



Rev250 Timeline of Events

2024 – Setting the Stage for Revolution

Rev250 Discover Danvers celebrates the nation's upcoming Semi-quincentennial (250th Anniversary) on July 4, 2026.

The Danvers Historical Society invites you to follow along with us as we explore the people and events leading up to the War of Independence. Here in Massachusetts, and especially Essex County, we begin the commemoration sooner than 2026, due to the many events that happened here prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each week, and sometimes more often, we will post an account of an event or story important to the struggle for independence. Where possible, these stories will relate specifically to Danvers and the surrounding area of Essex County. Follow along and Discover Danvers!

April 1764 – Sugar Act; The French and Indian War has ended with the British driving the French from North America. As a result, the British national debt soars. To continue offering protection to the colonies, they must raise revenue. Settling west of the Appalachian Mountains has been barred. The Sugar Act imposes stricter trade regulations and duties on sugar and molasses.

March 1765 – Stamp Act is announced; This act placed taxes on printed matter, paper goods and legal documents. British stamps were affixed to documents or packages to show that the tax had been paid. Colonists increased their nonimportation efforts.

In Danvers, four pages of the Town Meeting minutes were used to instruct our representatives to the General Court on how they should vote against the Stamp Act. This was one of the most controversial Town Meetings in Danvers. (Richard Trask, "Talk of the Town")

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2bH6sgqS1c&list=PLXqTCngvZaRu_iNVBTG21g2U7V3oNuQ_T&index=8

May 1765 – Two months later, the Quartering Act was instituted. This required the colonies to provide housing and supplies for British troops.

October 1765 – Riots erupt all over New England protesting the Stamp Act. The Massachusetts Assembly suggests a meeting of all the colonies to work for the repeal of the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act Congress, with representatives from nine of the thirteen colonies meets in New York City to discuss the crisis. They pass a declaration which claims that American colonists are equal to all other British citizens, protests taxation without representation, and states that, without colonial representation in Parliament, Parliament could not tax colonists.

March 1766 – Parliament repeals the Stamp Act but passes the Declaratory Act which establishes its complete authority to make its laws binding "in all cases whatsoever."

June 1767 – After a year of celebrations over the repeal of the Stamp Act, Parliament passes the Townshend Revenue Acts which impose new import duties on things like glass, lead, paint, paper and tea.

February 1768 – The Massachusetts General Court issues Massachusetts Circular Letter, denouncing the Townshend Acts and calling for unified resistance by all the colonies.

August 1768 – Boston merchants again discourage the purchase of British imports and trade with Britain.

October 1768 -- General Thomas Gage and British troops arrive in Boston to enforce compliance.

1769 – Amid the growing unrest, the women, and even children, of eastern Massachusetts hold day-long spinning bees mostly at the homes of local clergymen. The number of spun skeins of wool, flax, cotton, linen and tow were tallied in competitions across New England. By August, Royal Governor Bernard departed for England and Lt. Governor Thomas Hutchinson becomes governor *pro tem*. He is eventually confirmed as Royal Governor. Massachusetts receives responses to its Circular Letter from Assemblies in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina. The Virginia House of Burgesses passes resolutions condemning Britain's actions against Massachusetts, and states that only Virginia's governor and legislature could tax its citizens.

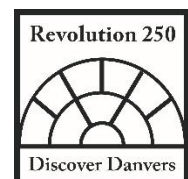
January 1770 – Riots break out in New York between citizens and soldiers over the New York Assembly's compliance with the Quartering Act.

February 1770 – More than 100 women of Boston and other towns sign an agreement not to drink any tea until the Revenue Acts are repealed.

March 5, 1770 – Boston Massacre takes place. Five civilians are killed by British troops. A violent uprising was avoided when troops withdrew to islands in the harbor. Several Massachusetts towns vote to support the non-importation agreement. Boston petitions the Royal Governor to remove all troops from the city. The Townshend Acts are repealed in April, except for the tax on tea.

May 28, 1770 – Danvers Town Meeting voted to “not import, buy or use tea until the tax shall be removed” (Richard Trask, “Talk of the Town”)

June 1772 – Attack on the "Gaspee." Several boatloads of local patriots attack a grounded British customs schooner, the *Gaspee*, near Providence, Rhode Island, and burn it. The Royal Governor offers a reward for the discovery of the men, planning to send them to England for trial. The removal of the "Gaspee" trial to England outrages American colonists.



February, 1773 – Danvers Town Meeting voted to “use all lawful endeavors for recovering, maintaining and preserving the invaluable rights and privileges of this people and stand ready if need be to risk our lives and fortunes in defense of those liberties which our forefathers purchased at so dear a rate.” (Richard Trask, “Talk of the Town”)

May 1773 – Tea Act; By reducing the tax on imported British tea, this act gave British merchants an unfair advantage in selling their tea in America. American colonists condemned the act, and many planned to boycott tea.

October 1773 – Danvers Board of Selectmen’s meeting held at Turk’s Head Tavern, Danvers, owned by John Piemont. A Paul Revere engraved bill was found in the Danvers Town Hall basement in 1969 by Richard B. Trask. The printed services listed were “Lodging, eating, wine, punch, porter, horse-keeping, oats, tea and cakes.” It was common for town business to be conducted at taverns. The Turk’s Head was located near what is now Pine Street near Sylvan Street. The Selectmen were apparently entertained before, during or after their meeting resulting in a bill of 11 shillings, 8 pence to the Town of Danvers for eating, punch, horse-keeping, cakes and brandy. What could the Selectmen have been meeting about? Were they conducting routine business? Did they discuss the Tea Act? Note that no tea was purchased at this meeting. Read Richard Trask’s entire account and the significance of this small piece of paper in Danvers Historical Collections, Vol. XLIV, p. 17-20, “Unique Revere Engraving Discovered in Danvers Town Papers.”

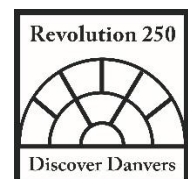
Also see Richard Trask’s video of Danvers Revolutionary War artifacts at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkkC-5J9UVw>

December 1773 – Boston Tea Party; When British tea ships arrived in Boston harbor, many citizens wanted the tea sent back to England without the payment of any taxes. The Royal Governor insisted on payment of all taxes. On December 16, a group of men boarded the ships and dumped all 342 chests of tea in the harbor. The commemoration of this event in December 2023 attracted an estimated 20, 000 visitors.

March 1774 – Boston Port Act – King George III sends a message to Parliament informing them of the destruction of the tea in Boston harbor. A bill to close the port of Boston until the tea is paid for is debated in March, passes Parliament. The Boston Port Bill is read a third time and sent into the House of Lords for concurrence.

April 16, 1774 -- General Gage embarks for Boston to take his role as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty’s forces in America.



May 16, 1774 -- “Arrived his Majesty’s Ship Lively Capt. Bishop, in 26 days from London, in whom came his Excy: General Gage, who is appointed Govr. and Commander in Chief of this Province. Genl. Gage has brought over with him an Act of Parliament for blocking up the Port of Boston, which Act is to take place the first Day of June next – By this cruel edict of the British Parliament Thousands of our inhabitants, will be involved in one common undistinguished Ruin!”

May 20, 1774 – Coercive Acts anger colonists. In response to the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed several acts to punish Massachusetts. The Boston Port Bill banned the loading or unloading of any ships in Boston harbor. The Administration of Justice Act offered protection to royal officials in Massachusetts, allowing them to transfer to England all court cases against them involving riot suppression or revenue collection. The Massachusetts Government Act put the election of most government officials under the control of the Crown, essentially eliminating the 1691 Massachusetts charter of government. Civil courts were abolished, and a Mandamus court system was imposed with Trial by jury terminated.

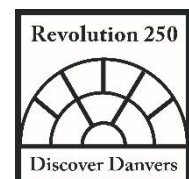
Altogether these acts were later called the **Intolerable Acts**.

June 1, 1774 -- Transports arrive bringing the 4th Regiment of Foot and the 43rd Regiment of Foot to Boston in support of Governor Thomas Gage. The Boston Port Act goes into effect. The Port is closed.

June 2, 1774 – Quartering Act amended. Parliament broadened its previous Quartering Act (1765). British troops could now be quartered in any occupied dwelling.

June – September 10, 1774 – The General Court is ordered to assemble at Salem, moving the capital from Boston to Salem. General Thomas Gage, newly appointed Royal Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony takes up residence at “King” Robert Hooper’s summer home, later known as *The Lindens*, in Danvers. He establishes an office in the south front room of Jeremiah Page’s House (excerpt from Danvers Historical Collections Vol. 40, p. 84). British troops of the 4th and 43rd Regiment of Foot bivouacked near what is now Danvers Ford and Liberty Tree Mall. The family that still owns the land under the mall would find Native American and military artifacts like musket paper cartridges and musket balls while farming.

June 17, 1774 -- To protest Britain's actions, Massachusetts suggested a return to nonimportation, but several states preferred a congress of all the colonies to discuss united resistance. The colonies soon named delegates to a congress -- the First Continental Congress -- to meet in Philadelphia on September 5th. Massachusetts General Court, in a locked-door meeting, appoints James Bowdoin, John Adams, Sam Adams, Thomas Cushing & Robert Treat Paine as



delegates to the Continental Congress. Gov. Hutchinson tries to dissolve the General Court.

June 21, 1774 -- General Gage dissolves the local provincial legislature and brings the 64th Regiment of Foot to Danvers

July 12, 1774 – The Arrow Incident - Someone takes a shot at a British sentry, but misses

August 1, 1774 -- Arrival of General Gage in Marblehead and a company of the 59th Regiment of Foot to attend the meeting of the General Court in Salem.

August 9, 1774 – In Danvers, the Governor announces his list of Mandamus Councillors - 35 are Nominated; 18 Resign

August 10, 1774 -- Sam Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, and Thomas Cushing set out for Philadelphia and the 1st Continental Congress.

August 25, 1774 -- In response to their calling together a meeting of the Freeholders and Merchants of Salem to choose representatives to a County Convention, General Gage has the Salem Committee of Correspondence arrested.

September 1, 1774 -- Governor Thomas Gage issues a writ that calls for an election of the General Court. British Troops arrive in Somerville to remove powder from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Powder House.

September 2, 1774 -- 4000 militia men from New England assemble at Cambridge on the “Powder House Alarm” and force Thomas Oliver, Samuel Danforth and Joseph Lee to resign as Mandamus councilor.

September 3, 1774 -- General Gage breaks ground on the fortifications on Boston Neck.

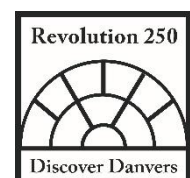
September 6, 1774 – In an act of defiance, Essex County residents call the Ipswich Convention, requiring each town to send 1 or 2 representatives. Though Town meetings were abolished, Danvers manages to appoint Samuel Holten and William Shillaber. It was set to convene on 10/5/74. Marblehead town meeting votes to have their militia regiment train 4 days a week with arms and ammunition.

September 5 – October 26, 1774 – First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia. Twelve of the thirteen colonies sent a total of fifty-six delegates. Only Georgia was not represented. One accomplishment of the Congress was the Association of 1774, which urged all colonists to avoid using British goods, and to form committees to enforce this ban.

September, 2024 – 250th anniversary of Provincial Congress in Salem

September 7, 1774 – In Ipswich, the Essex County Convention passes the Essex Resolves

September 8, 1774 -- Letter from the Society of Mechanics to the same in New York asking them not to help General Gage build fortifications across Boston Neck.



September 9, 1774 – In Milton, MA, Suffolk County Convention passes the Suffolk Resolves.

September 10, 1774 – General Gage returns to Boston.

September 14, 2024 at 4:30PM – Trails & Sails – The General and The King, Part 1; Judy Anderson of Marblehead presents a look at the architecture of the “King Hooper” country house in Danvers where General Gage resided

- On display: copy of Broadside abolishing Oct. sitting of House of Rep, signed by Gage; when Gov. Gage didn’t show up, this was first break with England

September 16, 2024 at noon – Film: *Women during the Revolutionary War*

September 16, 2024 at 1:30PM – Trails & Sails – The General and The King, Part 2; Judy Anderson of Marblehead presents an Illustrated talk about the two dozen members of Robert “King” Hooper’s family in Marblehead, Newburyport & Danvers

September 17, 2024 at 7PM – Trails & Sails – Eric Jay Dolin, speaker; *Rebels At Sea*; privateering during the Revolution

September 20, 2024 – Porch Swing

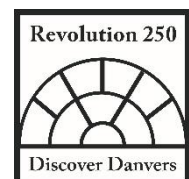
September 28, 1774 – In Danvers, following the county conventions and the passage of their resolves, Governor Gage issues a proclamation canceling the earlier writ calling for an election of representatives to the General Court.

October 4, 1774 – As reported in the *Essex Gazette*, Oct. 18-25, 1774: “At a meeting of the following commissioned Officers of the first Regiment in Essex (under the Command of Wm. Browne, Esq.,) [held at Danvers, 4th Day of October, 1774](#), William Putnam, William Pickman, Benj. Ward, tertius, Capt. Low, Joseph Gowen, Samuel Flagg, Jeremiah Page, Ephram Fuller, Samuel Gardner, Christopher Osgood, William Brown, Ezekiel Marsh, Nathaniel Sherman, Robert Foster, Enoch Putnam, Samuel Eppes, John Hathorne, Samuel King, John Dodge, James Bancroft, Amos Curtis, Ebenezer Proctor, Elias Endicott. Voted unanimously. That they resign their Commissions as Officers in said Regiment, and they do hereby declare their Resignation thereof.

N. B. The above Vote passed in Consequence of the said Col. Browne's refusing to resign his Seat at the Council Board.”

October 5, 1774 – General Court convenes in Salem despite Governor’s latest decree. But Gage finds out and sends troops to arrest the rabblers. They all escape and later reconvene in Concord.

October 6, 1774 -- The General Court resolves itself into a Convention with John Hancock as President to consider Governor Gage’s September 28 proclamation.



October 7, 1774 – The Massachusetts Convention then resolves itself into Provincial Congress, specifically, “to take into consideration the dangerous and alarming situation of public affairs in this province, and to consult and determine on such measures as they shall judge will tend to promote the true interest of his majesty, and the peace, welfare, and prosperity of the province.”

October 7, 1774 -- A Great fire in Salem burns a number of houses and buildings causing £20,000. damage.

October 11, 1774 – Provincial congress meets at the First Church of Concord. John Hancock is chosen President.

October 12, 1774 – Three companies of the 65th Regiment of Foot arrive in Boston.

October 13, 1774 – In Concord, a committee chosen to consider the state of the province reported same and addressed General Gage for the purpose in Boston.

October 18, 1774 – In Newburyport, tea was outlawed, but people openly continued to drink it. The result was a newspaper account of Teas being destroyed by Fire and Water.

October 20, 1774 – In Concord, Mandamus Councilors who refuse to resign are ordered to be entered onto town records as rebels against the state and their names ordered to be published. Those who have resigned are to be forgiven for their “past misconduct” and to be free from molestation. Provincial Congress issues a resolution to encourage the entire disuse of tea and that those who use or sell the same have their names posted in a public place.

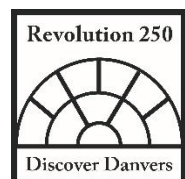
October 23, 1774 – Three companies of the Royal Irish Regiment arrive from New York.

October 24, 1774 – The 47th Regiment of Foot arrives from New York.

October 26, 1774 -- Provincial Congress Resolves – officers of the militia companies to assemble and elect field officers to command the regiments formed and that the field officers enlist ¼ of the militia companies to equip themselves and hold themselves in readiness on the shortest notice (minute regiments). Every company to have a Captain and 2 Lieutenants and at least 50 men. Ordered the citizens to train and procure arms. Towns must fund and equip the militia companies. Cottage industries sprang up to make supplies: swords, bayonets, cartridge boxes, knapsacks etc. Each man had a musket or fowling piece and supplied his own ball as they were all different calibers. Minutemen companies (men aged 16-30 yrs) were formed from the Militias (men aged 16-60 yrs) and regiments formed by County. Each town was required to have at least one militia company, some had several. Danvers had at least three.

October 27, 1774 – The Third Company in Danvers, part of the First Essex, met and chose Jeremiah Page as their chairman. As reported in the Essex Gazette:

“At a Meeting of the People (both the Alarm and Training Band) of the third Company in Danvers, being



part of the first Regiment in the County of Essex, held at Danvers, 27th October, 1774, for the Purpose of choosing Officers for said Company, in Consequence of their former Officers resigning their Post of office.

Capt. Jeremiah Page, Chairman,

Voted, Capt. Jeremiah Page, Captain.

Voted, Lieut. Enoch Putnam, First Lieut.

Voted, Mr. William Towne, Second Lieut.

Voted, Mr. Joseph Porter, Ensign.

Voted, That the said Officers be acknowledged by the said People as their Officers, until the said Company shall be otherwise settled in the old constitutional way.

Attest, Arch. Dale, Clerk."

Essex Gazette, Oct. 25-Nov. 1, 1774.

November 7, 1774 – Jeremiah Page, as Captain of the Third Company, petitions the Town of Danvers to provide muskets, bayonets and other supplies.

November 9, 1774 -- At a Meeting of the People (both of the Alarm and Training Band) of the first Company in Danvers, being Part of the first Regiment in the County of Essex, held at Danvers, 9th Day of November, 1774, for the purpose of choosing officers for said Company in Observance of the Recommendation of the Provincial Congress.

Dr. Samuel Holten, Chairman.

Voted, Mr. Samuel Flint, Captain.

Voted, Mr. Daniel Putnam, 1st Lieut.

Voted, Mr. Joseph Putnam, 2nd Lieut.

Voted, Mr. Asa Prince, Ensign.

Attest, Asa Putnam, Clerk.

Essex Gazette, Nov. 8, 1774.

November 21, 1774 – The Town of Danvers resolved its minute companies would be equipped with "an effective fire-arm, bayonet, pouch, knapsack, thirty rounds of cartridges and balls."

<https://historicalnerdery01.blogspot.com/2022/01/>

November 28, 1774 – "At a meeting of the Training Band of the second Foot Company in Danvers, on 28, Nov., 1774, agreeable to advice of the Provincial Congress, to choose officers for said Company. The Meeting was opened with Prayer by the Rev. Nathan Holt. Voted, Jonathan Tarbel, Chairman.

Voted, Samuel Eppes, Captain.

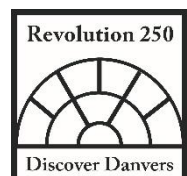
Voted, Benjamin Jacobs, 1st Lieut.

Voted, Gideon Foster, 2nd Lieut.

Voted, Francis Symonds, jr. Ensign.

Attest, Samuel Eppes, Clerk."

Essex Gazette, Dec. 6, 1774



December 5, 1774 – “At a meeting of the Alarm List on Dec. 5, 1774. Voted, Deacon Malachi Felton, Chairman.

Voted, Caleb Low, Captain.

Voted, Ezekiel Marsh, jr., Lieut.

Voted, John Dodge, Ensign.

Attest, Sylvester Proctor, Clerk.”

Essex Gazette, Dec. 6, 1774.

1775:

January | In early 1775, Danvers had a population of approximately 2200. Committees of Safety were created to enforce the non-import and non-export directive of the First Continental Congress. Each Danvers man was ordered to have an effective firearm, bayonet, thirty rounds of cartridges and balls and other equipment. If he could not afford these, the Town saw that it was provided. The town was also prepared to pay each man one shilling per half day of service. Samuel Page (Jeremiah’s son), made 2652 cartridges with the Town’s allotment of gunpowder and distributed it among the militia men. DHC, Vol. 44, p. 60, 73

9 January | Town Meeting votes to “encourage one-quarter part of the Train Band soldiers of this town to enlist as minutemen”. DHC, Vol. 44, p. 73

19 January | A Town ordinance was voted to prohibit the holding of “parties at Houses of Entertainment, for the purpose of Dancing, Feasting, etc.” DHC Vol. 44, p. 61

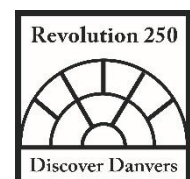
1 February | Second Provincial Congress convenes in Cambridge

2 February | John Hancock chosen as President of Provincial Congress

6 February | John Sawyer of Rowley offers a Troop of Horse to the Provincial Congress
<https://essexheritage.org/> Road to Revolution

9 February | “Resolved – it be recommended by this Congress to every family in the province, to preserve all their linen and cotton and linen rags as well as to encourage the manufacture aforesaid”
<https://essexheritage.org/> Road to Revolution

13 February | The Provincial Congress authorizes communication with Indigenous tribes and the Province of Quebec in hopes of bringing them into supporting the colonial cause.



16 February | Provincial Congress adjourns.

26 February | General Thomas Gage, military governor, knew that colonists were arming themselves against possible encounters with his Royal troops. He sends Lt-Col. Alexander Leslie and troops of the 64th Regiment of Foot to arrive in Marblehead and march to Salem at the North Bridge on orders to capture rebel cannon stored there. **Salem and Danvers militiamen give armed resistance and remove cannon to Danvers.** Men who took up arms included Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth and Samuel Epes' South Danvers militia company. Leslie agreed to march a short distance across the river after the drawbridge was lowered and finding no guns, turned and marched back to Marblehead. The road Leslie marched his men across and back is now Rt. 114.

For more about Leslie's Retreat, activities and events commemorating this significant local incident, go to <https://www.salem400.org/leslies-retreat/>

9 March | Jeremiah Page requests 12 muskets, bayonets and ammunition from the Danvers selectmen to help arm his company in case of trouble with British troops. His company of 37 men from Danvers Plains included his son Samuel, age 22.

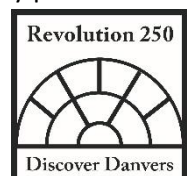
23 March | Patrick Henry gives his famous "Liberty or Death" speech in Richmond, VA

30 March | New England Restraining Act: "two Acts passed by the Parliament of Great Britain, which limited colonial trade in response to both increasing and spreading civil disobedience in Massachusetts and New England, and similar trade restrictions instituted by elected colonial representatives."

1 April | The Provincial Congress accepts the enlistment of "a number of Indians, natives of the town of Stockbridge" as Minute Men. At the outbreak of the Revolution, there were approximately 1,700 Indians living in Massachusetts, of which over 200 lived near Stockbridge in western Massachusetts. A committee of the Provincial Congress was instructed to purchase blankets and ribbons to be presented to enlisted Indians. A few days later, Captain Solomon Ughaunauwanumt, chief sachem of the Stockbridge Indians, expressed a position favorable to the Americans in a lengthy address to the Provincial Congress. [Forgotten Patriots](#), dar.org, p. 85

18 April | Paul Revere and William Dawes make their famous rides warning colonists that the British were coming.

19 April | Lexington and Concord: "The battles were fought between British troops and American militiamen. The British were ordered to seize the colonists' military supplies in Concord, but were met by the militiamen at Lexington Green." On their retreat to Boston, they are harassed by patriots along the route. [Library of Congress](#)



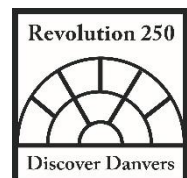
19 April | Danvers: In 1709 Nathaniel Ingersoll willed the fields of 85 Centre Street as a “training place forever.” On April 19, Danvers was alarmed of the British march at about 9:00 AM. Soon after, nine companies of Danversites were on the road, travelling through present-day Lynn, Saugus, Revere, Malden and Medford, arriving in Menotomy (today’s Arlington) at about 2PM. Seven Danvers men are killed, two wounded, and one captured at the battle at Jason Russell’s house. Danvers, which was the furthest community to respond, lost the most men that day, other than Lexington. The seven killed were Henry Jacobs, 22; Samuel Cook, 22; Ebenezer Goldthwait, 22; George Southwick, 25; Benjamin Daland Jr., 25; Jotham Webb, 22; and Perley Putnam, 21. Wounded were Nathan Putnam and Dennis Wallis, 19. Joseph Bell was captured. Reuben Kenniston, a New Hampshire native and Ryal Side resident was also killed. Amos Putnam, 16, died of exhaustion en route during the hurried march to battle. *Danvers Historical Collections, Vol. 44, p. 73-74*

Years later, an old Samuel Page told his namesake S. P. Fowler that he and his father had been working in the brickyard when they heard the alarms. Jeremiah ordered his son, then about 21, to stay home to care for his mother, but Samuel avoided his father’s company and set off alone, meeting up with Israel Hutchinson’s company at Jason Russell’s house. There he took up a post next to Perley Putnam, also 21. As he was preparing his musket, his wooden ramrod broke. He asked to borrow Perley’s but “Putnam was shot dead before he could comply”. *DHC Vol. 44 p. 63-64*

Anne Page, Jeremiah’s granddaughter and Samuel’s niece also told this story in [*Footprints of the Patriots: Beside Old Hearth-stones*](#), A.E. Brown, p. 185-6:

"On the receipt of the alarm my grandfather made haste to rally his men, and they were early on the road to intercept the enemy. His company was one of three of Danvers militia belonging to the Essex Regiment, under the superior command of Colonel Timothy Pickering of Salem. There were in grandfather's company thirty-seven officers and men. In obedience to the orders of a superior officer, grandfather and a part of his men were not in the thickest of the fight at Menotomy ; but his eldest son, my Uncle Samuel, had a very different experience to report. He and other Danvers men stationed themselves in the yard of Jason Russell.^ In this yard were many bundles of shingles, indicating that the proprietor was about to shingle his house. With these they made a sort of barricade, and inside of the enclosure they prepared to attack the British soldiers. When the main column came down the highway, they began firing without thought of the flanking party, and from this they were great sufferers. As Uncle Samuel was driving a cartridge into his gun, he broke his wooden ramrod, and turning to Perley Putnam, asked him to lend his. At that instant a ball from the rear guard of the British shot Putnam dead. When they saw they were discovered and surrounded, they made a desperate struggle for life, and some of them escaped unharmed, Uncle Samuel being one of the more fortunate ones."

See the Danvers Alarm List Company in action on [Sunday, April 20](#) at the Jason Russell house battle reenactment and on [April 21](#) during Patriots Day activities in Danvers and Peabody.



28 April | Salem Captain Richard Derby sails in his schooner the Quero with the reports on the Lexington-Concord fight.

30 April | The arrival of the Indian company was reported back to England by the British Commander-in- Chief, General Thomas Gage, who wrote, "A company of Indians are come down from Stockbridge and more are to be provided if they are wanted."

2 May | Massachusetts Committee of Safety protests to Connecticut Governor that "No agreement or compact with general Gage will in the least alleviate our distress, as no confidence can possibly be placed in any assurances he can give...Our relief now must arise from driving General Gage, with his Troops, out of the Country, which, with the blessing of God, we are determined to accomplish or perish in the attempt." [*Essex Heritage Road to Revolution*](#)

8 May | The Committees of Correspondence and Selectmen of the towns are authorized to disarm all who would not give assurance of good intent and regard to the country's interest. [*Road to Revolution*](#)

10 May | The Second Continental Congress begins: "The Second Continental Congress was a meeting of delegates from the Thirteen Colonies that took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, beginning May 10, 1775. The Congress served as a governing body during the American Revolutionary War. In addition to military matters, the Congress advised the colonies on how to reform civil governments. It also created a Continental Post Office, regulated trade, handled Indian affairs and tried to settle disputes between colonies.

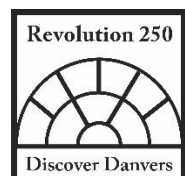
10 May | Fort Ticonderoga, NY is captured by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold. *The American Revolution*, National Park Service, p. 7

13 May | General Israel Putnam leads all of the troops at Cambridge to Charlestown in a show of force.

20 May | After the Alarm at Lexington, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety realized the impending danger of further conflict with Great Britain and passed a resolution on May 20, 1775 regarding enlistments into the army. It stated that only freemen were to be enlisted and "that no Slave be admitted into this Army upon any consideration whatever." [*Forgotten Patriots, p.79-80*](#)

24 May | In Philadelphia, John Hancock is elected President of the 2nd Continental Congress

25 May | The Massachusetts Committee for Safety requires the various counties of Massachusetts to provide 68 barrels of gunpowder for the use of the army besieging Boston.



29 May | A newspaper of those times furnishes evidence of the efforts made to recover fire-arms lost by the Provincials on April 19, thus proving the scarcity of munitions of war. From the New England Chronicle or the Essex Gazette of May 29, 1775, is gathered the following: "Lost in the battle of Menotomy by Nathan Putnam, of Capt. Hutchinson's Company, who was there badly wounded, a French Firelock, marked D. No. 6, with a marking iron, on the Breech. Said Putnam carried it to a Cross Road, near a mill. Whoever has said Gun in Possession is desired to return it to Col. Mansfield of Lynn, or to the Selectmen of **Danvers**, and he shall be rewarded for his trouble." [*Beside old Hearth-stones, p.199*](#)

30 May | In London, the colonial version of the Lexington-Concord fight is published - ten days before the version sent by General Gage.

5 June | Joseph Bell of **Danvers**, captured on April 19 was released in a prisoner exchange. [*Essex Heritage Road to Revolution*](#)

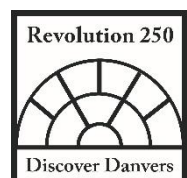
10 June | General Gage's account of the Battles of Lexington & Concord are published in London [*Road to Revolution*](#)

14 June | A convention held at Worcester resolves "that we abhor the enslaving of any of the human race, and particularly of the negroes in this country; and that, whenever there shall be a door opened, or opportunity presented, for any thing to be done towards the emancipation of the negroes, we will use our influence and endeavor that such a thing may be brought about." [*Road to Revolution*](#)

16 June | "The Continental Congress commissioned George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army on June 16, 1775. Washington was selected over other candidates such as John Hancock based on his previous military experience and the hope that a leader from Virginia could help unite the colonies." [*Library of Congress*](#)

17 June | Bunker Hill: "The battle took place in the hilly landscape of Charlestown, Massachusetts, across the Charles River from Boston. The battle was named after Bunker Hill, the highest hill in the area, but took place on Breed's Hill, which was closer to the river." Charlestown is burned. To read recently discovered eyewitness accounts of the battle go to Alexander Cain's May 10, 2025 blogpost, [*historicalnerdery*](#)

The Bell Tavern in Danvers (now Peabody) was a halting place for Colonel Timothy Pickering's regiment on their way to the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Bell Tavern was built by Francis Symonds, a second lieutenant in Capt. Samuel Epes' militia company. He was its proprietor from 1757-1775. Symonds died in September, 1775. *DHC Vol. 44, p. 81*



Major-General Israel Putnam, born in Danvers on January 7, 1718 was a commander in the battle. He is credited with the saying “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes”. His homestead is now [Putnam Pantry](#).

Other Danvers natives serving were Asa Prince, Gideon Foster, and General Moses Porter who was only 19 years old when he served in the Battle of Bunker Hill. [Beside old Hearth-stones, p.194-223](#)

For an account of the battle see [Mass Historical](#).

On June 20-22, see a re-enactment of the [Battle of Bunker Hill](#) at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester.

25 June | Massachusetts issues an appeal to the governments of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire for more troops. [Road to Revolution](#)

4 July | George Washington assumes command of the Army outside Boston. An excerpt of his general orders can be seen on the [Library of Congress](#) website.

1775 | Some smaller Indian tribes allied with the Americans. The Stockbridge in Massachusetts served with Washington’s troops at Boston and later in New York, New Jersey and Canada

5 July | Olive Branch Petition: Approved by Congress, it was a final attempt to avoid war with Britain. It asked the King’s help to “achieve a permanent and happy reconciliation” between Britain and America. *The American Revolution*, National Park Service, p. 39

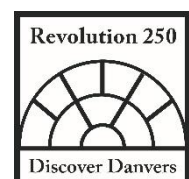
18 July | Captain Derby returns to Salem with news of the effect of the dispatches about Lexington which he had carried to London. *Road to Revolution*

23 July | In Salem, John Pitts, Oliver Wendell and William Greenleaf to meet with the selectmen of Salem and Proprietors of the hospital for the reception of the poor and displaced of Boston & Charlestown. *Road to Revolution*

26 July | American Post Office established with Benjamin Franklin as postmaster. *Road to Revolution*

17 August | Town petition to Provincial Congress regarding defense of Salem

20 August | From [Fort Sewall Timeline 1644-1922 & 2022](#) by Frederic C. Detwiler: J.-B. [probably Jean-Baptist] Dubuq, a French engineer who worked with Gen. Charles Lee of the Continental Army on fortifications at Prospect Hill and Winter Hill in what was then Cambridge, was apparently in Marblehead



working with the expansion of the fort, probably on behalf of the Continental Army's Chief Engineer Richard Gridley. In August, Dubuq wrote: "I went to Danvers to wait for an occasion of going by sloop to Marblehead where I heard the man of war had sailed. The sailors of that little town were too much kept by their arming a dozen of privateers. They employed to that work all last Sunday. I have yet heard a noise that they would have the same week six hundred men to mount them. I embarked then at Marblehead Tuesday in the afternoon." Dubuq had been living in Salem between the beginning of May and June 4th when he was summoned by Gen. Israel Putnam to assist American engineers in Cambridge. Dubuq might also have been working on other local forts also — which might be why Putnam had heard of him and requested his assistance. (See Gen. Gage Correspondence, Clinton Papers, W.L. Clements Library [Journal of the American Revolution](#))

21 August | Benedict Arnold begins inquiries about obtaining bateaux and supplies for the Quebec expedition [Road to Revolution](#)

23 August | The King refuses the Olive Branch Petition and instead issues a proclamation that Americans were engaged in an "open and avowed rebellion". *The American Revolution*, National Park Service, p. 39

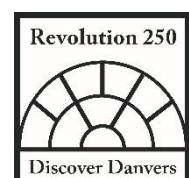
2 September | George Washington writes to Congress. When Washington assumed his duties in Boston, he saw no end to problems. "The abuses [problems] in this army, I fear, are considerable, and the new modelling of it [reorganization], in the face of an enemy, from whom we every hour expect an attack, is exceedingly difficult and dangerous." [Library of Congress](#)

5 September | Washington releases plans to send 1051 volunteers under Arnold on the expedition against Quebec [Road to Revolution](#)

14 September | 1775 Colonel Benedict Arnold and his troops encamp at Danvers on their march north to Quebec. In 1975, the Danvers Alarm List Company recreated this visit with a period encampment including six tents and performing numerous crafts and chores like cooking, mending, musket-ball making, guard duty, manual practice, leather working, flint chipping and game-playing. *DHC Vol. 44 p.77*

To see a copy of George Washington's orders to Arnold and its transcription, see the [Library of Congress](#)

13 October | Congress Creates a Navy: "The Continental Congress established the Continental Navy on October 13, 1775, when it voted to purchase two armed ships to intercept British supply ships. The Continental Navy is considered the origin of the United States Navy, and October 13 is celebrated as the official birthday of the U.S. Navy."



26 October | King George tells Parliament the American rebellion was “manifestly carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent Empire.” Some members of the House of Commons felt the King was pushing the colonists toward independence. *The American Revolution*, National Park Service, p. 39

November | Virginia royal governor, Lord John Dunmore, issues a proclamation that guaranteed freedom to slaves who escaped their masters and reached the King’s forces. As a result, hundreds of southern slaves fled their masters. *The American Revolution*, p. 75

13 November | Benedict Arnold and his 500 remaining men secretly arrive in Wolfe’s Cove, Quebec, laying siege to the British for six days. *The Bicentennial Guide to the American Revolution*, S. Stember, p. 38

December | Parliament instated the Prohibitory Act, prohibiting all trade with the 13 colonies and declaring American ships and cargo be forfeited to the Crown. *The American Revolution*, National Park Service, p. 39

1775 | Josiah Batchelder (1736–1809), a native of Beverly, was a ship captain in the West Indies trade before the Revolution. He was also elected to the provincial congress from 1775 until 1779. He was on the committee of correspondence and safety in Beverly from 1773 till the end of the Revolution.

Enjoy more REV250 history facts here soon!

