

SUPPORT THE FORT

2022  
Campaign

## Historic Walks at Fort Sewall

Donations welcome toward the \$ campaign !!

375<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary!  
1644

Sunday, October 6  
1 pm

*Meet at the entrance to the Fort*

*The Fort was named in 1801 for Judge Samuel Sewall  
a Justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Court 1800 – 1814  
& Chief Justice in 1814*

*The Fort saw action in 8 wars from 1644 to 1898  
(mainly against France in the 1700s) ~ but also  
the American Revolution against England that created the United States  
& the War of 1812 against England which preserved it  
& the Civil War which preserved the Union*

*1,141 Marblehead men & boys served in the American Revolution ~ from about 950 families  
& just a generation later*

*1,121 Marblehead men & boys served in the 3-year War of 1812 ~ from about 1,000 families  
~ More than half were still POWs for months after the peace was signed in February 1815 ~*

★ *The Marblehead Fort gained its current appearance in the 1790s* ★  
*when America almost went to war with France.*



*As a special envoy to France, Elbridge Gerry  
was a key figure in the negotiations that prevented that war.*



# Marblehead's Fort Sewall

The Oldest Fort on the Northeast Coast

SUPPORT THE FORT

ABBOT HALL 188 WASHINGTON STREET MARBLEHEAD, MA 01945

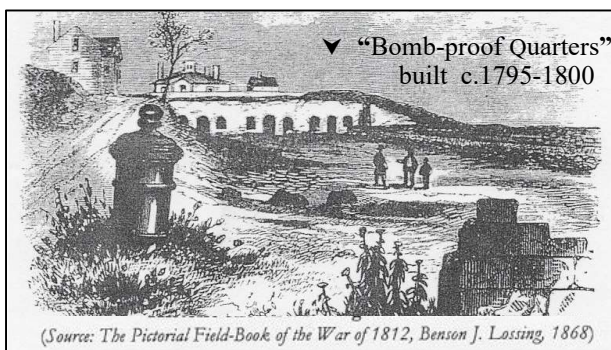
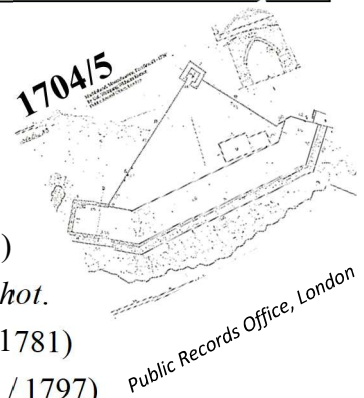


Established in 1644

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 1775-1781**)
- 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.



Earth-filled defensive redoubt on Bunker Hill 1775 similar to what was built out of earth at Marblehead