



Homestead - near Gate 30

Inlet located near Pine Grove Cemetery is now known as Andrews Harbor



In the photograph, left to right is the Clinton-West Boylston Road (E Main Street). Next neighbor to the left Julia D Pratt. To the right Sawyer's Mills and Chase Hill Road to Sterling.

The road from the bottom to top splits off Scar Hill Road and leads to Campground Road and Sterling. Next neighbors toward the top are Lamson Farm and Susan Cutting. Toward the bottom is Potter. Andrew's house is on dry land today and can be reached from Gate 30 (about a mile).



HOMESTEAD AND FARM BUILDINGS OF CAPTAIN ROBERT ANDREWS

*Property lost to the Wachusett Reservoir
BHSM Photograph Collection #1980.159*

“Robert, Lucy and their family settled along the Nashua River in what was known as the Pleasant Valley section of town (much of which is now under the Wachusett Reservoir). There, with the help of his seven growing sons, he established a substantial sized farm. As evidence of this, at the time of his later death, his farm was 470 acres and valued at £2353. Robert was active in town affairs, serving as a Selectman (1774-76, 1779). Life was not without heartache, however, as he and Lucy lost their daughter Elizabeth, who was just shy of two years old, on 28 September 1757.

Increasing Unrest

As the Andrews family farmed, and their children grew, England's American colonies were becoming increasingly displeased with new taxes being leveraged on them as a way for England to pay its debts following the Seven Years' War between England and France (1756-1763). The Stamp Act of 1765 taxed all paper documents in the Colonies and widespread opposition ensued, including incidents of mob violence. Despite the increasing unrest, the English Parliament passed the Townsend Acts in 1767, further increasing taxes taxing the Colonies on importations on glass, red lead, white lead, painters' colors, paper and tea, thus further increasing the rage of the Colonists. These actions by the British, and others, inspired many into political activity and ultimately toward what became the struggle for independence.

Militias and Answering the Alarm

During these years, in anticipation of possible armed conflict with the British, various towns began regularly drilling and arming their local militias. Their members were called “Minute-men” as they were expected to be ready at a minute's notice. In 1774, Shrewsbury purchased an “iron field piece” (cannon) and related ammunition for use by the town. At the same time, the town formed two militia companies, one being formed in the Second (or North) Precinct.

They were finally called into action in Massachusetts on the morning of 19 April 1775 in answering the Alarm raised by the conflict with British soldiers at Concord and Lexington. Shrewsbury responded by sending 128 Minute-men, including a company of 47 men from its Second Precinct of which Robert Andrews Jr., at 53 years old, served as Captain.

By the time the Alarm reached Shrewsbury (said to be about 10:00 a.m.), coupled with the distance, Shrewsbury's men missed participating in the conflict at Concord and Lexington, but marched on toward Cambridge, where they assisted in building fortifications. Within a month an estimated 14,000-16,000 volunteer soldiers were in Cambridge, which officially became the Patriots' military headquarters when George Washington took command of this newly formed Continental Army on 2 July 1775.”