

NOW!



The John Howe Brickyard

One of the earliest manufacturing enterprises undertaken in Boylston, The John Howe Brickyard was a commercial brickyard located on both sides of the Clinton Road that began operations in 1807. It was located on what is now Route 70 north about 2 miles from the Center at the

corner of Rt 70 and Cross Street. This brickyard remained in operation for many years serving to manufacture bricks for the construction of the Lancaster Mills of Clinton, the Sawyer Mills of Boylston, as well as the Silas Hasting Tavern built in 1818 at Boylston Center and the Ball-Longley House on Linden Street.

Captain John Howe, a Revolutionary War veteran, was the grandson of Phineas Howe who had originally owned the Howe farm in 1726 when he became of legal age. In 1780, Captain Phineas Howe was one of the settlers who petitioned the Town of Lancaster that their lands might be set off from Lancaster and be annexed to the Town of Shrewsbury, so that they might be part of the then Second Precinct of Shrewsbury which later became legally incorporated as Boylston, Massachusetts on 1 March 1786.

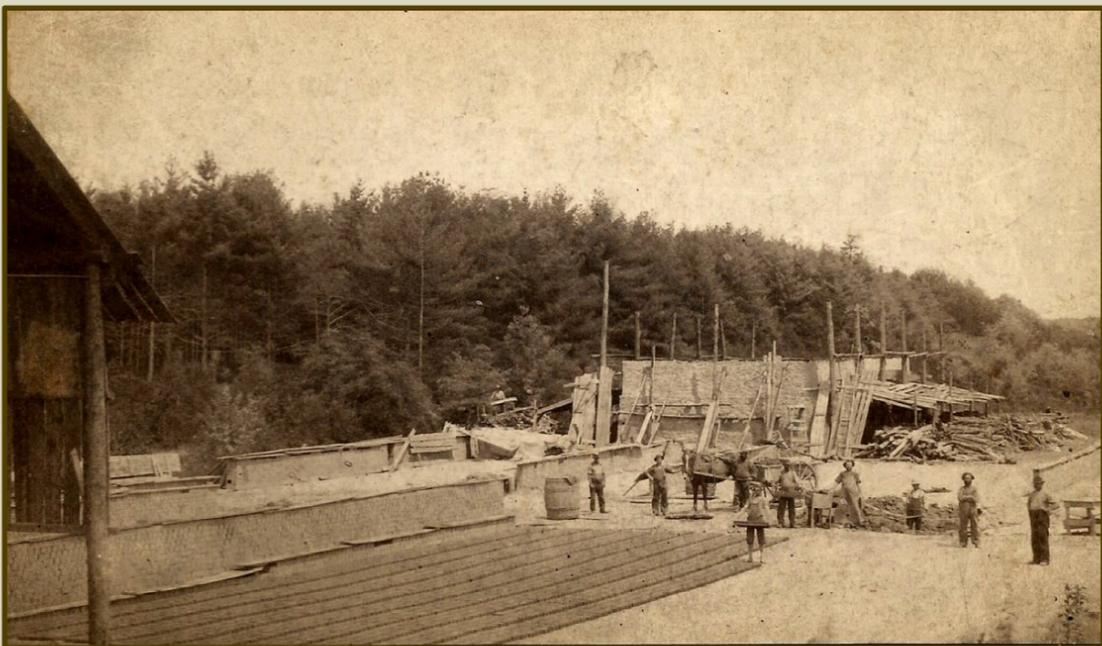
On 6 April 1807 the Howe property was conveyed to Captain John Howe from his father Silas Howe. He operated the blacksmith shop and brickyard on the farm from 1807 until his death in 1842.



Workers carrying bricks

The commercial brickyard was reopened by George Hazzard in 1885 when he occupied the farm. His product was in constant demand, especially in Clinton where factory owners used bricks in the construction of the new facilities and for the building of the houses for their workers.

In 1891 George Hazzard had in his employ: Denis Garon, Mr. Emmanuel, Joseph Garon, Theophile Garon, Augusta Garon, Stanislaus Lebel, Emile Patvin, Baptiste Thibeault, Lestare Michaud, Joseph Michaud, Francois Michaud, Jean Desjardin, Baptiste Dionne, Louis Rupert, Edouard Sarvant, Ludwig Galaska, Tofel Galaska, R. Simonski, Alexander Keshel, M. Marshko, F. Reskos, and T. Lemonski.



Laying bricks out to dry

For yard drying, "the moulded bricks were stacked in a herring bone pattern to dry in the air and the sun. The moulded bricks were first left to dry for two days at which time they were turned over to facilitate uniform drying and prevent warping. During this time tools called dressers or clappers were used by "edgers" to to straighten the bricks and obtain a smooth surface. After four days of dry hot weather the bricks were sufficiently hard to allow them to be stacked in a herringbone pattern with a finger's width between them to allow further drying. This area was called a hack or a hackstead and the bricks were covered under roof or with straw to protect them from the rain or harsh sun. After two weeks the bricks were ready to be burned." [*Brickmaking in the USA: A Brief History*]

Mr. Hazzard's business flourished until the turn of the century, and the production of bricks ceased. The Hasting Tavern in Boylston Center and the Ball-Longley house on Linden Street portray the longevity of the bricks made by this enterprise; standing today to remain part of Boylston's past for its future. The resourcefulness and pioneer spirit of our early settlers have had a significant impact on the economic development of Boylston and surrounding areas even to this day.