



Captain Jonathan Minot's Homestead which was at the intersection of Rts. 110 and Boston Rd.

Westford Recollections

by Mrs. Charles S. Kennedy

Minot's Corner

How fitting that the dedication at Minot's Corner of the plaque commemorating the site of the homestead of Captain Jonathan Minot was held on Monday afternoon, April 19. Located on the site of the new Mobil Oil Station (recently the site of Polley's Restaurant--the landmark with the airplane on the roof), the plaque reads:

Minot's Corner

on this site stood the home of Captain Jonathan Minot

He was Captain of one of the three companies

of Minuteman from Westford who marched to

the North Bridge, Concord on the morning of

April 19, 1775

Jonathan, Jr.

was Drummer Boy in His Father's Company

Westford Minutemen, led by Richard Ingmanson, introduced Mobil Oil Representative, Jack Chagnon, and Mobil Station Manager, Tom Sharkey, who welcomed townspeople at the 2 o'clock ceremony and flag raising. When it was brought to the attention of the Mobil corporation by Mr. Allister MacDougall, historian, that the location of the new Westford station was of historic significance, the Company felt honored and consequently donated the commemorative marker and flag pole in honor of Captain Minot and his homestead. The large boulder which displays the plaque is the gift of the MacDougall family (known to them as picnic rock).

The background of the Captain and his home was given by Mr. MacDougall. The first settler in this country was George Minot, son of Thomas Minot and Suffern Wladen, Essex, England. Jonathan was the 4th generation having lived and died in Westford. His wife was Elizabeth Stratton. Born in 1772 Captain Jonathan Minot was 53 years old when he marched to Concord in 1775. He died in 1805 (the same year as Colonel John Robinson died)--at the age of 83 years and is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

His 1st Lieut., Zacheus Wright was 37 years old in 1775. Jonathan, Jr., the Drummer boy mentioned was 26 in 1775. He married Hannah Eastman of Hillis, N.H. and moved to Westminster. Son Joseph, 24 years old was killed at the Bunker Hill Battle, June 17, 1775 and is also buried at Fairview Cemetery. Jesse, age 16 in 1775, was later in his father's company and was buried at Fairview. In March of 1777 Captain

Minot was mentioned as Major Jonathan Minot showing a promotion.

Minuteman, George Shepherd, read the roll call as copied from the original Muster Rolls in the State House.

Captain Minot's Company

A list of the Travel and Service of Capt. Jonathan Minot, of Westford in the County of Middlesex, and the men under him belonging to the Regiment of Militia whereof William James Prescott, Esq. is Colonel, who in consequence of the Alarm on the 19th of April 1775, marched from home for the defense of this Colony against the ministerial troops.

Officers

Jonathan Minot, Captain

Zacheus Wright, First Lieut.

*Leonard Proctor, Second Lieut.

Aaron Parker, Jr., Sergeant

Gershon Fletcher, Sergeant

William Hildreth, Sergeant

Samuel White, Sergeant

Hosea Hildreth, Corporal

*Nehemiah Green, Corp.

Amos Wright, Corp.

*Jonathan Minot, Jr., Drummer

Privates

*Francis Smith

*Caisar Bason

Aaron Blood

Peter Brown

Job Dodge

Elijah Hildreth

Nathaniel Holmes

Francis Kidder

*Thomas Kidder

Roger King

Francis Leighton

*Abijah Mason

Thomas Meads

Benjamin Osgood

David Parker

Ebenezer Parker

Charles Proctor

*John Pushee

Joshua Read

John Robbins

John Robbins, Jr.

*Peter Robbins

*Zachariah Robbins

James Wright - 36

The Minot homestead, situated on the same site as the Mobil Station, was a typical old farmhouse. Facing Rte. 110, the barn was on the Littleton side. During its last years it was a hen house. With about 100 acres on both sides of the road, the house and property sold for \$1800 in 1940 and the picture shows it being torn down that same year.

(Next week look for the story behind Polley's Restaurant which was also built on the same location).