

OTIS TIME – LINE

- A. 1628 – English Charter to the Mass Bay Colony – Vague
- B. 1761 - Claims by the Duke of York  
Berkshire – Hampden and Hampshire Counties
- C. 1699 – William and Mary  
Regranting of Charters
- D. 1735 – Old Indian Trail  
Four new townships upon the road between Westfield and Sheffield  
Committee of General Court:   Tyringham           #1  
  New Marlborough #2  
  Sandisfield       #3  
  Becket            #4
- E. 1737 - Petition of Nathan Ward Ephram  
Williams and the rest of the proprietors purchased  
for 1,200 pounds from the Housatonic Indians  
(Indian Deed – cost base for Indians 300 pounds)
- F. 1737 - North Otis – 11,000 acres
- G. 1737 – Hoplands – Lee
- H. 1738 – Tyringham equivalent – 4,000 acres
- I. 1700's early. Provinceland - Otis
- J. 1737-1739 25 mile pond - Big Pond to Lenox
- K. 1737 - Prices grant 600 acres and  
Laughton's grant 200 acres

- L. 1737 - Township #4 – Becket – 730 acres of ponds
- M. 1737 - Townshihp #3 – an allowance for ponds and swags or chain surveyed by William Chandler
- N. 1761 - Berkshire County
- O. 1763 - An allowance - equivalent lands for a highway  
CMR James Brown surveyor
- P. 1763 – Seven grants in the four townships:  
William Taylor  
Ebenezer & Joel Trumble  
Elizabeth Rand Pond  
Josiah Wolcott  
Groton Grant  
Henry Spring  
Furness/Troop
- Q 1750-1763  
First settlers in Tyringham equivalent  
1763 – Mrs. Return Holcomb;  
Lt. David Black  
Benjamin Brewer  
James Stuff  
Ely Strickland  
David Kibbe
- R. 1773 Loudon Names:  
Gregory Larcomb  
Norton Stowe  
Trumbell  
Whitney  
Marcy  
Wood  
Babb  
Brewer  
Clark  
Crittendon  
Cross  
Nutt  
Haskell  
Man Waring

S. 1778 – Massachusetts Constitution

T. 1778 – Smith Marcy represents Loudon at the Constitutional Convention. He and others demanded “A Bill of Rights”. The Town of Loudon voted unanimously for a Constitution: “The Berkshire Constitutionals.”

U. 1780 - Sam Adams the “Founder” of the Mass. Constitution

V. Revolutionary War:

Loudon’s “Minutemen “. Two regiments – Lt. Nathaniel Wood, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775 and his men marched with other Berkshire men.

Minutemen were:

Albright Blackwood

Brazillas Brewer

Elisha Gilbert

David Hubbard                      Quebec Campaign

Samuel Hubbard                    Quebec Campaign

Adonijah Jones

John Trumbell

Benjamin Brewer

Joshua Finch

Joseph Clough                    Quebec

Jonathan Cook                    Boston

Ichabod Crittendon              Quebec

William Moore

Richard Cook                      Gloucester Coast Defense

Note: See “Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War of Massachusetts for length of services”. (Blandford Library).

Knox Trail

- a. Major road between Albany and Boston (not taken from a fee simple estate (private property))
- b. Indian Trail first
- c. Then a county road
- d. General Amherst (1759) expanded the road (wagon travel)
- e. Henry Knox with his “Chain of Artillery” reached the Hazardous Berkshire Hills on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1776. His objective – Dorchester Heights, Boston and George Washington awaiting his late arrival.

Henry Knox' Diary

Nov. 1775-1776

- a. Reached #1, (Tyringham) after having climbed mountains from which we might almost have seen all the kingdoms of the earth.
- b. Went 12 miles through the Greenwoods to Blandford. No snow beyond 5 or 6 miles further in which space there was the tremendous Glasgow or Westfield Mountains.
- c. Nathaniel Wood and Jonathan Norton were proprietors of Inns in Loudon. These inns were welcome sights to Henry Knox's weary men.
- d. The trip from Westford to Worcester was slow due to mild weather conditions and muddy roads.
- e. In January, 1776, Henry Knox and his cannons reached Boston. At night George Washington and his men placed the cannons on Dorchester Heights, which overlooked all of Boston and her Harbor.
- f. General Howe surrendered 'Boston'.
- g. Serving at Saratoga, 1777, from Loudon were Col. Ashley's command - Cook, Cross, Finch, Snow, Hubbard & Kibbe.

Revolutionary War

1780-1781 - Loudon was asked by Mass. (Resolves) to provide clothing and beef for the army. Each town was taxed continuously to help defray the cost of the war.

1. The continental money dollar paper became worthless. (It's not worth a continental).
2. Dec. 1780 - Loudon Town of draftees (Town Records) -  
Stephen Kibbee 3 year enlistments  
Paul Larkomb " "  
John Manwarring  
Nathaniel Kingsley - Becket
3. Town Meetings
  - a. Pre 1791 - held in homes of Jacob Cook Jr., Timothy Whitney, Ephraim Pelton and Nathaniel Wood.
  - b. Post 1791 - meetings held in the school near the burial grounds, close to the cemetery on Norton Rd.
- c. Loudon Selectman - T. Whitney, Jacob Cook, Jonathan Norton.

## OTIS RECOLUTIONARY WAR

A

Loudon had a committee of correspondence. They (Jacob Cook, Nathaniel Wood and Stephen Pelton) kept an eye on local Tories and also were expected to keep everyone informed about the war.

B

Elected town officials

Back then, officials included (Tythingmen,) pond-keeper, hog-reaver, sealer of weights and measures, surveyor of lumber, fence-viewer, grave digger and sexton.

The town clerk was supposed to record each farmer's ear marks and find stray horses. (The Book of "Stray Horses and Cows" with fine assessed is presently in a file cabinet in the towns clerks office).

C

1783 – The first recorded State Election.

D

1790 – The first Federal Census and Otis Tax Assessment. (See Ann Pyenson (2010!) for document).

## OTIS INDUSTRIES

During Loudon time (1773-1810)

A

The first grist mill (David Kibbe)

B

1763 – The first saw mill (Lt. David Black) (Tyringham Proprietor Records)

Sawmill owners also included John Davison (Davison Rd. off Rt.23) and Jonathan Norton (Norton Rd. and Graveyard); Mr. Manley owned a sawmill on Fall River near Rand Pond (Otis Reservoir). The 1795 map of Loudon shows Fall River as excellent sites for many Dish Mills.

C

Loudon had many licensed innholders. (food, lodging and intoxicating beverages). Names of Innholders – Nathaniel Wood, 1773-1791, Timothy Whitney, Jonathan Norton, Ephraim Pelton, 1793 and Comfort Bibbee, 1801-1807.

Licensed Retailers – John Ames, James Nutt, Joshua Lawton, Moses Cook, Matthew Ives, 1784-1809.

Population of Loudon in 1800 – 1,102 (adults); soon annexation of Bethlehem 1789-1810.

Loudon