

TEWKSBURY REMEMBERS THE REVOLUTION

Excerpt from

A SHORT HISTORY OF TEWKSBURY

by Edward Pride — 1888
(now — out of print)

CHAPT. IV

IN THE REVOLUTION

Tewksbury was roused that famous night, or rather morning, by one of the men started by Paul Revere on his famous ride through the Middlesex farms. The messenger passed through this village and roused its sleeping inhabitants. Then riding on, he stopped on that spring morning on Stickney Hill, at the House of Captain John Trull, near the training-ground often used by the captain for drilling the men, and enlisting them in their country's service. Hearing the cry, "The British are marching on Concord!" Captain Trull sprang from bed, and after firing his gun as the signal previously agreed upon to arouse General Varnum across the Merrimac in Dracut, threw himself upon his horse and rode rapidly to the village. Here he found the minute-men drawn up, ready at the word to march. Placing himself at their head, they were soon on their way by the Billerica road to Concord, and joined at Merriam's Corner with those from Billerica and other towns in hot pursuit of the retreating British. There, all accounts agree that the sharp conflict changed the retreat into a rout.

One of the Tewksbury men was Eliphalet Manning. One of Captain Trull's grandsons, Mr. Herbert Trull, often related that when a boy, on his way to Salem, he used to pass Manning's door. Eliphalet would call out: "I fought with your grandfather from Concord to Charlestown. He would cry out to us as we sheltered ourselves behind the trees: 'Stand trim, men; or the rascals will shoot your elbows off.'"

Tewksbury was also represented at Charlestown, Boston, Cambridge, Roxbury, "the Lines," Rhode Island, New York, Ticonderoga, "the westward," and at the taking of Burgoyne. The history and course of the war may be read in the records and money-orders of the town, or in the votes for distinguished men and measures. While her sons stood in the high places of the field, the work to keep them there and sustain the government went bravely on here. It is a record of which the town may forever be proud.

"May 23, 1775. Chose Mr. Ezra Kindell to be a representative to the Provincial Congress at Watertown, May 31." Such an election might cost him his life. A Committee of Correspondence also was chosen. July 15, 1775, Mr. Ezra Kindell again chosen. In the March meeting of 1776, Nathaniel Clark, Jr., Nathaniel Heywood, Deacon Jacob Shed, and William Brown were chosen a Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety; and May 20th Lieutenant John Flint, John French, Jr., and Benjamin Burrill were added to their number. Then for the years of the war the records teem with money paid to the soldiers and their families, for provisions, clothing, transportation, bounties, and whatever was needed to wage war long, grim, and terrible.

Thus this town, with the country, was launched on the terrible struggle which ended in complete triumph when George III, entering the houses of parliament with pale countenance, read with faltering voice the recognition by Great Britain of the independence of the United States of America.

The long, weary years of that great struggle are traced upon our town records in votes to raise reinforcements of men for the Continental army; to furnish it with provisions and clothing; to raise committees for all needed purposes, and also in the orders to pay the troops or their families; indeed, in all the multifarious and oppressive business of war. Most pathetic are the orders to some widow or relative to receive the pay due to one who went forth to fight for all man holds dear, but who never returned to enjoy the fruits of victory. Such are these: "To Widow Rebecca French £3, 5, 10, 2. To Widow Rebecca Gray 7/9." In short, men and money were lavished like water. Meetings often occurred within four or five days of each other. As one reads the records, it is brought home to him what the founding of the republic cost: he sees the making of the United States; he learns the whole process as he remembers that our town stands a representative of what was occurring in a multitude of other towns doing the same great work. It is this that makes the early history of every New England town, especially in the revolutionary period, so instructive and fascinating. Could the dumb and scanty records of our town speak, could they give us a verbal report of but one of their town meetings, of even one of their debates on arms or the constitution of state or nation, what an absorbing tale would be unfolded!

Copy of Enlistment Paper
of Benjamin Saunders,
Tewksbury, Mass.

Ben^r Saunders
Whose name is hereunto subscribed,
being determined to serve & defend
my country & its liberties, have
this Day voluntarily enlisted as
A Soldier in the Continental Army
for three years from the Date un-
less sooner Discharged, and do bind
myself to conform in all Instances to
such Rules & Regulations as are
or shall be Established for the Gov-
ernment of said Army
Witness my hand Ben^r Saunders
Sept. 12th 1777
Count of 6
States 20
Bounties 41

REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIALS

STONE MONUMENT



Corner of Hood and River Rd.
North Tewksbury

DAR PLAQUE



At Tewksbury Public Library

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST:

Refer to map on reverse side for
corresponding letter key location.

- TEWKSBURY STATE HOSPITAL, East Street. Established 1852.
- OBLATE NOVITIATE, Chandler Street. Established in 1883.
- CENTRE BURIAL GROUND, East Street.
- SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, Main Street, at the center of Town.
- CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, East Street at the center of Town.
- SAINT WILLIAMS CHURCH, Main Street. East of the center.
- TEWKSBURY METHODIST CHURCH, Corner of Main and South Streets.
- FOSTER SCHOOL, Main Street at the center, 1894.

Pages from his Journal

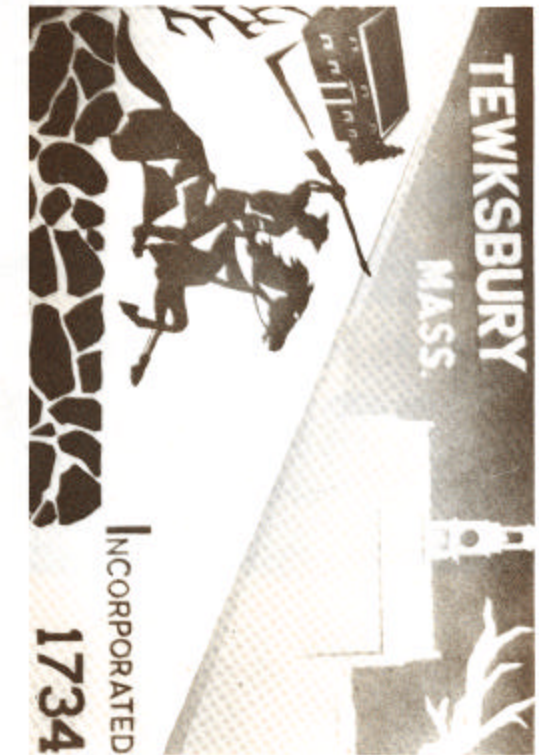
Date	Block					Center					H	
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Dec 16 77												
Jan 17 78												
March 17 78												
May 18 78												
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Oct 1 77												
Oct 6 77												
June 7 78												
July 6 78												

For at least part of his life, Benjamin Saunders lived in Tewksbury. Whether or not he served with a Tewksbury company remains a mystery. It is very evident that he served his country and Tewksbury is proud to preserve this memento which he left to his descendants. It serves as a reminder to all who enjoy Liberty that 200 years ago, a man gave three years of his life to aid in the struggle for American Independence.

Documents donated to Tewksbury Historical Commission by
Daniel C. Pratt, Franklin, N.H.

COME -
CELEBRATE -
AMERICA . . .



OUR TOWN

COVER: TEWKSBURY'S BICENTENNIAL FLAG
Prepared By: Designed by Mrs. Peg Stetson

TEWKSBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Maureen Kelley — Chairman
Mary Browne — Vice Chairman
Maureen Maillett — Secretary
Norma Heider — Financial Secretary
Karen Favreau — Commission Archivist
Loella Dewing — Town Historian

For the:
TEWKSBURY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Mary Lou Anderson, Michael Daley, Loella Dewing, Eleanor Ingaharro, Margaret Kolesar, Mary Novo, Matthew McGillick, Maureen Kelley, Elizabeth Hewitt, Robert McLellan
Research and Design Co-Ordinator — Maureen P. Kelley

Our history is recorded in many places and in many ways. It is recorded very obviously in every American town. Tewksbury is no exception. We invite you to look around our community and open your eyes to the signposts that dot the landscape, each proclaiming the developing character of our town through the years.

Every generation has made its mark, erected its signposts from the unique character of its buildings to the simple gravestone epitaphs. Study them all and as you look, contrast what was happening throughout America while Tewksbury's people were building their town.

For example, the Hardy Homestead and Brown's Tavern (1740) were serving tradesmen and travelers in a relatively elegant fashion when three quarters of the present U.S. was unexplored wilderness.

The Mears House (1780) was built during the colonies struggle for independence.

The lovely Jonathan Clark House (1800) and the elegant Life Farmer House (1802) show Tewksbury to be a thriving community at a time when Jeffersonian Democracy was proclaiming equal rights for all and Lewis & Clark were beginning their exploration.

The Stone House (1850) was completed at the height of the California Gold Rush.

Students at the new Ella Fleming School (1859) probably read Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin and their parents were very likely reading John Greenleaf Whittier's essay on slavery.

Tewksbury Bandstand (1891) denoting tranquil country life was erected during the height of the Industrial Revolution.

Now we challenge you to look beyond the traffic and the billboards down to those things which have endured — beginning with our unique Sentries — our Stone Walls . . .

Tour divided into three sections — Nos. 1-15 tours the Center and North Tewksbury, Nos. 16-22 are scattered throughout the town, Sites A-H are not pictured in the brochure.

Note: This tourguide presents what we consider a representative sampling of homes and sites. We have tried to include a variety of architectural styles and periods and we have attempted to include sites in all sections of town.