Fortress & Harbor 1745** (lower left) by **Richard Gridley**, Bastide's Colonial assistant, dedicated his own plan to Gov. William Shirley.
- **Gov. William Shirley** (top left) **Sept. 13, 1742** set out to "view and appoint places for erecting new batteries in Charlestown, Salem & Marblehead." He had the engineers draw plans for the reinforcement of the Marblehead Fort, but due to pressing Louisbourg Expedition needs, improvements were said to be limited to repairs.
- **Mar 2, 1743** Shirley wrote that Bastide had visited the batteries at Marblehead among others, and had "drawn out plans for the works and given necessary directions for carrying them on." His plans for Marblehead Fort have not been found, possibly lost in the Old State House fire of 1748.



**Gov. William Shirley** by T. Hudson 1750  
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

**Plan of Louisbourg Fortress** by John Henry Bastide, 1745

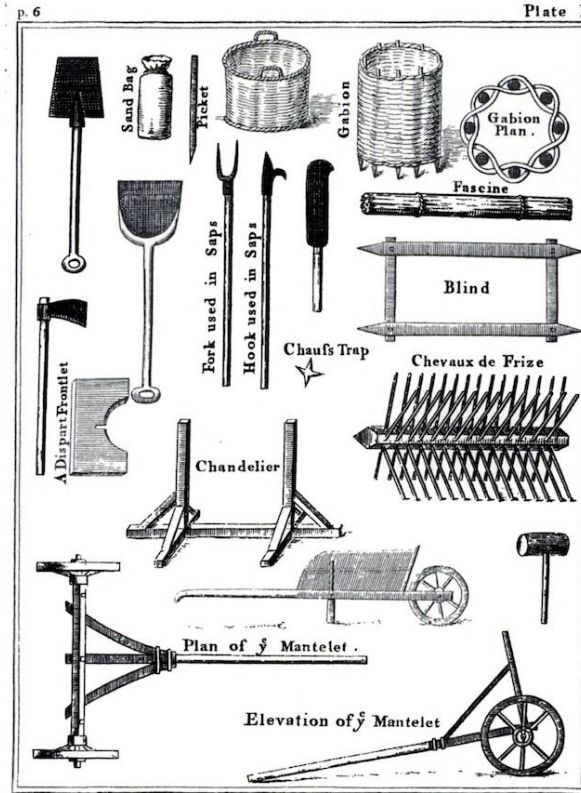
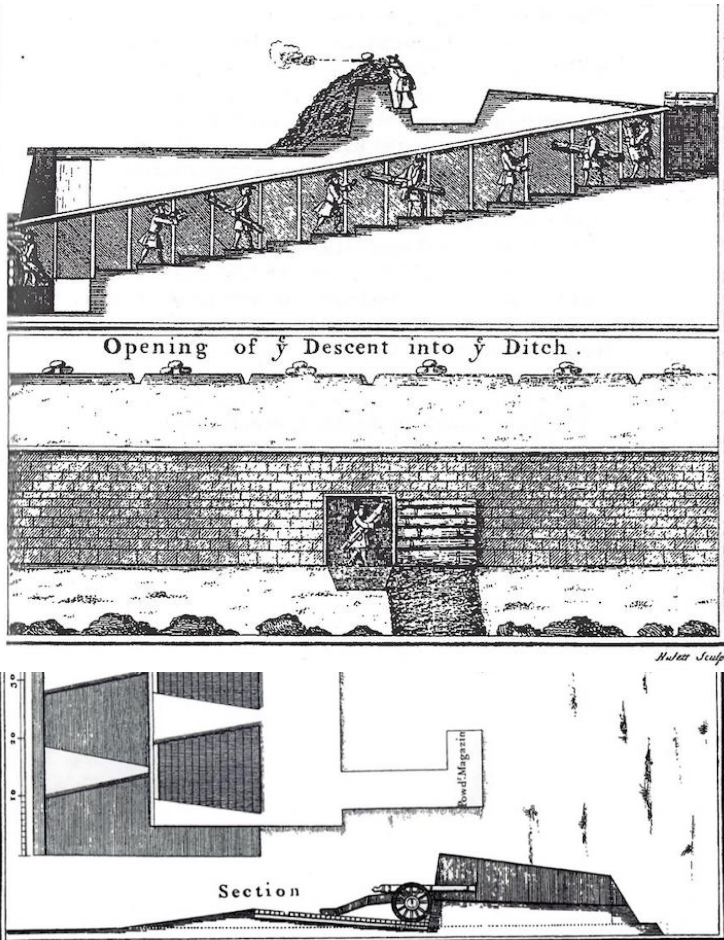


**Gridley's Masonic Punch Bowl** - served both Washington and Lafayette. Bostonian Society 1932.0025

**Plan of Louisbourg** by Richard Gridley, 1745

**Richard Gridley** by Smibert c.1745. Newport Art Museum

13) 18<sup>th</sup> Century Engineer's Manuals Entrenching tools, Plan & Profile of a Passage Tunnel from *Attac & Defense of Fortified Places*, John M. Muller 1747/57

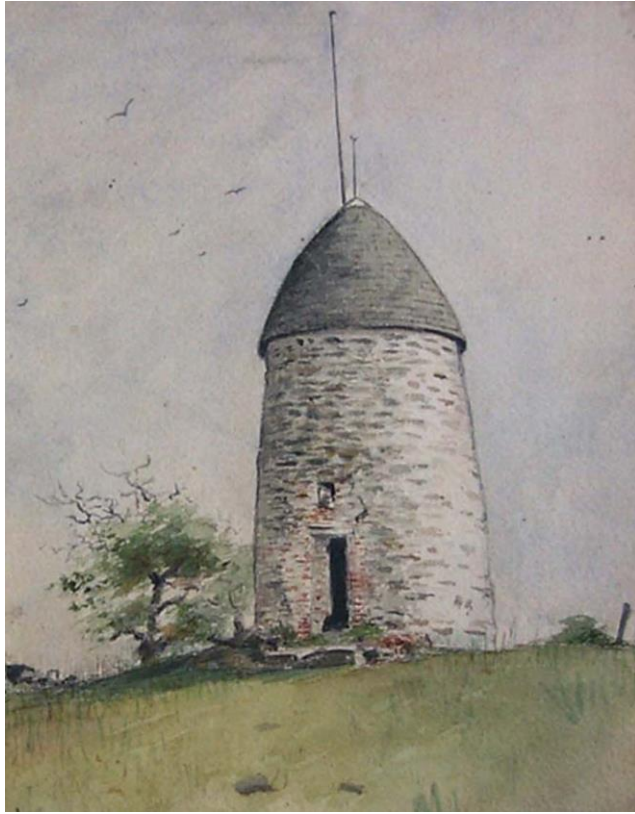


**John Müller** (1699 – April 1784) was a German (French Alsatian) mathematician and military engineer who moved to London in 1736. In 1741 he was appointed deputy head of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He was later appointed Professor of Artillery and Fortification (and "Preceptor of Engineering, etc. to his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester"); he retired in 1766.

His works published in the 1740s and 1750s were used by British engineers in America up to the time of the Revolution:

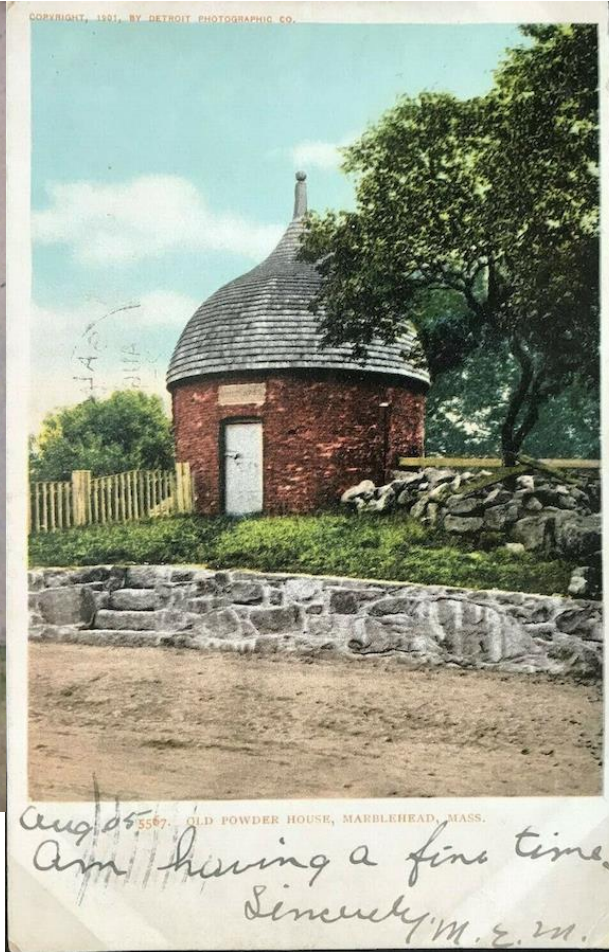
- A Treatise Containing the Elementary Part of Fortification* (1746)
- A Treatise Containing the Practical Part of Fortification* (1755)
- A Treatise on Artillery* (1757; later editions were titled *A Treatise of Artillery*)
- The Field Engineer*; translated from the French (1759)

Plan/Section through Gun Battery Platform & Magazine, Engineer John Muller 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1757. Note the subterranean tunnel and "Powd<sup>r</sup> Magazine."



Pre-restoration watercolor by  
Walter Gilman Page in 1892.

**MA Province Powder House**, a former windmill



**Marblehead Powder House** post card 1905

## 14) 18<sup>th</sup> Century Powder Magazines

- **Massachusetts Provincial Powder House** at then Cambridge (now Somerville). Acquired in 1741 by Gov. Shirley. It was a former stone windmill built by French Huguenot Thomas Mallet in 1705. Its rounded, cylindrical masonry vaulted form seems to have inspired the one at Marblehead.
- **Marblehead Powder House** was built of brick in 1755 by the Town for the militia on the ferry lane, later Green St.
- **Description:** Both powder houses have brick masonry vaults beneath their wood shingle roofs. Powder kegs were stored horizontally on shelves and periodically turned to keep powder loose.



**Powder kegs  
from the  
Revolution**

**Source:**  
Skinner's

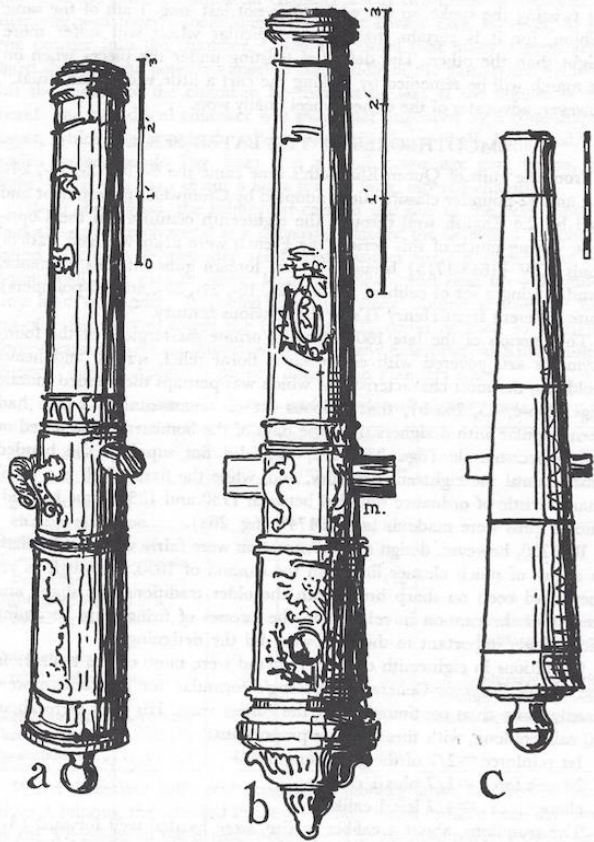


FIGURE 26—EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CANNON. a—Spanish bronze 24-pounder of 1746. b—French bronze 24-pounder of the early 1700's. c—English iron 6-pounder of the middle 1700's. The 6-pounder is part of the armament at Castillo de San Marcos.



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Harry Noyes, left, assisted by Steve Donahue, lifts a cannon he and Dennis McGrath found while diving in waters off Marblehead Neck earlier this year. It is believed the cannon may be approximately 300 years old. - Kris Olson

### Early "Minion" Cannon found off Marblehead Neck



4-Pounder  
Cannonball  
Shot found off  
Peach's Point  
(at Abbot Hall)

## 15) Marblehead Fort Armament c.1742/3 to c.1775

**Armament** at Marblehead Fort throughout the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century would have varied greatly in age, scale and type from field guns to naval carriages, depending upon availability.

**Dutch Cannon dated 1647** (below) found on the estate of the late Capt. Samuel Sprague [in Chelsea, MA, where the action between the American and British forces took place on May 27, 1775.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



**BRITISH UNION FLAG 1603 - 1775 King James of Scotland** succeeded Elizabeth the First of England in 1603. To signify the union of the two lands, he designed this flag, combining the red cross symbolic of England's Patron Saint George (he of the dragon legend) with the white cross of Saint David of Wales and the white saltire (that's heraldry talk for a cross that's X-shaped) symbolic of Saint Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. This flag flew over all the English new world colonies. Note the difference from the modern Union Jack, which has added to it the red saltire of Saint Patrick for Northern Ireland.



**BRITISH RED ENSIGN (1707 -1777)**

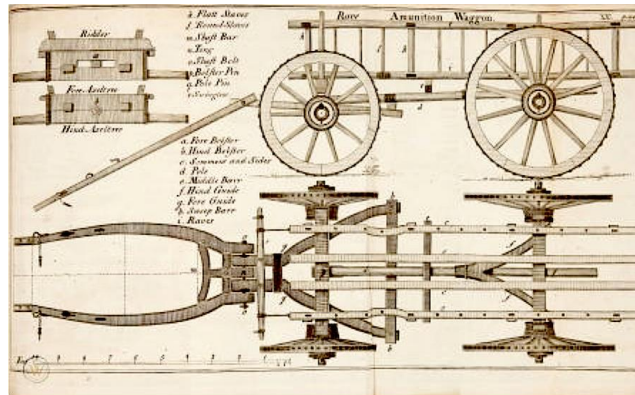
British Red Ensign AKA "Colonial Red Ensign" and "Meteor" Flag Queen Anne adopted a new flag for England and her colonies in 1707. The Kings Colors were placed on a red field. Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown under this flag. The best known of the British Maritime flags, or Ensigns, which were formed by placing the Union flag in the canton of another flag having a field of white, blue or red. This flag was widely used on ships during the Colonial period. This was the first National flag of the United States.

<http://www.usflagdepot.com/store/page1.html>

**Colonial Red Ensign** used by British in America



"Old Nancy" Gun captured 1775 now at Georgetown, MA  
 "Don't Tread on Me" striped Gadsden Flag design c.1777



**Ammunition Wagon** Muller *Treatise of Artillery* 1768

**16) Marblehead Fort Armament c.1742-1775**

**April 1742** General Court issues a grant to the Town of £550 from the Province, with the condition that within 12 months "a good and sufficient breastwork with platform and all necessary war-like stores be built."

**Nov. 1742** The town voted "To procure & Purchase all suitable materials & Warlike Stores and Employ Workmen & Laborers for ye Building and Erecting a Brestwork and mounting the Guns...."

**Sep. 1743** Shirley reported that Bastide had abandoned plans to erect new fortifications and was concentrating on putting "the old ones into the best repair they are capable of."

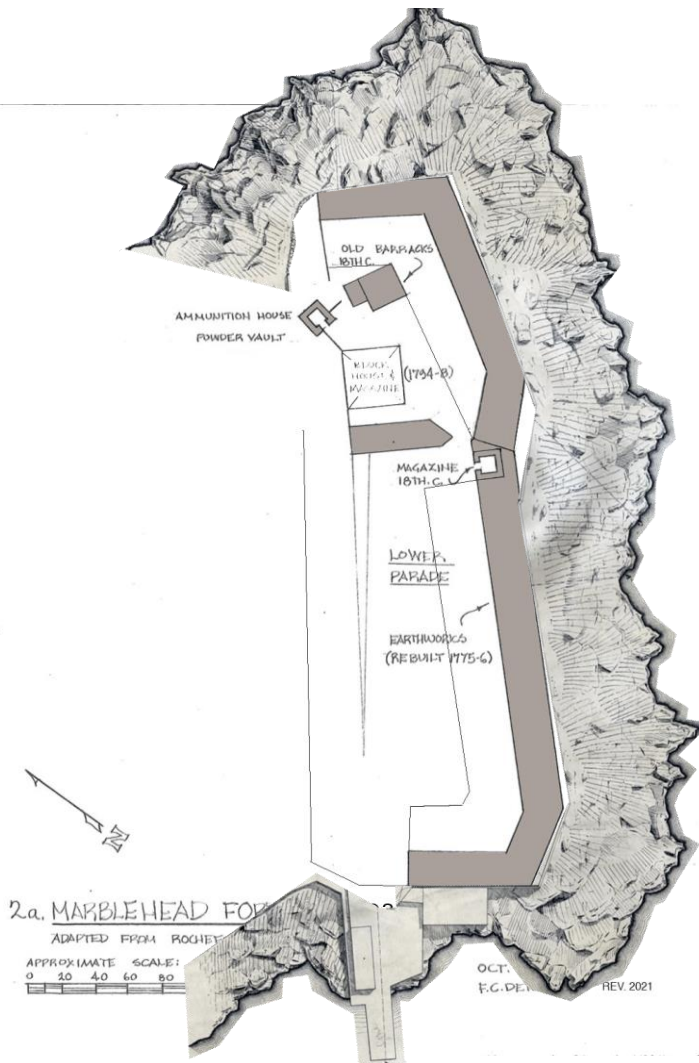
**Nov. 1775** Marblehead Capt. Manley's *Lee* captured the British munitions ship *Nancy* off Cape Ann. The many munitions and guns found were distributed by Washington among the Continental forces. Some likely landed at Marblehead where the fort was finally under reconstruction and expansion.

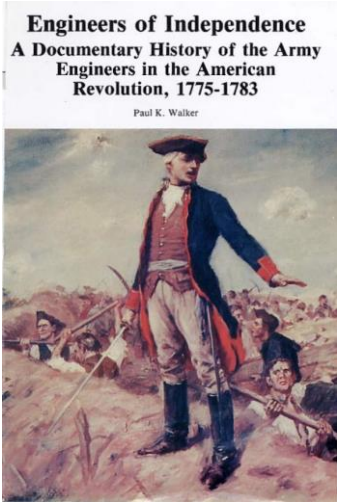


## Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

### 17) Marblehead Fort c.1775

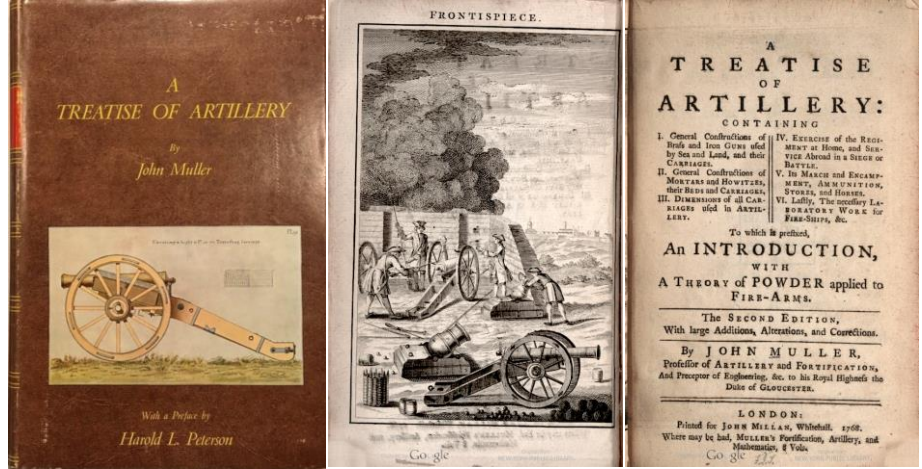
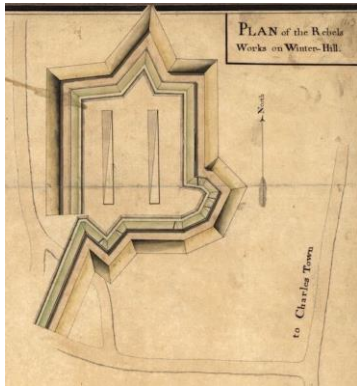
- **Period:** Revolution c.1775-1793
- **Engineers:** Dubuc & Gridley (1775)
- **Plan:** F.C. Detwiller Reconstruction based upon the 1705 and 1794 plans.
- **Description:** The old Fort and barracks was renovated with the addition of a parapet extending toward town. The armament capacity was increased to approximately 20 guns with additional cannon distributed to outlying redoubts and privateers. The subterranean magazine of the lower parade existed by 1794. The older powder vault on the upper parade may have remained in use, but is not shown there in 1794. At the bottom of the plan is a wharf for unloading supplies.





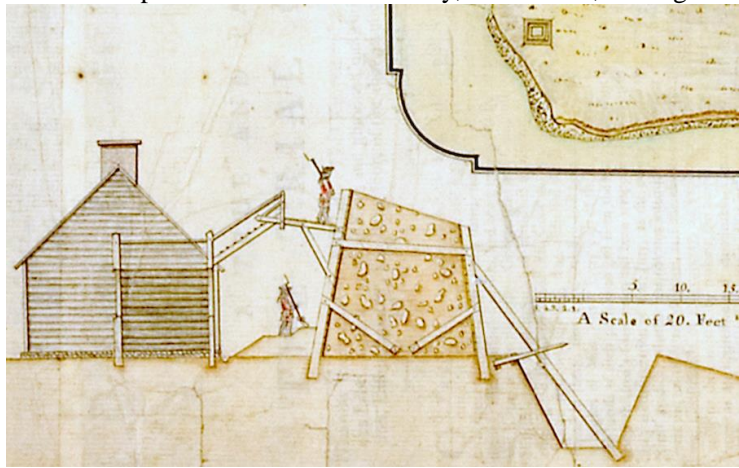
**Rebel Works at Siege of Boston 1775 LOC**

French Engineer Dubuq was interim chief engineer after Richard Gridley was wounded at Bunker Hill. Both were at Marblehead in 1775, the year the Fort was expanded.



**J. M. Muller Treatise of Artillery 1768 Frontispiece, & Title Page**

**Montresor's Earthworks at Bunker Hill** after June 19, 1775. Detail of map at W. L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan.



**18) Marblehead Fort Engineers c.1770 - 1783**

**Earthwork redoubts** were constructed during the Revolution by both British and Americans.

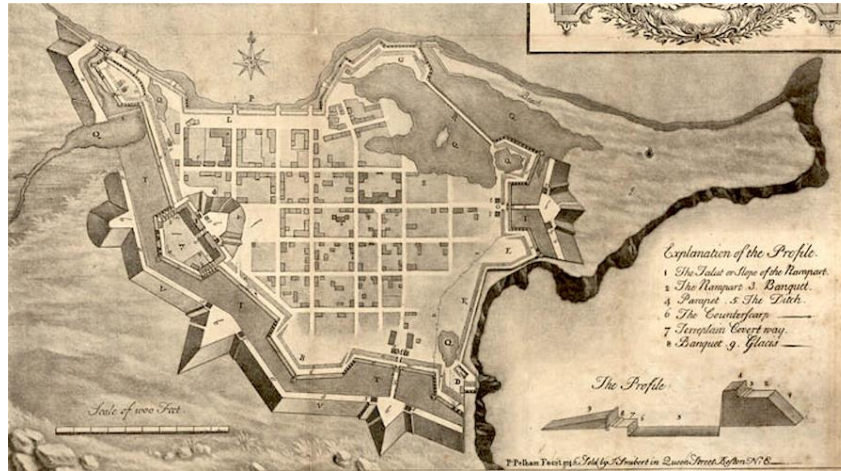
**British Chief Engineer Col. John Montresor** portrait by J.S. Copley 1772

**Col. Montresor** is holding Muller's *Field Engineer* of 1759 in his hand. He designed fortifications at Boston before and during the Revolution including this cross-section of his defensive earthworks on Bunker Hill after the Battle in June of 1775.





**Portrait Richard Gridley (1710-1796)**  
In his later years. Canton Historical Soc.



## 19) Marblehead Fort Engineers c.1770 - 1783

**First U.S. Chief Engineer  
Richard Gridley**

- **Plan of Louisbourg Fortress, 1745** by Gridley. Dedicated to Gov. William Shirley.
- **Richard Gridley** was Gov. Shirley's engineer at Louisbourg; he assisted John Henry Bastide, British Chief Engineer who did drawings for Marblehead Fort and others in 1742-3. Later, as US Chief Engineer, Gridley designed redoubts at Bunker Hill and Dorchester Heights during the Siege of Boston in 1775-6.
- **Forts on Dorchester Heights Dec. 9, 1776** plans and profiles Gridley sent to Gen. Washington with 7 plans of forts around Boston, prepared with Capt. Chadwick, Engr.
- **Gridley's January 1777 receipt for payment** as U.S. Chief Engineer in *Engineers of Independence* by Walker. Gridley died at Canton, MA in 1796.

To Cheasger Hancock Esquire Paymaster Gen.  
of the Army of the United States

Pay to Colonel Richard Gridley Fifty  
four pounds equal to one Hundred & Eighty  
Dollars being pay for the Months of October  
November & December 1776 as Chief Engineer  
in the Service of the United States; & this shall  
be your sufficient Warrant

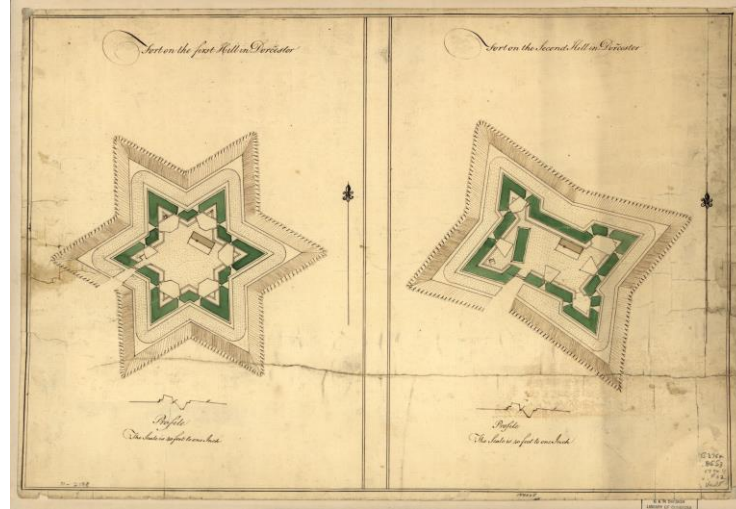
Given under my hand at Head  
Quarters in Boston this Ninth  
day of January Anno Domini 1777.

By this Certificate  
Command

Antonia Ward

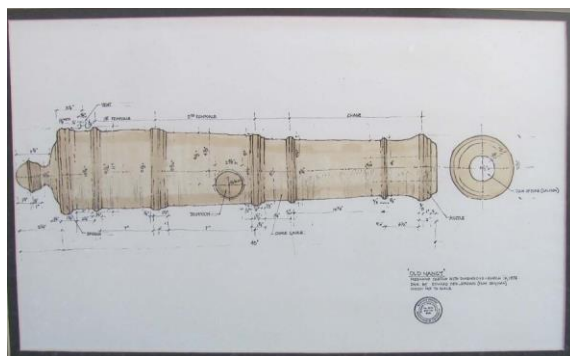
Joseph Ward

Received the Above  
Richd. Gridley





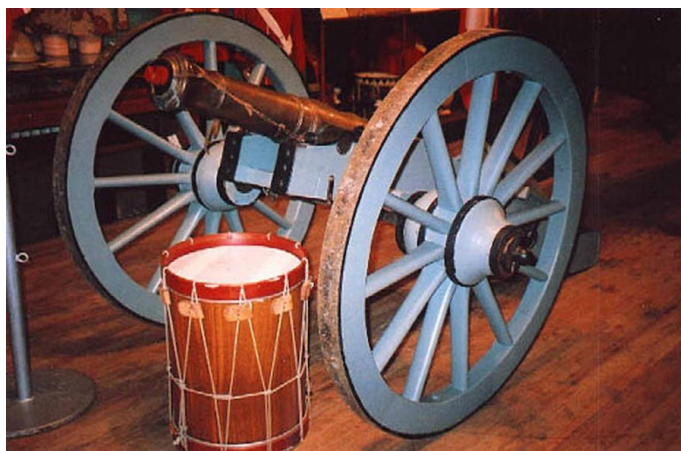
**“Old Nancy” on naval carriage**  
Georgetown, MA Town Hall.



**Measured drawing of cannon barrel**  
by Ed Desjardins, Georgetown, MA.



**Artillery Accoutrements**  
display Georgetown, MA



**Paul Revere Field Piece, Newport RI Artillery Co.**  
Revere cast cannon in Massachusetts as early as 1776.

## 20) Marblehead Fort Armament c.1775-1783

**September 1775** Town Records report they will need 2000 planks for platforms, carriage expenses, timber for sleepers, and labor of 100 men for 7 days to complete the breastwork, at a cost of £232 for the materials. The Fort is repaired by citizens: 100 men employed for seven days to complete breastwork. Cost to town for carriages, planks, and other material was “exclusive of donations.” Fort to mount 20 guns.

**Dec. 1, 1775** A. Bowen reports “... a gun burst at the Fort.”

**Dec. 6** "This day fair and pleasant for the time. Our laborers [Minutemen/Militia] have completed their fort." This was apparently in the nick of time. Lord and Gamage relate the fruitful results of the reinforcement of Marblehead Fort:

**Dec. 1776** three British vessels (*Lively*, *Hinchinbrook*, and *Nautilus*) were spotted cruising outside the harbor. The fort's cannons turned towards the enemy vessels in a show of defiance.

**June 19, 1776** The Provincial Headquarters at Watertown recorded “The Committee appointed to view the Sea Coasts from Boston to Newbury Port and examine their state of Defence &c. – having attended that Business report as follows ... The Situation and Importance of the Harbour of Marblehead, with the Strength and Beauty of their works, are equally conspicuous. They have 18 pcs. of Artillery in their Fort and 4 in one of their Batteries viz. 2 of 24 [lbs.], 2 of 18 [lbs.], 2 of 14 [lbs.], 4 of 12 [lbs.], the remainder nines, sixes and fours.”

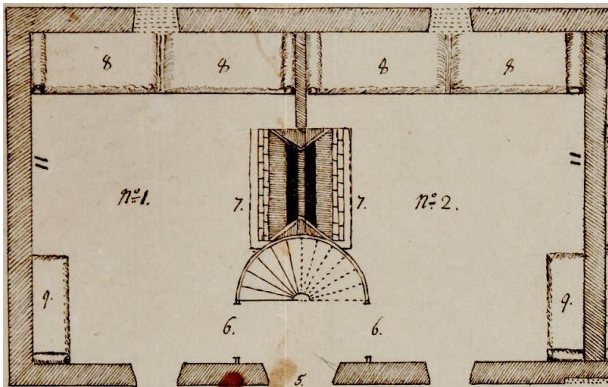


Williamsburg, VA 18<sup>th</sup> c. Magazine and Armory Interior Musket Racks. FCD Photo



## 21) Marblehead Fort Furnishing c.1775-1783

- **Williamsburg, VA Provincial Magazine**  
The reconstructed brick building had an octagonal form and the Armory interior illustrates its powder kegs and musket racks. FCD Photo.
- **Marblehead Fort** on the 1794 plan had the “Old Barracks” possibly dating as early as the structure shown as an “Old Fish House” on the 1705 plan. A similar “L” shaped structure shown and slightly to the west and re-oriented on the plan of 1794 could have retained remnants of the earliest barracks. It may have been again moved to the site just outside the upper parade as shown on an 1849 plan and in the Lossing view based on a painting of c.1860.
- **Fort William and Mary** had a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century barracks designed c.1791 by engineer Henry Burbeck with Capt. Jean-Baptiste Walbach who may have done work later at Marblehead. Plan detail is of left half of the building. Walbach was in command at Fort Constitution near Portsmouth, New Hampshire when, on July 4, 1809, there was an explosion of over 100 pounds of gunpowder resulting in the loss of seven lives. John- Baptiste de Barth Walbach (1766-1857) became the oldest officer in US history, died in service at age 90.
- **Fort Niagara** shows typical bunk bed construction.



**Plan of Barracks at Fort William & Mary**

Drawing By Henry Burbeck, or Capt. J-B Walbach c. 1790s-1808, shows typical 18<sup>th</sup> century barracks plan with double & single two-level bunks (8-9) and musket racks (11) with chimney (7).



**Fort Niagara**

Old Fort Niagara in NY has examples of 18<sup>th</sup> c. bunks.



**Marblehead Fort**

Old Barracks in later location is shown in Lossing's c.1860 view.



Gen. Charles Lee



Joseph Reed, Washington's Secretary, was in charge of his secret navy agreements. Portrait by Du Simitiere.

Some of "The Grandees"



Gen. Washington 1776



Gen. Washington's Orders

Oct. 17, 1775 initiate regulations for his secret navy of privateers under Col. John Glover of Marblehead. Portrait dwg. by John Trumbull. Yale Univ. Coll.

## 22) Marblehead Fort "Grandees" 1775

Oct. 1-3, 1775 Ashley Bowen reported "Tis said General Washington is in town. Fair weather."

Oct. 6 "George Washington in Account with the United States - To Expense of Myself & Party visitg the Shores about Chelsea. [£] 8.5.6"

Oct. 13 "...The Grandees came to examine our Fort again, General Lee &c." This was Gen. Charles Lee, Washington's second in command who had arrived with him at Cambridge July 3, during the Siege of Boston. Richard Gridley would also have been there.

Oct. 17 Washington's Orders to John Glover, in Joseph Reed to William Watson et al:

"Your Commissions will be regulated by the **Agreements made at Marblehead and Salem** [sic - likely at the Forts] for the same services.... By Order of His Excellency General Washington J Reed Sec<sup>ty</sup>" Source: Washington Papers LOC This was the official designation of Washington's secret navy of privateers.

(See also *George Washington's Secret Navy* by James L. Nelson.)

To Colonel John Glover. Marblehead.  
Sir,  
Head Quarters, October 17-1775.  
4<sup>th</sup> Your Commissions will be regulated by the Agreements made at Marblehead & Salem for the same Services.  
10<sup>th</sup> In case of any Irregularity, Misconduct or Negligence in the Officers of any Vessel, you are desired to give immediate Information to the General.  
11<sup>th</sup> You are now at all Times to use all possible Dispatch and not permit the Vessels when equipped to remain in Port.  
By Order of his Excellency  
General Washington.  
J Reed, Sec<sup>ty</sup>

## 23) Marblehead's "Appeal to Heaven"



First Navy Flag, the Evergreen Tree of Liberty "Pine Tree" flag.



Colonel Glover was the owner of the *Hannah* shown here flying the "Appeal to Heaven" Pine Tree Flag

October 20, 1775 Washington's Secretary Joseph Reed wrote a famous letter to Col. John Glover of the "Marblehead Men" Regiment of seamen in the Continental Army, setting the design of the **First Navy Flag, the Evergreen Tree of Liberty flag**. Col. Glover was the owner of the *Hannah* vessel (named for his wife Hannah Gale) and was the action officer, along with Stephen Moylan, for commissioning the other First Navy ships (*Franklin, Hancock, Hannah, Lee, Lynch, Warren, and Washington*), often called the "Washington Cruisers."

Reed wrote: "What do you think of a Flag with a white Ground, a tree in the middle, the motto: 'Appeal to Heaven.'" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Reed\\_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Reed_(politician))

**Victorian painting** shows women of the Revolution, presumably in Marblehead with the Pine Tree Flag, Ephemera Obscura **Hannah Model** shown was found on eBay.

## 24) Marblehead Fort – Flags of the Revolution



This c.1760 painting shows the **Red Ensign or American Colonial Queen Ann Flag** flying from a ship firing a salute. Detail from Marcy House, Old Sturbridge Village Coll.



**1775 Red Ensign** with the first version of the Union Jack in the canton (as a square). Also known as the Queen Ann Flag. The British Red Ensign was used in British America (including the 13 Colonies) and amended to form the Continental Colors (Grand Union Flag) of the United States in 1775. (Wikipedia)



**1777 Jan. 1 Grand Union Flag** A. Bowen reports “This morning three cannon was fired at the Fort and a flag of thirteen stripes were hoisted at the Fort. The wind SE. Rain. A thaw.” The US Stars and Stripes was not adopted until June 14, 1777, so this was likely an early version of the Continental Colors or Grand Union flag with the Union Jack in the canton and 13 stripes, very similar to the East India Co. flag [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Union\\_Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Union_Flag)



**1777 Apr. 5-9 Salute** “...this afternoon anchored here the *Hancock* frigate, **John Manley, Esq.**, from Cape Ann. He gave seven guns. Our Fort returned five. All is well....” Ashley Bowen, Marblehead Museum Coll.

**1777 Jun. 14 Stars and Stripes** was adopted, called Hopkinson Flag for the U.S. Navy. After the British left Boston, the fort mostly just fired salutes in exchange with privateers.

**1779 July 5** “*Monday, 5* This day fair and pleasant. Our gentry fired the cannon at the Fort for the Independency.

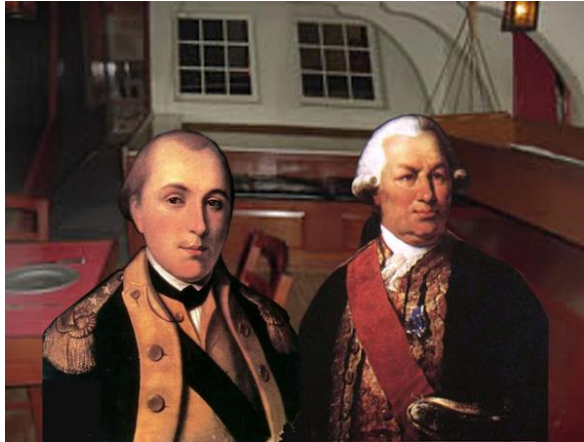




Cross-section through the *Hermione*, c.1780



Lafayette's Ship *Hermione* in combat at Louisbourg 1781



Lafayette meets Admiral DeGrasse at Yorktown, 1781

*The Shirley-Eustis House*  
Cordially Invites you  
Saturday, July 11, 2015  
12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

*Vive l'Hermione!*

Sponsored by:

W&R  
MARBLEHEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MARBLEHEAD COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION  
TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD  
OFFICE OF TOURISM

Lafayette's *Hermione* Reproduction at Boston 2015

## 25) Marblehead Fort in the 1780s

**1780 April 27 Lafayette's *Hermione*:**  
The prayers of the patriots were answered when the Marquis de Lafayette arrived at Marblehead with news that French King Louis XVI's fleet under Admiral DeGrasse was on its way from France with munitions and reinforcements for the Continental Army giving cause for American celebration. He spent the night ashore.  
<https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/04/lafayettes-second-voyage-to-america-lafayette-and-lhermione/>

**Col. John Glover**, of Washington's fledgling navy, went aboard *Hermione*, anchored below the fort, to meet with Lafayette where Lafayette wrote to Washington with the secret news, prior to his going to Boston May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-25-02-0352>

**1783 May 19** The Town votes to take up platforms from all the "several fortresses" in Marblehead and "sell the Stuf for the most they can, for the benefit of the Town."



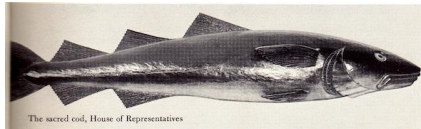
**c.1800 Militiamen** possibly Salem or Marblehead when Corné lived at Richard Derby's in Salem. The long trestle table and bench is typical of military post or tavern furniture of the period in New England.

**c.1800 Fisherman-Angler** from Corné house wall. In 1792 Fishermen cured fish at the fort according to diarist Ashley Bowen - a long tradition proven by the "Old Fishing House" shown on the 1705 plan.



## 26) Peacetime Life at the Fort 1780s-1790s

- **c.1780s-1800 Life at the Fort** in peacetime included militia musters and fishermen's shanties. Views of local characters from Michel Felice Corné, Redwood Library Coll., Webster 046.
- **1784 Lafayette revisits Glover** and, in a letter to Town, expresses his admiration for Marblehead "which fought so early and bled so freely" in the noble cause of freedom. He toasted the fishermen of Marblehead and wished "unbounded success to their fisheries." Marblehead Historical Commission, Abbot Hall exhibit.
- **1792 Dec. Ashley Bowen:** "This day I helped Rich Prince at the fort where he makes his fish. 3 hours at 4. Fair weather." Bowen Journals, Marblehead Museum.

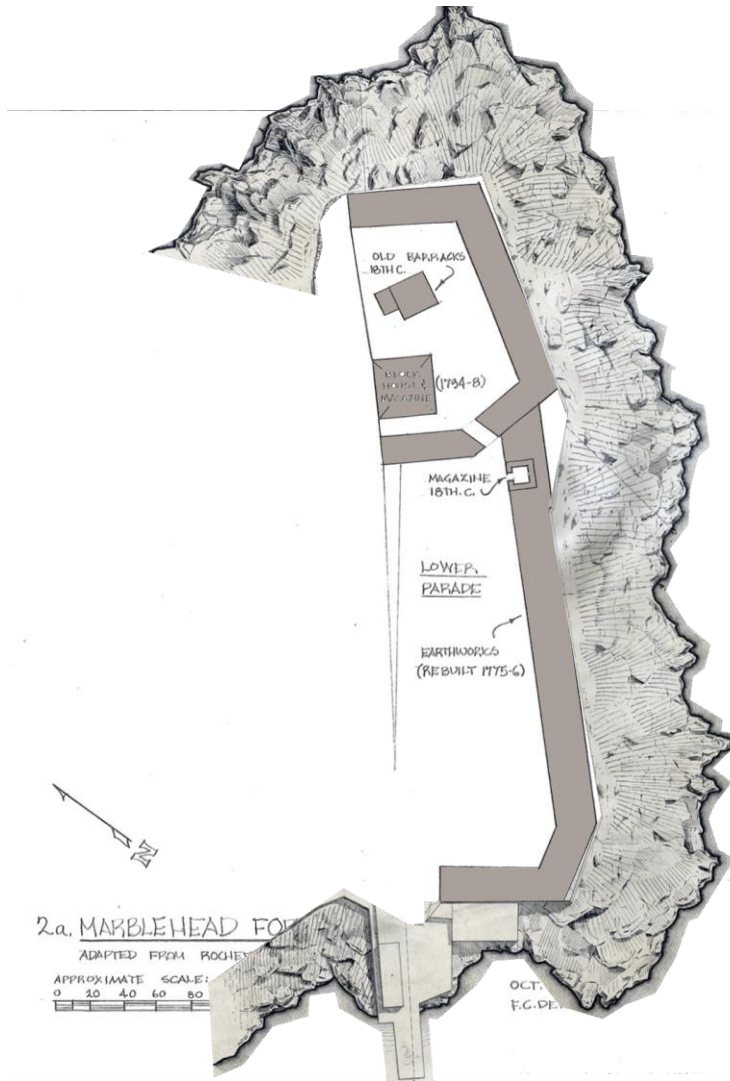


**The Sacred Cod** has adorned both the old and new Massachusetts State Houses since before the Revolution, attesting to its premier place in the economy of both the colony and the Commonwealth.

### **Curing Fish on Flakes at Marblehead, 1854**

*Leslie's Illustrated* via Alamy.com web photo.

In peacetime at Marblehead Fort, the rocky waterfront was used to dry salt codfish on flakes. Elbridge Gerry and Col. Jeremiah Lee among other Marblehead merchants sent fish and supplies to the patriots at Col. James Barrett's farm in Concord in 1775.



## Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

### 27) Marblehead Fort 1794

#### Plans for building

**1794 June 17** Ashley Bowen states “RocheFontaine has been staking out our intended new fort.”

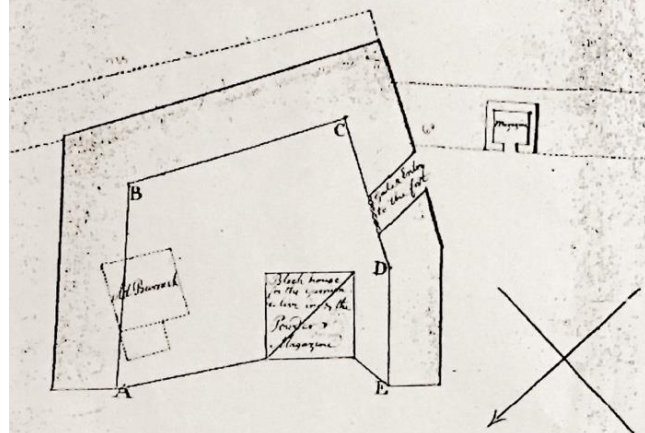
**Period:** Quasi-War with France c.1794-1800

**Engineer:** Stephen RocheFontaine

**Plan:** Stephen RocheFontaine 1794  
F.C. Detwiller update

**Description:** The upper parade area was rebuilt as redoubt with a seven-gun battery of guns likely mounted on RocheFontaine’s preferred “en barbette” traversing swivel carriages. A one-story, hip-roofed “blockhouse” brick officer’s quarters was built with a new magazine below. The “old barracks” still existed and were reported by Bentley in 1798 to have been repaired and apparently later moved to the edge of the upper parade’s northwest wall. The parapet of the 1775 lower parade was retained with its subterranean vaulted brick magazine.

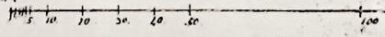
2 Plan of the Fort



The dotted lines represent the Redoubt which is to be erected as soon as the Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has given his approbation to this plan. The dotted lines represent the old battery, which is to be left in the state it is now in, to serve as a covered communication from the Town to the fort.  
A, B, C, D, E, Enlarge Redoubt, to cover the Block house from the fire of the Staffing & to contain seven pieces of Cannon for the defence of the harbour

of Marblehead.  
The Parapet, will be supported inside with a Wall of Dry Stone 2 feet thick at least, & faced only towards the Redoubt. the height of that wall must calculate upon that object of covering the Block house, it is to say, to be 6 or 7 feet high, and the parapet thus supported, is to be about one foot higher. The back part of the Redoubt will be enclosed with a Wall of Stone or Bricks, 18 inches thick, 9 feet high, and faced with white plaster, to contain from A & E to the Block house, the Plans trace on the ground is exactly like this, except C D E, brought round to the Block house, to cover it with much less expense 20,000 Bricks may be adequate for to be furnished on the spot as soon as possible, also conditional one, might be suited for the cresting of the above parapet wall, but to begin only after the arrival of his Excellency's order. The plan for the Block house will be the same.

FORT AT MARBLEHEAD - 1794  
DE ROCHFONTAINE PLAN



Salem June 21<sup>st</sup> 1794  
Rochfontaine  
Engineer  
912.7446  
M 31  
R 1

28) Marblehead Fort in 1794

1794 Marblehead Fort drawing by Stephen Rochefontaine with proposed redoubt, existing old parapet (dotted) and magazine c.1775.

- In his notes, Rochefontaine wrote: "The dotted lines represent the old battery which is left in the state it is now in to serve as a covered communication from the Town to the fort."
- The note on the brick "Blockhouse for the garrison to live in & the Magazine" indicates the underground magazine in that location probably dates to the 1790s renovation.
- An opening in the parapet is the "Gate or Entry to the fort." It leads to the smaller, square, subterranean "Magazine" with its surviving brick groin vault, built into the existing "old Battery" parapet that likely dates to the Revolution.

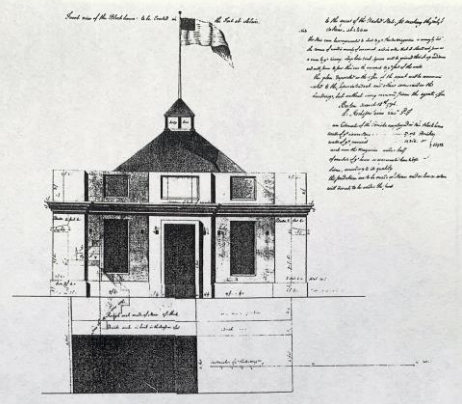
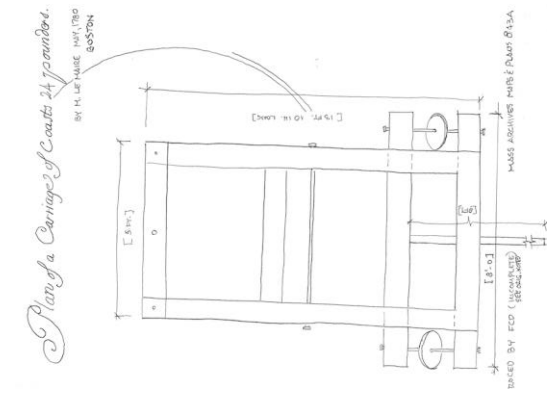
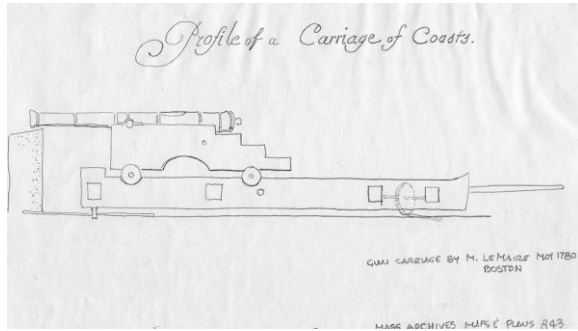


Figure 4.6. Elevation drawing of the blockhouse at Fort William, now Fort Pickering, as penned under the direction of Stephen Rochefontaine August 18th, 1794. Notes at the right indicate that the wall foundations would be stone. The ground floor and the parapet would be brick. The magazine arch "under half of one side of ye house represented here" would be three feet thick, 2 feet being a rough arch of stone, 1 foot on the inside being brick. As seen at the left, the spiral stair served both the magazine and the roof. The cupola was to serve as a sentry box. Note the classical architectural detailing and the American flag. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum,

- Fort Pickering Blockhouse was nearly identical to the one by Rochefontaine that once existed at Fort Sewall. The proposed second floor parapet was later eliminated at both Forts. Source: W. Finch, Fort Pickering report, 2014.



**Plan and profile of a Carriage of Coasts by M. Le Maire, Boston, 1780** A novel traversing swivel mount “en barbette” demonstrated to the public. MA Archives Maps & Plans 843, Archives Vol. 171 p.58. Traced by F.C. Detwiller.

### Guns Mounted on Traversing Coastal Carriages

Three cast iron 18-pounder smoothbore muzzle-loading guns, weight and trunnion data heavily corroded and painted over (4,000+ lbs.), King George III cypher, ca. 1760-1780, mounted on a long wood traversing gun carriages in front of the block house at St. Andrews Block House National Historic Site, Nova Scotia. NHS Photo, 28 July 2019

## 29) Marblehead Fort 1794 Armament Guns Mounted en Barbette

- **1780 M. Le Maire de Gimel** was working with artillery at Boston in 1780 (*American Journal and General Advertiser* [Providence, RI], 17 May 1780). November, 1780, Le Maire was commissioned as colonel of artillery; an article from the *Boston Gazette* of **May 15, 1780** reports about Le Maire’s demonstration of a gun carriage he had designed. Founders Online Letter from M. Le Maire to Benjamin Franklin: editorial notes, American Philosophical Society.
- **1794 June 13** Reverend William Bentley reports “Rochefontaine intends to remedy the complaints against forts **in barbette** without embrasures by raising the parapet, & elevating the guns upon high & new constructed carriages.”
- **1798 Bentley reports at Marblehead:** “They have proved their Cannon & now remain dismounted. Six pieces, three of which are good, 2 of 42 pounders & one 24 pounder & there are 2 of 18 and one of nine.”
- **Note:** The use of barbette mountings originated in ground fortifications. The term originally referred to a raised platform on a [rampart](#) for one or more guns, enabling them to be fired over a [parapet](#). This gave rise to the phrase *en barbette*, which referred to a **gun placed to fire over a parapet, rather than through an [embrasure](#)**, an opening in a fortification wall. Source: Wikipedia



**Major Louis Tousard**  
French engineer

**1795 to 1800 Major Louis Tousard Alterations** are carried out by French Engineer Tousard, who lost an arm at the siege of RI in 1778, and returned to the U.S. in 1795 as engineer under President Washington. By 1800 he was a lieutenant colonel and Inspector of Artillery. As Inspector, he supervised construction of several forts in Eastern seaboard of the U.S. and construction and testing of cannons.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_de\\_Tousard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_de_Tousard)

**1809 August William Eustis, Secretary of War Inspection Tour**  
Eustis began a tour of the forts in the northeast with Engineer Henry Burbeck. Jefferson nominated and James Madison appointed Eustis Secretary of War in March of 1809. During his tenure Eustis re-organized his department and the army, with mixed results that led to his resignation in December 1812.  
<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-01-02-0455>



**Secretary of War William Eustis**



**Henry Burbeck, Chief of Artillerists and Engineers**



**Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift**

### 30) Marblehead Fort Engineers c.1795-1810

- **1801-1808 Alterations** In July 1800, Henry Burbeck, a student of Gridley, assumed the duties of Chief of Artillerists and Engineers (as Louis Tousard of the 2nd Regt. became Inspector of Artillery two years previous). After his arrival in Boston in August 1809, Chief Engineer Henry Burbeck began a tour of the forts in the northeast with the newly-appointed Secretary of War William Eustis. Source: Henry Burbeck Papers, William L. Clements Library
- **1802 – 1809 Repairs** In Massachusetts, Rochefontaine's works at Salem, Marblehead, and Gloucester were made under the direction of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift ca. 1804-1809 in order to meet the potential British threat to American seamen and shipping. Swift was promoted to Major in February 1808 and assigned to the Eastern Department covering the New England coast. He was assigned with Joseph Gilbert Totten and Sylvanus Thayer.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Gardner\\_Swift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Gardner_Swift)
- “...**Mr. Eustis** at Boston, and Captain Lloyd Beale at Newport, R.I., had been appointed the agents of fortifications, to all of whom I gave requisition for materials to be collected at the respective points. It was determined to repair the Rochefontaine work at Marblehead, and at Gloucester Point.”  
*Memoirs of J.G. Swift.*  
[.org/stream/memoirsofgenjoseph00swif/memoirsofgenjoseph00swif\\_djvu.txthttps://archive](http://www.usaia.org/stream/memoirsofgenjoseph00swif/memoirsofgenjoseph00swif_djvu.txthttps://archive)



*Samuel Sewall*  
1775

**The Honorable Justice Samuel Sewall (1757-1814)**

Justice of the Peace, Judge in Massachusetts.  
Born in Boston, practiced law in Marblehead.  
Fort Sewall was named after him c.1800.

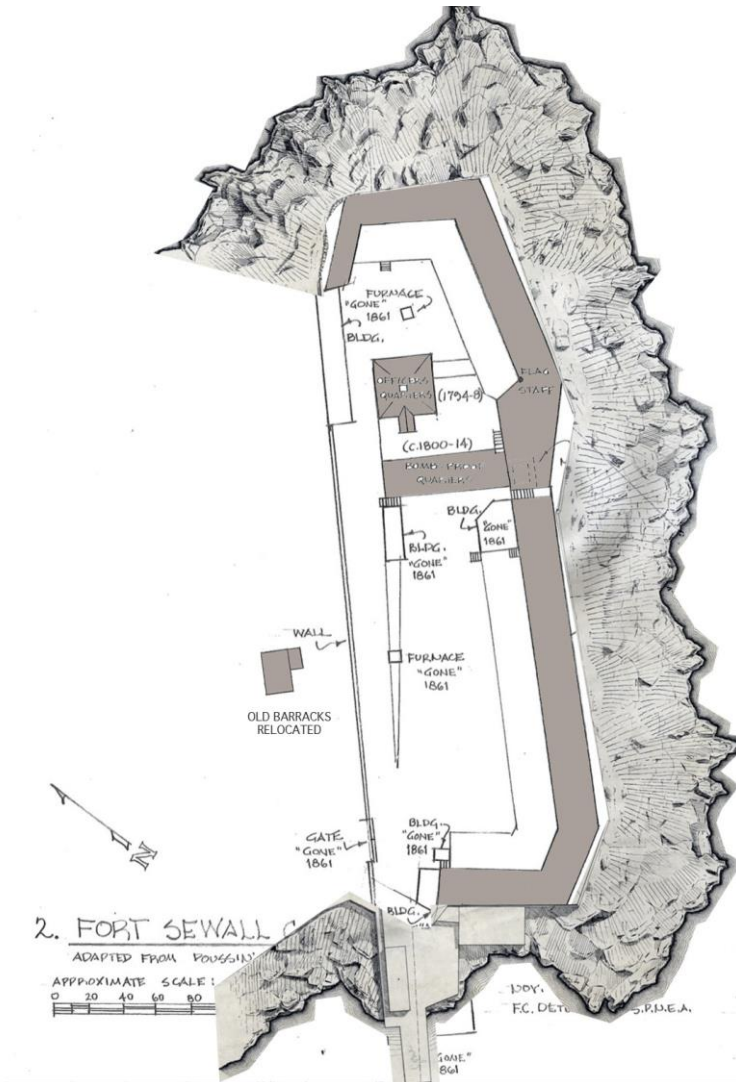
**31) Marblehead Fort Becomes  
Fort Sewall c. 1800 - 1814**

In or soon after 1800, when Marblehead attorney and justice of the peace Samuel Sewall was appointed to the Massachusetts Supreme, the Marblehead Fort was named Fort Sewall. Prior to that, he had served as an early state legislator and U.S. Congressman. In 1814, during the War of 1812, Sewall was appointed Chief Justice, but died in June, exactly two years after war was declared, while holding a court session in Maine, (part of Massachusetts until 1820). He died two months after the fort's most famous moment, on April 3rd in 1814, when the *USS Constitution* successfully sought refuge under the fort's guns.

- Attorney and judge, Harvard Class of 1779
- Married Abigail Devereux at Salem in 1781
- Massachusetts state legislator 1783 & 1788-96
- U.S. congressman from Massachusetts, 1796-1800
- Associate Justice of MA Supreme Court 1800-1814
- Chief Justice of Massachusetts Supreme Court 1814
- Died in Wiscasset, Maine (then still Mass.) 1814

## Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

### 32) Fort Sewall c.1809 - 1815



- **Period:** War of 1812 (1812-1815)
- **Engineers:** Louis Toussard & Henry Burbeck c.1798 to 1808, Repairs by Joseph G. Swift 1808-9. (Drawings not found.)
- **Plan:** Guillaume Tell Poussin 1820; Update 2020 by F.C. Detwiller. Probably designed under French-trained Major Louis Tousard and Henry Burbeck. Original plans not found; possibly lost when British burned Washington DC government buildings in 1814.
- **Description:** A blockhouse with addition of entry porch, and stairs leading to old Magazine and new Bombproof Quarters on the Lower Parade.
- **1798 Bentley reports:** “The new brick building of Rochefontaine & the wooden house of the old fort are standing, & the latter repaired. Nothing is finished.” Henry Burbeck replaced Rochefontaine as Chief Engineer in 1800.
- **The Fort as built ca. 1800-1808** was documented in drawings by US Army Corps of Engineers Maj. Poussin. They show the parapets remained much in the form they had at the time of the Revolution, with Rochefontaine’s 1794 Blockhouse (Officer’s Quarters) with a front entry porch added. The principal change was the addition of the subterranean masonry vaulted Bomb Proof Quarters on the lower parade. The Old Barracks building, repaired in 1798 according to Bentley, was apparently relocated to the northwest edge of the fort.





**Fort Sewall painting** showing Officer's Quarters and Bomb Proofs, said to be based upon a c.1860 view as shown in Lossing's *Field Book of the War of 1812*, 1868. Marblehead Museum Coll.



**Capt. John Bailey**, Commander of Fort Sewall in the War of 1812. Pastel portrait c.1792 in Abbot Hall.



**Col. Stephen Ranney** Commander of U.S. Troops at Fort Sewall and Fort Pickering with Company Commanders Alex Pope and Daniel Freeman 1800-1803.

### 33) Fort Sewall c.1812-1820

#### War of 1812 (1812-1815)

The presence of British sloops in the bay prompted the U.S. Col. Stephen Ranney (1761-1827) to muster a company at Fort Sewall under the command of Capt. John Bailey (1761-1828). He was Fort Sewall Company Commander and at his death his wife took over the care of the Fort. Source: Bentley *Diary* and findagrave.com

**Description:** The apparent old barracks is seen relocated to the left in the painting at the NW edge of the Upper Parade. The hip-roofed Officers Quarters "Block House" with its cupola and entry porch is visible above the Bomb Proof Quarters whose granite façade is whitewashed. In the Lossing c.1860 view is seen the buried muzzle down, a large old cannon, probably dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1839 Barber view, two apparent sentry boxes are seen flanking the gate to the fort.

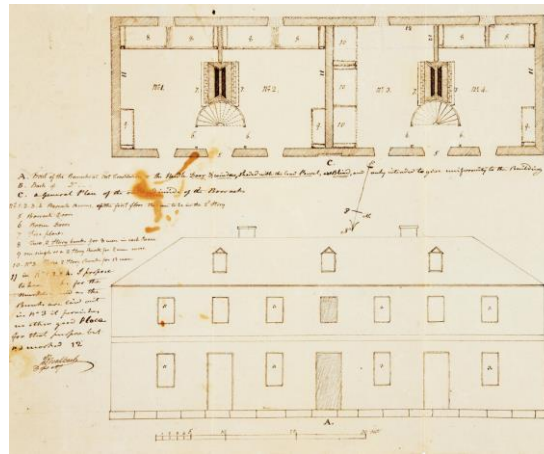
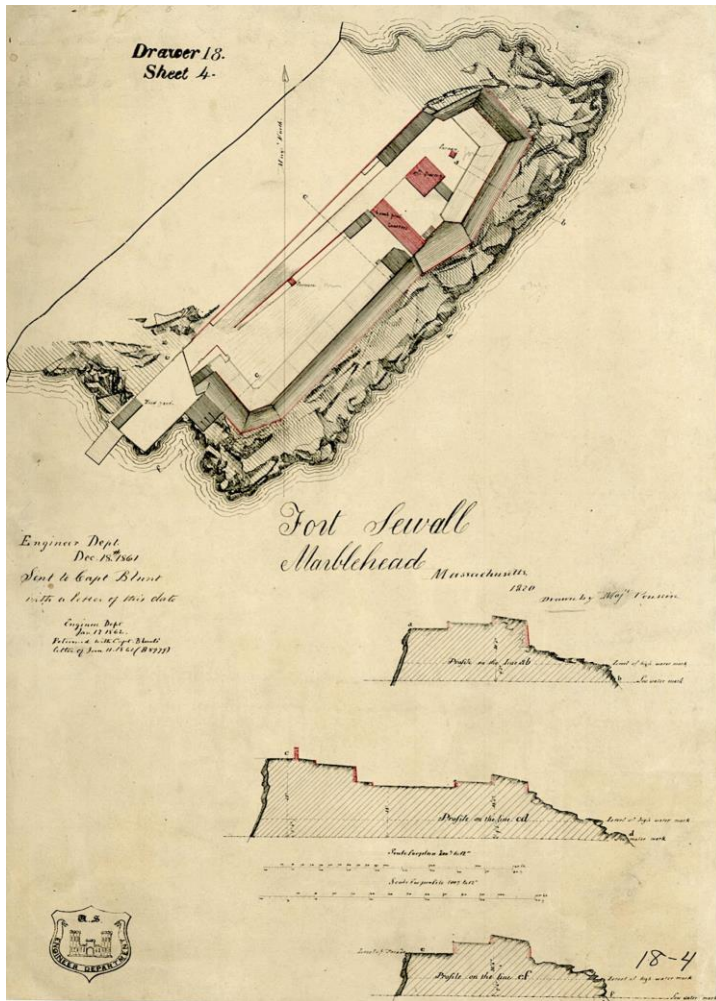


Historic Sketch Drawing of Fort Sewall  
(Source: *The Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812*, Benson J. Lossing, 1868)



North-eastern view of Marblehead from Fort Sewall.

**North-eastern View of Marblehead From Fort Sewall.** Wood engraving in Barber, *Historical Collections of Massachusetts* 1839.



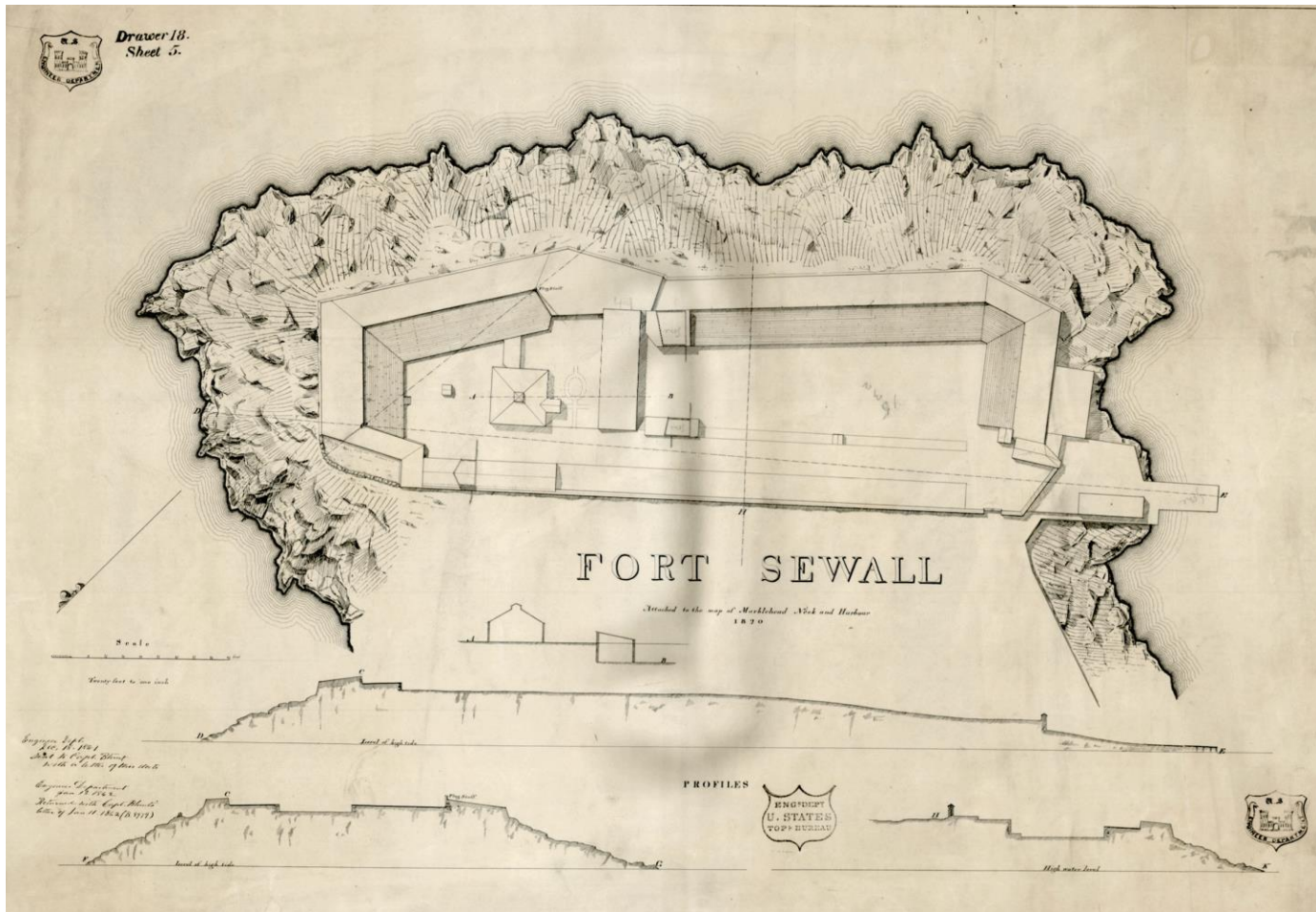
**Plan and Elevation of the Barracks at Fort Constitution, formerly Fort William & Mary, Newcastle, NH, c.1791-1808**

**Drawing** by Col. Henry Burbeck or Capt. J. B. Walbach shows a typical c.1800 barracks plan with double & single two-level bunks (8-9) and musket racks (11), plus fireplaces with chimneys (7). The Fort at Marblehead had barracks in the Bomb Proof Quarters likely set up in a similar fashion. One room had a fireplace as well.

**Plan and Sections of Fort Sewall 1820**  
By Major Guillaume Tell Poussin, US Army Corps of Engineers

### 34) Fort Sewall c.1808-1820

- **Drawing:** Plan 1820 by Maj. Guillaume Tell Poussin, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Plan** shows the parapets remained much in the form they had at the time of the Revolution, showing Rochefontaine's 1794 Blockhouse (Officer's Quarters). The main change was the addition of the below-ground masonry vaulted Bomb Proof Quarters on the lower parade.
- Various subsidiary sheds, storehouses, and shot furnaces, one on each of the Upper and Lower Parades, were added.
- Rochefontaine's work was found in good condition and repaired, rather than replaced, by engineer Joseph Gardner Swift in 1808-9.
- **Sections** show thickened parapets with raised gun platforms and a brick wall at the NW side of the complex.



### 35) Fort Sewall c.1820

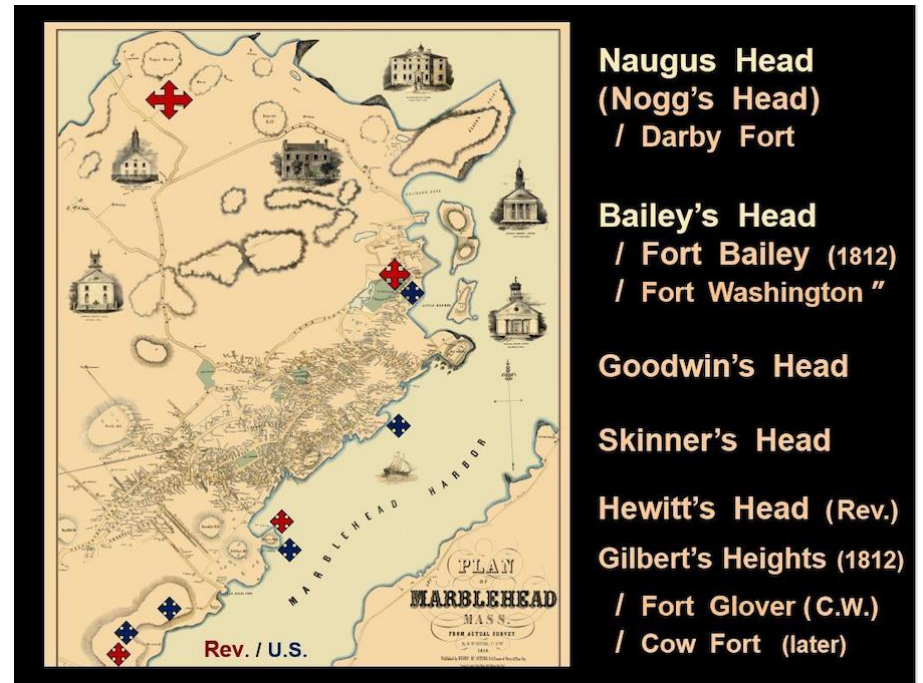
- **Drawing** by Maj. Nicholas Poussin, US Army Corps of Engineers.
- **The Plan** shows the parapets remained much in the form they had at the time of the Revolution, showing Rochefontaine's 1794 "Blockhouse" (Officer's Quarters) with a front entry porch added. The principal change was the addition of the below-ground masonry vaulted Bomb Proof Quarters on the lower parade. Along with various subsidiary sheds, storehouses, and shot furnaces.
- **The Section** shows the one-story hip-roofed "Blockhouse" was one-story with a cupola, and the Bomb Proof apparently had a slope toward the lower parade. The gun platforms are shown as constructed of timber planks, several steps up from the parade ground levels.

**Fort Sewall 1820** by Maj. Nicholas Poussin with Bombproof and Officer's Quarters, outbuildings.  
US Army Corps of Engineers

## 36) Marblehead Area Fortifications



**Forts Bailey/Washington and Fort Sewall, 1850.**  
Detail from 1850 Map of Marblehead by Henry McIntyre.



**Marblehead Forts c.1750-1850** drawn on base map by Henry McIntyre, 1850; annotated by J. Anderson.

Fort Pickering and Lee.

Salem Harbor and its Surroundings.

Situation of Marblehead.



FORT PICKERING, NEAR SALEM, IN 1806.

and South Rivers, as the estuaries are called which embrace the peninsula. Its embankments, composed of earth and stone, excepting the brick wall in the rear (see picture on page 891), were about eight feet in height, and well preserved. The officers' quarters (seen on the right), built of brick, and shaded by balm of Gilead trees, were well preserved. There the keeper, Sergeant Reuben Cahoon, resided. He was seventy-one years of age when I was there. He was a soldier on the Northern frontier in 1812, and yet

carried a ball in his leg which he received at the battle of Plattsburg. His wife was his only companion.

Not far from Fort Pickering we passed the remains of Fort Lee, near the house of Mr. Welch, at the western end of the causeway leading to Winter Island. It was an irregular work, built at the beginning of the War of 1812, and occupied a very commanding position, especially as the guardian of Beverly Harbor. It also commanded Salem Harbor, in a degree. From its mounds, now eight or ten feet in height, we obtained fine views of Salem, Beverly, and the whole outer harbor. The water which it was chiefly designed to watch



REMAINS OF FORT LEE, SALEM.

over and protect was the estuary called Bass River. It extends up to Danton's, or Old Salem Village,<sup>1</sup> and was the one spanned by the famous "Leslie Bridge" of the Revolution.

Returning to Salem, we rode out to Marblehead. After passing a fine avenue skirted with lofty elms, we crossed the Forest River, near the Forest City Mills, and

Fort Sewall and its Keeper.

A Family of Soldiers.

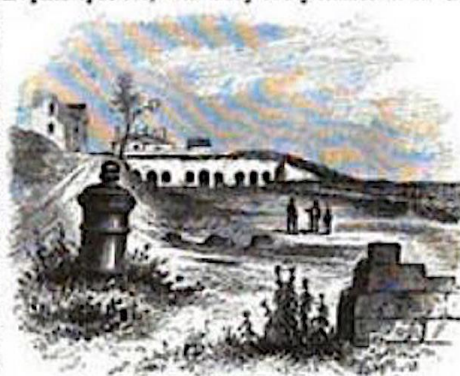
Marblehead during the Revolution.

town, and seeing no verdure as indicative of soil, to inquire, "Pray, where do they bury their dead?"<sup>2</sup> It was inhabited chiefly because of its advantages and convenience as a fishing port, a character which it has always borne.<sup>3</sup> Its trade was almost wholly destroyed during the Revolution,<sup>4</sup> but it revived soon afterward.

MARBLEHEAD HARBOR.<sup>5</sup>

The harbor of Marblehead is quite spacious, with many rocky islands at its entrance. On the high promontory near the village was Fort Sewall, built in the year 1800, and rebuilt early in the War of 1812. When I visited it Mrs. Maria T. Perkins was the United States Agent in charge of the property there, having been a resident of Fort Sewall since 1835. She was an energetic woman, and with the greatest courtesy she received and entertained us. On the floor of one of her rooms was a carpet of which she was justly proud. It was made entirely of the clothes of her father (Sergeant Stephen Twist, of the Continental Army) and her two brothers, worn by them during the War of 1812. They were ever afterward in the military service of the United States up to 1837.<sup>6</sup> She was engaged in piecing it during twenty years. The carpet was woven by Mrs. Perkins and her daughter, in Fort Sewall, a few months before my visit, and took a premium at a Fair in Boston.

On returning to Salem I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Benjamin F. Browne, a native of that place, who entered the naval service as surgeon's mate in the privateer *Alfred*, in September, 1812, when he was only nineteen years of age. While in the schooner *Fredic*, in the West Indies, he was captured, taken to Barbadoes, sent to En-

FORT SEWALL.<sup>7</sup>

### 37) Fort Pickering and Fort Sewall c.1812-1820

Lossing's *Field Book of the War of 1812*, 1868, shows both Fort Pickering at the left and Fort Sewall at the right, had one-story, hip-roofed officers' quarters.

**Fort Pickering** had brick officers' quarters occupied by Sergeant Reuben Cahoon.

**Fort Sewall** is described by Lossing in a footnote:

"In this view, the entrance to the fort with the back to the harbor, is seen the row of bomb-proof casemates, with arched windows and doors. Above them is seen the officers' quarters built of brick, in which Mrs. [Maria T.] Perkins resided." She had a carpet made from uniforms of her father Sgt. Stephen Twist[den?] of the Continental Army, and her two brothers, worn by them during the War of 1812.

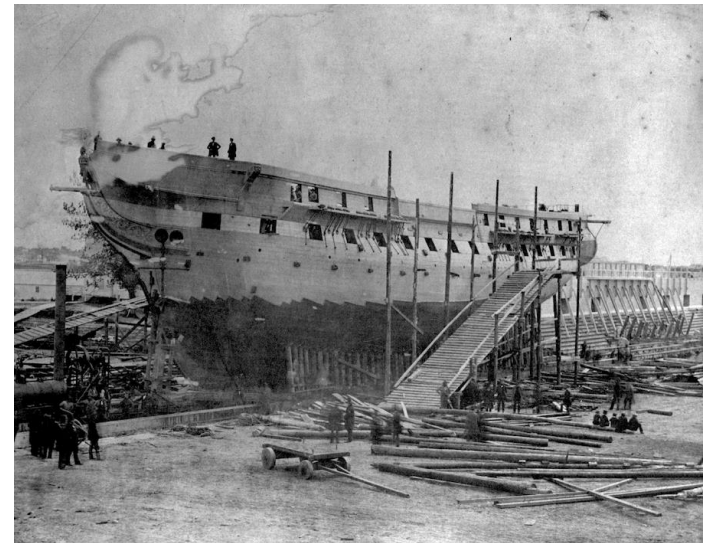


**War of 1812, USS Constitution by Corné, 1803.** USS Constitution Museum, US Navy Loan.  
**April 3, 1814** Two British frigates with superior speed and firepower chase the *Constitution*. British frigate *Tenedos* gains on *Constitution*; the crew pumps its bilge, throws provisions overboard, and seeks refuge in Marblehead Harbor. Many of the *Constitution's* crew from Marblehead know the harbor well; two Marbleheaders pilot the ship between Marblehead Rock and Neck, and *Constitution* drops anchor at 1:30 pm under the shelter of the fort's guns.

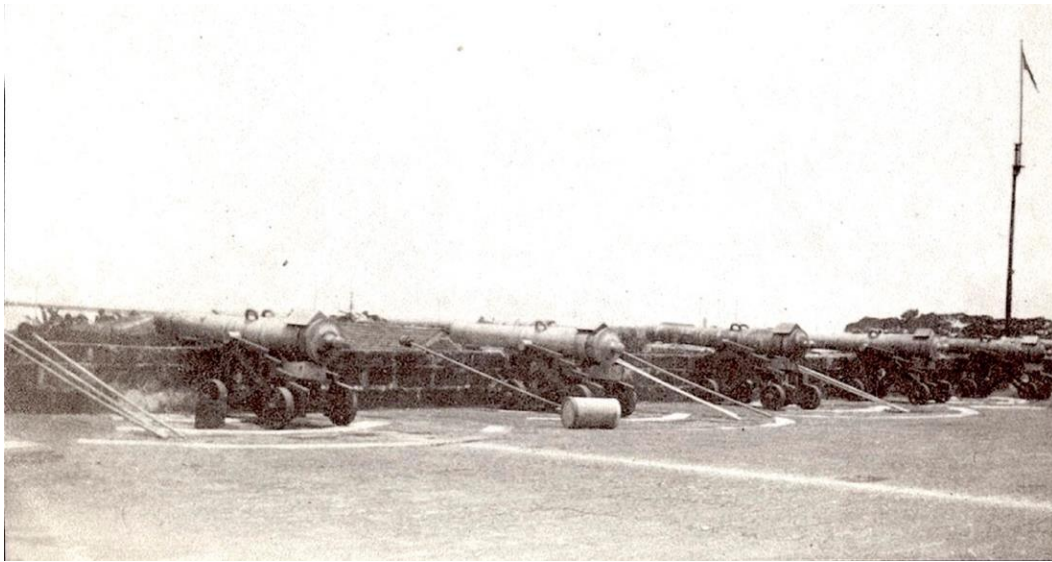
### 38) Fort Sewall Saves the *USS Constitution* 1814

**On Sunday April 3, 1814 Fort Sewall's guns,** although "seldom fired in anger," famously protected *Old Ironsides* when she took refuge after pursuit by two British warships, *HMS Junon* and *HMS Tenedos*.

- Two Marblehead crewmen, Green and Martin, piloted the ship safely through the shoals.



**First photo of USS Constitution** under repair in 1858 at the Portsmouth, NH Navy Yard 094602188.JPG. Some timber for *Old Ironsides* came from West Rowley, later Georgetown, MA.



**Coast Artillery Battery**, similar to but not Fort Sewall. Note flagstaff on ramparts.  
Source: The Trustees of Reservations, Stevens-Coolidge RA\_42\_187.jpg

### 39) Fort Sewall Armament c.1812-1815

A **Gun Battery** similar to Fort Sewall's at left, would have presented a formidable defense. Gun carriages were by then likely the traversing coastal-type used as far afield as Nova Scotia. Engineer J.G. Swift recorded acquiring guns and shot cast in Boston and vicinity, requisitioned through Secretary of War William Eustis.



#### **Marblehead Militia Gun House c.1810.**

The Gun House, located on Elm Street (formerly Back St.) across from the Gerry School, was authorized to be built in 1808 and was likely constructed by 1810 to store guns and artillery for the defense of the town prior to the War of 1812. Information provided by Historical Commission Chairman Chris Johnston in article by Owen Boss: <https://patch.com/massachusetts/marblehead/old-gun-house>



**Traversing Gun Carriage**, Project 1812, Fortress Halifax NS Citadel



**Cannon from USS Constitution** at Tarr Memorial, Rockport MA.



**Spanish American War Cannon** now in Abbot Hall.

Whole Number	890	440	619	568	336	792	420	519	628	574	64	Total	5850
United States, Soldiers in Fort Sewall.												Total	5900
Under Command of Capt. Steph. Ranney			47	3									

The number of persons within my division consisting of the Town of Marblehead appears in a Schedule book numbered & subscribed by me Marblehead October 15 1810

Richard Hornum Jr. assistant to the Marshall of Massachusetts

**Marblehead Essex County 1810 Census** lists 47 young enlisted men & 3 older officers at Fort Sewall. Marblehead Museum Collection.

#### 40) Fort Sewall Details c.1810-1820

**Fort Sewall's Garrison**, according to the 1810 Essex County Census of Marblehead, amounted to 47 young enlisted men and 3 older occupants as "United States Soldiers at Fort Sewall Under Command of Capt. Steph. Ranney."

**Old Magazine** with its gothic groin vault shows evidence of alterations to the brickwork at the entrance, apparently made when the Bomb Proofs were added c.1798-1810, and again when they were altered in the 1860s.

**Bomb Proof Quarters** had a fireplace in the Guard House.



**Early distant view of Fort Sewall c. 1870s** photo by Frank Cousins shows Bomb Proofs & possibly old Barracks c.1864.

**Interior of the Old Magazine**, altered when Bomb Proofs were added. John Wathne photo.

**Interior of the Bomb Proof Quarters** with restored fireplace. FC Detwiller photo 2020.

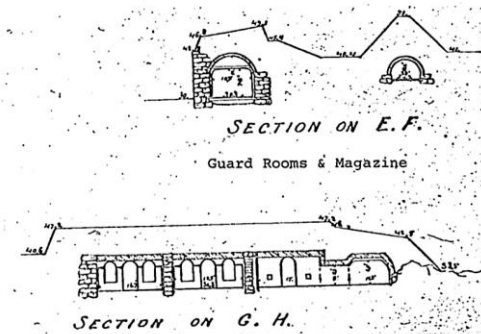
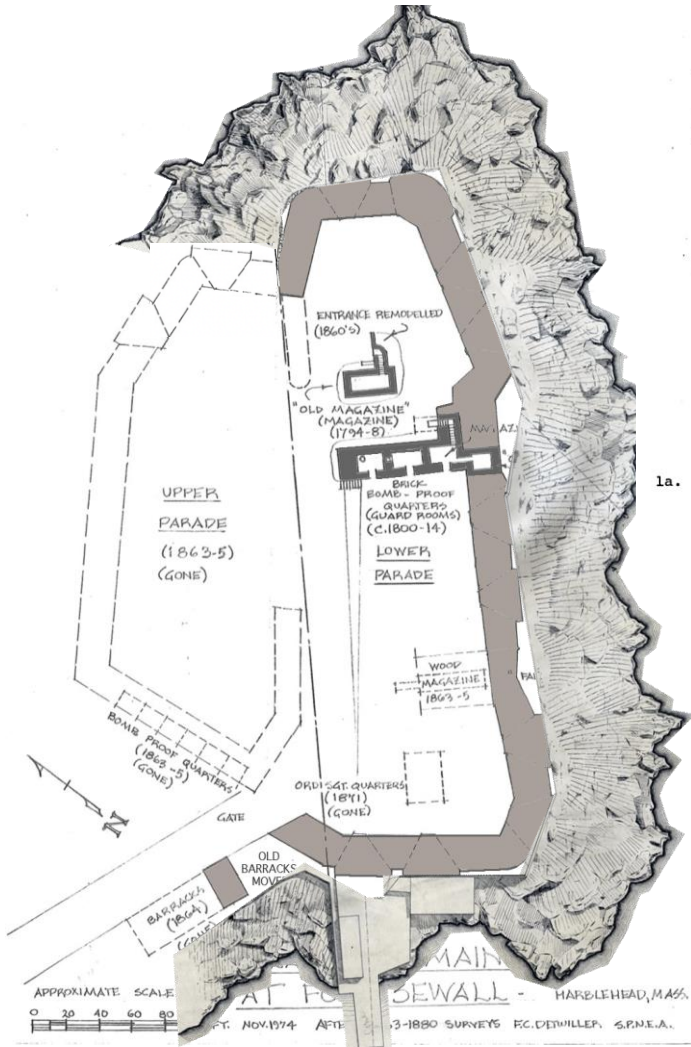


## Fort Sewall Timeline Illustrations

### 41) Fort Sewall c.1864

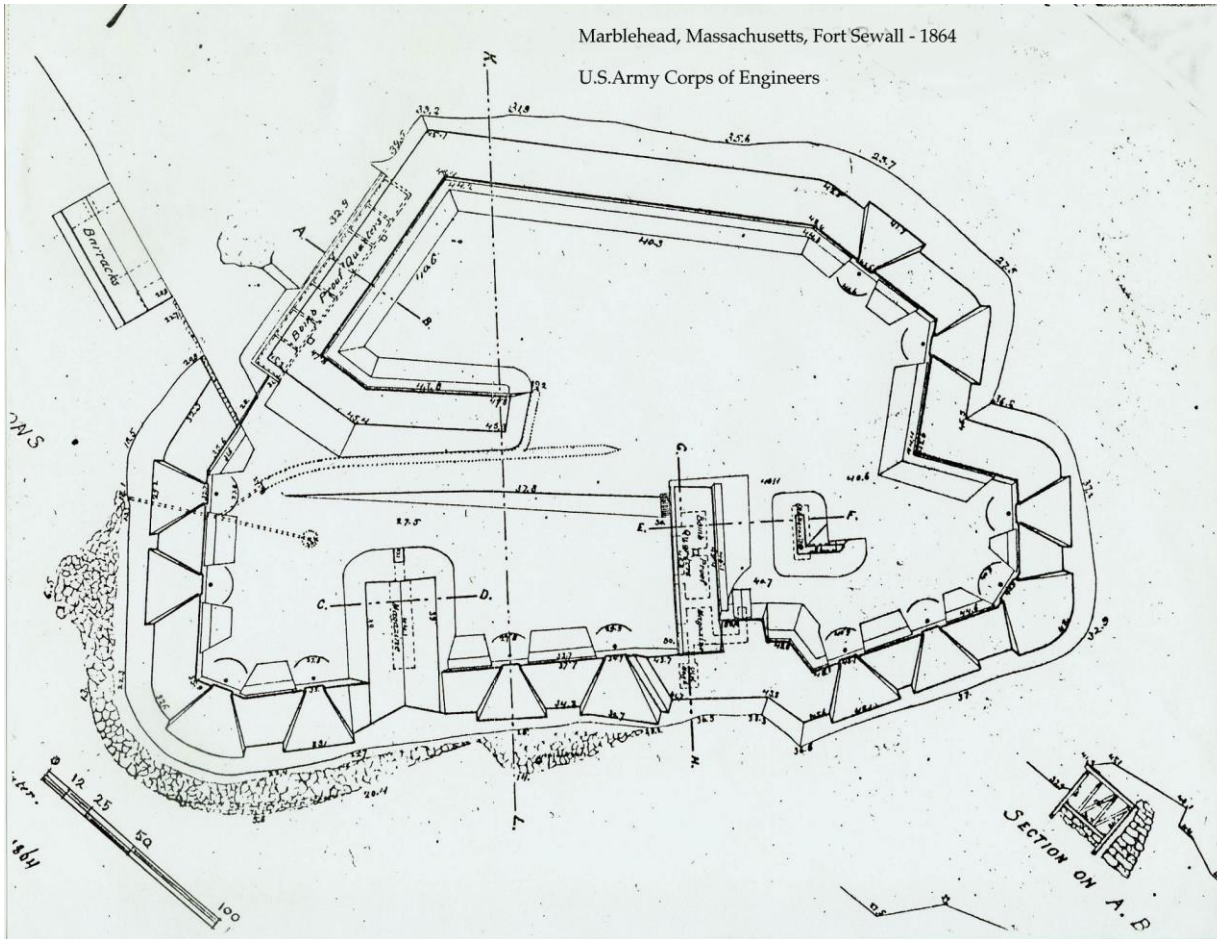
#### Fort Sewall in the Civil War 1861-1865

- **Period:** Civil War (1861-1865)
- **Engineer:** Major C.E. Blunt 1861-1864
- **Plan:** C.E. Blunt 1864  
Update 2020 by F.C. Detwiller
- **Description:**
  - **Plan:** The fort was extended on the northwest side with ramparts extending around the Upper Parade. Subterranean timber Bomb Proof Quarters with a second below-grade timber-reinforced powder magazine on the lower parade. Barracks for the enlisted men were relocated to the road by the Fort entrance near the wharf.
  - **Section:** The 1794-1800 brick Officer's Quarters was removed but the magazine below was retained. The Old Magazine, shown under the 1775 parapet on the 1794 drawing, was retained and connected with the new Bomb Proofs of c.1800-1810. Two of the arches in the Bomb Proofs were filled in to extend the Magazine / Storeroom, retaining only two small ventilator openings.



Bomb Proof Quarters, Magazine & Old Magazine (Kitchen, Guard Rooms, and Dungeon)

1a. SECTIONS THROUGH EXISTING REMAINS  
As shown on U. S. Army Engineers Plan 1864



## Fort Sewall in the Civil War 1861-1865

### 42) Fort Sewall c.1864

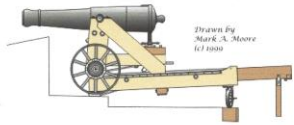
- **Period:** Civil War (1861-1865)
- **Engineer:** C.E. Blunt 1861-1864
- **Plan:** Major C.E. Blunt 1864 Original Plan  
Copy: US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Description:** The fort was extended on the NW side with ramparts extending around the Upper Parade. Emplacements are shown for a dozen guns. Subterranean timber Bomb Proof Quarters with a second below-grade timber-reinforced powder magazine are on the lower parade. The 1794-1800 brick Officer's Quarters was removed but the magazine below retained. Barracks for the enlisted men were relocated to the road by the Fort entrance near the wharf.
- **Note:** The underground temporary Bomb Proof Quarters (shown in Section at lower right), upper parade NW parapet extensions, and temporary magazine on the Lower Parade had fallen into ruin by 1872, and had disappeared not long thereafter when the property was returned to the original owners in the 1880s.



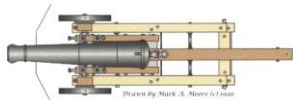
Members of Company C, 1st Connecticut Artillery, at Fort Brady.

### CT Artillery Co.'s Temporary Earthworks, Fort Brady. Armament

#### Heavy Seacoast Weapons



8-inch Columbiad — Heavy weapons similar to this piece (front-pintle carriage, mounted on barbette) were stationed in the second gun chamber of Shepherd's Battery, on the land front of Fort Fisher.



Barbette Carriage — Top View.

**Guns** could also be mounted “en Barbette” as shown in the wooden Barbette carriage drawing from Fort Fisher at the lower left. These were a later version of the type recommended by Rochefontaine in 1794.

#### Siege Weapons

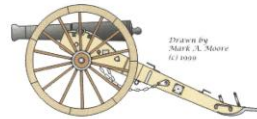


4 1/2-inch Parrott Rifle — A Parrott rifle, similar to the 30-pounder siege weapon pictured here, was stationed in the third gun chamber of Shepherd's Battery (together with an 8-inch columbiad).



24-pounder Coehorn Mortar — Two of these small, hand-carried mortars were stationed on the land front of Fort Fisher: one each in the fifth and sixth gun chambers.

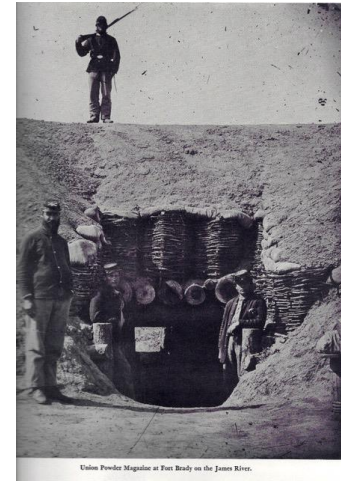
#### Field Artillery



12-pounder Napoleon — Fort Fisher employed three fieldpieces similar to this Napoleon. Two were stationed in the center sally port, and one guarded the "Bloody Gate" at the River Road sally port. A Parrott rifle was also in position at the edge of the river marsh, near the gate.

## 43) Fort Sewall Armament Civil War 1861-1865

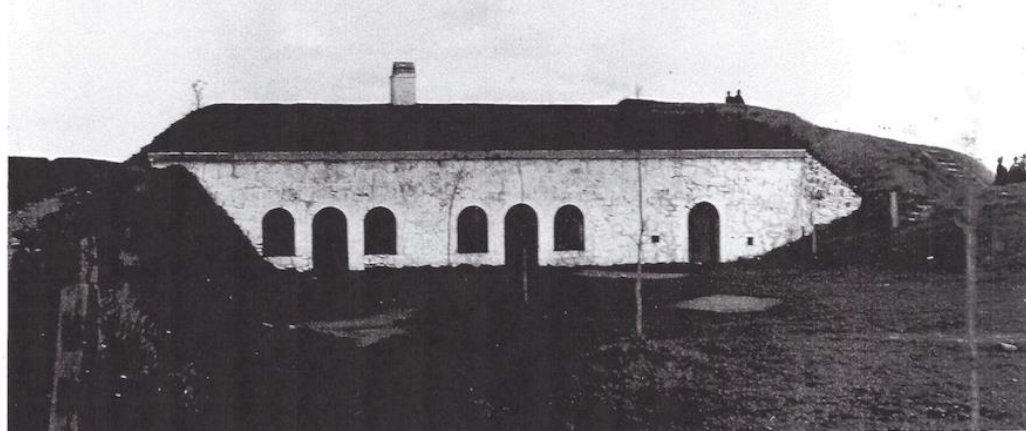
Fort Sewall would have had a variety of weapons during the Civil War, with a battery set up behind temporary wood and earth ramparts reinforced with logs, sandbags and dirt or rubble-filled gabions as shown in Muller's 18<sup>th</sup>-century military engineering books. The same technique was used to build a temporary magazine at Fort Brady as shown below.



Union Powder Magazine at Fort Brady on the James River.

**Union Powder Magazine at Fort Brady** on the James River, VA from *Divided We Fought 1861-1865*, MacMillan Co. NY, 1956.

**Armament at Fort Sewall:** “One 24 pdr, smooth-bore, Eight 24 pdr. Rifles and three 32 pdr rifles mounted at Post.” a total of 12 guns. Source: 1879 report by Lt. Frank S. Harlow, Fort Warren, Boston.



#### 44) Fort Sewall in the Spanish-American War 1898-1899

- **View from Fort Bailey** across Little Harbor c.1899 shows surviving earthen ramparts of Fort Sewall's Civil War period extension. Marblehead Museum Coll.
- **Bomb Proof Quarters** are shown whitewashed in a c.1890 photo. HNE Coll.
- **Soldiers Marching** from the Fort Sewall gate by Old Fish House toward town c.1898. Litchman Photo Marblehead Museum Coll.
- **Child with Artillery Company** hat and Allin trap-door musket. c.1898. MM Coll.
- **Spanish-American War field artillery piece.** PEM Phillips Library.





**Fort Sewall Bomb Proof behind group in snow c. 1890-1900**  
Fred B. Litchman Photo, Marblehead Museum Coll. 199896214.



**Fort Sewall Visitors with dog in snow.**  
FB Litchman c.1890-1900 MM 199892101.

## 45) Fort Sewall 1880s-1900s

### Civilian Tourism Era

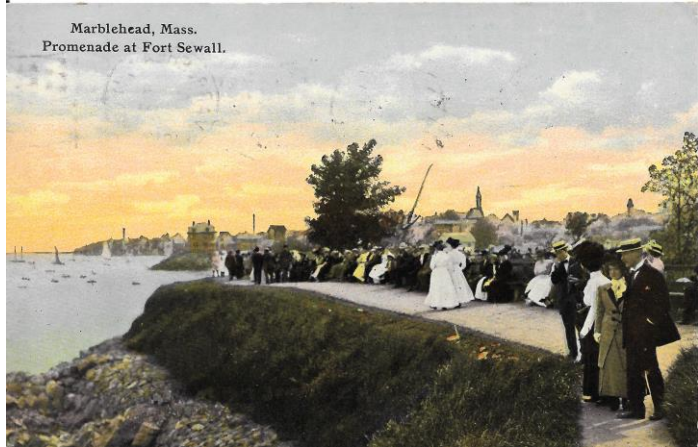
Fort Sewall was moth-balled after the Civil War, with access returning to the general public. The Civil War temporary components had fallen into disuse and ruin by 1880. The threats of warships were replaced by pleasure yachts.



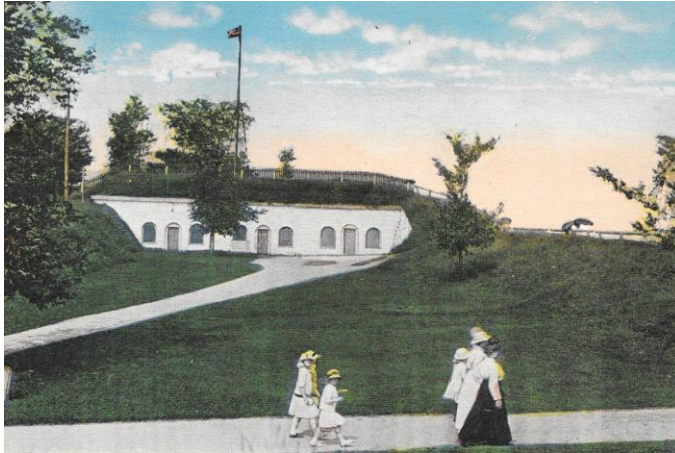
**Fort Sewall Distant View with caretaker's house c.1880 MM199896306.**



**Fort Sewall Water View with sailboats c.1900 MM199896342.**



Marblehead, Mass.  
Promenade at Fort Sewall.



#### 46) Fort Sewall 1890s to 1910s

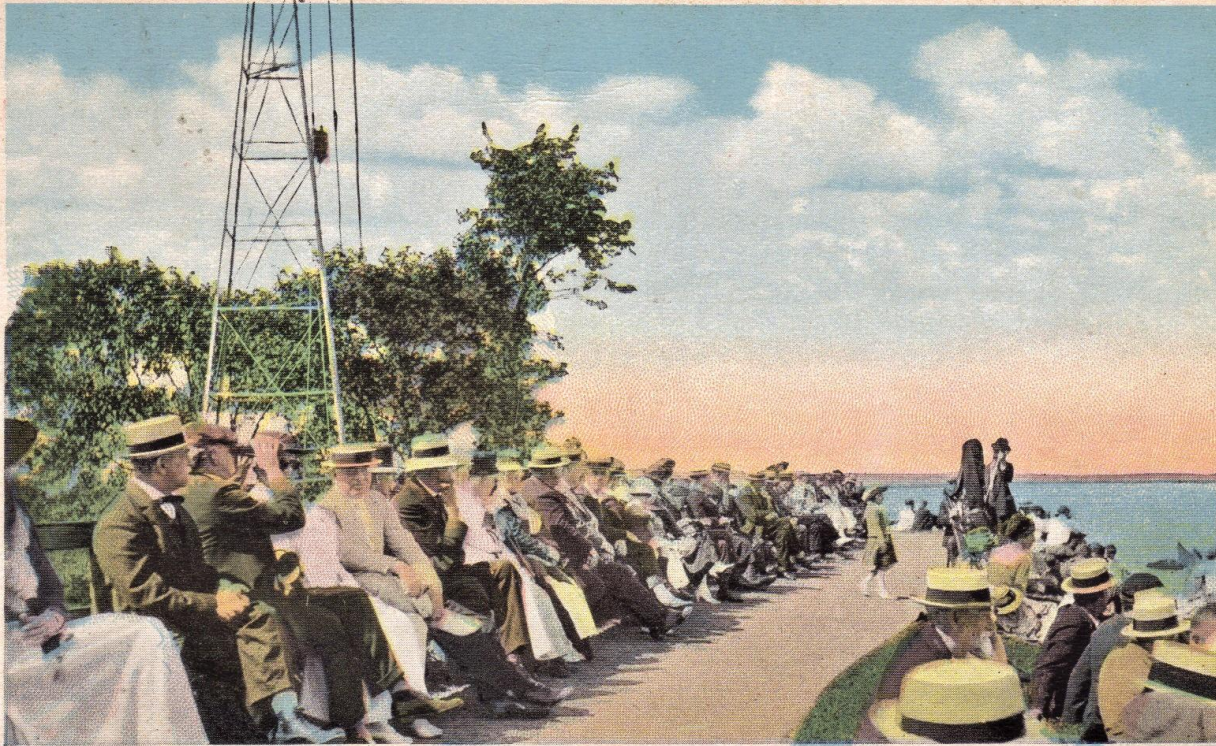
##### Civilian Tourism Era

- The fort's earthwork ramparts were a popular tourist attraction due to the spectacular views they offered of the Harbor, Marblehead Neck, Cape Ann, and several off-shore islands.
- The fort was (and still is!) well sited for watching sailboat races and sailing "yachts" in the years when Marblehead was first celebrated as "the Yachting Capital of America."
- Benches were introduced in the 1870s, not long after the Civil War — about the same time the first yacht clubs were established and summer houses began to be built along the shoreline across the harbor on Marblehead Neck.



Copyright 1895 by the Rotograph Co.  
Fort Sewall, Marblehead, Mass.

WATCHING THE RACES FROM FORT SEWELL, MARBLEHEAD, MASS.



#### 47) Fort Sewall 1890s to 1910s

##### Civilian Tourism Era

- The fort's earth-work ramparts were a popular tourist attraction due to the spectacular views they offered of Marblehead Harbor, Marblehead Neck, Cape Ann, and several off-shore islands.
- The fort was particularly well sited, and still is, for watching sailboat and sailing "yacht" races and in the decades when Marblehead was first celebrated as "the Yachting Capital of America."
- Note the mens' straw "boater" hats and ladies long skirts.
- Note steel radio tower / flagstaff base similar to the 1896 light tower on the point of Marblehead Neck. (see previous page.)



**Front Street along Marblehead Harbor** at the base of Franklin Street, viewed toward town, on the road leading up to the Fort. Buildings at the left, Rock Haven Diner and harborside pavilion, no longer stand. Post card c.1922. Private collection.

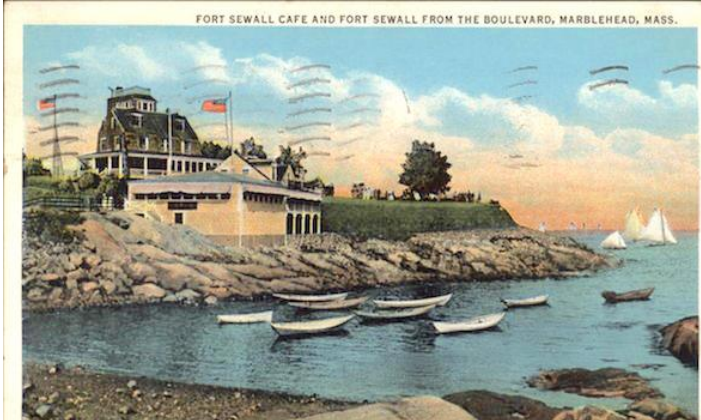
**48) Fort Sewall Officially Transferred to Town of Marblehead Ownership by US Government on May 12, 1922**

- After several decades of unofficial recreational use by locals and summer tourists, and lobbying efforts led by Benjamin Williams Crowninshield and others, ownership of Fort Sewall and its land was officially turned over to the Town of Marblehead by the United States government through an official **act of Congress** dated **February 25, 1922**.
- The transfer deed was authorized by the U.S. Secretary of War on **May 12**, with the stipulation that the land and structures be used as a public park.





**Fort Sewall aerial view from northeast, detail from photo by Rick Ashley c.1900 residences fill former Civil War parade.**



**Fort Sewall Café and Fort c.1900 post card.** CardCow  
The café replaces the former barracks/caretaker's house.

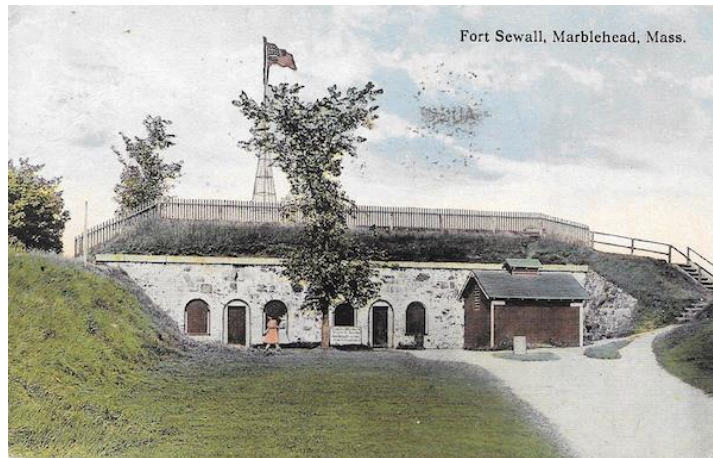
## 49) Fort Sewall Neighborhood in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**View from Fort Beach c.1900** post card shows Fort Sewall's surviving earthen ramparts after acquisition by town, with café serving tourists below. Fishing dories and yachts offshore continue Marblehead's maritime heritage.

**Bomb-proof Quarters c.1915** post card shows weathered whitewash on masonry with a flagstaff above and added tourist facilities. HNE Coll.

**Glover's Regiment militia drill c.1976** at Fort Sewall Lower Parade in front of Bomb Proof Quarters. MM Coll.

**General John Glover's home** c.1902 photo LOC. It has since been preserved and restored in private hands.



**Fort Sewall Bomb Proofs with tourist facilities c.1910-20.**



**Glover's Regiment drill at Fort Sewall c.1976.** (MM)



**John Glover's House built c.1762**



**Fort Sewall's most familiar visible structure, the Bomb Proof Quarters**, built after 1794 (completed by 1810). first appeared on the plans of 1820 since the plan of c.1798-1808 is lost.

**Above:** Before 2019 preservation work.  
Photo by Judy Anderson.

**Below:** After preservation work. Photo courtesy of the Marblehead Reporter /Wicked Local.com.

**Top right:** Access door from upper parade underground brick magazine under the earthwork parapets (before preservation work on masonry and door.)

## 50) 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Preservation 2019

- Preservation of the c.1798-1808 Bomb Proof structure (left photos) and restoration to what is thought to have been its original color scheme.
- Two windows that originally flanked the far-right door had already been removed a century and a half prior.
- This most recent preservation work was funded by the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Preservation Projects Fund with matching funds from state and other grants. State grants and town municipal budgets had under-written preservation work in previous years as well.

## Fort Research – 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Frederic C. Detwiller

Funded by grants from:

Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars  
Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati  
and General Society of Colonial Wars

Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati  
representatives at the dedication of the  
monument to General John Glover at Fort  
Sewall which the Society funded in 2010.



Left to right: Warren Little, Charles Newhall, Larry Sands, Robert Erbetta,  
Archer O'Reilly, Gorham Brigham, Woodward Goss, Herb Motley.



Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars  
representative William Mann, with grant-write Judy  
Anderson and a cannon ball possibly from Fort Sewall,  
at Abbot Hall. Marblehead Historical Commission Coll.



Researcher Rick Detwiller in one of three  
rooms, this one heated by a stove, in the main  
Bomb Proof Quarters (c.1798-1808) at  
Fort Sewall, March 2020.

## 51) Fort Sewall – Acknowledgements

The fort researcher and author of the 2020 Fort  
Sewall report wishes to thank the **Fort Sewall  
Oversight Committee** (Larry Sands, Chair), the  
**Town of Marblehead**, and Town Planner /  
FSOC manager / liaison Rebecca Curran  
Cutting, and militia re-enactors of Glover's  
Marblehead Regiment, for their collective  
support for the Marblehead Fort / Fort Sewall,  
and their interest in its significant history over  
375 years. Also, historian and fellow researcher  
**Judy Anderson** conceived of the project, wrote  
grant proposals and helped with research and  
editing of the report.

**Special thanks are due for the grant awards  
and their granting committees, which have  
made this effort possible.**

**This presentation** is based on the *Fort Sewall  
Report and Timeline* by Frederic C. Detwiller,  
New England Landmarks, with assistance from  
Judy Anderson of the Fort Sewall Oversight  
Committee, using Marblehead Town Records  
and the Massachusetts State Archives, the  
journals of Ashley Bowen (Marblehead 1700s)  
and Rev. William Bentley (Salem early 1800s),  
as well as other primary sources in US gov't. and  
UK archives in addition to other repositories, and  
secondary sources like Lord & Gamage,  
*Marblehead: The Spirit of '76 Lives Here* and S.  
Roads, *History and Traditions of Marblehead*.



**Fort William & Mary, New Castle, NH c.1704.**  
Detail of British Union Jack, View by Wilhelm Romer.

## 52) Fort Sewall – 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Fort William & Mary 1704 view by Romer shows many of the same characteristics of the original Marblehead Fort.

New flagpole with US flag flies near its original location at Marblehead's recently-restored Fort Sewall over 315 years after Cols. Romer and Redknapp's 1705 rebuilding.



**Gun Deck Interpretive Installation, May 2021.**  
Photo by Judy Anderson



**Fort Sewall flies Stars & Stripes over parapets, May 2021.**  
Photo by Judy Anderson