

The American War of Independence

Revolutionary Stratford

April 21, 1775, dispatch rider Ebenezer Hurd of Stratford (or his son) rode into town with the news of Lexington and Concord. He was part of a chain of riders who would carry the news to Philadelphia.

Stratford had actively prepared for the rebellion with merchants having purchased supplies of gunpowder and a town tax levied to pay for military supplies.

On June 25, 1775, the 2nd Comp., 5th Reg, Connecticut Militia was called up and sent to Fort Ticonderoga. Three lieutenants, an ensign and 100 Stratford men were among the 1,400 militia enlisted for a 5-month period to defend the fort against an invasion from Canada.



George Washington would travel through Stratford several times during the war. The first on his way to Boston on June 28, 1775, after being appointed the commander in chief by the Second Continental Congress. After the British abandoned Boston, General

Washington again travel through the town on his way to New York. On Sept. 19, 1778 the Marquis de Lafayette, entered the town via the ferry to meet with General Washington at Benjamin's Tavern. When the marquis' aide asked the ferryman the way to the tavern, he was pointed to Alice Benjamin, daughter of the tavern keeper, who was nearby picking berries. She led them to the tavern where Washington was already waiting. Young Alice served the food. She later recorded that General Washington asked her name, and then told her to be a good girl and gave her his blessing. Washington and Lafayette then proceeded onto Wethersfield, Conn., where they met with French General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau.

As the war moved from the north to the southern part of the 13 colonies, Stratford continued to provide supplies and men for the army.