

FREE Presentations at Fort Sewall

375th
Anniversary!
1644



Donations welcome

*The Fort was named in 1800 for Samuel Sewall,
a Justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Court*

Dates & Times:

Meet at the entrance to the Fort

Wednesday	April 3	6 pm	<i>(sunset is 7:15 pm)</i>
Friday	April 5	6 pm	
Saturday	April 6	9 am	

The U.S.S. Constitution famously sought refuge in Marblehead harbor on April 3, 1814

Friday	May 24	6 pm	<i>Memorial Day weekend</i>
Saturday	May 25	9 am	<i>Memorial Day weekend</i>

*1,141 Marblehead men & boys served in the American Revolution, from about 950 families.
Just a generation later (some serving in both wars), war was declared against England on June 18, 1812.
1,121 Marblehead men & boys served in the three-year War of 1812, from about 1,000 families.
More than half remained as POW's for months after the peace was signed in February 1815.*

The Memorial Day weekend programs honor those men & their families.

Friday	July 5	4 pm	<i>Independence Day weekend</i>
Saturday	July 6	4 pm	<i>& Arts Festival</i>

The American Revolution against England won our independence.

~ The War of 1812 against England preserved it. ~

Friday	August 16	6 pm	Sat. Aug. 17	9 am
Monday	August 19	6 pm	Sun. Aug. 18	4 pm

*The battle between the USS Constitution & the HMS Guerrière was August 19, 1812
Constitution won the battle, which was the source of her nickname "Old Ironsides"
~ as a sailor was said to shout "Huzzah! Her sides are made of iron!"*

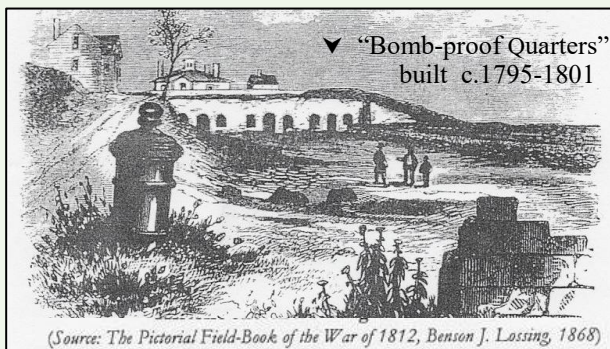
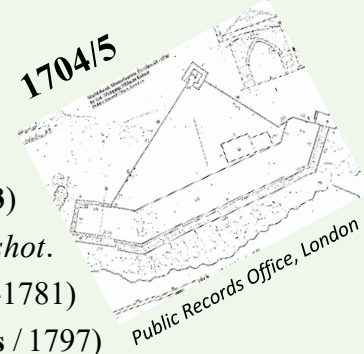
Marblehead's Fort Sewall

The Oldest Fort on the Northeast Coast

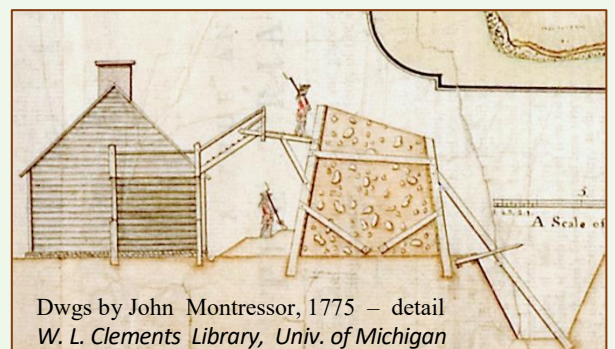


Established in 1644
Named in 1800
Timeline & Development
1644 to 1922

- 1644** Gale's Head appropriated for an earthwork defense with 2 guns.
- 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 1775-1781)
- 1794** Transferred to U.S. government as hostilities mounted with France (1790s / 1797)
- 1795-99** Fort was enhanced, includg. a brick block-house and redoubt on the upper parade area.
- 1801 (by)** Visible front '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.



Dwgs by John Montessoro, 1775 – detail W. L. Clements Library, Univ. of Michigan

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