



The Hourglass

CCV Northborough Historical Society December 2011

Meeting January 27, 2012- 7:30 Program -

Wachusett- The Building of The Reservoir. Eamon Earls will discuss how Boston's quest for water changed four towns and a way of life.

Hosted by Jodie Martinson and Judy and Frank Bissett

The Perils of Being a Loyalist

Northborough, 16th July, 1776

Whereas I have been unfriendly to the common cause of America, and it being grievous to the good people of Shrewsbury for me to walk the streets, I promise and engage to abide within the limits of the farm of Lewis Allen of said Shrewsbury, excepting to attend the public worship at the meeting-house in the first precinct of said Shrewsbury, and if found without the said bounds I consent to receive any punishment they shall inflict not exceeding five hundred stripes on the naked back. And I further promise not to send any letter to any person, unless first shown to some person whom they shall appoint for the purpose.

Witness my

hand

JOLLEY

ALLEN

Now who was Jolley Allen, and why was this declaration made in Northborough? Allen was a Boston merchant whose business flourished between about 1755 and 1772 when, as he stated, "I bought two chests of tea of Governor Hutchinson's two sons, Thomas and Elisha, at Boston." In that era of taxation without representation a tea merchant could expect conflict, especially a man who regarded himself as "firmly attached to his native king and country." After enduring a

Membership

Northborough Historical Society

Membership Dues:

Regular \$15.00; Student and Seniors (65 and over) \$10.00; Family \$35.00; and Life \$250.00.

Dues should be sent to
Judy Bissett
300 Ball St.

Northborough, MA 01532

Checks should be made
out to the
Northborough Historical
Society

Director's Meeting
Historical Society Building
Jan. 17, 2012
7:30PM

Curator's News

We are seeking funding through a grant to restore our 1874 George Stevens Pipe Organ in the museum, formerly of the Baptist Church. This organ is a treasure to our town and restoration work to seal the major leaks in the air reservoir and repair some of the windpipes and other related work will

surly inquiry about the chests of tea, he was "several different times threatened with that diabolical punishment of being Tarred and Feathered." His business declined, now confined chiefly to military personages, some of whom he took into his apparently quite resplendent home.

Eventually Allen decided to load the contents of his two warehouses and his own furniture onto a ship, whose destination may have been Nova Scotia. He did not get beyond Cape Cod, however, for he was captured and confined at Provincetown for several years. Allen, who at this point was in his fifties and had been married for many years, claimed to have seventeen children, seven of whom presumably still lived with their parents. On April 19, 1776 his wife died while he was confined at Provincetown. Subsequently brought before the Massachusetts General Court, then meeting at Watertown, he was remanded to prison but immediately was captured by people Allen refers to only as a "mob."

He was marched sixteen miles to Northborough, perhaps because he told his captors that his brother lived nearby. "The Militia of the town with their guns and bayonets fixed was drawn up ready to receive me." The Northborough representative (identified by editors of the Boston publisher of Allen's narrative as John Ball) suggested that Allen be taken back to Watertown. But it was decided that instead he should be confined to his brother's farm and made to sign the document seen above.

Allen makes one more reference to Northborough. "As a party of the mob that took me to Northborough had dug a grave six feet deep, and as I was to walk by they was to shove me in it and cover me up immediately, that none might ever know what was become of me: but kind Providence would have brought the whole to light." Being permitted to harbor at his brother's farm in Shrewsbury, he learned that his ship had been sunk and many of his goods plundered. His children were brought to him in Shrewsbury, but his

bring this fine instrument back to a playable condition. We have had many concerts in the past and would love to continue to do so.

Several researchers have been in during the month and even one family visiting from England, possibly related to our Northborough Rice families.

New Accessions:

WWII U. S. Army coat of Paul F. Sadler, former Northborough resident, and a helmet donated by Helen Calverley.

Ellen Racine, Curator

troubles continued. Much haggling went on about the disposition of the rest of his property, none of which came back to him.

In 1777 he returned to England, a poor man, continuing to worry about the fate of his children in the United States. He concludes: "I have sacrificed my all for the good of the English nation, all for my good King and Native country, whom I pray God may always triumph over all her enemies." He died in 1782 and was buried in England despite a request in his will that he be buried in the King's Chapel cemetery in Boston. Although occasionally finding sympathetic people in the United States, he wrote an account which certainly fulfills the title given to it by a later family member for its publication in 1883: *An Account of the Suffering and Losses of Jolley Allen, A Native of London*.

Bob Ellis, Historian

"An Account of a Part of the Sufferings and Losses of Jolley Allen, a Native of London" is available for viewing at genealogycenter.info/military/revolution/search_jolleyallen.php, that is located at the Allen County Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, IN (to whom we send the Hourglass).