

## A Look Back at Historic Marblehead (Most Photos are Modern-Day)



Located at 26 Pleasant Street in Marblehead, St. Michael's Episcopal Church is the oldest Episcopal church building on its original site in New England. Founded by a group of donors consisting primarily of sea captains, the church was built in 1714, with many of its original materials being shipped from Great Britain. The original square church was expanded by one third in 1728 with a new roof. During the Revolutionary War in 1776, patriots raided the church and removed the British royal coat of arms. Many of St. Michael's members at the time were Loyalists who fled to Canada.

### The History and Traditions of Marblehead

By Samuel Roads 1881

Having visited all the houses of especial interest on Washington Street, let us pass to the Sewall Mansion, situated on Pleasant Street. This house was built a few years previous to the Revolution, by "King" Hooper, for his son Joseph, who resided there a short time. This was probably the same Joseph Hooper who was a loyalist during the Revolution, and in the year 1775 fled from Marblehead to England, where he became a paper manufacturer. He died in that country during the year 1812.

For some years after the close of the war, the house appears to have had several occupants; but in the year 1795 it was purchased by Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, who resided there until the time of his death.

In 1815 the estate was bought by the Hon. William Reed. Mr. Reed was born in Marblehead, June 6, 1776. He was for many years an eminent merchant in the town, and throughout his life was highly esteemed for his benevolent and religious character. In 1811, he was elected a representative in Congress, and remained in office until the year

Our Direct Ancestor Hannah Devereux had three husbands She had Joseph Swett Jr., by her third. Joseph Swett's daughter Ruth was the wife of "King" Hooper.

Joseph Harris was the father of Thomas Martin Harris who was the father of Martha Harris who was the mother of Joseph Harris Henderson

1815. He was president of the Sabbath-school Union of Massachusetts, and of the American Tract Society, and a member of many other religious and educational organizations. He was so deeply interested in the cause of temperance that he was styled the "Apostle of Temperance." He died suddenly at Academy Hall, February 18, 1837, while preparing for a celebration by the Sabbath-school of the North Congregational Church. For many years after the death of Mr. Reed, the house was occupied by his widow, who "was always engaged in works of charity, and was regarded as a most accomplished lady and eminent Christian."

In 1856, the estate was bought by Mr. Joseph Harris, a prominent shoe manufacturer, and has since remained in the possession of his family.

The mansion was still standing in 1881. I can't find it in 2018.



**This is the 500th Post for Historic Buildings of Massachusetts!!!** The Old Town House in Marblehead was built in 1727. The upper level contained the town hall and the lower level was originally used as a market. The building is sometimes called "Marblehead's Cradle of Liberty" because of meetings held there before the Revolution where such leaders as Elbridge Gerry and General John Glover debated independence. The building's lower level, originally at ground level before the addition of a granite foundation to the structure in 1830, served as the town's Police Station from 1853 to 1961 and is now home to the Marblehead Police Museum. The second floor also has a Grand Army of the Republic meeting hall maintained as a museum.

Brig. General John Glover was the husband of Hannah Gale who was the daughter of our direct ancestors John Gale and Susanna Dennis.



According to the sign on the house at 12 State Street in Marblehead, the structure was built in 1747 by Captain Alexander Watts. From 1776 to 1803, it was owned by John Adams, fisherman and mariner, who also kept a shop in the building. The shop was continued until 1842 by his daughters, Mary and Miriam. From 1845 to 1891, the building was a restaurant, operated by John Fisher. In 1910, J.O.J. Frost, noted Marblehead folk artist, opened a bakery in the building, which has continued to house various businesses over the years. It was restored in 1988.

John Adams, who fought in the Revolutionary War, was our direct ancestor and father to Elizabeth Adams who married Captain Thomas Martin whose daughter Martha married Joseph Harris.



At 82-84 Front Street in Marblehead is a 1680 gambrel-roofed building known as Three Cod Inn. It was a tavern in the colonial period and a meeting place for patriots during the Revolutionary War. According to tradition, in 1775 the British frigate *Lively* fired several warning shots onto the shore, one of which struck the tavern. The cannon ball remained embedded in the wall for many years until it was later found and then placed with the Marblehead Historic Society. Known for many years as the Old Tavern, the building has more recently been used as a restaurant.



Jeremiah Lee, wealthy merchant and ship owner, built his fabulous Marblehead mansion in 1766-1768. With its lavish interiors and an exterior designed to make this wooden house appear to have a stone ashlar facade, the Jeremiah Lee Mansion in considered to be one of America's greatest surviving examples of colonial Georgian architecture. Lee died in 1775 and the Mansion remained in the Lee family until 1785, by which time the great merchant's empire had gone bankrupt. From 1804 to 1904, the Mansion served as the Marblehead Bank, an institution that made remarkably few alterations to the historic building. Since 1909, the house has been owned by the Marblehead Historical Society and is operated as a historic house museum.

The third husband of our direct ancestor Hannah Devereux was Joseph Swett (her first was Peter Greenfield, her second was Richard Knott). Their son, Joseph Swett, had two daughters who married the owners of these mansions. Martha Swett married Jeremiah Lee (above) and Ruth Swett married "King" Hooper (below). "King" Hooper built a mansion for his son Joseph that was bought by our direct ancestor Joseph Harris in 1856 (photo of that house when it was standing is on the previous page).

## The King Hooper Mansion (1745)

January 25, 2011 / By Daniel / In Colonial, Houses, Marblehead.



The oldest section of the King Hooper Mansion, at 8 Hooper Street, dates to 1728 and was built by Greenfield Hooper, a candle maker. The front section, with its elegant Georgian facade, was erected in 1745 by his son, Robert Hooper. As described in *The Loyalists of Massachusetts and the Other Side of the American Revolution* (1910), its elegant Georgian facade, was erected in 1745 by his son, Robert Hooper. As described in *The Loyalists of Massachusetts and the Other Side of the American Revolution* (1910), by James H. Stark:

*Robert Hooper, known as "King Hooper," was born at Marblehead, June 26, 1709, son of the aforesaid Greenfield Hooper. He was married four times. Was a merchant who rose from poverty to apparently inexhaustible wealth, engrossing for years a large part of the foreign fishing business of Marblehead, which was very extensive about the year 1760. For awhile he purchased all the fish brought into that port, sent it to Bilboa and other parts of Spain and received gold and silver in return, with which he purchased goods in England. He owned lands in Marblehead, Salem, Danvers, and an extensive tract at Lyndeborough, N. H., and elsewhere. He had a large and elegant house at Marblehead, and also a mansion at Danvers, where he did "royal" entertaining, rode in a chariot like a prince, and was ever after known as "King Hooper." He was one of the wealthiest and most benevolent men in the colony.*

Robert Hooper was also called "King" by the local sailors for his fairness and integrity. In 1819, the mansion was traded to Jason Chamberlain for the schooner *Economy*. Chamberlain's heirs owned the house until 1888, using the front room as a dry goods store. It was next owned by the YMCA and then used as a tea room and an antique shop. Since 1938, the house has been owned by the Marblehead Arts Association. The King Hooper Mansion now hosts art exhibitions and can be rented for events.

## The General John Glover House (1762)

January 19, 2011 / By Daniel / In Colonial, Houses, Marblehead



John Glover was a Marblehead fisherman and merchant who rose to the rank of general in the Revolutionary War. His schooner *Hannah* was the first of many privateers authorized by George Washington to raid British shipping. Glover's Marblehead militia became the 14th Continental Regiment, known as the "Amphibious Regiment," which evacuated Washington's Continental Army after it lost the Battle of Long Island. His seafaring men would again man the boats for Washington's Crossing of the Delaware in 1776. John Glover's gambrel-roofed house at 11 Glover Street in Marblehead was built in 1762.

The schooner *Hannah* was named for his wife, who was the daughter of our direct ancestors John Gale and Susanna Demmis.

## The William Sandin House (1714)

November 11, 2010 / By Daniel / In Colonial, Houses, Marblehead



A look at the William Sandin House, built in 1714 in Marblehead, reveals an interesting circumstance: when viewing the front facade, it's clear that the left third of the house warps at a slight angle.

William was the great grandson of our direct ancestor Arthur Sandin.

## The Bowen House (1695)

October 30, 2010 / By Daniel / In Colonial, Houses, Marblehead.



The oldest sections of the house at 1 Mugford Street in Marblehead, known as the Old Bowen House, are believed to date to 1695. Located near Marblehead's Old Town House, the building was the home of Nathan Bowen, a merchant who served as Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, and then of Nathan's son, Ashley Bowen, a sailor, who kept a detailed journal and wrote an autobiography. Ashley Bowen also illustrated his Journal with his own paintings. Ashley Bowen's nephew, Nathan Bowen, was a noted cabinetmaker. In the twentieth century, the Bowen House was used as the model for a house described in H.P. Lovecraft's story "The Festival" (1925). Lovecraft's fictional town of Kingsport is based on Marblehead.

The son of our direct ancestor Knott Martin married the daughter of Nathan Bowen, the cabinet maker, who also kept a journal in which he wrote about the death of Knott at age 88.

## The Ambrose Gale House (1663)

April 22, 2011 / By Daniel / In Colonial, Houses, Marblehead



The Ambrose Gale House, 17 Franklin Street in Marblehead, is considered to be the oldest surviving house in town. The house was built around 1663 by Ambrose Gale (1631-1708), a landman who served as first selectman, testified in the Salem Witch Trials, and owned a fish that later covered Fort Sewall. There are other properties in Marblehead associated with Ambrose Gale, including a c.1700 house on Wadden Court. The house on Franklin Street now has sash windows, instead of the original casement windows.

Ambrose Gale was one of first Marblehead direct ancestors.

**Harris Farm - Marblehead MA Image**

Construction 1720

Original Ownership Unknown - This May or May Not Have Been Our Harris Family



**The Home of Mason Harris, Son of our Dtrect Ancestors FRobert and Rebecca Bassett Harris**



**The Home of William Harris, Son of our Direct Ancestors Robert and Rebecca Bassett Harris**



**Old Town, a colonial neighborhood in Marblehead**



"Old Town" in Marblehead, MA is a visual delight, packed with colorful early 18th Century homes and a few dating to before the 17th Century.

"The large number of surviving houses from before 1775 is due to the fact that the American Revolution had a devastating economic and social impact on Marblehead. More than 600 men served from a town of 935 families (1765 census), in both the Continental Army and on privateer vessels out of Marblehead or Salem. In the War of 1812, over 1,000 men served from a population of 6,000 or 7,000."