

# History Tours at Fort Sewall

2019  
375<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary!

SUPPORT THE FORT



*Donations welcome !      2022 Campaign*

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

**By appointment:      Meet at the entrance to the Fort**

**Weekdays or Weekends      April through October**

**Informal & Conversational      Seated &/or Walking**

*The Marblehead Fort was first established in 1644*

*It was named c. 1800 after attorney*

*Samuel Sewall (1757 – 1814) of Marblehead*

- Mass. state legislator 1783 & 1788-96
- U.S. congressman from Mass. 1796-1800
- Assoc. Justice MA Supreme Court 1800-1814
- Chief Justice of MA Supreme Court 1814 (d.)

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

*Memorial Day & Independence Day weekend programs honor  
the men of Marblehead who have served in national conflicts, & their families.*

*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 American Revolution against England won our independence.*

*~ The War of 1812 against England preserved it. ~*

**Information:** Marblehead Tours 781-631-1762 [www.MarbleheadTours.com](http://www.MarbleheadTours.com)

# Marblehead's Fort Sewall 1644 to 1922

## One of the Oldest Forts on the Northeast American Coast

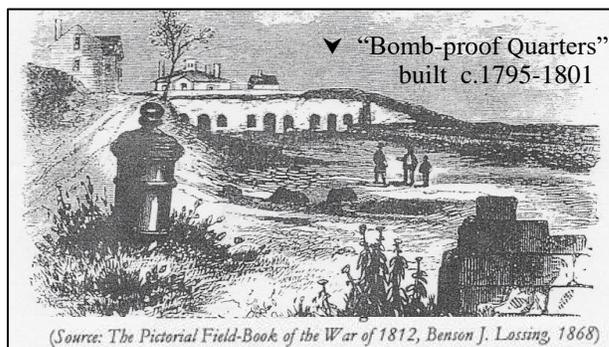
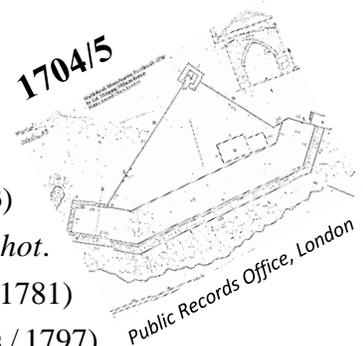


Established in 1644

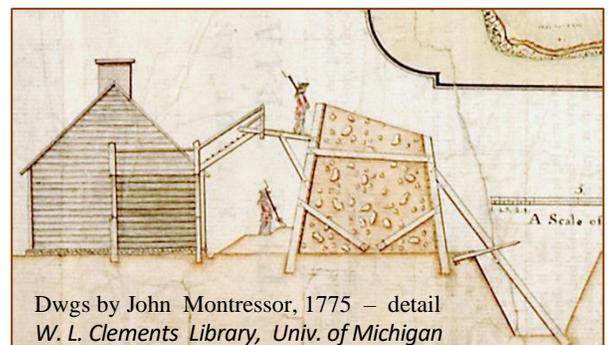
Named c. 1800

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.



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