

# Marblehead's Fort Sewall

The Oldest Fort on the Northeast Coast

SUPPORT THE FORT

ABBOT HALL 188 WASHINGTON STREET MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

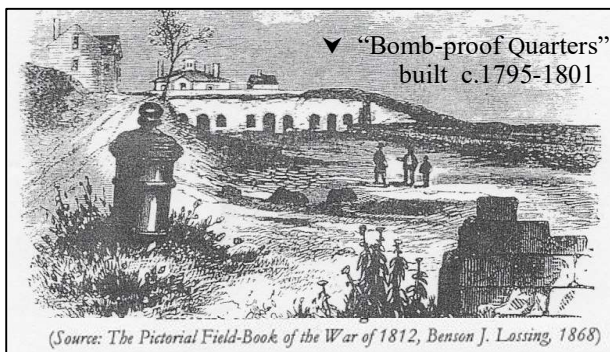
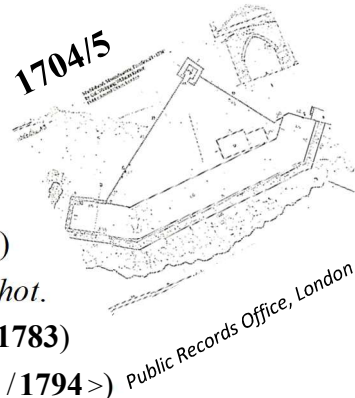


Established in 1644

Named in 1800

## Timeline & Development 1644 to 1922

- 1644** Gale's Head appropriated for an earthwork defense with 2 guns.
- 1675-78** 3 guns during "King Philip's War" (chief Metacomet) (1675-1678)
- 1705** Outfitted with 12 cannon during "Queen Ann's War" (1702-1713)
- 1741-43** Reinforced prior to "King George's War" (also against France, 1744-1748)
- 1750s** On alert during the "Seven Years' War" (French & Indian War, 1754-1763)
- 1755** *Brick Powder House* built (on Green St.) round with a conical roof to deflect shot.
- 1775** Breastworks repaired by citizens. 18 cannon there. (Am. Revolution 1775-1783)
- 1794** Transferred to U.S. government as hostilities mounted with France (1790s / 1794 >)
- 1795-99** Fort was enhanced, includg. a brick block-house and redoubt on the upper parade area.
- 1797-01** Existing brick 'bomb-proof' quarters with the arched doors and windows were built.
- 1800 ★** Renamed to honor Samuel Sewall, a MA Supreme Court Justice 1800-1814 / Chief J. 1814.
- 1808** Fort had 19 cannon but no garrison, as tensions with England had increased in early 1800s.
- 1811** *Brick Gun House* built inland (on today's Elm St.) with two arched doors for cannon carriages.
- 1812-15** M'hd. Light Infantry stationed at Fort during the War of 1812 against England (1812-1815)  
In command was Captain John Bailey, who had served on privateer vessels in the Revolution.  
Nearly every adult and teenaged male in town (1,121) served in the War of 1812, mainly at sea.  
And half of them remained as POWs in England for months after the peace was signed in 1815.
- 1835-64** Mrs. Maria Twist Perkins, U.S. agent in charge of the Fort, resided in the brick officers quarters.
- 1864** Enlarged, renovated and manned with guns & a garrison for the American Civil War (1861-1865)
- 1890** Custody of the Fort given back to the Town of Marblehead (financially) by the U.S. government.
- 1898** Re-appropriated and called into service again during the 4-month Spanish-American War (1898)
- 1922** Officially transferred from the U.S. government to the Town of Marblehead (February 25, 1922)



Brick quarters with a wooden (?) roof built after 1794 as hostilities mounted with France after the Amer. Rev.



Earth-filled defensive redoubt on Bunker Hill 1775 similar to what could have been built at Marblehead